

MAY/JUNE 1981

# VILLAGE VOICE



Published for Thurlestone Parish Council.



THURLESTONE

# PROBUS CLUB

At the March Meeting Harry Huggins gave a very enlightening talk on Teneriff, well studded with items of information not normally found in a travel brochure. Those who had been to the island as well as those who may well have it on future holiday lists found much to interest them, particularly in Harry's favourite field of flora, fauna and birdlife.

At our meeting on 10th. April, Kathy Tanner, Curator of the Cookworthy Museum, will be giving a talk which promises to be very interesting. (The final 'press date' for Village Voice precludes being able to say more now.

On May 8th Brian Nice of British Telecom will be giving a talk on Telecommunications, past, present and future.

At the March Meeting we welcomed Alfred Wade as a new member.

All members are reminded that if they will be unable to attend a meeting, they must advise the Secretary by the Wednesday prior to the meeting at the latest. Failure to do so may result in us being charged for their lunch if our numbers vary too much and too regularly from those estimates given to the hotel.

D.M.YEOMAN  
Hon. Secretary  
(560300)

## Parish Hall

It has no doubt been noticed by many that the resurfacing to the Car Park promised in the last issue has now been completed, even though the cost of £600 was slightly more than budgeted. However it was felt that the extra load of surfacing would be a saving in the long term. The planting of the trees has been delayed until the Autumn as it was felt that the second half of March, the date the County Council advised us that they would be available, was too late in the planting season to ensure their survival. Both of the earth banks are to be seeded with grass as soon as the weather improves. The painting of the Hall exterior should be completed during May/June but so much depends on the weather.

The proposed Car Boot Sale will, it is anticipated, take place during the second half of May. Immediately a date is fixed, the usual notices will be displayed around the Parish. The important thing, as you will realise, is not to clash with any other similar event being held in the district.

D.M.Yeoman  
Chairman  
Parish Hall Committee  
(560300)

## TRELOAR TRUST

COFFEE MORNING - MARCH 24th

Mary Bromfield and Dick White would like to thank everyone who took part or helped with gifts or donations to make this event, despite unpleasant weather, highly successful and enabled us to send a cheque for £192 to the Trust which cares for and educates severely physically handicapped children.

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON  
HORTICULTURAL SHOW

## PLANT & PRODUCE SALE

in the

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

at 2.30 pm on SATURDAY 30th MAY

QUALITY PLANTS & PRODUCE

AT REASONABLE PRICES

Good Raffle Prizes. Refreshments

Please also start to plan your exhibits for the

## ANNUAL Horticultural Show

to be held in Thurlestone Parish Hall at 2.30 pm on SATURDAY  
1st AUGUST 1987

The Classes will be similar to last year except for variations in the Flower Arrangement Themes and the Cakes, etc. in the Home Economics Section.

PLEASE SEE SHOW SCHEDULES FOR THE  
PRECISE DETAILS

to be available from the end of May  
Ring 560436 or 560686 or contact  
any Committee Member for further  
information.



VILLAGE VOICE GOES...

# OUT AND ABOUT

The Village is invited...to satisfy its curiosity and find out what Lindsey Townsend has done to turn Piper's Bench into a small hotel.

Your opportunity to be on the inside looking out comes on Wednesday, May 27, when Lindsey invites you all to a Loddiswell wine and English cheese party starting at 6.30 p.m. So come along and see what's been done to that fine old colonial-style house and help the Village Hall at the same time - for the proceeds from the party go to the Village Hall. Tickets are £1.50 from either the Village Stores or direct from Piper's Bench. Telephone 560157 to reserve yours.

This is your big chance to view this 1920's house and to see if you would have decorated this new Thurlestone hotel in the same striking way. This is your chance too to tread the hallowed lawns which, so Village Voice is told, will soon be the home of a new Thurlestone Croquet Club!

VILLAGE VOICE'S POSTBAG is filled with letters from all over the world. Latest to come from faraway places with strange-sounding names comes from Rear-Admiral Charles Bickford of 10, Coppabella Crescent, Bundilla Lakes, Mooloolaba 4557, Queensland, Australia. The Admiral writes: "Jeannette and I would like to express our great appreciation of your good wishes for our future contained in your last issue of Village Voice. We have now settled in our new home and judge ourselves fortunate to be able to enjoy such an acceptable climate as we have here, in a lovely home and amongst a number of friends we have already made. We miss all our friends in South Milton and Thurlestone, but are not in the least homesick and look forward to a long and happy life here."

AND WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF the world-wide spread of readers of Village Voice, we would like to wish Ted and Jean Sadler fair winds and calm seas for their voyage to Cyprus in their 4.25-ton catamaran. They are sailing from Plymouth soon and expect to take five months over the trip. They plan to be away for two years enjoying the sun and seas around the island. Their "cat" is called Gemelli, which is "twins" in Italian. While they are away son Ian will be living in their Thurlestone home. However don't be surprised if you see them in the village on special occasions such as Christmas - for the Sadlers plan to be home then, leaving the yacht in Cyprus.

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SPECIAL NOTE FOR BIRDERS: Did you see all those twitchers down at the Leas recently? Cause of all the excitement - some drove all the way from London and Bristol - was a whiskered tern. This tern, it is true, is a rare visitor to our shores and usually stays well South of us. He or was it a she?, must have been very impressed with all the telescopes and cameras focussed at him. Village Voice put the cost of it all at well over £40,000!



## M O R E O U T A N D A B O U T

EVERYONE in the Thurlestone Ward must be considered well satisfied with their District Councillor Mr Jack Thomas - returning him unopposed. The Ward, which comprises Thurlestone, South Milton and West Alvington did not do so well Parish wise, for in West Alvington there were only six nominations for the 9 parish seats and at South Milton, only 6 for the 7. Thurlestone fared somewhat better - there were 7 nominations for the 7 vacancies - six of the present Councillors plus Mr. Geoffrey Wilkinson will all be unopposed. Compared with many Wards it would seem 'General Appathy' played a considerable part !

Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Peter Hurrell says he feels he represents the views of his fellow councillors and many parishioners in expressing appreciation of the service to the community of Miss Rosemary Stocken on her retirement from the Parish Council. Miss Stocken was responsible for establishing with a group of helpful parishioners, a Village Care Service for anyone suffering any kind of sudden disaster in the family. Her work of footpath clearing and signposting over many years was greatly appreciated by many walkers, and her interest in planning proposals invariably saw her 'going the rounds' advising those who might be affected or concerned. Miss Stocken had a constant interest and concern in all matters that might affect Thurlestone and, without doubt, she will always be ready to offer a helping hand where she feels it is needed. Village Voice joins with all who wish her a good and happy 'retirement'.  
'Villager'

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PROBLEMS of running a yacht club which had a large holidays-only membership and the changing times of the tidal cycle of the Aune Estuary were highlighted by Bantham Sailing Club Commodore Edward Ridgway at the Club's A.G.M. held at the Sloop Inn, Bantham on Friday the 17th April.

The Commodore suggested it might be necessary to place the Club in abeyance for a season or two until more people were available to run the Club's annual sailing programme, but the present Committee had decided to see what happened during this year and would organise a limited season of racing and suggested sea racing during the times when tides made the Estuary impossible until late in the evening. Over 60 members packed the Meeting but few offered to fill the vacancies of the retiring officers - Michael Toll, Hugh Ridgway and David Frost. Michael Toll agreed to stand again and the two vacancies were finally filled by Penny Kain and David Lynch.

Votes of thanks were passed to Hugh and Marilyn Cater, Susan Openshaw and the Commodore, and racing cups and plaques were presented to Dr. Bill Openshaw, Mr Hugh Cater and the Kain family. They had raised £500 in the past year for the RYA Seamanship Foundation Challenger project for disabled sailors, and as a result one club for the disabled is to call their boat, bought with the help of funds from Bantham, "Aune Challenger".

The SPRING SAILING WEEK-END will be over the BANK HOLIDAY 23-25 MAY and the Full Regatta with sailing, rowing, swimming and a treasure hunt will be over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

K.M.

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### PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY

THURLESTONE, BUCKLAND & BANTHAM

## PARISH FETE

THE FETE WILL BE HELD IN THE RECTORY GARDEN, THURLESTONE, at 2.15 p.m. on SATURDAY 20th JUNE 1987.

Please keep this date free for an excellent Afternoon's enjoyment.

STALLS

SIDESHOWS

CREAM TEAS

Anyone who is prepared to help in any way please contact one of the following:

MALCOLM & JOAN GALLOWAY - Tel 560453. EILEEN LINDAHL - Tel 560401 -  
JIM WOODROW - Tel 560206. ELSIE BREWSTER - Tel 560345. GEOFF WILKINSON - 560512  
MIKE TRELEAVEN - 560372

DONATIONS FOR ANY OF THE STALLS WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED - CAKES, DELICATTESSAN  
WHITE ELEPHANT - BOTTLE - NEARLY NEW CLOTHES - PRODUCE.



# 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

No. 26 (No 3 New series)

5th Year

MAY-JUNE 1987

We would particularly like to pay tribute to those very helpful and thoughtful people who have enabled us to produce three issues of the Magazine so full of information and interest. The continued success is entirely dependent upon all these helpful contributions being continued and, we would hope, constantly being enhanced by those of you who have not, so far, put pen to paper or typewriter key to ribbon. There are few who cannot have some yarn, some story or theme or subject which could be enjoyed by others. We know from what many of you have said that you understand and appreciate all the effort we put into producing and publishing the magazine - we want to see it as a total community effort.

Village Voice was founded some five years ago as "A Digest of Village News - A Forum for Village Views." We will do our best to give you the news on all matters which concern the Parish - what about 'Village Views'? Can we look forward to a heavy postbag?

Artist Len Hubbard tells us there has been an excellent uptake of his prints of the cover pictures, and he is encouraged to enhance on the three so far available. They really are quite a bargain at £5 each - only £4 to Village Voice readers.

We offer our apologies to contributors and readers for the odd spelling and grammatical error. We do our best and realise that it is not always good enough. Our duplicator can be temperamental even though we have now purchased a completely reconditioned Gestetner 460S - and that's broken the bank for the time being. We are indeed proud of the fact that, although sponsored by the Parish Council the magazine is not a burden on the Parish Rate. Mind you, the odd donation is always useful!



"I supply all  
the MILK  
and (yum-yum)



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Butter - Cheese and Yogurt

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OR HE LIVES AT No.1. ELSTON COTTAGES, CHURCHSTOW, nr. Kingsbridge

ALSO

MINERAL WATERS - SQUASHES

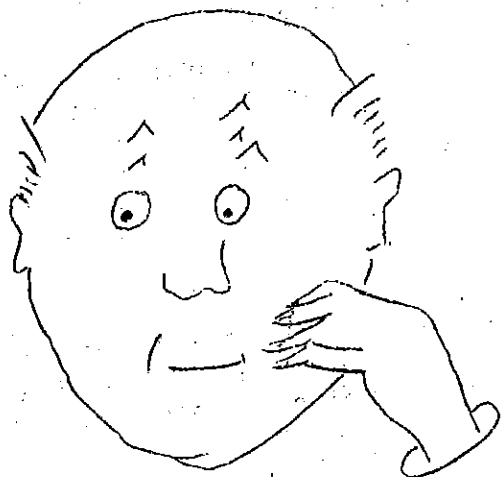
FRUIT JUICES - LEMON & ORANGE

DRINKS

— POTATOES

PETER BROMFIELD - Dairyman





## WALTER DEE

A friend of mine, (Sh-h! I still have one!) dropped in a couple of recent farming publications the other day, and I must confess that what I read truly astounded me:

"The EEC Commission has agreed to sell 12,067 tonnes of Europe's Butter Mountain to animal food compounders at £45 a tonne. Further sales are planned," I read, Traders having offered £141 a tonne for stocks totalling 35,000 tonnes, and bids for a further 100,000 tonnes have been made of £129 a tonne - destined for Russia."

It is also quoted that butter brought into intervention cost the EEC Commission a mere £1,962 a tonne !!!

But the top prize for insanity must surely go for an item which states: "Another 100,000 tonnes will go to be used as fuel for power stations."

To cap that lot, it is reported: "Food Compounders have also agreed to buy 536 tonnes of skimmed milk at £169 a tonne - a fraction of the intervention buying in price."

I have a feeling something is a little wrong somewhere. I suppose it is just possible someone is netting a nice profit, of course, and on the other hand it seems even more possible the EEC Commission is run by idiots.

We are just the idiots who help to make it all possible !

You may recall the well reported expression - "being economical with the truth". The trouble is it permits rumours. What is the true story of the proposed Kingsbridge Barrage. I gather the preliminary survey - at an estimated cost of £30,000 has been completed and the next step is a survey of the bed of the estuary (estimated cost £50,000). The project is thought to be only viable if the scheme includes something like 50 dwelling units.

One must suppose that the viability of the local infrastructure - sewerage, water, medical services and roads et al is or has been considered. Perhaps one day the full story can be told.

+ + + + +

What, one wonders, is behind the Devon County Council proposals with regard to their 'Major Road Network' reclassifications?

The Kingsbridge-Salcombe A381 to be downgraded to B381. The B3207 from Halwell on the A381 to Dartmouth to be upgraded to 'A'. (Ready for the Dart Port development ??). The A379 Kingsbridge to Dartmouth downgraded to B class. The A381 Kingsbridge - Stumpy Post Cross to C class. The B3392 - Bigbury-on-Sea - A379 at Harraton Cross to C class.

The definition of 'A' Road is 'Primary County Route. 'B' road is a Secondary County route and any road downgraded to 'C' is not within the Major Road Network any longer.

+ + + + +

Going off for the week-end. Troubled about the prospects for hay-making? Just dial 0898-500-430, for I am told the Met. Office, by using the latest technology, computers and global satellite surveillance can provide extended weather forecasts from information received every 12 hours from every country and sea in the world. The service will cost you 38p a minute in the daytime -25p a minute week-ends and evenings. Could be a useful service to many - but Village Voice will accept no liability for a wrong forecast!

