

March
1987

VILLAGE VOICE



Published for Thurlestone Parish Council.

REPORT ON WASTEPAPER

Two tons, or 4480 lbs, was the first consignment of wastepaper shipped out from South Milton on Thursday 27th November.

During the past few weeks exhortations to hand over wastepaper have been buzzing round the joint parishes of Thurlestone and South Milton, so I am glad to have this opportunity to report progress and to thank all those who have helped us to score our first success, and hopefully to encourage you to continue the effort, and if possible enlist the help of friends and neighbours to join in this community effort.

If each household in the joint parishes could put newspapers, magazine and other printed matter on one side, notify any of the undermentioned, arrangements will be made to make a regular collection and so benefit the Church and the Youth Club who will share the money collected through the sale of wastepaper.

Please contact any of the following: I.C.Y.

Mrs Ivy Yeabsley - 560551

Miss Evelyn Snowden - 560623

Mr Ian Young - 560419.

+ + + + +

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. P.W.J.Hurrell, Chairman, Woodlands, West Buckland
Tel: 560496

Mr. D.J.Yeoman, 8 Parkfield, Thurlestone. Tel. 560607
(Mr. Yeoman is also Parish Emergency Officer.

Miss R.S.Stocken, Mariners, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone
Tel: 560257

Mr. D.W.P.Grose, Kennedy, Thurlestone. Tel: 560375

Mr. Roy Adams, Buckland Farm, West Buckland. 560247

Mr. John Dayment, Lower Aunemouth Farm, Bantham. 560295

Mr. G.L.Stidston, Court Park Farm, Thurlestone. 560695

PARISH CLERK: Mr. W.G.Ladd, Thorntons, South Milton
Tel. 560686

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: Mr. Jack Thomas, Little Thatch,
South Milton. Tel: 560269

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Mr. Simon J. Day, Keaton House,
Ermington, Ivybridge. Tel: Ivybridge 2576.

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VILLAGE VOICE

EDITED
and produced by
Dudley Drabble
Kendall &
Penny McDonald
ooOoo

(Incorporating Thurlestone Topics & Newsletter)

Whilst Village Voice is published under the sponsorship of the Parish Council it is accepted as being Editorially independent and it is therefore necessary to point out that views and opinions expressed in any item should not be construed as being the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council

DISTRIBUTION in Thurlestone: Peter Bromfield. In Bantham & Buckland Peter and Jean Hurrell

ALL COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to: VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE at
10 Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3JU.
Telephone: Kingsbridge (0548) 560533

Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

Number 24 (No. 1 NEW SERIES) 5th Year.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1987

Dear Reader,

The Parish Council are very pleased that Kendall and Penny McDonald have joined forces with Dudley Drabble, and made possible the revival of "Village Voice". It speaks volumes for the success of the magazine in the past that so many advertisers were ready to give their continued support and thus ensure the financial viability of the publication of a 30 to 36 page magazine and distribute it free to residents. I am glad to say Peter Bromfield has agreed to continue distribution in Thurlestone and my wife, Jean, will carry out distribution in Bantham and Buckland. Kendall McDonald is to be congratulated in persuading local Artist Len Hubbard to produce cover drawings for the six issues of 1987. All concerned must be congratulated for carrying out all this work on a purely 'Community Service' basis. No one asks for or expects a 'pay day' !!

I am particularly asked to mention that everyone who can contribute a story, article or any item of interest will be welcomed by the Editors - a constant flow of contributions for the contents is essential - and all those who are concerned with local organisations, the W.I., Surf Life Savers, Sailing, Football, Darts, Indoor Bowls, Tennis, Golf, Tug-o'-War, Bridge Clubs, etc. are asked to send in regular reports. It will all help to keep residents and visitors informed and might well enhance membership of these organisations too!

Although Village Voice is to continue under the sponsorship of the Parish Council, it is now going to be produced independently by Dudley Drabble, Kendall and Penny McDonald - and I know we all look forward to it continuing as an informative and entertaining village publication.

May I wish everyone, on behalf of the Parish Council, a Very
Happy and Prosperous New Year.

P.W.J. HURRELL
Chairman

Thurlestone Parish Council.

THE LOCAL PLAN

A PAGE FROM
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
JACK THOMAS

The Official Enquiries into the South Hams Local Plans are now well under way, and the Enquiry into the Kingsbridge Local Plan has already taken place, mainly at Quay House, Kingsbridge, under the appointed Inspector Mr. E.C. Turier, F.R.T.P.I. There were no public responses covering Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland, and on the day I was there the Enquiry was not well attended.

Enquiries covering the whole of the South Hams Area should have been completed by now, and the Inspector's Report submitted direct to the South Hams District Council detailing any recommendations for amendments to the Plan should be known early this year.

— PLANNING —

There has been some concern among certain local people over an application for an addition to a local Nursing Home. I should like to explain the District Council's role in this, as the Planning Authority.

A Planning Application is submitted to the Planning Department, and copies are sent to the following:

The Highway Authority - regarding access and parking.

The Director of Technical Services and the South West Water Authority regarding sewage, water, etc.

In the case of a Nursing Home - the Ministry of Health and the Fire Authority.

The Parish Council - and nearby people who might feel they will be affected by the proposed development are normally notified.

The approval of the internal arrangements are solely the responsibility of the Health Authority who will not issue the necessary license until planning permission for the overall scheme is granted. The Fire Authority carry out an independent inspection. If there is no initial objection from the last mentioned the Planning Officer can recommend to the Planning Committee for approval. At that time all objections and letters are placed before the Committee. Where there is considerable opposition to the Officer's recommendation from local residents or the Parish Council, or the recommendation is not clear to the Planning Committee, a Site inspection may be recommended.

The Site Inspection Group will normally comprise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee plus four members of that Committee. The procedure is for the Planning Officer (usually the Assistant Director of Development Control) to outline the application, with all letters and objections, state the views of the Highway Authority (sometimes represented) and the Director of Technical Services and the Water Authority and Parish Council Representatives then give their views. Finally, the applicant (or his agent) presents his case. The site is viewed and questions asked.

Members of the public can attend site meetings, but if they are on private property permission of the owner(s) has to be obtained. They can only put questions through the Parish Council Representative.

After the site inspection the Site Inspection Group give their recommendations after a vote, to the next Planning Committee Meeting when the matter is voted on by the full Planning Committee.

On important issues the full Planning Committee may carry out a Site Inspection.

A question is often asked about rates on Nursing Homes. I understand that rates are only rebated on those parts of the premises occupied by disabled or ill patients, and not necessarily for elderly patients, and rates are not rebated on other parts such as nurses accommodation. One other point I am often asked is about Farms - there, rates are only levied on the farm house and not on other buildings.

Village Hall News

At a recent meeting agreement was reached on the work to be carried out on to the Car Park and Hall.

CAR PARK: The whole area is to be cleared, levelled and re-surfaced. The entrance is to be reduced in size but the existing 36ft splay will remain in the interest of road safety. The reduced entrance will be controlled by a "Sleeping policeman" in order to ensure the speed of a vehicle entering the Car Park is reduced. These works have been made necessary due to the inconsiderate action of the few who use the car park for turning purposes only and at speeds which have caused the surface to break up far soon than expected. The Car Park is there for ticket holders and Hall users only, this includes those residents making use of the Library Vehicle and the Veterinary Services. It is NOT there for casual parking and turning.

EXTERIOR PAINTING: The windows and external walls are to be painted with suitable paints in the spring or when the weather permits. The Main Entrance doors are to be replaced.

Our thanks go to all who have contributed to the various fund raising events which, hopefully, will be sufficient to fund the improvements.

D.M. YEOMAN

Chairman

(Tel: Thurlestone 560300)

Parish Hall Committee

BE SURE OF ALTERNATIVE HEATING THIS WINTER

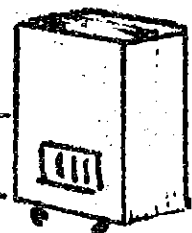
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PLEASE NOTE

Due to forward printing of the Magazine it was not possible to amend the advertisement of

JOHN ANDREWS & SON,

which should have mentioned that they are also MONUMENTAL MASONS

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PROBUS

Monica Hazell gave a very interesting talk at the November Meeting, on Butterflies, and surprised many members with the variety which abound in the area. A number of very interesting questions followed the talk.

Our January Meeting will be on January 9th. at the Thurstlestone Hotel, when David Grose will be the Guest Speaker.

Membership continues to rise with two new members being welcomed at our November meeting, which happily reverses a recent downward trend due, in the main to members leaving the district.

D.M.YEOMAN
Hon Secretary

Tel: Kingsbridge 560300)

CONGRATULATIONS

The Aune Valley Tug-O'-War Club was started in 1979 with Peter Hurrell as Chairman, Vic Adams, Hon. Secy, John Dayment, Coach and Roy Adams and three others forming a Committee.

Peter Hurrell retired as Chairman at the October Annual General Meeting after serving in that capacity over the past seven years.

Peter was presented with a trophy for these years of service and then made President of the Club - an honour which I know he will treasure - and he asks to pass on his thanks to all members for their support over his years as Chairman.

W.D.

Keeping a Diary

'No man is an island, entire of itself' This saying of Dr. John Donne, the famous Dean of St. Paul's (1571-1631) suggests that no one is able to stand on his own; we are all dependent on one another.

This sometimes leads us to take other people's advice. A well known example of this is in Boswell's 'Life of Johnson'; in the year 1773 Boswell has recorded thus:

"He (Johnson) told me that he had twelve or fourteen times attempted to keep a journal of his life, but could never persevere. He advised me how to do it. The great thing to be recorded, said he, is the state of your own mind, and you should write down everything that you remember, for you cannot judge at first what is good or bad; and write immediately while the impression is fresh, for it will not be the same a week afterwards."

Those who have taken Johnson's advice may not all agree as to the advantages of keeping a diary, but there are certain salient points which be common to most of them. An aid to memory. Realizing the value of time, and the Historical value of diaries.

Keeping a diary in some way resembles writing a book. As Churchill described it: "Writing a book is an adventure..." Only a diary is never finished, it remains with you as long as you can wield a pen.

Give the matter some thought. We would know little of the life of our ancestors were it not for the written records from which we can all take a look into the past.

=====

I know nothing can conduce more to letters than to examine the writings of the Ancients. They opened the gates, and made the way that went before us.

BEN JOHNSON

=====

Village Voice needs a constant supply of contributions to keep it interesting and informative. Can you help ?

Thurlestone VILLAGE VOICE

ABOUT THE 'NEW' VILLAGE VOICE

The Magazine will be published on a bi-monthly basis as before. The NEXT ISSUE will cover the MARCH and APRIL period and the 'press deadline' will be February 10th. Each succeeding issue will have a similar 'deadline' i.e. the May-June edition will require items for inclusion by April 10th. and so on through the year. You will readily appreciate that there has to be a time allowance for finalising and assembling each issue - and that takes quite some time.

ADVERTISING

All the advertisers in this issue have booked the space for a full six issues and the system is to operate each year on the basis of the six issues. There are now, therefore, five more issues to go for 1987. The cost is moderate, indeed - get in touch with 560533 (Kingsbridge exchange). It is also possible to have your own publicity sheet pinned in any issue.

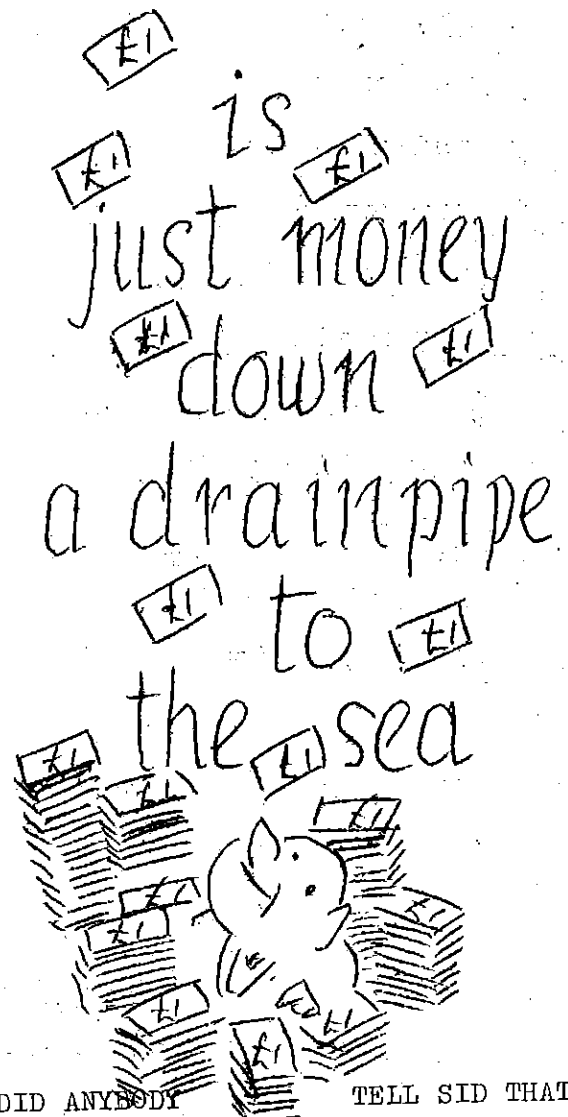
'VILLAGE VOICE' AND ELECTIONS

Whether there is an election for both District and Parish in May is entirely dependent on the required number of nominations, of course. Village Voice offers the facility of a full page to any candidate for little more than the cost of paper and ink. This would have to be for the May/June issue which would be distributed at the end of April. Politics, in this instance don't matter! Please note the press deadline mentioned above.

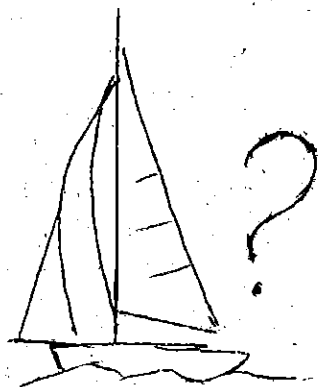
There are three things which are too wonderful to me,
Yea, four which I know not:
The way of an eagle in the air:
The way of a serpent upon a rock:
The way of a ship in the midst of the sea
And the way of a man with a maid.

Proverb of Solomon

Thurlestone Village Sewage Rate



Why don't you SAIL BANTHAM?

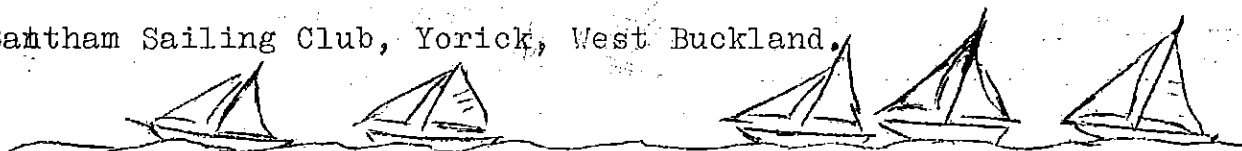


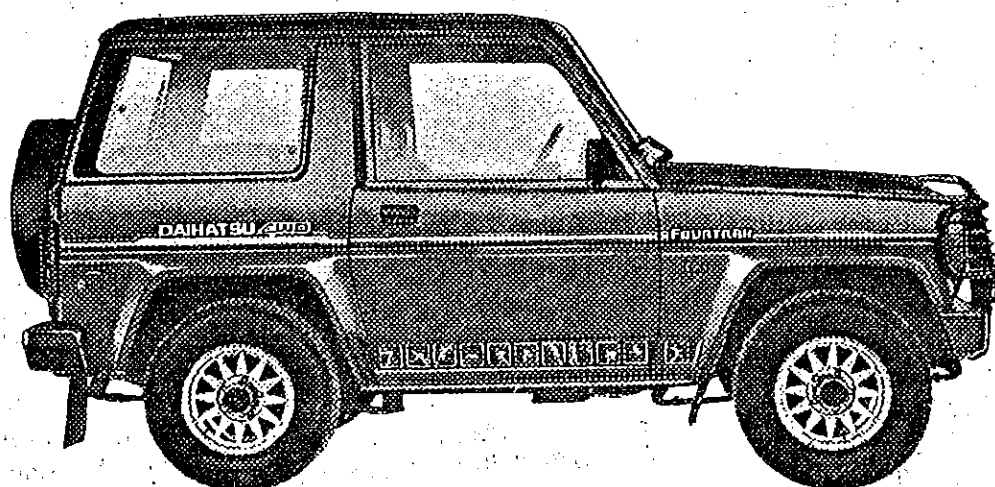
The Bantham Sailing Club operates from Coronation Quay at Bantham during the summer months and we are actively seeking more local members to come and join us. Subscriptions are extremely cheap, £5.00 per annum for family membership i.e. mother, father and all children under the age of 18 years, and £2.50 for individual membership, and £1.50 for junior individual membership.

We race on the River Avon most Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer, tides and weather permitting of course! Don't be put off if you don't have a sailing dinghy, the Club have a Gull class dinghy available for beginners, but of course you would be expected to get your own craft if you found you enjoyed the sport.

Members sail all kinds of boats, Toppers, of which we have a fleet of approximately 20 strong, Solos, Salcombe Yawls, Mirrors, Enterprises and Catamarans. We hold an Annual Regatta over the August Bank Holiday with sailing races, rowing races, Treasure Hunts etc for all the family to join in. We also hold fund-raising events to raise money for adopted charity - the Royal Yachting Association Seamanship Foundation for disabled sailors. This charity provides specially built boats for disabled sailors normally confined to a wheelchair to sail, and over the past three or four years we have raised in the region of £1,200 towards this very worthwhile cause.