+ + + + +

There was a time when being a teacher was termed 'a calling' - but nowadays it has to be accepted it is just a calling for more money.



# Can it help?

## 1987 is EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT - EYE FOR SHORT

The main aim is stated to be to raise awareness of the importance of the importance of the environmental protection so that better progress can be made in conserving and improving the environment. EYE's secondary purpose is to carry out projects in support of the awareness campaign, which will have lasting effect.

Some of today's environmental problems go beyond frontiers, it is stated, and are common to many European countries. There has to be a European dimension to environmental policy with European measures and co-operation to solve those problems. That is why the Heads of State and Governments of the European Community asked the European Commission to organise this European Year of the Environment.

The need is to show what has to be done and how it can be achieved. Above all, the events, activities and projects undertaken during EYE should seek to bring home the responsibility which each person has for the environment and to persuade everyone to play a part in maintaining and improving it.

The UK EYE Committee has decided to focus on three areas:

- the conservation of the natural environment.
- the control of pollution and wastes.
- the improvement of the urban environment including the treatment of eyesores and dereliction.

Within these areas it will be possible to cover a wide variety of themes.

The above is a brief extract from a leaflet from the South Hams District Council. Village Voice considers the 'control of pollution' must be the major theme for this Parish - a sewage disposal system will do much to solve a major environment problem.

# Rural Transport

A circular from Devon County Council states: "Public transport in rural areas has always proved to be more of a problem than its urban counterpart. Now with the implementation of the 1985 Transport Act, it appears to be a particularly important time to seek the greater involvement of local communities in local transport.

Following a successful submission to the Rural Transport Development Fund, the D.C.C. has appointed a Rural Transport Adviser to the Public Transport Team within the Transport Co-ordination Centre based in the Engineering and Planning Department at County Hall."

Phew! That all sounds a mouthful, but very briefly, Thurlestone falls within a Group which is called the 'Salcombe Parish Group' comprising Salcombe, Malborough, South Huish, West Alvington and South Milton.

If you feel that Thurlestone would benefit from joining such a Grouping for the development of a Local Transport Service please get in touch with the Parish Clerk - Mr. W.G.Ladd - Tel 560684.

# No thank you

The RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute) are suggesting the scrapping of County Council's in favour of Regional Council's.

This would very probably result in the control of Local Government moving out of Devon into Bristol in Avon. Surely it would be little short of catastrophic

The 1974 re-organisation of Local Government has most certainly proved a more remote form of 'Local' control, and it could be submitted, far more expensive and difficult to control, so far as the ratepayer is concerned.

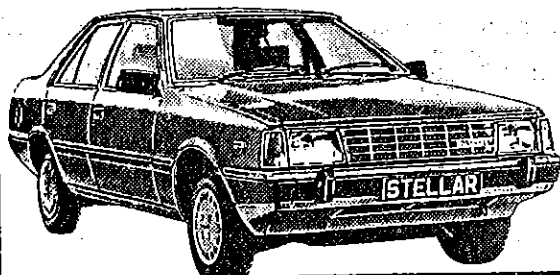
It is surely a suggestion that needs to be very, very carefully watched.

The JULY/AUGUST issue of VILLAGE VOICE will be distributed about the end of June. Final date for advertisement is Saturday 30th May - for all other items June 8th. 1987.



# HYUNDAI

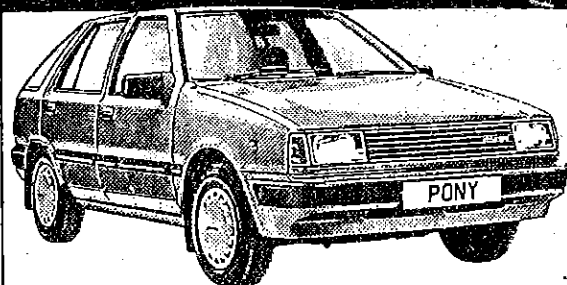
## CARS THAT MAKE SENSE



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CAVALIERS  
AREN'T  
LAUGHING.**

For around £400 more than the price of a Hyundai Stellar GSI, you can buy a basic Cavalier 1.6. But you won't have central locking, electric windows, a 5 speed gearbox or stereo radio cassette. No wonder people are buying Hyundai. Test drive a Stellar today.

**MORE  
AFFORDABLE  
THAN AN  
ESCORT.**



The Hyundai Pony 1.3L 5 door costs £4998.

The Ford Escort 1.3L 5 door costs £6677.

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If you just happen to be someone who looks up your 'Stars' every day in your daily newspaper (or magazine), then this brief research by one of our readers will help you to appreciate how ancient and involved the subject really is...

# The Houses of the Sun

Thousands of years ago the Chaldean astronomers saw the Sun as a traveller through the heavens who stayed in certain houses on his way, and Job (ChapXXXIX) gives the name "Mazaroath" to the great series of hostels provided for this illustrious traveller. Along the curving road which he apparently followed (his orbit or ecliptic) certain groups of stars were seen in association with his movement. This starry pathway across the sky was called the Zodiac or "animal circle" (Greek, zodiacos), for all the constellations in it with one exception (Libra) were seen as figures of living creatures. Within this zone, it was noticed, lay the track of other lesser travellers - the moon and the five planets known to the ancients. So the Zodiac was divided into twelve Houses or "Signs" (one for each month of the year, a twelfth part of the whole circular band being assigned to each of its twelve star-groups or constellations. Each sign was given an appropriate symbol and a name:

SPRING. Aries (The Ram), Taurus (the Bull), Gemini (The Twins);

SUMMER. Cancer (The Crab), Leo (the Lion), Virgo (the Virgin);

AUTUMN. Libra (the Scales), Scorpio (the Scorpion), Sagittarius (the Archer)

WINTER. Capricornus (the Goat), Aquarius (the Water-Carrier), and Pisces (the Fishes)

The symbols are mostly conventional pictures. Thus, the symbol for Aquarius is the Egyptian character for water. The origin of the signs for Leo, Capricornus, and Virgo is obscure.

The Sun stays for a month (i.e. a solar month, a little longer than a lunar month) in each of his Houses; or, more properly speaking, he spends this time in passing through each. The House of the Sun on any particular day can easily be ascertained. Imagine the twelve star-groups as represented by the hours marked on the dial of a watch, the first constellation (Aries) being one o'clock. If there is a full moon, and the moon is in the second constellation (Taurus), then the Sun must be on the opposite side of the ecliptic in the eighth constellation (Scorpio). If the moon is not full, observe the constellation which is in the south at midnight, and the Sun will be in its opposite.

"The first point of Aries" was the Vernal Equinox, when the Sun crossed the equator going north and days and nights are equal throughout the world. This point was fixed according to the position of Aries star-group in relation to the Sun at the time (several thousand years ago) when the ancients provided these Houses for the Sun. It happens, however, that the Sun does not now enter Aries exactly in accordance with this old man-made time-table, for the

OVERLEAF:-



Concluding HOUSES OF THE SUN

equinoctial points have a continuous westerly motion or "drift", the direction of the earth's axis with reference to the stars changing slowly. Consequently the pole-star of one age is not the pole-star of another. Hipparchus, a Greek astronomer of the second century B.C., discovered that the year of the seasons was shorter than the solar year. It seemed that the equinoxes stepped forward a little ("preceded") to meet the Sun. This phenomenon, known as the precession of the equinoxes, was first explained by Newton, who found it was due to the attraction of the sun and moon on the bulging equator of the earth. Our planet rotates like a wobbly spinning top, whose slanting axis rotates as the top spins. It takes 26,000 years to make one complete wobble.

As a result of this behaviour the signs of the Zodiac no longer correspond to its star-groups. Each sign has 'backed' into the constellation west of it, so that the sign of Aries is now in the constellation of Pisces. The equinoctial points have been moving slowly westward since the ancient astronomers assigned these Houses to the Sun, but it is satisfactory to know that, when a cycle of about 26,000 years has been completed, the Sun will once more enter Aries punctually at the Vernal Equinox. A.B.

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# Did you read?

"A dear elderly neighbour aged 88, helps to look after my mother, aged 91. On receiving her AIDS information sheet, she turned to my brother, and said: "You must not worry about your mother and me - we'll be alright as I boil all our water.

What a lovely moment of light relief!"  
Sunday Express

SPEAKING OF WATER WORTH DRINKING ...

A Bon Del filter is claimed to filter your water constantly, as it comes from your tap, removing the taste of chlorine and 99 per cent of lead/copper, but it does not remove minerals and trace elements needed for general health, claim the makers.

It is further claimed to improve the taste of drinks, soups, vegetables, etc. What's more, your hair, skin, pets and houseplants will appreciate purified chlorine free water.

This water filter is based on a combination of activated carbon and silver, a process claimed to have been developed by NASA for purification of astronauts' drinking water.

Ask Crest Court Services of Cubert, Newquay, Cornwall if you want to know more.

Farming News

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# This should concern all of us -

The Editor,  
Village Voice.

South Milton

Dear Sir,

The people who appeared on TV expressing their gratitude for the support the Village Shops had given to their communities during the wintry weather of January, were surely speaking for all of us who live in villages.

It is to be hoped that now things are back to normal everyone will continue to support our village shops, and not revert to the tendency of driving to an out-of-town Supermarket. Surely the existence of a Village Shop is essential for the continuation of a viable small community, but a shop can only exist with a steady and widely based support all the year round.

We turn instinctively to our friends and neighbours for help in any time of crisis. The Village Shops exist to help us at such times - but without our custom during the 'easy' times they may well have disappeared when we turn to them for help in the next crisis. Support your Village Shops when they need you, so they will be there when you need them. Sincerely, Ian C.Young.



*You can't beat  
the old Village Inn  
for tasty bar meals!*

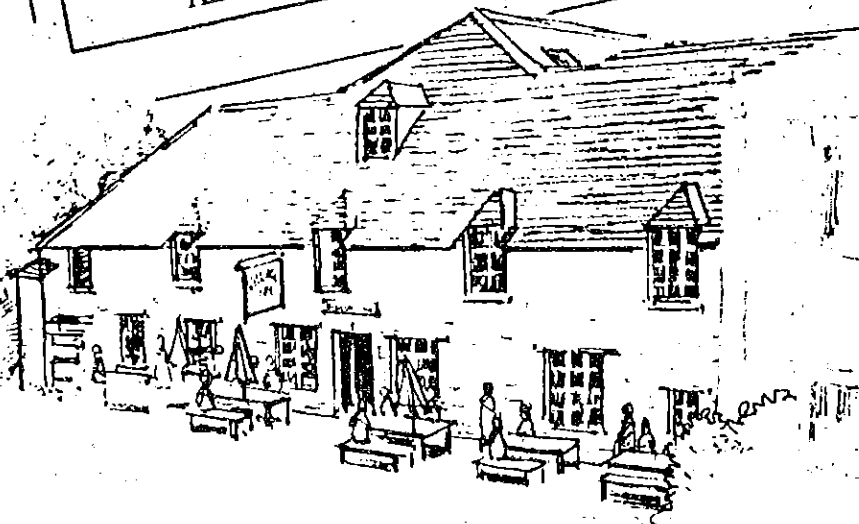
### Village Inn Selection

#### OUR EXCELLENT FOOD INCLUDES

Hot soups  
Farmhouse Pate  
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Cottage Pies  
Moussaka  
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Chilli Con Carne  
Salads Various  
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Cream

Also real Ales, fine wines and spirits.



## Thurlestone Village Inn

Tel: Kingsbridge 560382



# Old Thurlestone Families - Part 2. The 1700's

NEVILLE C. OSWALD

ooo00ooo

Looking back at the half-dozen leading families during 1650 to 1700, according to the number of times their names appeared in the parish registers, we find that none was able to maintain the pace in the 1700s. The LIDSTONES, who held such a long lead, were still prominent at the end of the century as were the PHILLIPS and the SQUIRES or SQUARES, but the RANDELLS, the PILDITCHES and the CORNISHES had virtually disappeared by then.

The new leaders were LIDSTONE (115 entries in the register) HINGSTON (83) TABB (77) WHIDJON or WORDEN (65) CRISPIN (58) MOORE (52) and WAKEHAM (48). Some of them included exceptionally large families. For example, John TABB and two men with names new to the parish, John HARDY and John MOORE, had 16 children between them, but when their grandchildren and great grandchildren are added, the total comes to 146. Late in the century, three HINGSTON families had 7, 9 and 10 children respectively. All these various children were baptised in the village church. Among other names that were beginning to appear in the 1700s were HANNAFORD, JARVIS, LUCKHAM, REEVE, POUND and MITCHELMORE.

Just occasionally a name was entered in the register with a Mr., Mrs., Esq. or G (for Gentleman) alongside it. They identified members of the gentry who willingly paid a tax for these additions because they amounted to legal recognition of their status. In the 1700s, as in previous centuries, the population of England was divided into three. These were the aristocracy, about 200 families none of whom lived within miles of Thurlestone, the gentry and the rest.

The gentry in Thurlestone usually owned land or leased it from the Earl of Devon to whom most of the parish then belonged. The one thing they could not do was to earn their living with their hands; they needed enough money to pay other people to do the work, but did not have to be wealthy. Occasionally, a family would arrive in the parish and be accepted as gentry at once. At other times a Thurlestone man would be promoted on merit for his



## VILLAGE VOICE

### "OLD THURLESTONE FAMILIES" continued

contribution to the community. The gentry were addressed as "master" and they, with the rector, ran the parish.

Just below the gentry, but strictly divided from them, were the yeoman. By definition they owned or leased land which they cultivated themselves. If their produce was worth more than two pounds a year, they were entitled to vote. They were not addressed as "master".