If you would like to know more or would like to join the sailing club do please contact me or any other member of the Committee. We'd be very pleased to hear from you. Marilyn Cater, Hon. Secretary, Bantham Sailing Club, Yorick, West Buckland.





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Parish Council Notes

from W.G.LADD - Clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council

The Parish Councillors warmly applaud Dudley Drabble for reviving 'Village Voice', and thank Mr and Mrs Kendall McDonald for volunteering to join in the production of the publication. The Council gladly agreed to continuing sponsoring the magazine by granting the £150.00 remaining in the former 'Village Voice' account so that production could be resumed and issued free to all resident Parishioners.

+ + + + +

Chief Inspector J.H. Baverstock gave the Council Meeting on 4th November, an interesting and informative address on Policing the South Hams. He and Sergeant Bradshaw with 15 Constables had this year dealt with 467 'incidents' and about 1000 road accidents up to then, in the Kingsbridge area extending to Stokenham Loddiswell and Mothecombe. Constables White and Penaluna have many duties additional to those of being the 'resident' Officers for Thurlestone, and although they may not be as well known as their predecessors, their frequent visits were timed to ensure that the most effective cover was maintained. Sergeant Bradshaw and P.C. Penaluna were expected to attend the Council Meeting on 16th December.

+ + + + +

Endeavours continue to have the sewerage problem remedied much sooner than the ten-year delay forecast by the Water Authority, and submissions have been made to the Consumer Consultative Committee regarding two matters of principle which affect our priority rating and the capital investment programme. Also, we have just learned the results of the Special Surveys of the Thurlestone stream carried out this year by South Hams District Council and the Public Health Laboratory Service. Even on dates outside the main tourist season and public holidays, pollution levels of the stream waters far exceeded those considered acceptable under the European Community's Directive, and that was despite the generally dismal weather conditions and the consequential lower number of visitors contributing to the sea outfall. The results prove how well founded are the Parish Council's anxieties and how lacking in concern for the community is the person(s) who removed the warning signs a few months ago. It continues to be especially important for every discovery of severe pollution or stranded solids to be reported to the Parish Clerk without delay - Tel 560686.

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The Council's representations for the main road routes into the district to be improved to minimise the accidents and delays which currently occur all too frequently, have led to the County Highways Committee undertaking a review of the A384 Totnes-Buckfastleigh road and the routing to Kingsbridge including the former B3196 via Loddiswell. A signal controlled one-way-shuttle at Riverford Bridge near Dartington is being installed (hopefully to be more effective than the Aveton Gifford system) and work to improve the B3194 around Sorley Cross has been given higher priority.

+ + + + +

The fourth centenary of the Spanish Armada (1588-1988) will be the subject of special commemorations being organised by the District Council, and anyone with local knowledge of relevant souvenirs which might be of interest in any Parish participation is asked to contact Councillor Derrick Yeoman (560607) or the Clerk - 560686.

+ + + + +

You are all urged to attend the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which will be held on TUESDAY 24th MARCH 1987, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Parish and District Council ELECTIONS (subject to enough nominations) will take place on Thursday 7th. May.

+ + + + +

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is distributed*

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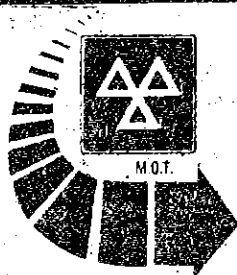
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Thurlestone Hotel Country Club

Newsletter

Dear Member

The new Country Club year has got underway. I do hope that you will be able to take advantage of the offer of FREE accommodation to Club members, their families or friends who stay at the hotel between Monday 1st December 1986 and Thursday 5th February 1987 (excluding the period Friday 19th December to Monday 5th January inclusive), on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night. This offer is conditional on those taking advantage of it having breakfast (£6.00) and dinner (£14.00) on each night of their stay and that the booking is made by a fully paid up member of the Thurlestone Hotel Country Club. This offer is subject to availability.

For those members who use the Club's Par 3 Golf Course we have a new Golf Professional. We share him with Bigbury Golf Club and his name is Mr Simon Lloyd. I am sure all members would like me to welcome him and his wife to the Club and wish him every success in his new venture.

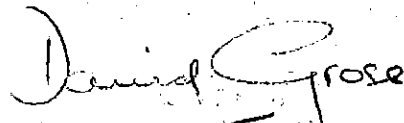
Please try to make use of the hotel restaurant during the coming months. Marcel, the Restaurant Manager will be pleased to make a reservation for you, and at £14.00 for a five course dinner you can see what excellent value is available. The normal Dinner Menu price from 8th January will be £17.00, so members are making considerable savings.

The Village Inn is also offering lunch time snacks and in the evening Derek and his staff put on an excellent selection including Sirloin Steak, Chips, Peas and garnish for an amazing £5.20. If you would like to book a table you can but it isn't really necessary. The Village Inn also boasts a fine range of Real Ales including Wadworths 6X, Bass and Palmers.

Finally, a word from the Country Club Beautician, Shani:-

I would like to introduce myself - my name is Shani Basis. Some of you may have heard of me or even have met me as a child when my surname was Hannaford. I danced with Elizabeth Schoolings' Youth Ballet, performing in the South Hams at various venues including the Atheneum at Plymouth, Totnes Civic Hall, Dartmouth Naval College and several times at the Kingsbridge Town Hall. I commenced training at the Junior Royal Ballet School, Richmond Park in 1967 and left from Talgarth Road in 1977 after a foot operation which sadly terminated my dancing career. I went on to qualify as a Beauty Therapist at the London College of Fashion having attended a three year course. I have subsequently worked in Beauty Salons in Croydon and Kensington and for the Emo Laszlo Institute at Harrods. I am now lucky to have been able to return home and take up the post of Resident Beauty Therapist at the Thurlestone Hotel. Alongside my many treatments I have re-introduced Electrolysis as a method of permanent hair removal and we have a licence for ear piercing also. Through my training and experience I am now launching a specialised make-up service with exclusive Dibi professional make-up, (also available in retail). Following my demonstrations at the hotel prior to Christmas, I am also planning one in the New Year on Tuesday 24th February and I look forward to meeting you at that time.

Yours faithfully,


David Grose



NEVILLE C OSWALD

In any reasonably well ordered society, the streets are named and the houses numbered. This is not so in Thurlestone, except to some extent on the Mead and even there it is easy enough to get lost.

By and large, people are supposed to know who lives where. Take the residents of Yarmer, for instance. They will not readily admit to having any street names at all and ordinarily direct strangers to the top, the middle or the lower road. There houses are named after a fashion, but barely half of the signs are visible on rainy days.

The main village street never has had a name as far as I know and there is no question of numbering the houses which, if they have to be, are described as being above or below one of the two village shops or up by the garage. In the good old days, a couple of hundred years ago, there were Jane Hardy's Cottage and the Cornishes' Messuage, but as everybody knew where Jane and the Cornishes lived, I do not see that they gained much by singling them out. It is just the same today; we all know where Bill Robins and Leonard Jeffrey live without making a fuss about it.

The problems implicit in choosing a suitable name for a new house cannot be easily dismissed. What sort of impression does the owner wish to achieve? Of one thing he or she may be certain - nobody else cares a rap, so that those who are going to live in the place might as well please themselves. A sizeable proportion, perhaps unaware of the dearth of forestry in the parish, plump for trees. There are WOODLANDS TREETOPS ELM BAY MULBERRY and ROCK PINE with THE THATCHES and THATCHWAYS bringing up the rear. Flowers receive scant mention but JASMINE TAMARISK and GENISTA have a rather distinguished ring about them. Fruit has to make do with APPLETREES and STRAWBERRY HOW.

Birds are pleasantly represented, starting with MALLARDS and MARTLETS (up-market names for ducks and swifts). We then have HAWKS RISE at West Buckland, HERONS REACH at Aune, GULLS CRY at Yarmer and GULLS REACH on the Mead.

OVERPAGE:

Continuation: WHAT'S IN A NAME

Why herons and gulls should reach is not immediately obvious. The gulls' cry is part of the way of life in Thurlestone. I was asked recently why they created such an uproar at times. Having replied that, as far as I knew, they had few thoughts beyond food and sex, I now feel it would have been more chafitable to say that they were guarding their young and teaching them to fly. What a splendid name LOWER GOOSEWELL is, even if it suggest a rather cosmopolitan waterhole for any old goose; was there also at one time an upper gooswell where selected geese were permitted to drink? What about PECKWATER and PIPERS BENCH; do they have anything to do with birds?

As a residential area, it is appropriate for West Buckland to have SLEEPY HOLLOW, Bantham its NEST and Thurlestone its NOOK. Foreign titles such as Chez Nous, are out except that we have our BELLA VISTA, which it certainly is from Glebe Field. Then there is a rather mixed bag. THE DOG WATCHES rather enigmatically represents our four-legged friends. EDENS over at Yarmer may suggest everlasting earthly felicity; in fact, it commemorates a London gynaecologist who spent his declining years there. A former derelict habitation has been refurbished and taken on a new life as WOZ RUIN, so I am told. A single storey house is inelegantly listed in the Electoral Register as the BROWN BUNG.