The rest of the parishioners, the vast majority, counted for very little outside their own households and almost nothing outside the parish. They were poorly paid and most of them lived barely above subsistence level. A high proportion of them (over one half in some villages) lived in the houses of their employers, particularly men and women who were unlikely to marry, and were often better off than those who perforce lived in damp, dark cottages. They were eligible for the various offices within the parish such as church-warden, constable, parish clerk and overseer of the poor but their authority carried little weight and could easily be overruled by the gentry who employed almost all of them as tradesmen or on their farms or as domestic servants. They were addressed by their Christian or surname, but nothing more.

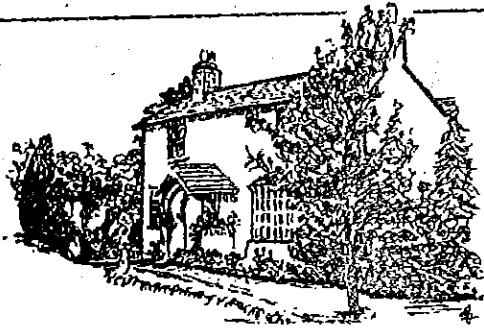
The registers of the 1700's show 41 members of the gentry, 25 men and 16 women. Most of them belonged to families well established in the parish such as STEPHENS (9), PHILLIPS (7), ADAMS (6), SQUARE (5), CORNISH (3) LAKEHAM (2) POLYBANK (2) and WAKEHAM (1). They were spread over the century, so that less than a dozen men with their wives and various widows were likely to have been active at any one time. From the registers and a survey made for the Earl of Devon in 1777, we know where most of them lived; indeed, we know where many of the other parishioners lived too.

Were it possible to find somebody who was here in the 1700s, and go round the parish with him, he would probably not be particularly excited by the new houses, the made-up roads, the water supply, sewerage and electricity, as he would be seeking the places he knew. He would find much of it unchanged. Coming from Kingsbridge, he would recognise Whitley farm where the POLYBANKS lived. He would look in vain for the young LIDSTONES and others thronging the village street, for there was no school until 1842. Yet the rows of cottages are much as they were. He would see two shops instead of one with, just above the lower one, the splendid residences with "house, outhouses, court and garden with apple trees" which were then called John SHEPHERD'S tenement and HINGSTON'S cottage and now, more prosaically, Thatchways and The Cottage. There was, of course, no hotel but two houses opposite the church were the homes of the ADAMS and the SQUARES who farmed the land nearby and grazed their sheep on the coastal strip, now the golf course. The church with its square tower, all of local grey-green slate, speaks for itself. Moving westward he

CONCLUDED OVERPAGE:-



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CONCLUDING PART 2 of "OLD THURLESTONE FAMILIES" from previous page:

would see Clannacombe, the ultimate home for any aspiring man of Thurlestone; it was inhabited successively by the STEPHENS, the PHILLIPS, the ADAMS and the SQUARES. Picturesque and unspoilt Buckland with its old butchery and slaughterhouse and ancient outbuildings would certainly have intrigued him. Then up to Aune to see where the CORNISHES lived and back to the Sloop for a draught of white ale. Ah, well.

NEVILLE C. OSWALD

(Part 3 of this fascinating history of the people of the  
Parish will be with you in the JULY/AUGUST issue out, we hope  
at the end of June)

=====

ARE O.A.P.'s 'LOSS LEADER'S' ?. You see something at a bargain price almost every time you visit a large store. When you consider the paltry increase to O.A.P.'s for the 1986/87 period - 40p last November and 80p this April - £120 in total, and you read of the massive increases that the politicians allow themselves, to say nothing of the increases allowed to judges - the handsome offer to teachers and many others, there really is no doubt that the O.A.P. counts for very little. Yet, where this country would be if had not been for the way the vast number of these folk fought or worked to see Britain through the war years it is extremely doubtful if many of these politicians, judges, teachers and many others, would be in the clamouring and demanding position they take as their right today. When the rates go up by six or seven percent and more, the average O.A.P. is getting a pretty raw deal.

VILLAGER.



# Where have all the Crosses gone?

In the sinful days of the present it is difficult to imagine granite crosses being erected at the sides of Thurlestone's roads to remind travellers of their religious duties. On the other hand, however, seeing the way some people drive today such crosses might well be a warning of the cost of careless driving. In which case one should certainly be erected at the start of the ~~run~~ downhill through the village, which daily grows more like a chicane at Silverstone.

But in the 14th century the greatest hazard on our roads would have been from a runaway cart and horse, or perhaps from a drunken horseman, and these crosses were erected for purely religious reasons. The man who was Caxton's assistant and successor, Wynken de Worde, put it like this in 1496:

"For this reason ben crosses by ye waye, that when folke passynge see the Crosses they should think of Hym that deyed upon the Cross, and worshyppe Hym above all thynge."

Not many of those crosses have survived, but there is one still to be seen in Thurlestone today, though not in its original position, which is thought to have been somewhere to mark the boundary between Thurlestone and South Milton. Today it stands at the wall of Thurlestone Churchyard looking out towards the War Memorial. A plaque at the foot says that it was restored in honour of the Coronation of King George V in 1911. But behind the restoration of this cross is an odd little story. One day in 1897, a carriage bowled along the road past Whitley Farm bearing the new parish priest, the Reverend Frank Egerton Coope, to start his ministry in Thurlestone. Suddenly the carriage pulled up and Mr. Coope walked back to the entrance to Whitley Farmyard. His eyes had not deceived him. On either side of the gateway, covered in mud and muck were the head and base of an ancient granite cross.

The granite pieces had been placed there to stop the carts bumping up against the gate pillars. Mr Coope resolved there and then to rescue this cross from its sad state of degradation.

When he did raise the matter once he was settled into the living, he was given the head of the cross to restore it, but he was too late to get the base. A Captain Dowglass, who had bought it, was, says Mr Coope, "not willing to part with it, but allowed me to have an exact copy made."

So the base of the cross which you see today is not the real base at all. The proper proportions of the shaft were obtained from studying and measuring a similar 14th century cross at Widdecombe-in-the-Moor.

But the base of the cross is not far away from its head. Somehow it found its way to South Milton, and if you go past the Village Institute there you'll see it at the front on the grass, upside down and being used as a bird bath.

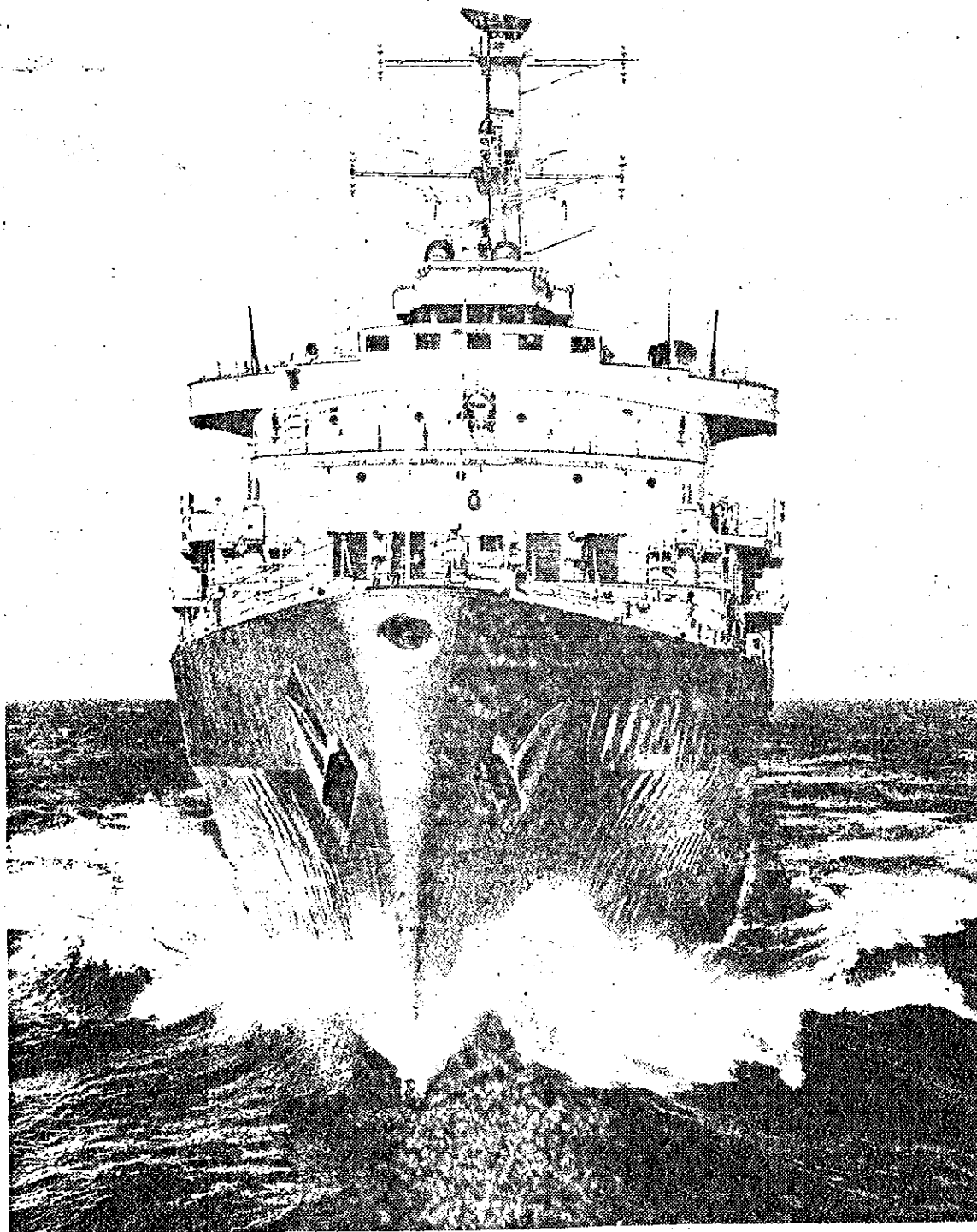
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Have you a contribution to make to this series - or perhaps a subject for Village Voice to investigate? Drop it in at 'Just-a-Cottage' - which is just below 'Home Cottage' - across from the Buckland Road.



# Michael Orr

## The "Intrepid" Travellers



HMS INTREPID - The 12,000 ton Assault ship is 520 feet long, has a beam of 80 feet and carries a complement of 580. INTREPID can transport a military force, complete with full supporting armour. Landing craft, capable of carrying heavy tanks, are housed in the ship's dock and launched from the open stern. She can operate a flight of assault helicopters. She is armed with the Seacat guided missile system and two 40 mm Bofors.



THE Intrepid is a small living town. This one however; moves. Moves over 5,000 miles at a time carrying up to an overload of 900 troops plus their equipment, plus 15 tanks, 7 three ton and 20 quarter ton transports. Defended by 2 X 40mm Bofors and S.A.M. Seacat missiles; at 20 knots, it's a pretty formidable entity.

A pal of mine, Jon Morgan, who owns a chain of garages in the Southern Home Counties, had, like myself, been watching the Children in Need Appeal on BBC (Southwest). Jon, who spends some of his time in Cornwall, seemed to be having more success than me in getting through to bid for a trip on Intrepid, so I rang him and asked if they would be prepared to make it two. We got it.

Intrepid was to be the main 'day out'. We actually had another plus by being taken out to HMS Beaver, a type 22 Broadsword Class Frigate, so that we could experience the arrival alongside of a ship that had been away for months, this time on a flag waving mission called Global 86. Some experience - wives, children, mums, dads, girlfriends et al, and a pleasing touch, a red rose per sailor. Who says the Navy doesn't care.

We retreated to a pub for sustenance before meeting up with the Admiral's Barge 'Swift', to be taken out to Intrepid.

BBC 'Spotlight', camera, speaker in charge, John Walmsley, and a lady 'sound person' were there looking for a quick story to fill Denham's start and Rich's finish!

Baseball hats provided, an officer to carry your bags, who could complain. To say that it was a bit choppy is a slight understatement - and a Force 10 was forecast. (BBC team look ill. Quite usual!)

Willing hands helped us onto the pontoon alongside Intrepid which was bucking and pitching in the black, frothy sea. They really should put lifts on the side of boats, it was a monumental effort to reach the deck.

I don't know if you have ever been on a ship built to H.M. standards, but every gangway is either vertical or horizontal. We were led vertically to the Bridge and introduced to the Captain, Paul Haddacks (jest not), who I feel sure could well have done without the intrusion of the BBC, and two rather corpulent desk flyers, who were obviously past it. Lets face it, everyone in the ship thought we were nuts to be actually paying to do what they had to put up with.

Now I just cannot see why anyone should complain about treatment in the Navy, super rooms, lounge, bedroom (single), and private bathroom plus a steward to unpack your kit and hang it up. Immediate request to have tea in the Wardroom. We were gazed upon by all and sundry - surely we should be in padded cells.

If you have never been in the forces (I was too young for National Service), you can get away with just being ignorant. But Jon let it be known that he had subscribed to a few years before the mast which added considerably to my understanding and therefore enjoyment. (he even remembered the War!) He was, understandably, distressed at the thought of being the oldest man on the ship.

We were given tea by the Commander, a neat dapper little chap, who will be going further. He ran through the programme laid on for us, not too strenuous, a guided tour of the ship, back in time to watch ourselves on Spotlight, drinks in the Wardroom, then invited to the C.P.O's Mess and the P.O.'s Mess, then back to the Wardroom. We were introduced to too many people to remember names, but I was most relieved to see that we had a surgeon and chaplain close at hand. Off we went round the ship guided by the Chief Engineer Officer, weighing in at 10½ stone, very fit; lean as a butcher's dog! I seem to remember when recovering afterwards that he said the trip was about 2½ miles long.

OVERPAGE...



Now on the flat, that's not bad, but I recall half of it was vertical. Up and down ladders, passing the hundreds of yards of corridors, squeezing through hatchways, behind pipes never meant for the likes of me. The Engineer Officer did this round at least once per day, no wonder he was fit!