Some householders have evidently given much thought to possible titles. Doubtless there have been occasions when whole families have sat down and made suggestions. How on earth some of them came up with their final choices is beyond me. Who would have thought, for instance, of ARPINUM ROCANDO WASKERLEY CORSTIAAN AVOCA FINALMENTE or QUAYLEY? One lot evidently could not agree and made do with JUST A COTTAGE; another did not even get as far as that and finally opted for QUERY.

Maybe we should pay a little more attention to house names that we ordinarily do, perhaps congratulating those who have made a happy choice and offering consolation to those who have not.

EDITORIAL NOTE: You need a doctor or ambulance or even a fireengine in the middle of the night - will they arrive at the correct address in time? Much as we all might dislike it, plainly displayed numbers from one end of a village to the other would make life a great deal easier for those who seek to find you - would'nt it?

CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES

Medical Officer (Practitioner in private life addressing military patient):
"Would you come to me with such a trivial complaint in private life?"
Private: "No, Sir, I should send for you."

Punch (August 21st, 1918.

The crowning Glory —

Whoever comes into the West and goes away without partaking of junket and cream will miss one of the delicacies of life. It is to fair Devon - the Land of Junket and Cream - that one should come to enjoy the delicacy in full perfection. And what is junket, the smooth opalesque junket, firm to the touch yet quivering to a sound? Junket is something akin to a mysterious origin attributed to the fairies. It is always safe in the West to quote the fairies when in doubt, for do they not still haunt the moors and streams, and bring good luck or bad upon farmers and dairymaids? The secret for making junket was taught to a lovesick maid weeping on a lone Devonshire moor. It was the old, old story, though for ever new. A maiden weeps under the shadow of a giant tor. If she only knew how to touch his heart and make it turn again to her! A fairy hears the moan, and makes answer, for even in fairyland there are troubles, and she knows the grand secret of reaching the heart through lips grown cold. 'Tickle the palate and feed your lover till his eyes close with contentment, and he dreams dreams, then shall his heart turn.' Then the fairy took a bowl of milk and made a junket, and the charm worked well. This is the story; and every Devonshire maiden knows the charm, and feeds her lover upon junket and cream to captivate his heart. So they marry young, when the 'blowth in pink,' as they say of the virgin bloom in orchards. I do not know how many centuries the art of junket making has been known, but one might almost fancy that it had been practised for so many generations as to have become an hereditary instinct. So easy to make, so simple, and yet, alas! in unskilful hands it is a sad disappointment. If it had a gender, one would say it must be feminine. Keep it waiting, and it spoils; hurry it and it turns out an abomination to the sight; a passing thunder cloud may spoil its temper, and it will not take kindly to any sort of flavouring. Everything must go well and be 'just so' before it receives its finishing touches of clotted cream, whose deep primrose hue best harmonises with its own dream-white complexion. No picnic in the West is complete without junket, and plenty of it, in deep punch bowls, powdered over with nutmeg; but junket without cream is a poor affair, with which no Devonshire maid would entice her lover. Really the two must go together or the charm won't work. It is a beautiful provision of Dame Nature that the milk which makes the best junket makes the best cream, and the marriage of junket with cream is the most blissful of unions - the more so, perhaps, as each differs from the other, to sight and taste, as the proverbial chalk from cheese. I do not know who discovered clotted cream. It is said that no one does, but a dweller on the Moors will tell you the secret was a gift of the pixies. There is a literature on the subject. Some say Abraham placed clotted cream before his celestial visitors, and that the Syrian mode of making

cream over fire was brought into Devon by a wonderful pilgrim long before the days of the Crusaders; others that the Phoenicians taught the trick to the dark eyed maids of Cornwall in their journeys for tin. And so between sister counties of the West there has arisen a friendly dispute as to which is entitled to the honour of precedence. The dispute may continue for generations, but fair Devon has made it a crowning glory, and so overshadowed the pretensions of her dark skinned sister across the Tamar. Elihu Burritt went into raptures over 'that Most delectable of luxuries, Devonshire cream,' and every visitor from the States now gives the patent of precedence to Devon, calling all clotted cream 'Devonshire'. The sons of Devon in all their wanderings never lose their love for 'the melt-in-the-mouthy' cream, but give it the place of honour at all their banquets.

A London Doctor, in sending a patient from there to Devonshire for the winter, said, "Fill up your tea or coffee cup, whenever you can, with their thick cream, so that your spoon will stand upright in it."

Talk not of 'worlds of chrysolite',
Talk not of 'seas of sapphire' bright:
I don't desire on such to float,
The boat I seek is a better boat;
In this let me launch on an ocean
stream

A mighty sea of Devonshire cream.
It matters not, then, if I sink or swim;
It matters not what may be my whim;
Whether I float on the buoyant wave,
Or in its deeps my limbs do lave;
For oh! what a sensuous joy supreme
Would drowning be in this Devonshire
Cream.

From "My Devonshire Book"

DON'T LOSE OUT!

I was checking my tyres, water and oil the other Saturday when neighbour Tom hailed me to ask how things were going.

"Pretty well," I replied, "And you?"

"Health wise not bad," said Tom, but cash-wise not too brisk, as I've had two insurance renewal notices this morning - one for my house and contents and the other for my car. Still, I've got 15 days grace before I pay, so I should survive."

I put down the oil can. "You're not quite right there," I said, "Certainly you do get 15 days under your household policy but no days of grace at all are allowed with your car insurance."

Tom stared, looking puzzled. "You're joking," he blurted out, "I particularly looked on my car renewal notice and on the back there's a sort of cover note for 15 days so surely I'm all right?"

"Afraid you're not," I said, head shaking, "because officially the full cover comes to an end on the expiry date if you haven't paid the renewal premium by then."

"If that's the case, then why does my insurance company go to the trouble of this special cover note with its 15 days insurance?"

"You obviously haven't read your renewal notice," I said, with a faint grin. "If you look carefully you'll see that all you get is 15 days of Road Traffic Act cover, assuming you don't pay your premium by the renewal date. And that means your legal liability for personal injury to somebody else - but nothing more."

"That's news to me," Tom retorted. "So I take it that if my car is damaged during the 15 days, my insurers wouldn't meet my repair bill because I'd forgotten to send a cheque."

"Well, legally they could kick out your claim, but it would depend on your insurers and the exact circumstances of why the premium wasn't paid in time."

"I shan't risk it in future," Tom commented, grinning.

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PEARSES FARTHING

KENDALL
McDONALD

The answer has been staring me in the face all along. Well, ever since I started typing away in the front window of Just-a-Cottage that is. I couldn't avoid looking at it really - after all it does take up the whole of the view.

But you don't know the question to which I've found the answer do you? It's very basic and it's puzzled me for years. And it's this: Why should Thurlestone be here at all? I mean it isn't as though it is on the sea. It hasn't got a river to give it a little port like Bantham. So why should there be a village here at all?

Of course Thurlestone is a funny place if you think about it. Funny peculiar that is. You would have thought it would have grown down the hill to the sea. But it didn't - it grew the other way around. You see before 1777 - the Courtenay map of that date is the oldest showing the village in detail - there were no houses anywhere below the Church towards the sea. Of course there weren't all that many up the village either. But why Thurlestone? Why indeed!

The late Peter Grose once gave me a clue and set me thinking about the reason for the village when he said you had to look for something basic. His personal guess was that the village had grown up around a farm. There was a farm up there somewhere he said nodding up the village street from his hotel. Well I probed and I read and I thought about it and at one time I thought that perhaps the farm had been Just-a-Cottage and Len Jeffery's Trethurle Cottage all rolled into one, but it never quite seemed to fit. It was a clear case of *cherchez la ferme*, if you'll excuse such a dreadful joke. But in the end I ran out of ideas and let it rest.

Now as you'll have noticed some time before Christmas, Just-a-Cot had a bit of rethatching - the back and the ridge were in a sorry state - and I expect the honey-yellow of the new wheat straw will be toning down to a proper thatch colour by the time you read this. When Chris Broomhead was doing his usual superb job, he showed me some of the ancient sights of my roof - wattle and daub, lath and plaster, all very anxiety-making areas for the old cottage owner I can tell you! And while I was up on the roof we were talking about the old beams which Chris is very used to seeing in his work and he asked me which I thought was the oldest house in Thurlestone, not counting the Church itself of course. He plumped for Rockhill, partly because one of the oldest inhabitants had said so, and mostly from his own observation of the age of the beams on which he had batted down the thatch. I guessed at Church House and that again was that.

Or it was until the very next day when Alan and Liz Clifton who are busy putting putting Snowdons and The Old Post Office back into the one house they obviously once were, asked Penny and I if we would like to see what had been uncovered in the work. And that is when I began to wonder about the old farm and old houses of Thurlestone.

For unveiled in the main room of the Old Post Office was a vast inglenook fireplace and right across the front of it are massive timber beams.

Thurlestone VILLAGE VOICE

PEARSES FARTHING (continued)

And there is no doubt that those ancient timbers over the fireplace come from a shipwreck - the marks of ribs and decking are clear to see. Could they have come from HMS Ramillies smashed to pieces on Bolt Tail in 1760? Or are they even older and more evidence like those beams in the Village Inn of the wreck of the Armada's San Pedro El Mayor at Hope in 1588? Either would make the building pretty old to say the least, but there was more to come.

There are sealed up doorways which if reopened would mean stepping out into the air over the Schoolhouse roof. There is a door in a cupboard at the back which has the outside face of the ancient door on the inside of the cupboard. And the cupboard inside slants in such a way that it could only mean that at one time a flight of steps led up to it from the outside. Suddenly I could see these steps coming up from a farmyard at the back and leading not to a bedroom as they would today, but to a hayloft. Suddenly I realised that I might have found Thurlestone's farm.

And research in Exeter's Record Office makes me think that this may well be so. There I found a copy of a survey by Sir William Courtenay's steward to go with the map of 1777 and in swirling copperplate script were listed all the houses in Thurlestone and the land they owned. And there I found not Snowdon and the Old Post Office but a house they called Pearses Farthing, the property of Mr. John Adams. It faced on to the present village street and consisted of three dwellings in the front with a courtyard and outhouses or barns at the back, which we now know as Rockhill. All along the street down to the Village Stores and even beyond were Mr. Adams' gardens. It was listed as a farm and not a small one either. For John Adams owned acres and acres of fields on both sides of the present Bantham road with lovely names like Higher Desolate and Lower Desolate and Piper's Bench where the house of that name now stands. And he owned a great deal more besides. More land ran all the way to Kerse and he had another barn on the other side of the Bantham road too.

So is Pearses Farthing the farm from which all Thurlestone grew? If so, you see, it's been staring me in the face every day. And if it is what does that make us on this side of the road? Commonsense would make these farm labourers' cottages and I think that's probably right. And it's really nice to have a farm across the road.

One last thing before I finish off this everyday story of us country folk - guess who that Liz Clifton lists among her ancestors? Well her mother was a Trant of the Kingsbridge milling family. Her grandmother was one of the Kingsbridge Balkwills, and her great-grandmother was... a Pearse. No wonder Liz feels at home!

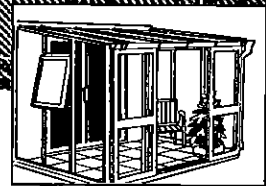
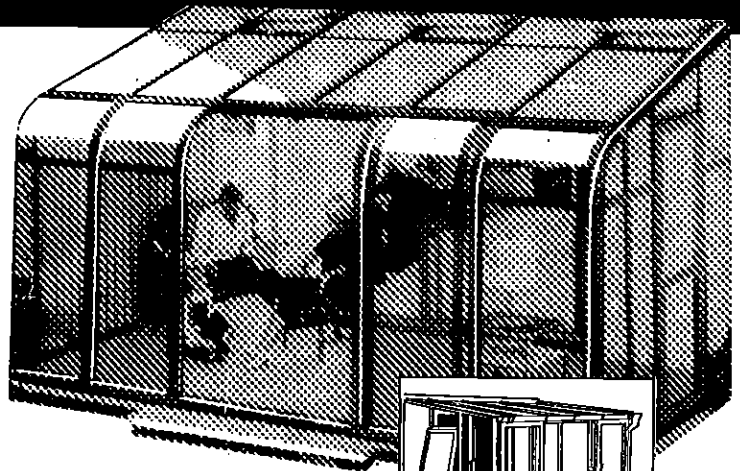
Editor's footnote: All this talk of thatching reminds me of a man upcountry who became so keen on thatching that he thatched his dog's kennel, his bird-table, his caravan and even his car. So if this year you find yourself stuck behind one of those slow-haycarts and it suddenly takes off at high speed...well at least you'll know who it is, won't you!

Has your house a history? Why not let Kendall McDonald know - give him a call at Just-A-Cottage.

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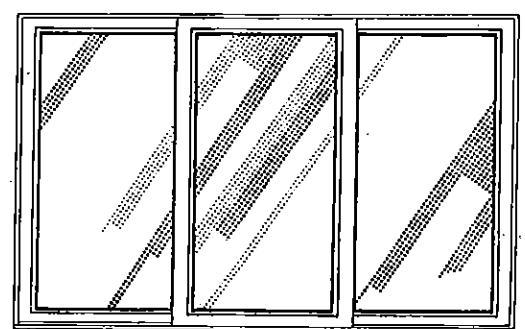
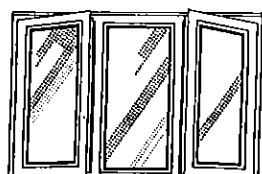
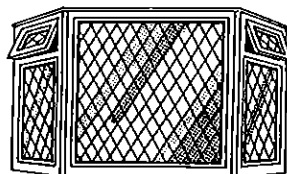
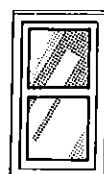
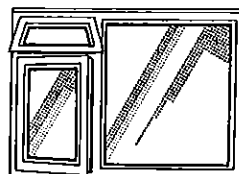
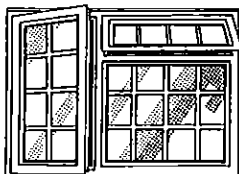
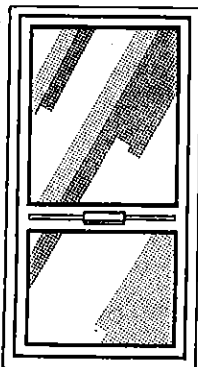
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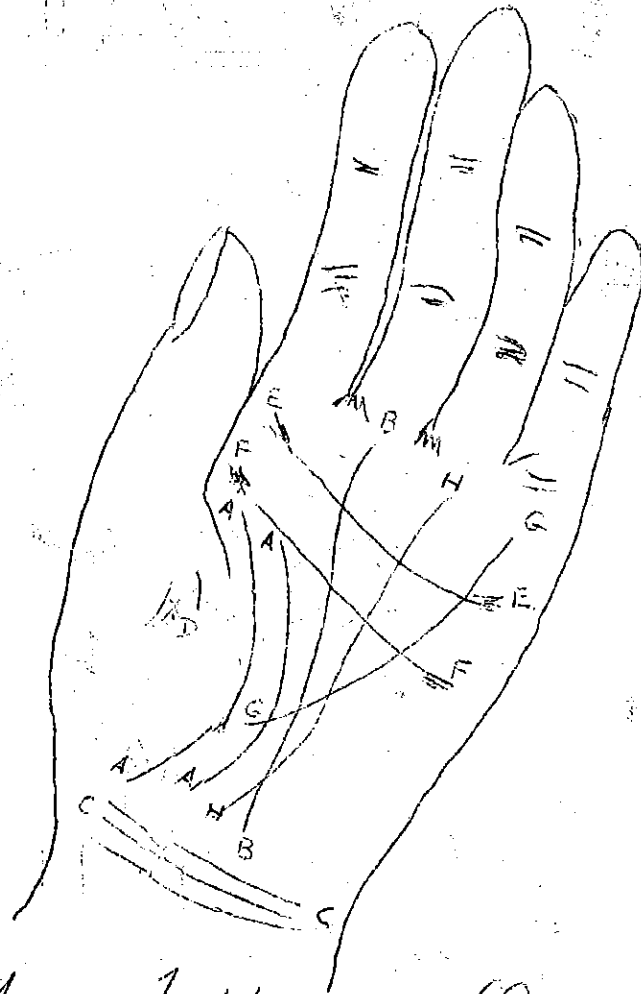
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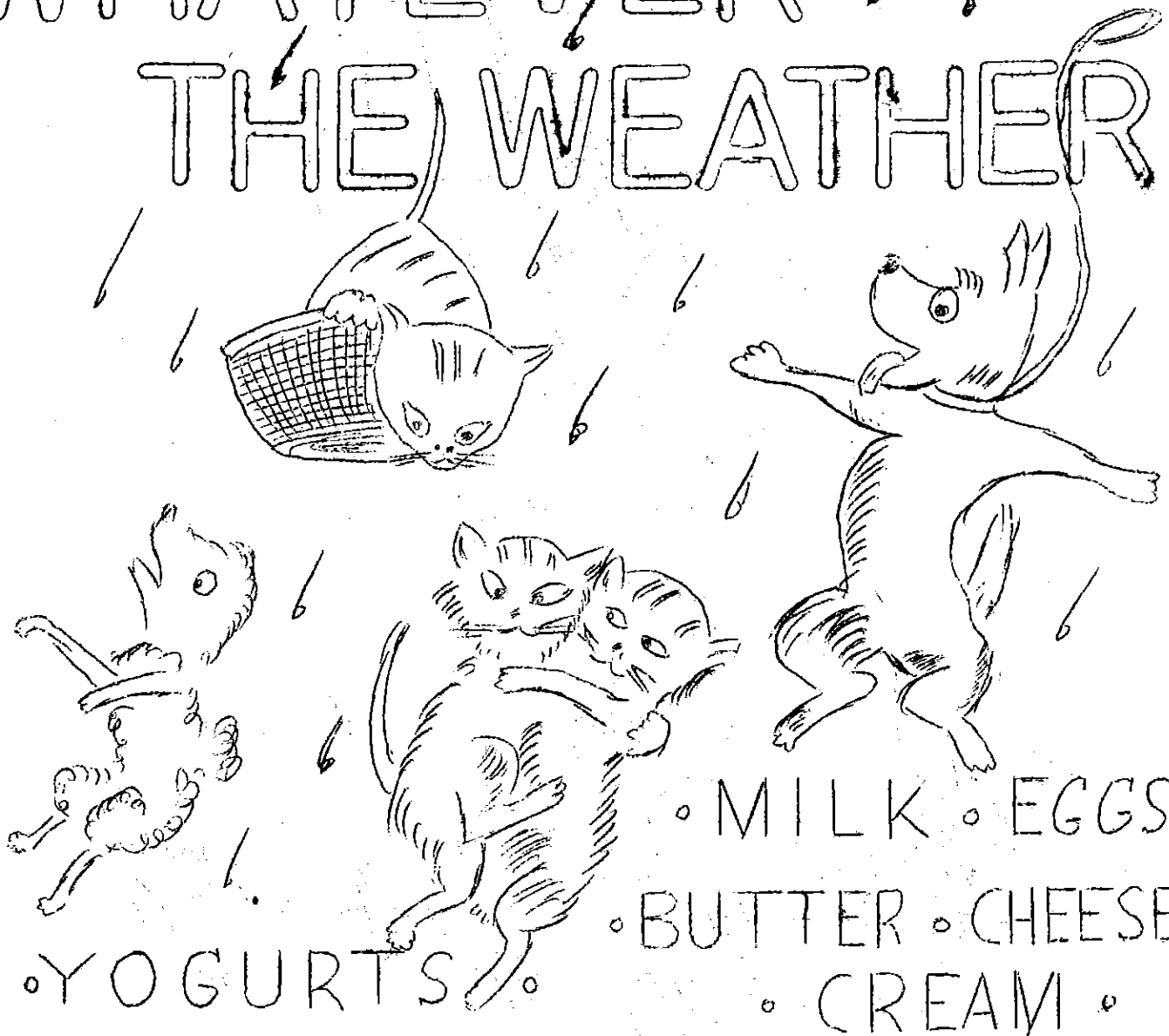