The assault ships have the ability to flood the rear compartments of the ship, thus providing a floating dock where their complement of landing craft can be deployed, carrying tanks, men and equipment to beach-heads with great speed. These are supplemented by four smaller landing craft carried alongside in davits. The seakeeping qualities, range and speed of Intrepid combine to make life more tolerable before disembarkation under active service conditions.

More ladders, interminable lengths of passageway. Up, down, along. Engine room, power by two English Electric turbines producing 22,000 shaft horse power rotating two five bladed, 12½ feet diameter propellers. Clean as a whistle. The dock itself is huge. Dark with the smell of exhaust fumes trapped in it's hangar like cavern. Diesel. Noise. More ladders and gangways. Either the steel is getting harder or the feet wearing out.

We were still in the Sound and due to leave at 7.00 pm, the weather was getting worse as we slipped past the breakwater with 'Captain Morgan' on the Bridge, and yours truly helping a 2nd Lieutenant to celebrate the fact that he was going to Yeovilton to fly helicopters.

We were then more than delighted to hear that we didn't have to dress for dinner. Open neck shirts and slacks, just the job! Accordingly at 7.30 pm we made for the Wardroom. By now the ship was rolling quite nicely in a cross-sea and all the stalwarts were standing, drinks in hand, swaying to the rhythm of the ship. Very interesting to watch. Obviously well practiced. It seemed to me that the first to sit down was a cissy, so I duly obliged. Common sense prevailing.

The idea was to take Intrepid out in a running cross-sea, then turn left when we could miss Start Point and head towards Portsmouth with a following sea. Dinner had been delayed to accommodate this manoeuvre. The Antipodean Officer of the Watch was given the go-ahead and the stewards had laid up for about thirty when the ship caught one neatly on the turn, which pitched thirty bodies, chairs, drinks, plates and hors d'oeuvres all in my direction. Needless to say everyone said 'Oh, dear', and hoovered the dust off the starters and replaced the broken crockery.

The food was excellent considering where it had been rescued from and the galleys on the ship really are first class, baking fresh bread every day and feeding upwards of a thousand mouths when necessary. You queue for lunch at ten and get it at one!

After the meal we were collected and whisked off to the C.P.O.'s mess where one taste of a strange concoction was enough to know we were being 'got at'!

Eleven o'clock arrived and we were asked to return to the Wardroom for a nightcap. Finally, we were left pretty much to our own devices. Jon went up to the Bridge to pull the leg of our ex-Colonial Watch Officer, and I went to see how the medical side of things were run. A small operating room, as much gas as you want and a realisation of medical file history logistics makes one wonder how it is all coped with manually.

The Intrepid is fitted out to cope as a Naval Assault/Brigade Headquarters with it's attendant communications and control room. Needless to say it was the Brigadiers and Commodores accommodation that we had taken over. By one thirty we had anchored in the Solent and passing us silently the glittering spectacle of 'Canberra'. At five forty-five I was awoken with a cup of tea by the steward, and dressed in haste to witness the flooding of the dock, up and down. Jon and I were to actually drive two landing craft round the.....

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



## Concluding: THE 'INTREPID' TRAVELLERS

..the Solent and re-dock. As we entered the dock it was almost like being shot into a nightmare, neon arc lights, thick diesel smoke, the racket of engines, chains - an all encompassing invasion of every nerve end.

Down more ladders into the landing craft, now the human smells, cigarette smoke, garlic, last night's curry! Into the wheelhouse and a mug of hot tea is shoved into your hand, the coxswain asking if I was O.K. Out I backed, didn't hit anything, leaving behind the hell hole. Pitch black. More tea, then bash round the Solent and head back.

It's a helluva big place when you are in the dock but it doesn't half look small when you are trying to get back. What is more the Mother Ship is swinging at anchor. Having never parked anything bigger than a bus, in broad daylight with a stationary road and kerb, getting 75 tons and 85 feet of L.C.M. into the dock of Intrepid was something of a feat. Not a scratch, not a bump - the coxswain heaves a sign of relief, so do the rest of the crew. I will always remember that experience, curry and all!

Entering Portsmouth on one of H.M. ships is something else. All the right flags have to be hoisted, the covers come off the guns, dummy Seacats are in place and out come the chrome ends for the Bofors, what a palaver, but it's this tradition that still keeps Britain Great. We do it better than the rest because we are better.

It seemed to me that 'piping the side', which salutes a ship's Captain's seniority, was just the job. I didn't realise that every ship we passed received the 'still' and 'carry on'. Captain Maddacks must be very young!

Docking the Intrepid is a real game; two tugs, two-way radios and what appeared to be a foot to spare fore and aft. I'm sure they could make it easier; perhaps that's what it's all about, doing the nearly impossible.

Requested now to see the Captain in his quarters, presentation of 'piccies', sign visitors book and off we go. I'll bet he was relieved.

Memories are certainly made of this, the Hong Kong Chinese who is the ship's tailor, another Eastern gentleman who not only makes but mends shoes. The personal necessities of all the crew must be met, even down to banking facilities.

Here then lies a small industrial town which can transform the shape of battle. To us it was a 'Boys Own' dream, to the Royal Navy, a job.

The Royal Navy is called the Silent Service. Perhaps it would do well to blow it's own trumpet a bit more. Both Jon Morgan and I extend to the Captain and crew of Intrepid our warmest thanks for putting up with us.

MICHAEL ORR

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

o A Birder replies o

Dear Sir,

I write in response to the request at the end of the William Wise's Pit article in the last Village Voice. Not as an Ornithologist - they are the professionals - nor as a Twitcher - they are collectors, not of birds these days, but of sightings of them, in which pursuit they race from one end of the country to the other and back again, depending on where a rarity has been found. I write as a Birder, which category covers almost any one, from somebody who watches the birds out of the kitchen window to one who spends all his free time observing, recording and possibly writing about birds. I am somewhere in between.

There are Ravens which swoop, and tumble over our sea cliffs. There are also Crows, a good many more of them, and there are more Jackdaws still.

A Raven is a big bird, as big as a Buzzard, but size is of no help in identification when there is nothing nearby with which to compare a bird.

By comparison with a Crow, a Raven has longer, narrower wings, it flies with shallower wing beats, and its large head and huge beak make it appear to stick out as far in front as it does behind.

There are however two sure means of identification.

The first is the shape of the tail, which in the case of the Raven is like a diamond, with the longer axis in line with the body - if you watch a Raven before long it will spread its tail into this shape.

The second means of identification in the Raven's voice, a deep mellow "Pronk" which you often hear long before you pick a bird up by sight.

There are breeding pairs spaced about two miles apart along our cliffs, you see them when they are carrying sticks to build, in January and early February, and again when they are feeding big young towards the end of April. Otherwise, for so large a bird, they are very secretive - doubtless persecution has made them thus.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY HUGGINS

Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone.

P.S. But I have no information about Raven Rock.

- - - - -

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE: Village Voice readers will be delighted to learn that Harry Huggins, who is Treasurer of the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society has agreed to contribute a column about local bird species in each issue of Village Voice. Look out for the first in our July/August issue.

+++++

We always thought Hope was such a pretty name for a village and might have come from some deep inspiration on the part of the villagers of long ago. We are somewhat shaken in this belief by the fact that the word seems to come from the Anglo-Saxon and means "bottom of the valley," Shame!

Just a tip for West Country do-it-yourselfers. Don't go putting your hand down any holes in old buildings. These holes in the cob were often rat-runs and to deter them the owners in times past often stuffed them with broken glass!



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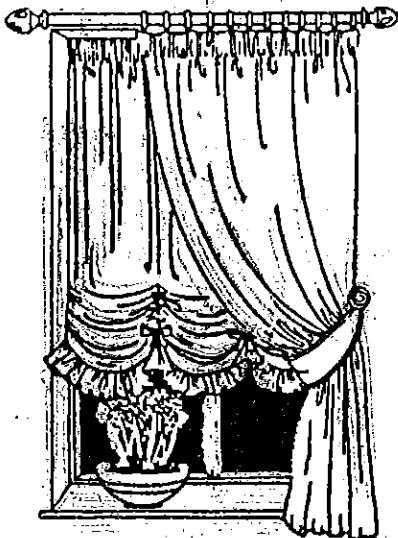
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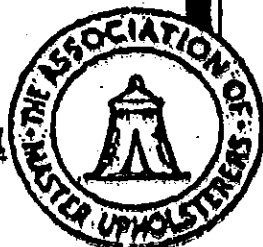
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# The Annual Parish Meeting

This was held on Tuesday 24th March 1987 in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. under the Chairmanship of Mr P.W.J.Hurrell (Parish Council Chairman) and in attendance were Mr. Simon J.Day (County Councillor for the Thurlestone Ward and a Member of the Board of South West Water Authority) Mr. V.J.Adlard (Operations Manager, SWWA - Dart Region), Mr. Jack V.Thomas (South Hams District Councillor) Chief Inspector J.H.Baverstock (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary), and Mr. D.J. Yeoman (Parish Council Vice-Chairman).  
Mr. W.G.Ladd was Clerk to the Meeting - but only 36 Electors of the Parish attended !

The Minutes of the 1986 Annual Meeting were read, met with the approval of those present and were signed by the Chairman, and on Matters Arising he reported - the 'Kingsbridge District Plan' awaited finalisation - no changes were expected concerning the Parish. 'Parish Hall' was again the agreed title in place of 'Village' Hall. X-Ray facilities at South Hams Hospital were now planned by the Plymouth Health Authority. Motor Vehicle Licences cannot yet be issued by Thurlestone P.O. - unless the DVLC increase the quota for the area.

The CHAIRMAN REPORTED: The campaign for a sewage treatment facility to remedy the pollution at Leas Foot Beach and Stream had been continued and intensified. The Avon Estuary Bye-law was expected to be published as soon as finally approved by the Home Office, although an extension to the water-skiing area was being sought by the Skiing Club against opposition of the Parish Council(s) concerned and many parishioners. The Kissing Gate on Footpath No.4 had now been replaced with a stile. Publication of Village Voice had been revived by Mr Drabble with the support of Mr and Mrs Kendall McDonald and a grant of £150 by the Council out of the previous Village Voice profit making this possible. (applause !). The obstructions in Bantham and Thurlestone caused by parked cars had again been studied and the yellow lined areas were being observed and enforced by the Police as necessary. Planning applications continued to receive prompt response to the District Council. The Heritage Coast Service continued close co-operation and was erecting two new information boards - one in Thurlestone and one at Bantham. The Parish Precept for 1987-88 at 1p was one of the lowest in the District - the small increase being necessary to cover any Election costs (District & Parish Elections - May 7th).

COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIMON J.DAY explained that particular attention of the Water Authority and the Government had been focussed upon the inadequacy of the Thurlestone Sewerage System by the failure of the Leas Foot bathing waters to meet the standards set by the EEC, during the sampling tests made last year. The Water Authority was being pressed to revise its priority rating system, which they were in the process of doing, so hopefully Thurlestone would then become eligible for inclusion in the (current?) five year capital programme. He opposed the demotion of certain A-class roads and was dissatisfied with the County arrangements for the distribution of EEC budget surplus.

Mr. A.J.ADLARD confirmed the Water Authority shared the concern over the 'Unsatisfactory sewage disposal method', but the very limited resources had to be applied according to the priority appropriate to each need. Emphasis was being changed from 'Water provision' to 'Disposal' and the 1987-88 capital allocation was 39% and 49% respectively in their 5 year programme, but the continued importance of water supply must not be underestimated when South Devon was still on a knife-edge situation which would only be remedied with the completion of the new Roadford Dam, the new works in Totnes and new water mains between certain locations. Messrs Day and Adlard answered various questions from the floor, illustrating some of the cases warranting higher priority than Thurlestone, and with Mr. Thomas, outlined the reasons why the Mead Estate continued to be developed despite the sewerage situation. They agreed that the beach pollution level justified further representation for EEC grant aid, and the Clerk was instructed to write to Lord O'Hagan, MEP.

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## Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

CHIEF INSPECTOR J.H. BAVERSTOCK mentioned that he had been asked to advise the Mead Housing Association on the organisation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to protect their properties. Similarly the Rotary Club was organising a marine watch over the estuary. The crime rate in the Kingsbridge/Salcombe area had increased in line with the national average, but the average solution rate had been improved in this area with more than 50% of crimes solved. No major crime had occurred in the District in the last year.

Responding to questions, the Chief Inspector confirmed that although his resources were heavily committed, his Officers constantly patrolled all areas and almost invariably toured the Parish at least once every night.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JACK THOMAS stated that the South Hams Council's five-year Plan was proving effective and had helped to create jobs by promoting schemes to assist start-up businesses and provide workshop premises, as well as developing its housing policy, particularly for first-time buyers and there had been spending on improvements to Council houses by 20% since 1983. Discussions progressed for the small additional Council (?) housing site off Seaview Road at Thurlestone, to meet locally generated needs.

The Avon Estuary Byelaw was with the Home Office awaiting publication. When it is published all in favour of the byelaw should confirm their support in writing to demonstrate that a public enquiry was not necessary.

Answering questions from Parishioners, Mr Thomas explained that when constructing the nuclear shelter at Pollaton House, in compliance with Government policy and funding, the opportunity had been taken to include a good Council Chamber without cost to the ratepayers. The question of the efficiency of refuse collection from the back of properties was also raised, and the Chairman agreed that the matter would be on the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

PARISH COUNCILLOR DERRICK J. YEOMAN outlined the current proposals to commemorate the Fourth Centenary of the Spanish Armada in 1988. The Meeting favoured his suggestion that the celebrations be concentrated into one week and agreed to the formation of an organising Committee under Mr Yeoman's Chairmanship. All interested were asked to contact Mr Yeoman (560607).