The hand that offers you a
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- A - the double line of life. B - Success in all you do.
C - the triple rings of luck, health and wealth and joy for you
D - the magic star of love, set to light you and to bless.
E - the gentle tender heart - full of deeds of kindness
F - the keen and steady brain.
G - the purpose strong and high.
H - the crown of all your life - name and fame that will not die.

So, take it then, this Hand, and
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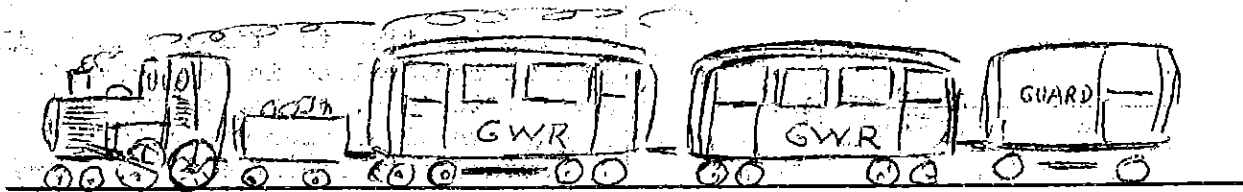
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Oh, what a pity its gone

South Brent, where the main railway line joined with the new branch line from Kingsbridge, lies on the southern fringe of Dartmoor, at an altitude of from 400 to 600 feet above sea level. Quite near is Brent Hill at just over 1000 feet above sea level.

The south side at Brent station was the accommodation for passengers to and from Kingsbridge, and the north side for the main line. The branch diverged from the main line close to Brent station and ran down the Avon Valley.

The River Avon for the whole of its course, with its different changes, is most picturesque, and this was brought more into evidence by the graceful sloping of the wood-clad hills which guard the valley through which the river runs, the wonderful variation between the troubled waters where it flows over the stoney bed, and the delicious silence of the surroundings cannot fail to deeply impress. Some trout is still found in the upper reaches of the river, but now very few salmon in the lower reaches. The Station at Avonwick was about two miles from Brent, and the locality still has some important residences because of the beauty of the surroundings. Between Avonwick and Gara Bridge the railway passed some of the most beautiful scenery to be seen in Devonshire. The village of Diptford was passed on the left, the fine tower of the Parish Church being prominent.

At Gara Bridge the line was double with a platform on each side. This station was about mid-way between Brent and Kingsbridge, and was beautifully situated in a well wooded valley. Very few railway depots were ever favoured with such a splendid situation, for it is in the heart of a lovely valley, with wooded hills rising steeply all round, and the river sparkling along between the hillsides.

The line then proceeded on by Topsham Bridge to Loddiswell Station, following the river and avoiding the serpentine meanderings by means of numerous bridges. Loddiswell Station was really situated in Woodleigh Bottom and was actually about a mile from Loddiswell village, being rather nearer to Woodleigh and serving both the villages.

Near Woodleigh was a Monastery which belonged to the Order of Trappist Monks who had been expelled from France, and near Loddiswell is an ancient camp called The Rings, considered probably pre-historic, but with an inner and outer fortress added, probably of the Danish or Anglo-Saxon period.

After leaving Loddiswell the railway line took a sharp curve and crossed an iron bridge at Rake Hill, from which a splendid view could be seen down the Avon Vale, the river winding its course like a silver streak until lost in the distance. A tunnel 600 yards long was entered at Sorley, and it then passed over a fine bridge spanning the private road leading to Bowringsleigh, after which it took an abrupt curve to enter the station at Kingsbridge, just above the bottom of West Alvington Hill, and now an Industrial Estate.

If only someone had had the vision of that 'someone' at Buckfastleigh we might have seen a real money spinning 'Leisure Line' for all the holidaymakers who visit this area. However, I do recall that they whipped out the rails and demolished the bridges, seemingly to ensure that no such thing would happen.

(With due acknowledgement to the writing of the
late James Fairweather)

Do YOU have a story to tell? Do you know something that would be of interest?
The Editor would love to hear from you

VILLAGER

FREE TREE OFFER FROM DEVON C.C.

Unfortunately too late for the last issue came information from Devon C.C. regarding their free Tree Scheme.

Whilst essentially looking for the co-operation of Parish Councils' who may wish to plant around car parks, playing fields and amenity areas, private landowners can work together with their Parish Council on schemes, or private landowners can apply in their own right, though they will then be limited to 25 free trees.

The main aim of the project is to replace trees in rural areas that have been lost to development, disease and vandalism. There are fifteen native or naturalised broad leaf species to be provided and rabbit guards will also be provided free. A date for collection was arranged for December, but it is understood it will not be too late to apply now early in this New Year. Get in touch with either the Parish Clerk on 560686 or if you are a private landowner ring a Mr. R.Gillson on Exeter 272164 who will arrange a collection time and, if required, will help with tree choice and advice on planting, and maintenance of trees and sites.

DO YOU THINK THE HORSE HAS A FUTURE ?

In the 6th Century BC in China, hollow bamboo canes were driven into the ground in a search for brine to provide salt for cattle. In the process it seems they also came across a liquid they found they could use for lighting and fuel - oil?

Whilst it was already known you could produce methane gas from manure, it is in West Germany where they have shown that the dung from 1000 cows can produce the equivalent of 450 gallons of fuel every day. The dung is sealed inside a giant tank fermenter and, as it decomposes, it gives off the inflammable gas methane, which can be used to replace fuel oil for boilers and generators. And there is an added bonus - the residue makes a rich odour free fertiliser !

The process is, however, expensive. And you could need an awful lot of cows!

From the time the first modern oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania USA, in 1859, to the beginning of our own oil explorations in the North Sea in December 1964, there has been a continuing concern as to just how long this finite resource - oil - will last the world. One figure indicate that the world's total oil reserves would be exhausted early in the next century if world consumption is allowed to continue at the present level of sixty million barrels a day !

When next you board that plane for your 'annual', your plane will be consuming something like 1000 gallons of fuel per hour. When you sit in your centrally heated home around another 500 gallons of fuel goes to help the acid rain fall - and your car 200 to 500 gallons a year. One could go on until it probably becomes a bore.