HUMP'S CHARITY The Chairman reported the history of the Charity and explained that the 1919 investment of £40.11.3 (£40,56p) in 2½% Consolidated Stock now had a market value of £11.36 to produce an income of One Pound per annum. All present supported the view of the Charity's Trustees that the Charity should be wound up and the capital and accrued interest (£5.50) be transferred to the general account of the Parish Council for the general purposes of the Parish - being the original aim of the Trust.

After thanking all present for their attendance the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18 pm.

(These notes on the Annual Parish Meeting are taken from the Minutes of that Meeting compiled by the Clerk to the Meeting - Mr. William G. Ladd and kindly released to 'Village Voice' by the Chairman to the meeting, Mr P.W.J. Hurrell)

### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: Mr P.W.J. Hurrell	560496
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr D. YEOMAN	560607
Mr Roy ADAMS	560247
Miss R.S. STOCKEN	560257
Mr John DAYMENT	560295
Mr David GROSE	560375
Mr Geoffrey STIDSTON	560695
PARISH CLERK: Mr W.G. LADD	560686
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR J THOMAS	560269
COUNTY COUNCILLOR: S.J. DAY :	
Ivybridge	2576

Kingsbridge Police Station	2326
South Hams Hospital	2349
Kingsbridge Health Centre	3551
Salcombe Health Centre	84-2284
Lifeguard	560774
Local EMERGENCY Officer	560607
ELECTRICITY - Emergency Only	
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S.H.DISTRICT COUNCIL: Totnes	864499
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PREBENDARY PETER STEPHENS, our RECTOR writes on.....

# The Good Government of Schools

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Village Voice, and thought that it might be of interest if I said something about a subject which, even though many of us are not closely involved, is nevertheless one with which all who care about our nation must be concerned, because it directly affects "the nation of tomorrow." I refer to Education. I do not intend, however, to attempt to deal with the great issues of this or that crisis in higher education, or about the current dispute between some teachers and the Secretary of State for Education, - rather I wish to focus in very sharply to our own doorstep (for that's usually where our first duty lies), to our primary school and in particular to the role of a "School Governor."

School Governors are just ordinary folk, most "appointed" to office, some by an election process, and some are "Ex-Officio", and it is by virtue of my office (i.e. Vicar or Rector) that I have, for about a quarter century, found myself not only a School Governor (or Manager as we used to be called in Primary Schools), but also throughout that period I have been Chairman of Governors, which in theory makes one no different to any other Governor, but in practice makes one a sort of Executive Governor because on a day to day basis consultations cannot take place with all the Governing Body, and so it is the Chairman who is frequently consulted, and not infrequently has to take all the off-the-cuff decisions.

When first I became Chairman of Governors, back in the early sixties, I knew nothing about what the job entailed and thought to rely upon my fellow Governors to guide me. I very soon discovered that they were little better informed than me. I was thus forced very soon to define for myself and my fellow-Governors what I understood our duties to be. Rightly or wrongly I determined that we should "have a concern for everything that has a bearing on the well-being or otherwise of this school". And the word this is all important. The Secretary of State, the Local Education Authority, the Diocesan Authority and the Teachers' Professional Bodies may have to be concerned with Education on the larger canvas. The School Governors are a local body of people and their chief concern is "our school", and as School Governors their concern with the larger issues is only in so far as they impinge upon "this school".

One's common duty, to say nothing of one's Christian duty requires that enthusiasm for "this" school is sufficiently tempered by unselfishness as to avoid making assertions and demands which may be damaging to neighbouring schools, but nevertheless the Governors must have a vision of their responsibility to help to make their school the best it can possibly be.

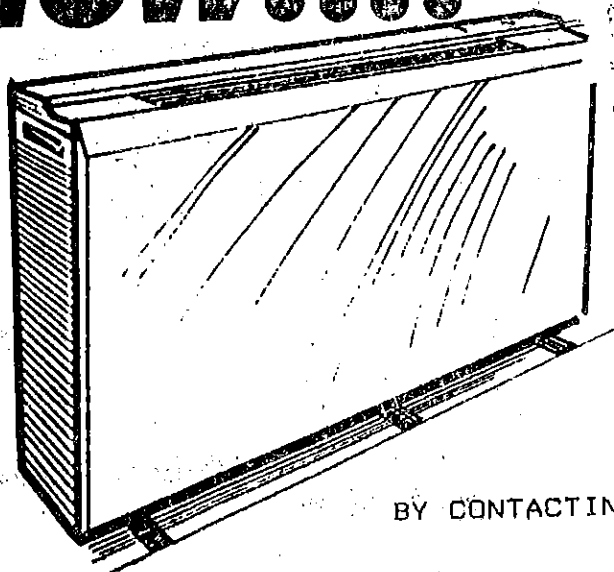
In the "maintained section" i.e. those schools within the State System, there are two main types of Primary School:- County Primaries and Church Schools. The Church of England Schools (which are approximately one third of all Primary Schools in Devon) are themselves further sub-divided into two quite distinct categories. The Aided School and the Controlled School. The influence and responsibility of the Church is greater in Aided Schools. Here a greater proportion of the Governors are Foundation Governors, i.e. practising and committed Christians with a special responsibility for safeguarding the church Foundation of the school. In the Aided School the Church also still has a financial responsibility for the school buildings which belong to the church. Such is the case with "All Saints Voluntary Aided Primary School" serving the twin parishes of Thurlstone and South Milton. In a Controlled School there are less Foundation Governors and the "State" is wholly responsible for the maintenance of the buildings, although these still belong to the church.

We have in mentioning "buildings" already identified one of the principal concerns and responsibilities of Governors - the environment in which teaching takes place. It is however possible to have bad teaching in glass palaces just as it is possible to have excellent teaching in rather sub-standard premises, and generally I'm glad to say my experience has been of the latter, and a very great deal of my time devoted to achieving improvements of buildings.

To be Continued.



# Think about a really cosy winter NOW!...



*David Frost  
Electrics Ltd.*

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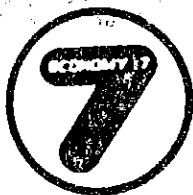
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For long periods or short periods, please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

John Casson



# KNOCK ON ANY DOOR

Knock on any door they say and you'll find a story worth telling. And though we are not sure that all Thurlestone residents would take all that kindly to Village Voice knocking on their doors without an invitation, we do believe that behind many a Thurlestone door is a story worth retelling in this magazine.

Knock on any door and you'll find a story? Yes, indeed if the door in Landpath behind which is the home of Joan and Jim Hillyar is anything to judge by. We were invited (of course) to browse through their family records and found not one tale but many. But first you ought to know that the Hillyars are an old Navy family who managed to have not one, but three Admirals in their family in the 1800's. And one of these Admirals was created Lieutenant by the personal orders of Lord Nelson when he was just a boy of 15. This young Hillyar had been a Midshipman on a boarding party when the Lieutenant in command was killed. Midshipman Hillyar took over and stormed at the head of his men up the sides of the enemy ship and forced her captain to surrender.

And exciting history is not all on the side of Jim Hillyar. Joan Hillyar is a member of one of the oldest of all the Westcountry families - the Kingdons who can trace their ancestry back to 1166 and the provision of some of the earliest Bishops of Exeter. The stories of the Hillyars and the Kingdons have so many facets that two full-size privately printed books can't contain them all. We found it difficult to choose a story to tell you, but finally decided on this strange little tale...

During the War of 1812 with America, a certain American frigate called Essex had spent most of 1813 in the Pacific doing immense damage to the British whaling trade. The Essex was finally cornered in Valparaiso by two British Navy ships, one of which the Phoebe commanded by Captain James Hillyar. The Essex tried to make a run for it, was dismasted, and was then pounded to pieces by the Navy gunners whose long range guns inflicted terrible casualties while still out of range of the American ship. The Essex's captain claimed that Captain Hillyar had broken the laws of neutrality. But either way the result was that the Americans lost 58 killed, 66 wounded and 31 drowned out of the 255 men on board. And Hillyar brought the Essex home as a prize.

Now you might think that American history would have made the name of Hillyar rather unpopular. But then what do you make of this? Here from the pen of Theodore Roosevelt, one-time President of the United States is what he called "a happy sequel" to the action of the Essex.

"Lady Hillyar, widow of Sir James, resided for many years at



Knock on Any Door continued.

Torpoint, Devonport, where she died at the advanced age of 96 years in 1884.

"It happened that shortly before her death, an American man of war named the Essex came to Devonport and anchored in The Sound. Her Captain, hearing that the widow of James Hillyar was still alive, prevailed upon her son Admiral Charles Hillyar, the eldest of her two Admiral sons, to allow his aged mother to accept the American Captain's invitation to honour the Essex with a visit. Profiting by a fine day, the steam launch brought Lady Hillyar alongside the Essex when every officer in the ship stepped down bareheaded to kiss her hand. At the conclusion of this touching ceremony, the colours were hauled down from the peak, the old lady wrapped in them and taken ashore."

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*Now That's what we  
call SERVICE!*

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED! And if you don't believe it and think that everything happens for the better, just read this letter, which was written on Great Western Railway notepaper from Paddington on November 12th, 1937. It was addressed to Mrs. W. Davidson, who was the mother of Mrs. Jean Hide of The Cottage, Thurlestone. Mrs. Davidson had had some difficulty in getting light refreshments on the train from London...

"Dear Madam,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th instant and regret you had difficulty in obtaining light refreshments from the restaurant car on the Torbay Express.

The fact is that we are hauling on this train two large vehicles solely for the purpose of preparing and serving meals and the short time occupied on the journey and the capacity of the vehicles is fully taken up with meeting the demand for meals and it is very much regretted that we are thereby precluded from serving light refreshments during the progress of luncheon. It is not possible to provide another vehicle on the train for refreshments or meals as the weight to be hauled is already at the maximum.

If you are particularly desirous of taking light refreshments instead of luncheon, I should like to have the opportunity of making special provision for this if you would kindly give me a day's notice of your intention to make a journey, saying what refreshment would be required and the time.

Thank you for having written to me.

Yours faithfully,

R.A.P. Setterfield."

Just imagine that kind of service from the beastly buffets of today!



BILL BLANCH of KADSPA SAYS:

# YOU Can make a Dream Come True!

"A cracking example...that enterprising group of volunteers at Kingsbridge," commented Government Minister David Trippier on a recent visit to Thurlestone. "Any community that has the gumption and cohesion to do something to help itself deserves the strongest support" - that was the opinion of investigative journalist Penny Junor, presenter of Thames TV's "4 What it's Worth".

Both speakers were talking about Kingsbridge and District Swimming Pool Association, the "group of volunteers" who decided to do something practical and constructive rather than just protest when South Hams District Council announced that they could see no chance of providing a swimming pool to serve this area in the foreseeable future.

In 18 months KADSPA have carried out an impressive research programme into pool design, operation and management all over the country, concluded that first thoughts of a low budget self-build pool would be outdated and unwanted in a very few years, and instead produced imaginative proposals for an ambitious but highly attractive leisure pool designed to pay its own way for a period of 25-50 years.

KADSPA started with no money and no site, but lots of enthusiasm and a strong feeling that the local community both wanted and needed a pool in this area. Today they have over £160,000 towards the pool, the promise of a site, and a great deal of local and national support.

Everybody has their own idea of what a pool should be and how much it should cost, but KADSPA decided to start with facts rather than ideas. They approached people who were actually designing pools, building pools, running pools, and they soon found out that the problem is not so much in building the pool but in making it pay.

A pool must last a very long time. Any pool built in Kingsbridge in this decade must serve the district for well into the next century. And if it is a community pool rather than a council pool, it must pay its own way for all of its life. A community pool has no source of income other than its users. So it has to be interesting enough to attract sufficient users, ambitious enough to stay interesting for 25 or more years, and sufficiently well-designed and built to operate at the lowest possible cost. A pool that is not ambitious soon becomes boring to all but the most dedicated swimmers - and there are not enough of those in the district to pay the running costs of even a modest pool.

The model that KADSPA have shown at meetings around the district over the past 18 months shows the type of pool they envisage. It is not the final design. That will depend greatly on the exact site for the pool, the amount of money they think they will be able to raise and the comments from the local people who offer to contribute to the costs. But the model does show the size, the range of facilities and the general atmosphere that they believe the people of the area will enjoy.

Of course setting their sights high produced an ambitious



## VILLAGE VOICE

### KADSPA continued.

budget too, but already KADSPA have raised well over £160,000 in cash and promises from local sources only. And a well-designed leisure pool can attract major grants as Mr. Michael McGahey, Chairman of the West Country Tourist Board (England's biggest regional board) was quick to point out. "This is just the sort of local initiative that I like to see and you will certainly have my support when you apply for financial assistance from the English Tourist Board", he wrote. "A pool such as you envisage will be a great attraction to visitors as well as being of major benefit to those who live and work in and around Kingsbridge. Visitors could make a significant contribution to the financial viability of the scheme. A standard oblong pool would not really appeal to visitors or myself, but a modern leisure pool with all the associated family attractions could do wonders for Kingsbridge."

It all sounds wonderful. But how do we actually get this pool? The first stage is to accept that no one is going to give us a pool. Even if we had a Council pool we would have to pay for it through the rates. So if we want a pool we must pay for it more directly. Local people - including YOU - must raise a large part of the money and then the grant aid authorities will listen to us. KADSPA are asking local people for promises. They want people to state now what they will be prepared to contribute when the scheme actually goes ahead. That way they can assess how much will be available to build the pool and, if they had to abandon the idea because not enough money had been promised, no one would have lost any money. Ideally they want you to promise a set amount each year for 4 years, but they do need those promises quickly. Every month's delay puts back the building of the pool and puts up the final cost.

The second stage is to accept that even if we are unlikely to use the pool ourselves, we have a duty to help provide one for those who really need it - the handicapped, mothers with small children who cannot easily get to the nearest pools in Totnes or Ivybridge. As Lord Robens, President of KADSPA, said: "The children are entitled to this start in life and we can all have the pool we want - but only if we are prepared to pay for it. Fifty pence per week per household would raise more than enough".