But, don't you think there is going to be quite a future for the horse?

BEACH COVER-UP ?

The newly appointed warden of a nudist beach at Studland, Dorset, has been issued with an armband which is to serve as his uniform.

AROUND TWENTY YEARS OR SO AGO..

Before anyone thought about things like the South Devon Water Authority a scheme was put forward for a new sewerage system for the villages of Thurlestone, Bantam, Buckland and South Milton when the estimated cost was to be £70,000.

In 1985 South West Water revived the scheme estimating the cost at £700,000.

If one is now to believe any idea of such a scheme will not be considered for another 10 years there is little doubt you can add another million to that. I doubt nothing will be done until EEC regulations enforce action.

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Nostalgia perhaps-but...

W A L T E R D E E has been delving just a little into history, and just a little into the minds of a few of the elders of this parish.....

ooo00ooo

Sadly, I am minded to think, is the passing of those quiet idyllic days of rural summers before motor cars first coughed their way about our country lanes. For centuries the three villages of the Parish of Thurlestone pursued their rural existence as farm workers and fisher-men, folk who made their living from the natural environment - the land and sea. In their time they were plundered and at other times enjoyed a modest prosperity from their agriculture, fishing and trading. Only a memory now are the smithies at Buckland and Bantham, the sight of the women-folk preparing wool in their homes before taking it down to the mill for the fullers. The bakery at Bantham, the village shop post office and Chapel at Buckland; the jollity of Folk Dancing and the toil and laughter when everyone able to do so helped to bring in the harvest.

With the advent of the car, the railway at Kingsbridge, radio and eventually television, the changes in the pattern of life brought about by increased wealth and leisure time, there is still a challenge in the minds of some - the challenge of compatibility - how to live in harmony and to accept a progress, if that is really what it is, that sees rural charm changing to urban conurbation.

The Avon channel has silted up ever since the building of the Avon Dam. Earlier this century not only did paddle steamers from Plymouth call

at the Quay at Bantham on a regular passenger service, but Bantham was a busy port for the fishing industry, both sloops and barges would travel right up to Aveton Gifford, carrying lime and coal, on the rising tide. The remains of the old lime kilns where the limestone was burned can still be seen on the bank of the river.

Smuggling was a profitable occupation for the resourceful, and kegs of rum and brandy transported across the Channel would oftentimes be brought up on Yarmer Beach or Bantham Beach and be transported under cartloads of seaweed to be hidden in some barn or in Dan Whiddon's smithy.

The presence of wrecks are a grim reminder of our rugged, treacherous coastline, and regrettably some were undoubtedly the result of deliberate acts to lure boats shoreward with false lights - then looting and plundering before the Preventative Officers - forerunners of the Coastguards, appeared on the scene. The old Coastguard Cottages at Bantham are now just private dwelling - some, regrettably just holiday houses.

The Courteney Survey of 1777 shows that the parish had a vineyard and some of the best cider orchards in the country - now just a little cider continues to be produced at a Buckland farm; there was even a rifle range in the Butts field, some quarries which can still be seen and an old mill by the brook in Buckland. Clannacombe House was believed to have been occupied by monks for a time and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

In Norman times the Manor of Thurlestone came into the possession of Judnel of Totnes as a gift from William the Conqueror. It was taken from him by William Rufus and given to a Roger de Nonant. His family kept it until it passed into the hands of the Buzan family and in 1337 it passed to the Countenay family, well known as the Earls of Devon. Their tenure lasted until 1869 when the Manor was sold to the trustees of Stephen Brunskill, who in turn sold it to Commander Evans in 1918. Some part of the Estate in Thurlestone was later sold off to the Grome family, but Evans Estates retain numerous farms and the whole of Bantham Ham which,

with the advent of the motor car must have proved a wonderful money spinner for that Estate.

Thurlestone village school was founded in 1842 by the Rev. Ilbert, and although now under Devon County Council continues its link with the Church. The old Rectory, now divided into three separate dwellings, was built in 1820, and at one time the gardens were open to the public for many years, and provided a beautiful and serene backdrop for village fetes and other events which were held there.

What may be termed the 'simple life' and the simple pleasures enjoyed, however hard and difficult it may have been at times, have departed never to return - though never is a long time.

Not how did he die, but how did he live,
Not, what did he gain, but what did he give?

These are the units to measure the worth,

Of a man, as a man, regardless of birth.

W.D.



Christmas is often a time when people receive a puppy dog as a gift, so it is perhaps appropriate to repeat a short article written by V. Jessen, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., in the very first issue of Village Voice in 1982:

"When people bring a new puppy into me the first thing I try to impress upon them is that all dogs, wild or domesticated, are pack animals. The pack needs a leader, that should be the human. This dominance order is easily established in puppies by the way one gives commands. Don't be diffident. Say a command as if you mean it; the message will then come across, and force of any kind is seldom indicated. Bear in mind that most dogs are excellent actors and do not be deceived by any histrionics or tantrums.

Keeping your pet at the correct weight and not permitting it to get fat is within everybody's capability. It behoves you to do this because all the problems we get, viz a viz: heart, arthritis, diabetes - the dog will get as well. Most dogs are absolute gourmands, eating until they are sick, hence the owner must control the quantity given. If tit-bits are ever offered ensure the dog does not expect or demand them as a right. This is where training comes in.

TO A DOG !

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as a loo,
So, please help us if you can,
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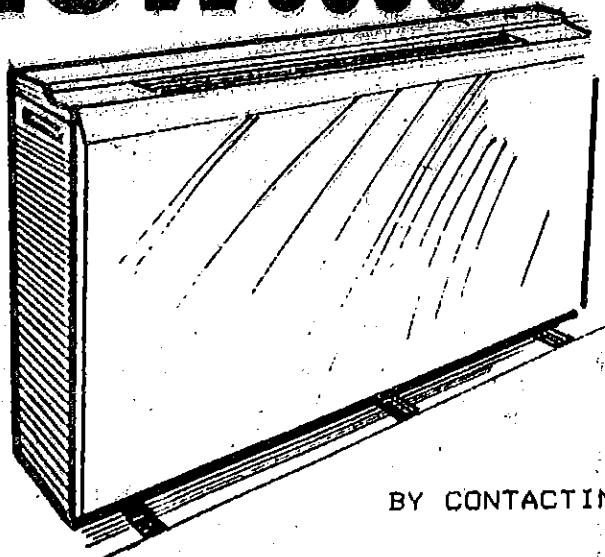
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How Gunther sank Louis — without Firing a Shot

by KENDALL McDONALD

Part of her bow rises dripping from the sea on each and every low tide. The part you can see is her stempost just to the left of the beach at Leas Foot. Some records say that she ran ashore after losing her way in the dark, but there is much, much more to Thurstlestone's war-time wreck than that.

For though no torpedo came within miles of her, the Louis Sheid was sunk by a U-boat just as surely as if she had been hit full amidships. It was fear of one U-boat in particular, the U-47, which sent the Sheid running in to the shelter of the Devon coast and into shallow water where her captain hoped that no submarine would dare to follow. Unfortunately in his anxiety he came in just that bit too close.

The captain of the Louis Sheid was right to fear a torpedo attack on his ship, for loose in the Channel that December was Gunther Prien. Prien was already a German war hero, who had been decorated personally by Hitler with the Knights Cross With Oak Leaves for sinking the Royal Navy's 29,000 ton battleship Royal Oak at anchor in Scapa Flow. The British battleship sank in 13 minutes on October 14, 1939 with the loss of 833 lives.

Whether that decoration had gone to Prien's head or whether he was just naturally mean is not recorded, but certainly on this mission he was sinking any ship he saw. It made no difference to him if his targets were neutral. He sank anything which came in sight.

In the early morning of December 7, 1939, he had found another target. This time it was the 8159-ton Dutch cargo-line Tajandoen, bound from Amsterdam for Batavia with 14 passengers and a cargo of cement, iron, sheet steel, and aniline. At 5.24 a.m. Gunther Prien started to line up U-47 for the attack. At exactly 5.30 he hit her with one torpedo full in her port side.

The Dutch ship began to sink almost at once. Her clear markings of neutrality had not saved her. The explosion was large and was clearly heard aboard the Louis Sheid which was not far away, homeward bound for Antwerp with a cargo of grain and a crew of 46. The Louis Sheid was neutral too. On both sides of the 6057-ton ship were huge white letters spelling out 'Belgie' and to make sure the point was made beside the lettering was an equally large Belgian flag. It says much for the men of the Louis Sheid that despite the fact that they must have known that the Dutch ship had been torpedoed and that

Churlestone VILLAGE VOICE

they could share her fate, the Belgian ship altered course towards the stricken Dutch liner.