The third and most important stage is to decide what YOU can afford to contribute and to make your promise NOW. Fill in the coupon and take it or send it to KADSPA, c/o Peter Betteridge Furnishers, 20, Fore Street, Kingsbridge. Or better still give it to your local fund-raisers - Thurlestone's golf professional Neville Whitley at Homelea, Thurlestone 560865 and Mrs. Veronica White of 7, Crosslands, Thurlestone 560236

Remember the more money you promise the better our pool will be, and the sooner you give your promise the sooner the pool will be built.

And to give the project a tremendous Spring boost, South Hams District Council's Leisure and Recreation Committee have agreed in principle to allocate a specific site in response to the clear local support for the pool initiative. The new site is just below the existing Sports Centre, partly excavated in the bank and partly extending into the car park. This decision shows clearly that the Council believes the dream will become a reality and it means that KADSPA can now get on with a final design, carry out a feasibility study and then prepare a prospectus for grant aid applications. Let us make sure that the community has given its full financial backing by the time these applications are ready for submission. To save cutting a page a separate Subscription Form has been included with each copy of this issue of 'Village Voice'.



## WASTE PAPER COLLECTION

On the 13th March with the help of a large lorry, and several conscripted 'volunteers', three tons of waste paper was dispatched to Exeter.

This latest load brings our total, since we first started collecting last October to five tons, and the organisers would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the thoughtful people of Thurlestone and South Milton, who leave bundles of newspapers and magazines on their doorsteps, or outside No. 11 Backshay Close, South Milton.

The collections will, we hope, continue during the coming summer and we are looking forward for more people to add their names to our fortnightly collection run.

Renewed thanks to all those who have helped us.

IAN C. YOUNG  
(560419)

=====

WHEN HE'S NOT TAKING  
MILITANT INDUSTRIAL  
ACTION HE TEACHES  
PEACE STUDIES



(With acknowledgement to  
the Daily Telegraph-)

=====

There is no room for sweeping denunciations or trenchant criticisms in the dealings of a world whose falsehoods and veracities are separated by so very thin a barrier.

BISHOP STUBBS (1825-1901)

## THURLESTONE SEWERAGE RATE

Our sewerage  
pipeline has  
never cost more  
than "peanuts"  
to maintain

yet  
year after year  
they take  
all the money  
and  
we get all the  
pollution

o o o  
Whatever  
have they done  
with all that  
money  
year after year  
?



SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

Telephone: Kingsbridge 560269

Little Thatch,  
South Milton,  
Kingsbridge  
TQ7 3JQ

Dear Parishioner,

I have decided to stand again for election as District Councillor for the Thurlestone Ward.

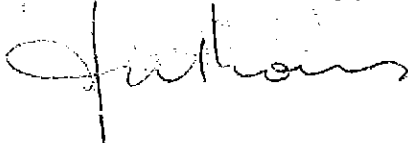
As you may know, at the last election in 1983 my original intention was to stand as an Independent, but as a Political Group was formed just before that election I decided to join it. I can assure you that it has been of benefit to the South Hams and joining the Group has not lessened my independence on local matters and has, in fact, helped in obtaining Group support for local issues, for example on Sewage, the Avon Estuary Byelaws and 10p car parking !

In the present Council I hold the following appointments:-

- (1). Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.
- (2). Member of the Personnel Committee
- (3). Council Representative: South West Arts and Age Concern.

I am already known to many of you but I hope to visit any new residents. I shall be very pleased to call on anyone who wants any further information or who has any problems

Yours sincerely,



J.V. THOMAS



17<sup>th</sup>  
Century  
Nun's  
Prayer

ooo

LORD Thou knowest better than I  
know myself that I am growing  
older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of  
thinking I must say something on  
every subject and on every  
occasion.

Release me from craving to  
straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful but not bossy.

With my great store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou  
knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get  
to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of  
rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for  
grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them  
with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a humility and a lessening  
cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.  
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a Saint, some of them are so  
hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of  
the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in  
unexpected people. And give me Lord the grace to tell them so.

ooo00ooo

Village Voice thanks Mrs Jean Hillyar of Landpath for bringing  
this prayer to our attention. We shall try to live up to it!

ooo00ooo

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# District Council Election

I read with considerable interest the remarks concerning the coming Election of Parish and District Councillors and, of course, the remarks concerning District Councillor's allowances, so when you make your choice of District Councillor on May 7th - assuming there will be an election in the Thurstone Ward - you might consider what your elected councillor will be doing on your behalf. Perhaps you may also feel he or she will deserve some small share of the £50,000 allocated for compensation for the time and travelling which is an essential part of a Councillor's life.

In all probability the elected 'person' will become a member of three Standing Committees, perhaps also on two sub-committees and, from time to time called upon to serve on a Working Party. Practically all these meetings will take place at Follaton House, Totnes, so your elected District Councillor will have to get there and back. The travelling allowance is at present 20.7p per mile, which you might reasonably say is about a third of the normal cost per mile, taking into consideration capital cost, depreciation, repairs and renewals, insurance and licence!

Committee Meetings (with the exception of Planning) are either six or seven weeks apart, commencing officially at 2.15 p.m., but usually your Councillor will arrive in the morning to seek clarification of some points in the 50 page Agenda and, if lucky, the meeting will end between 5 and 7 p.m.

In addition the full Council meet every six weeks, and quite often special meetings are necessary. These meetings are all 'approved duties' and qualify for mileage and attendance allowances. Attendance allowances are taxable!

Your Councillor may well find it necessary to make a couple of additional trips to Follaton House each week to deal with problems and enquiries raised by electors. Such trips do not attract any allowances. Attendance at Parish Council and Parish Meetings, visits to Ward members and many other essential visits, phone calls, postages, etc. are likewise not subject to any allowance.

Should your District Councillor become a member of the Planning Committee - whose meetings are more frequent, and require site inspections from time to time, deliberations will often have a profound effect on the financial affairs of the applicant, will probably cause ill will and may seem to lack common sense however recommendations must comply and be seen to comply with the law.

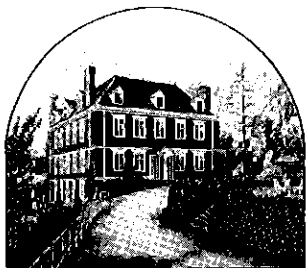
In conclusion your District Councillor will be on the receiving end of masses of paperwork, will start a filing system which after six months will cease to function and will require a spare room to house. Family life and routine will completely change, holidays will be even more difficult to arrange and most spare time will be spent reading official literature. However the work is absorbing, educational and you very quickly realize how little one knows about local government, so if you are healthy, energetic and have an enquiring mind and, of course, enjoy secrets you will be of considerable service to the Ward you represent.

I would not have missed the last four years for anything, and my great regret is that only through ill health am I denied the chance to try for four more.

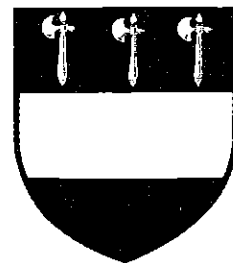
PETER JONES  
District Councillor

(Mr Jones is District Councillor for - Malborough & South Huish  
but now resides in Thurstone)





# Buckland-Tout-Saints NEWS



**Buckland-Tout-Saints Hotel, Goveton, Kingsbridge,  
South Devon, TQ7 2DS.**

## Wine Weekends

We successfully launched our Wine Weekends last year, holding one in March and one in November. They were a great success, and have now become an important part of our year. For 1987 we shall again be using our two "wine gurus" namely Christopher Piper and John Earle of Christopher Piper Wines Ltd.

March 27th and 28th, will be our first weekend, and will be concentrating on the lesser known regions of France, namely Alsace, the Loire Valley, the Rhone Valley and Provence.

November 13th and 14th, will be our second weekend for 1987. This will concentrate on grape varieties. Comparing wines from the same grape, but produced in different countries. Countries featured will be France, Germany, California, Australia and New Zealand. Grape varieties featured will be Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon, Chardonay, Pinot Noir, Gamay, Riesling, Syrah and one or two lesser known grape varieties.

Each weekend will feature our usual wide selection of typical wines, and Alastair will create themed menus, typical of the food to be found within these regions.

Prices for the Wine-Weekends will be £220.00 per person for the two days in a Deluxe Room, and £210.00 per person for two days in a Standard Room. Prices are fully inclusive of all meals, tastings and VAT.

Special Terms for Sunday night will again be offered, for those who would like to take their weekend through until Monday morning. We would advise early bookings for these weekends, as numbers will be strictly limited.

## Special Theme Dinners

We shall also be running four theme Dinners during the course of 1987. Each dinner will have a specific wine area or country as its "theme", and wines will accompany each course. The aim is to show off the varying aspects of European Food and Wine. Friday April 3rd will feature Bordeaux; Friday May 8th will feature Portugal; Friday October 30th will feature Burgundy; Friday December 11th will feature Italy.

Prices for the Special Dinners will be £35.00 per head inclusive of VAT, and will include a reception and introductory talk before each meal. We would again advise early bookings on these occasions, as numbers will be limited.



*South Pool Harriers outside the Hotel.*

## Winter Breaks

Buckland-Tout-Saints is again offering its popular special "Winter Breaks". These terms include Accommodation, Dinner, Full English Breakfast, Early Morning Tea, Daily Newspaper and VAT, and are for a minimum of two days.

From February 13th 1987 until March 31st 1987 (excluding the Wine Weekend periods), prices are £33.00 per person per day, with a supplement of £2.50 per person per day for a Deluxe Double or Twin-bedded room.

## Halsey Seminars & Tours

The Halsey Seminars and Tours are based upon three magnificent National Trust properties, Saltram, Cotehele and Lanhydrock. You will be shown all that is best to see, accompanied by an authority on the subject, who has chosen and researched the most interesting and important antique furniture and works of art on view.

The Halsey Tours cover locations of historic interest and outstanding natural beauty, set in the unspoilt Westcountry, Dartmoor National Park and along superb coastline, providing the experience of a lifetime, never to be forgotten.

The programme has been specially researched and designed by John Hayden Halsey, who has made a life long study of 17th and 18th Century works of art and of the history of Devon and Cornwall.

The services are a subsidiary of Halsey Antiques, a family business (est. 1950) marketing fine 17th and 18th Century furniture, specialising in creating English and European interiors and a wide range of inter-related consultancy services internationally, operating from Devonshire and London SW1.

Seminars and Tours run from April - October inclusive, Tuesday - Thursday inclusive. Rates from £120 per day - £640 for three days, exclusive of accommodation, inclusive of entry fees and transport.



## Message from Victor Shephard



This is our first newsletter, and I hope you will find it informative. It is our intention to publish a newsletter around this time, every year, keeping our guests updated with events which affect us.

We have certainly had an interesting season, one of the most eventful for a number of years. In the early part of the year, we suffered as many other Country House Hotels did, from the effects of the Libyan crisis. One major advantage which was not immediately envisaged at the time, was the increased number of British visitors we were to welcome to Buckland-Tout-Saints during 1986, and this gave us a great deal of pleasure. Although a number of Americans did eventually come down our way, they were well down on previous years.

Alastair Carter and Vicky Gale joined us in February. Alastair became our new Head Chef, Vicky as Assistant Manager to my elder son David. Alastair brought with him a wealth of experience, studying as he did under John Webber and George Perry-Smith. His imaginative and creative cuisine has firmly established Alastair among a small group of young talented "home grown" chefs, whose skill and artistry are beginning to enjoy a following. These two appointments have been a great success, and we were delighted when Vicky and Alastair were married on August 26th of this year.

This winter sees a major refurbishment scheme for Buckland-Tout-Saints. We shall be losing one Hotel bedroom as a result, but all our Deluxe main floor bedrooms will be upgraded to reflect the changing needs and demands of our clientele. This winter is also the last time we shall close: when we re-open on Friday February 13th we shall become operational twelve months of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you to Buckland-Tout-Saints Hotel, safe in the knowledge that you will find a friendly atmosphere, created by caring and enthusiastic staff, coupled with an ideal environment in which to enjoy a peaceful and relaxing stay.

## Salcombe Appeal Snapes Point

Snapes Point is a landmark in the Kingsbridge Estuary which has magnificent views inland and to sea. It lies just across from Batson Creek by Salcombe, and its tranquillity contrasts strongly with the industry and activity of the town's boatyards.

For many years, Snapes Point has been inaccessible to the public, but in 1985 the National Trust bought Snapes Point to protect it from development. They need to raise £200,000 for a network of footpaths, a small car park, other essential work, and as an endowment for the future.

Snapes Point is the first property to be bought in the Kingsbridge Estuary by the National Trust. It is now protected from development for ever. At the same time, it is a safe haven for wildlife and a place where everyone can enjoy scenic walks and waterside picnics, in beautiful surroundings.

## Local News

On December 3rd last, for the second year running the South Pool Harriers gathered in the Hotel's grounds to prepare for the day's hunt.

After refreshments the horsemen with hounds at their heels made a splendid sight as they rode out of the drive and onto the open fields. This yearly meet is part of an old tradition for both the Hotel and Huntsmen, dating back many years to when formal hunting dress, horsemen and hounds were a common occurrence.

At long last, in May of last year Kingsbridge By-Pass was opened. The new Cookworthy Road has definitely relieved some of the congestion in Fore Street and made Kingsbridge an even more accessible shopping centre.

A plan has recently been put forward to construct a Boom (tidal control) across Kingsbridge Estuary, which is Duchy of Cornwall land. The proposal has given rise to some opposition from local residents, but surely, by and large, it will provide Kingsbridge with a much needed Marina which will be open twelve months of the year.

A major development scheme for the first purpose built indoor shopping complex in Kingsbridge is due to get under way in the new year. The complex, which will comprise eleven new shops, is due to go up on the site of the now disused Oke Brothers Garage in Bridge Street, opposite the Post Office.

If everything goes according to plan, the new complex will include a glass topped arcade and a two storey glass-roofed courtyard. This will be an added bonus to the already attractive shopping facilities within Kingsbridge.

# A

## is for Avocados

by Alastair Carter, Head Chef.



### AVOCADO PEAR WITH TOMATO VINAIGRETTE

4 persons

#### The Tomato Vinaigrette

6 ripe English Tomatoes  
1/8 pint White Wine Vinegar  
1/4 pint Good Olive Oil  
2 Tablespoons Tomato Concentrate  
24 Fresh Basil Leaves (Optional)  
Salt and Pepper

#### Method

Quarter the Tomatoes and place in a food processor with the Basil and Tomato Concentrate. Process for 2 - 3 minutes, until well blended. With the machine still running, gradually pour in the olive oil and white wine vinegar to taste. (You may not need the full quantities of olive oil and vinegar, this is just a guide). Season well with salt and pepper, sieve through a fine strainer. You should now have a thick sauce.

#### Assembly

Cut the Avocados in half and stone them. Lay the halves on a chopping board, and with a sharp knife, make thin cuts through the thick end, ensuring that you leave a hinge at the thin end, so you can make a fan.

Place the Avocado on the centre of a large white plate, and surround the avocado with the Tomato Vinaigrette, and garnish with five or six slices of mushroom around the avocado.



# DOWN "DIE-ON-THE-WAY" HILL

DON'T LET THE TITLE  
PUT YOU OFF !!

We met at the Cross by the Church. Village Voice was about to try out one of those Guided Walks arranged by the South Devon Heritage Coast Service, a Service which is sponsored by the South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, the National Trust and is grant-aided by the Countryside Commission. And if it hadn't been so nose-drip cold we would, no doubt, have been most humble in the presence of such a mighty group of sponsors. As it was we were grateful to note that Harry Huggins (see Letters to the Editor) was right on time and after paying our 50p donation to the costs of the Heritage Coast operation we set off on the first leg up the signposted foot-path to the left of the Church Tower.

Now Village Voice's past experience of guided tours is that they can be a real pain with the incessant stream of instantly forgettable information gushing from the mouth of the guide. But this was not like that at all. Mind you, we had picked this walk carefully. The walks are graded: (1) Gentle; (2) Intermediate; (3) Strenuous. This was - how did you guess? Gentle. And in Harry and his wife, June, we had chosen our guides well. Information - interesting information - was offered gently too. What we wanted from this walk was not only a stroll in the open air, but also guidance on what birds were what. And that we got. We were picking out rooks from crows and noting a kestrel even before we had rounded the golf course, were over the stile and heading down to Bantham - the Sloop being the target for an early lunch. Very civilised these birders.

Soon we had been taught how to identify the Great Black-backed gull from all the others and a buzzard high over the woods to the North of Thurlestone made a useful stop near Die-on-the-Way Hill. By now we birders were all chatting - well most of us were - as though old friends.

There were about a dozen of us and most had done this kind of walk before. Village Voice was regarded with some amazement when we confessed that this was our first.

After lunch it was down to the Quay at Bantham and binoculars out for birds of all kinds in the estuary. Harry Huggins and one or two others of the more experienced birding kind had brought telescopes on stands and let

OVERPAGE:-



Concluding: DOWN "DIE-ON-THE-WAY" HILL

us look at birds on the river sands in close-up. We saw, and were taught, how to pick them out, oystercatchers, redshanks and greenshanks, and were quite excited by the unusual sight of a male and female merganser/duck.

It was here if the tide had been low that Village Voice walkers might have made off up river to pick up a cockle or two for tea. (See the V.V. Safe Boiling Guide elsewhere in this issue). But being birders we stuck with the flock, many of whom had flown South from foreign parts like Torquay and Paignton. Now our route took us back from Bantham Ham up along the Coastal Path. And soon we were seeing kestrels and a raven and crows and jackdaws and rooks and more oystercatchers and well, don't you think that's enough for one gentle walk!

It was a gentle stroll and it's one that any of our readers could repeat, remembering, of course, that when it's wet Die-on-the-Way Hill becomes more a slide than a stroll and if you did come that way back, well then you'll find out why they call it what they do! Village Voice can highly recommend this kind of walk with a purpose. You do learn things and when we left everyone said "See you at Slapton on the 12th" - and do you know we rather thought we would. Not only that - we saw a chaffinch and a wagtail in the village street ....we birders can identify things like that you know without a moment's hesitation. Well, we can now we've been taken out for a walk!

NOTE: The Summer Programme of Heritage Coast Walks will be out in May and will cover all aspects of natural history. Leaflets are available from village shops, some pubs, tourist offices and local libraries.

## Village Voice Safe Boiling Guide

Those who might like to collect some cockles or mussels for their tea, but don't because they might be dangerous, should know there is a sure way of making shellfish safe to eat. And though we have called this the 'Village Voice Safe Boiling Guide', it is really the result of talking to Mr Peter Ayres, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food expert on shellfish and public health. And he says:

"Mussels should be sterilized in boiling water for three minutes. And I do mean in boiling water. When the mussels are put into the boiling water it will go off the boil, and the three minutes must start from the time the water returns to boiling. I know some culinary experts don't like doing this, saying that it damages the taste and makes the mussels harder, but IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE SAFE.

You should carry out this sterilization by boiling for all shellfish where you eat the entire animal. Winkles should be given two minutes, cockles three and whelks six minutes."

Mind you, Mr Ayres was only talking about shellfish you collect yourself, not the specially treated fish you get in the fish shops or from the travelling emporium of the ever-helpful Peter Weedy, who delivers locally every Tuesday.

EXTRACT from a newspaper of March 1881: Barque Hawthorn of Arbroath ashore near Thurleston, Bigbury Bay. Vessel gone to pieces. Crew missing. Cargo sugar. Spars and pieces only saveable. Sailed from Pernambuco on Jan 26. March 8 reported found at midnight at West end of Thurleston Sands.



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# THE NATURE OF RADIATION

**C**oncern about the consequences of the Chernobyl incident has given rise to heightened public interest in radiation. We reproduce here extracts from the UK Atomic Energy Authority booklet, *The Effects and Control of Radiation*.\*

This is the first of a series of articles from authoritative sources on a variety of subjects of concern to our readers.

Man has evolved in a naturally radioactive environment, subject to radiation from outer space, from the earth, from substances within the body and even from burning wood and cultivating the ground. Since the beginning of this century, man has added to this natural background through medical and industrial uses of radiation, mainly in the form of x-rays, through the testing of nuclear weapons, and through the increase in air travel, the intensity of cosmic rays being greater at altitude.

In fact, natural background radiation is responsible for nearly nine-tenths of the total with the great majority of the balance resulting from medical x-rays. Other sources of 'man-made' radiation account for less than two per cent of the total.

Extensive studies have been carried out on animal and human populations exposed to radiation. As a result more is known about its hazards than about those from almost any other physical or chemical agent.

**Ionising radiation.** The term 'radiation' now embraces electromagnetic waves, such as light, radio waves and x-rays, and the particles emitted by radioactive materials as they disintegrate or decay to reach a non-radioactive state. These particles and the more energetic electromagnetic waves produce electrically charged particles called 'ions' in the materials they strike. This ionisation frequently results in chemical changes which, in living tissue, can lead to injury in the organism. The non-ionising radiations, such as those produced by ultra-violet lamps, lasers and radio transmitters are only hazardous in special circumstances.

An important feature of all radioactive materials is that their activity decays with time. Each material is characterised by a 'half-life', the time taken for half the radioactivity to decay. In two half-lives this is reduced to a quarter of its original level, and in ten half-lives to about one thousandth.

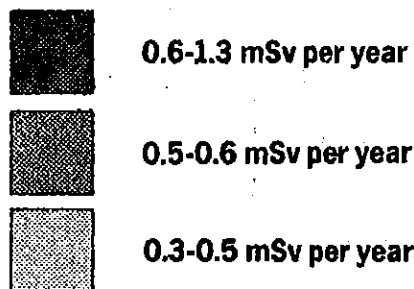
Half-lives vary from fractions of a second to millions of years. In general the most radioactive materials, emitting intense penetrating radiation and requiring heavy shielding, decay to negligible levels relatively rapidly. Long-lived radioactive materials emit very little radiation, generally with low penetrating power; such materials are only hazardous if taken into the body.

**Measurement.** The units used to measure doses of radiation to individuals are the sievert (Sv) and the millisievert (mSv) which is one thousandth of a sievert.†

Doses of tens of sieverts to small regions of the body are used in radiotherapy to destroy cancerous growths. A single dose of about 10 sieverts to the whole or a substantial part of the body within few minutes is almost invariably fatal. A single dose of about 4Sv will result in a one in two chance of death in the absence of medical treatment. The same dose delivered gradually over a year, however, would probably be tolerated because of the action of the body's natural repair processes.

†The sievert is a measure of the biological effectiveness of radiation. For x-rays and gamma rays, 1Sv equals the deposition of 1 joule of energy per kilogram of material. Strictly speaking, this unit should only be used when discussing delayed effects. The unit for early effects is the gray.

## Variations in Radiation from rocks in the UK



\*Available from HMSO book shops.



# Sentenced to Seven Years on Devon's Gull Island

Now here's a nice little outing which can be combined with a trip to the shopping in Plymouth. Follow the A379 as you would if driving into Plymouth and at the very first roundabout at the Elburton public house turn left. Signs are to Wembury and R.A.F. Mountbatten. Take first left again - now signs are for Wembury and HMS Cambridge (in red). After Wembury entrance sign, take sharp right for Wembury Beach and go on past Old Wheel Pub on right and then follow the main road down hill. Now you can see the Great Mewstone out at sea ahead of you. At foot of hill is the entrance to the car-park, Wembury Church and the beach are on your left.

Drive down the narrow road to the car-park. Don't bear left up to the church unless you are really out of season as there is little parking and the Vicar, the Rev. Anthony K.F. Macey, has to park his own car! After parking in the car-park, which gets very crowded in season, you have a magnificent view of the Great Mewstone, which is what we have come to see.

Grim, forbidding, interesting, exciting, call it what you will but there is no doubt that the Mewstone dominates the scene. And has many a tale to tell. This rock island with its steep shelving face looking out to sea belongs today to the Ministry of Defence and landing on it is forbidden. This restriction has got something to do no doubt with the nearby HMS Cambridge Shore Station where all the early gunnery training of the Royal Navy takes place. HMS Cambridge is over on the right of the beach when Wembury Point sticks a rib of rocks out towards the Great Mewstone.

The Mewstone for those who like figures is exactly 59 metres high. And the Little Mewstone, which is 15 metres high, sits on the middle of the Mewstone Ledge which runs out 400 yards to the South-West of the Great Mewstone itself. All Mewstones are named after the gulls which sat on them. "Mew" is a name for a seagull.

Though the Mewstone is today uninhabited, people have lived on it. In 1774, a local Plymouth man, guilty only of some minor crime, was sentenced to be 'transported' to the island for a term of seven years. The man lived



## VILLAGE VOICE

there with his family and completed his sentence without once setting foot on the mainland. The island has a fresh water spring. When the sentence was up and the family moved off the island, the daughter, known as "Black Joan" opted to stay. She married and raised three children on the Mewstone until her husband fell from one of the steep rocks and was drowned.

In the early 1800's a Sam Wakeham and his wife Ann lived there in a hut - now in ruins - with a garden, chickens and pigs. He lived rent free in return for protecting the island's rabbits for Mr. C. Calmady, the owner, to shoot. Wakeham later gave up the island and became a boatman at the Plymouth Barbican steps.

In the 1920's the island changed hands for £575.

It is certain that at one time it was possible to wade out to the Mewstone at low tide. Not always successfully it would seem by this entry in the Wembury Church Register - "Burials, 1720, May 15. Richard Cragg, Robert Sampson, Mary Avent, Mary Hake, John Tingcombe, 17, Josias Avent, 21, Walter Avent, 29, Mary Beer, 30, Elizabeth Taylor. Drowned between the Mew Stone and the Continent on a Sunday." Sounds disapproving of such Sunday activity, doesn't it!

Of course, like any other vantage point in Devon when you look out over the sea you are looking at the graves of many ships. Here the Mewstone claimed its fair share.

Among the gullies around the Mewstone lie cannon and ancient pottery of the 17th century. The ship of the cannon is unknown. Only an old bell with the word "Nillus" on it gives any clue to her identity. But divers among these same gullies on the side closest to the beach found an astrolabe of bronze, one of the earliest instruments used in navigation. The one found here was only the 25th known to exist in the world today, and dates from the early 1600's. Later in 1852 the brig 'Ocean Queen' went down on the Little Mewstone with the loss of all but one of her crew. And the "Ajax", a big paddle steamer went straight on to the Great Mewstone in flat calm and perfect visibility on October 13, 1854. Everyone of the 350 passengers were saved but the ship became a total wreck. In 1877 in a gale the steamer "Rothesay" was blown on to the rocks around the Island. All the crew escaped on to the island from which they were later rescued.

But the wreck sensation of last year was the discovery of a German submarine of World War One jammed into one of the gullies there. All her crew were lost even though it looks as though they tried to escape - one of her hatches was open. The bow was in just 30 feet of water. It shows how close the Royal Navy was to having a 'Royal Oak' disaster in that war right inside their base in Plymouth Sound.

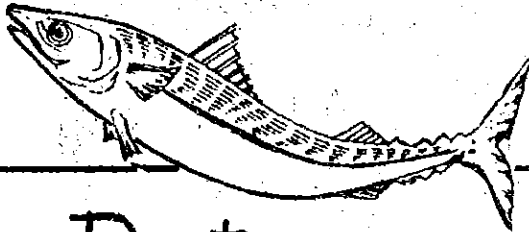
When you're tired of looking out to sea, you could always have a cup of tea at the Mill Cafe - yes, there was a Mill there - down the steps towards the beach from the car park. Then a visit to the church perhaps.