Gunther Prien's torpedo strike had split the Dutch ship's fuel tanks and oil swirled on the water all around her. Only six of the crew failed to report to their lifeboat stations and they had been killed in the explosion of the torpedo. The 62 men who did get into the boats had no sooner done so than the fuel around the ship ignited. But they rowed madly across the blazing sea and finally in blackened boats, scorched and singed, they managed to reach the safety of the waiting Louis Sheid.

The last man was no sooner aboard than the Sheid started running towards the South Devon coast at full speed. Picking up survivors of a U-boat sinking might, thought her captain, be interpreted by the likes of Prien as a hostile act and so he wasted no time hanging around to find out.

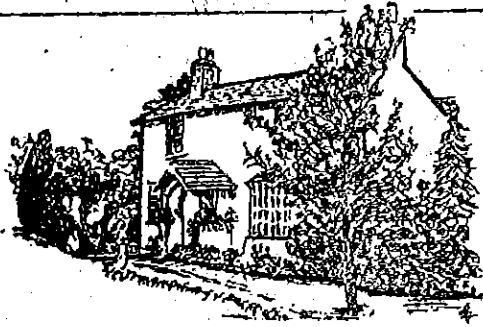
By nightfall the Sheid was close in to the Devon coast. Driving her on was a Southerly gale with rain squalls which blotted out the land. And due to the blackout regulations there were no friendly shore lights to tell that she was standing in to danger. She missed the rocks they call The Delvers, which reach out from Warren Point and swept right into Leas Foot where to the South of the beach another reef was waiting. And there the Louis Sheid struck just as the tide was dropping. She was only a few hundred feet from the then Links Hotel, now Links Court, and she did not strand without being seen despite the terrible weather. In fact, Jack Jarvis, a former cox'n of the old Hope Cove lifeboat saw it happen and phoned Salcombe.

The Salcombe lifeboat, the Samuel and Mary Parkhouse, was away in minutes and had a hellish journey around the Bolt in enormous seas and finally found the ship two hours later. Somehow the lifeboat cox'n Eddie Distin got his boat alongside the Louis Sheid and started taking off the crew even though his boat was rising and falling some 30 feet with each wave! It was only after he had taken off the first 40 men that he found he was rescuing not one crew but two - for the first 40 were all from the Tajandoen. The lifeboat couldn't cope with so many all at once. So he made two trips, taking off all the Dutchmen and landing them with great difficulty at Hope Cove. Local fishermen there dared enormous waves to set up a ferry service from lifeboat to shore.

When the Salcombe lifeboat returned from Hope for the third time, they found that the Louis Sheid had moved. She had been swung by the wind and sea and the rising tide and was now jammed broadside on under the cliffs. In the dawn it was clear that she was unlikely ever to sail again. The rocket apparatus was set up on the cliff overlooking her and a line was soon aboard. By means of this all the crew were taken off safely. Later Cox'n Eddie Distin was awarded the RNLI Silver Medal for his part in the rescue and each of his crew received the Bronze medal.

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Thurlestone VILLAGE VOICE

In the months that followed they tried hard to move the Belgian ship, but all attempts failed. Soon she started to show signs of extensive damage. Some of her grain was saved, but the rest formed fizzy mounds on nearby beaches. In 1940 South-Westerly gales broke her in two.

More salvage was tried in 1942 and on April 29 that year the Salkombe lifeboat was back on the scene again - this time to rescue eight men of the salvage crew from a small work boat which had been swept out and stranded on the Books in an Easterly gale. That year most of the stern and part of the bow collapsed. Salvage went on in fits and starts and at one time an aerial ropeway was set up to the wreck from the cliffs and was driven by a traction engine. Lots of metal was cut off her. Later still after the war she was sold for £400 and yet more salvage took place.

Today, after all that, you wouldn't think perhaps that there was much for the divers who visit the wreck so regularly. But there is much more underwater than ever shows above the surface. The Louis Sheid is a pretty dive and one which often gives novices there first taste of wreck diving. The depth of water over the wreck rarely exceeds 30 feet and so is ideal for a gentle swim around. The big wrasse which live in the ship's boilers are so used to the divers' visits that they almost pose for the cameras!

For those who like to have all the facts, the Louis Sheid was 418 feet long with a beam of 55. She was not a new ship at the time of her loss. She had in fact been built by Nord Werft of Wesermunde for the Rickmers Line in 1920. When she was launched they called her the Ultor. When she was taken over by the James Chambers Lancashire Shipping Line of Liverpool they renamed her the Kendal Castle. Another take-over - by the Belgian National Shipping Line gave her the name Louis Sheid.

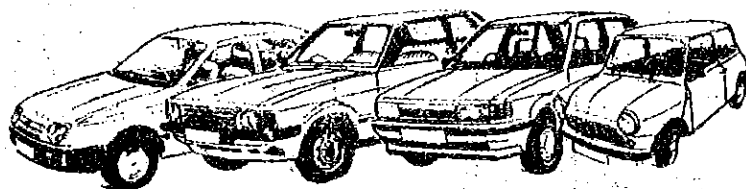
And Gunther Prien? He was killed on March 8, 1941 when U-47 was depth-charged by the destroyer HMS Wolverine and exploded underwater. There were no survivors.

=====

THOSE NOTICE BOARDS. Do you recall about the Notice Boards which the Parish Council erected on Leas Foot beach warning of possible sewage pollution - particularly of the stream? Well, as you probably know they were 'pinched'. Whether someone wanted them to erect on some other parish beach is not known, but they were so carefully removed it could not have been the act of some 'mindless vandal' - although in another sense, it was a mindless vandal who took them away. Who could it have been? If the District Council had objected their regulations would have seen the issue of an Enforcement Order calling for their removal - so it couldn't have been them. The Water Authority? Could they have done it? The Police have (so far) been unable to find a culprit. The boards were erected solely in the interests of the public at large and with the welfare of children particularly - who may be exposing themselves by playing in a stream potentially full of the bacteria of untreated sewage. Whoever took those boards so very carefully - please return them for use this season.

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A NIGHT in a good inn gives repose a quality of stimulus. Sleep and food have here a flavour that is absent from sleep and food in a friend's house. The inn waits as the end of the journey as certainly as your friend's house; yet its shelter and food come always with an agreeable sensation of accident and surprise. Too, you have at your inn all that your friend can give you, with many more conveniences and a wider range of entertainment; and with all this you are yet at the full centre of fluid life.

In your friend's house you are shut away, but in the inn you are a looker-on at goings and comings; you are in contact with the present and you touch hands with the wraiths of the past and the substantial mementoes of their ways; and from your seat in the lounge you view the world as through a loophole of retreat.

I begrudge the payment for the inspection of the mansions of the great, with their Keep Off the Grass and Please Do Not Touch; I consider the price I pay a trifle for the privilege of spending a night at the George at Glastonbury, the Feathers at Ludlow, the Lygon Arms at Broadway, the Spread Eagle of Thame or the Sloop at Bantham, where I am free to look and touch, and to walk unhindered or to command a retinue of servitors!

The ordinary Englishman's home is not in any sense - and never was - his castle. An officer or bailiff with the proper warrants may enter it when he chooses. But the Englishman's Inn - say the Angel at Grant-ham, or the King Arthur at Tintagel - is a castle, and every sojourner is its lord. He may feel its traditions in his blood as certainly as the children of a great house feel the traditions of their territory.

Your old inn is a many-pointed star, at each point touching a great event or pleasing anecdote. A single inn may evoke memories of Izaak Walton, Charles I, Walter Scott, Bollingbrooke, George Borrow, Jonathan Swift; and all these memories and traditions are yours. Isn't it worth the money to sit down to dinner with that company, or to trip over the same unseen stair in the dark passages that sent Celia Fiennes to her hands and knees? Or to use the room at the Angel, Grantham, where Richard signed Buckingham's death warrant in 1483; or sleep in that oaken four-poster at the Saracen's Head, Southwell, where Charles slept his last night of freedom before surrendering; or to sleep in rooms where slept those shadowy but urgently living smugglers of old? To get the full savour of an old inn you should come to it at night, and best of all a winter night, or twilight, when the mists are rising and the soul is low, and a warm fire and a dinner seem to be the twin stars of human aspiration. All of us know those moments and that is why inns were made - to stand upon the pilgrim's way with an understanding smile for the pilgrim's weakness. They are a sign to us to shed austerity and vigilance, and to meet and mingle with our fellows; to turn from our various occasions, lofty or low, and to ease our common needs and common anxieties in kindly communion.

(Compiled with a little assistance
from Thomas Burke)

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO

West Alvington churchyard where you can see the following epitaph on a tombstone:

"Here lyeth the Body of Daniel Jeffery, the son of Michael Jeffery and Joan his wife he was buried ye 2 day of September 1746 and in ye 18th year of his age.

This youth when in his sickness lay did for the Minister send that he could come and with him Pray, But he would not attend But when this young man Buried was the Minister did him admit

he Should be carried into Church that he might money geet By this you see what man will dwo to geet money if he can

Who did refuse to come and Pray by the Forsaid young man"

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