Wembury Church of St. Werburgh probably dates back as far as AD 878, which is around the time when King Alfred was busy burning cakes in Somerset, and may be even earlier in the beginning of the ninth century.

A Norman church took the place of the Saxon one at the start of the 12th century. The tower is early 15th century. The inside is fascinating. Here is the tomb of Sir John Hele who was the King's Serjeant-at-law at the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh in 1603. Here is the monument to Dame Elizabeth Narborough, wife of Sir John who was one of our great admirals in the 1600's. It's well worth a visit and there's a nice little booklet available that tells the church's story in a readable way. And now for home - or Plymouth shopping. At exit from car-park lane on to the main road turn left up narrow road and steep hill. A riding school is on the left at 80p a ride, though whether that price holds the whole season is not known. Pass exit from Wembury sign. On the left further on is the Tithe Barn complete with portcullis. Further still on your right is the Langdon Court Hotel and Restaurant, which welcomes non-residents. Follow signs for Plymouth. Turn right for home when you reach the A379.



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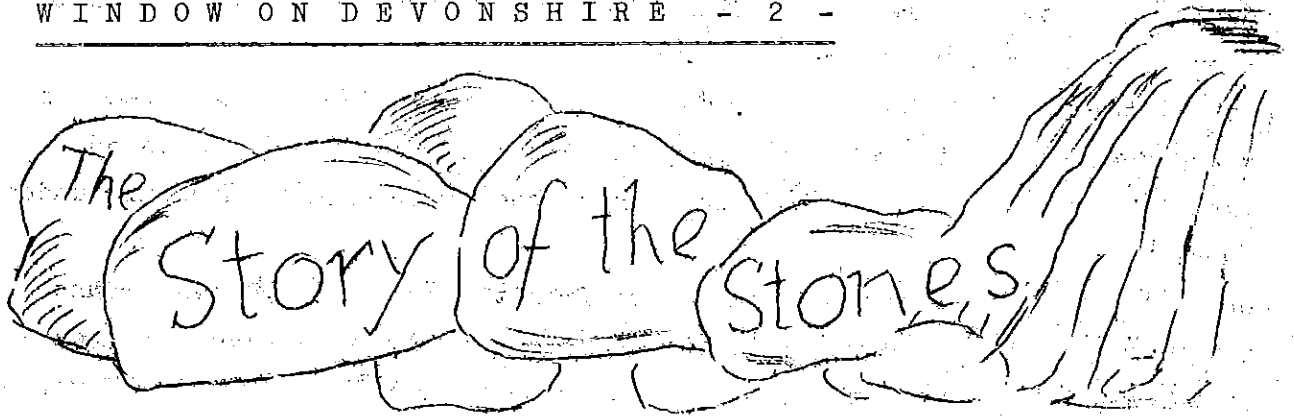


Carefully excavated from the rocks that protected them through the ages fossils have supplied many clues to the earth's past. From the oldest to the youngest rocks around the world, the fossil record reveals the ever-changing development of life on earth. For many people perhaps the most exciting fossil finds are those of the remains of dinosaurs, the great creatures that mysteriously became extinct some 70 million years ago.

The vast majority of fossils are found in sedimentary rocks - limestone and sandstone - where the organisms were buried as sediments accumulated. They are extremely rare in metamorphic rock layers since fossils were usually destroyed during the process of transformation.

Some sedimentary rock layers are almost solid deposits of fossils. The White Cliffs of Dover, for example, are made up of thick deposits of chalk, and chalk, a type of limestone, is composed almost entirely of fragments of minute seashells and the calcium carbonate remains of tiny marine animals.

## WINDOW ON DEVONSHIRE - 2 -



If we wish to go back before recorded days we have to rely on the stories written in the rocks, or the tales told by fossils fallen from some cliff or unearthed in a quarry. To do this it is necessary to consult with someone who can read the stories of the stones. Such a man is John W. Perkins, whose splendid book "Geology Explained in South and East Devon" (David & Charles). It is required reading for anyone who wishes to break the time-barrier and obtain some concept of this earth in the days before the written word began.

Some 350 million years ago Plymouth was a coral reef in the Devonian seas. The sea was warm and so was the land. Somewhere near Drake's Island volcanic outbursts reached the surface, killing the coral for a while, but then the coral started to grow again. Mr. Perkins quotes his evidence: "A block taken from Pigeon Cove, Cattedown (Plymouth), revealed at least 27 eruptions over that area 350 million years ago." The ash layers could be seen in the limestone as thin gritty bands of reddish colour. But because of later earth movements geologists cannot tell you how often such eruptions took place.

The Devonian Period - some 405 - 345 million years B.C. - was not only a time of vast upheaval on land, leading to the limestones and sandstones of the hillsides of the area, but is also pinpointed by scientists as the time of great change under the wide and shallow seas of the period. The placoderms, whose bodies were largely covered by plate-like armour, thrived in the warm waters of the Sound. They developed jaws. At first these shark-like creatures



## VILLAGE VOICE

had to lift the whole skull to open their mouths, but in a short time - about 60 million years! - had adapted so that their jaws now had teeth for biting. Time rolled on, the sea alternatively came and went, but life seethed in the waters. Picture whelks 15 feet long, shark-like creatures 50 foot in length, and 9 foot water scorpions. Man was not around, even at his most primitive - there were millions of years of evolution to wait for that. In the meantime those advancing and retiring seas had to spawn the reptiles, some 200 species of sharks and, sometime around 250 million years ago, the first crab and lobster whose decendants today provide a living for many inshore fishermen around our coast. Dinosaurs appeared about the same time, but in about 100 million years they became extinct. The recent TV film 'The Claw' (shown in January) provided further evidence of the Dinosaur period.

During the later part of the Ice Age, the sea level is thought to have been as high as 430 feet above its present level, and could have been as much as 690 feet higher. If this is so Dartmoor would have been a granite island surrounded by the sea!

And then came man. We know something about Primitive Man in the area around Plymouth (Oreston and Cattedown) largely because of quarrying there. We know that Man was forced South by the Ice Age, but we can guess that he found South Devon something of a paradise. The real ice never reached South Devon as a whole. The ice settled over the North Devon coast, but unlike most of the rest of Britain, South Devon was never covered by glaciers. This was not only a joy for our early ancestors, it is happiness for today's geologists, for they can study rock formations unhampered by the rubbish deposited by glaciers on top of the rocks which are their stock-in-trade.

But even if the ice didn't reach Plymouth, it did have an incredible effect on the sea. That much ice meant that much less sea. At one time, the sea is thought to have been hundreds of feet below the present level. This would have meant the sea would actually be far away - out beyond Eddystone. In fact the Rivers Tamar and Plym would have flowed to the West to join the sea between the hills of Eddystone and Hands Deep. The North Sea and the Straits of Dover were dry land.

Let us just have a closer look at that projection. If we could only have one of Dr. Who's Time Machines and settle on the top of Staddon Heights above Plymouth, we could find ourselves on grassland, or perhaps the highland area from Wembury to Mount Batton would have been bare limestone such as you will find on parts of the Pennines today. Below us, as the hillside fell away to Staddon Point, the bare stone would turn into grassy slopes, then scrub, then right down where the sea is today would be a forest of birch and possibly pine - fossilised remains of these forests have been found in what you now call Plymouth Sound area. The sea would be far away, the hills of Eddystone some 14 miles distant, marking the place the Tamar finally reached the sea.

OVERPAGE:---



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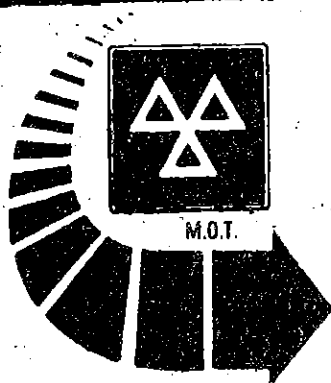
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Concluding "THE STORY OF THE STONES" from overpage

To our right - from our imaginary time-machine's position, we would see the River Plym emerging from a limestone gorge near the Cattewater as it turned to the West to meet the Tamar.

It is here that the geologist, John W. Perkins, can show us clearly what we would have seen. In one of his later books, "Dartmoor and the Tamar Valley," (David & Charles) he wrote: "The Tamar occupies a long standing course between Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor....like the Plym. It then flowed through a valley some depth below its present estuary. Nearing Barn Pool and Mount Edgcumbe it, too, turned through the limestone outcrop, deflected by a ridge of high ground barring its way to the sea and crowned by a volcanic knoll - Drake's Island."

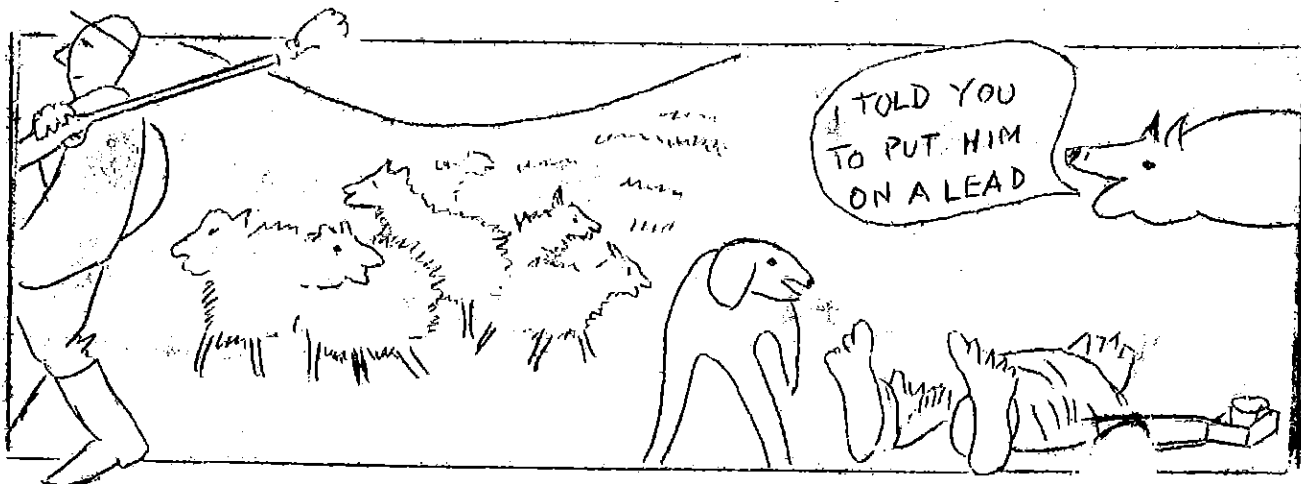
As you see the ships of today coming into Plymouth and heading for the Hamoaze and Devonport, it is fascinating to note that the deep-water channel they use is exactly following the ancient course of the Tamar all those millions of years ago.

There appears to be no evidence of Early Man venturing on to the waters of the Tamar, but we do know that he hunted along the hills in the forests around Staddon and on the other side of the Tamar around Maker. Flint arrow heads and spear tips have been found in these places, and middens of seashells, mostly mussels, have been found along the coast, the remains of many a meal. From discoveries in caves such as those at Fisons Quarry at Cattedown and at Oreston, workmen in the 1800's found not only human remains, but also the bones of elephants, rhinocereoses, wolves, deer and hyaenas. We know that man had a varied diet - but we don't know if it was the other way round!

In about 8,000 BC. the sea came back. Not overnight, of course, but as the ice retreated to the Arctic and Antarctic limits we know today, the sea crept up and over the ancient coastline and up the deep gorges of the Tamar and the Plym. Plymouth Sound as we know it today was finally emerging.

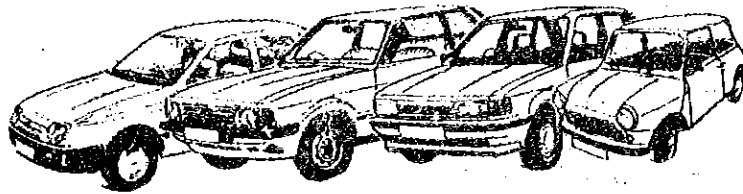
(With a great deal of acknowledgement to John W. Perkins, whose two books are referred to, and to Kendall McDonald whose book, "Bovisand - The Book", was really the inspiration for this article.)

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THE TYLER'S TALE

# How To Turn A Fortnight Into Forty Years!

This is the tale of a wartime evacuee who came to Thurlestone in 1940 and has lived here ever since. And the odd thing about the story told by Mrs. Doris Tyler of Glebefields was that she and her family only came to Devon for a fortnight's holiday in the first place!

It was the work going on in Thurlestone on Snowdons and the Old Post Office earlier this year which triggered Mrs. Tyler's memory - for it was there that the Tylers made their home in the early part of the war.

Her story begins one day in 1940 when the Tylers lived near Hornchurch Aerodrome, one of Fighter Command's bases for the Battle of Britain. The Tyler family badly needed a break.... "not so much from the bombing as the planes falling on us" says Mrs. Tyler, "so it was decided that we would come down to see my sister, Violet, who was 10 and had been evacuated to Kingsbridge. We meant to have a fortnight's holiday, just to get away from it all.

Violet was billeted with the manager of Barclays Bank who lived near the Quay, who let the Tylers stay for the night of their sudden arrival. "We were not so much evacuees as refugees", says Mrs. Tyler, "and on the second night we had nowhere to go. My mother, father, who had lost a leg at the age of 17 in the First War, me and my younger sister who was two found ourselves sitting in the shelter on the Quay. Then we moved to the cafe on the Quay. The cafe was run by Mr. Steer. Now it's a chemists, but then it was a baker's as well. Mr. Steer told us to go along and see the Relieving Officer. We did, and he got us shelter in the Baptist Church. He went up to the Albion Hotel and got us camp beds from the Army. The Albion had been taken over by the Army and that was the Officers' Mess. The men were in the Workhouse in Union Street. They were the Buffs and they had just come back from Dunkirk. Anyway the Vicar was very good to us and let us sleep in the Church.

There were many big old houses in Kingsbridge at this time, explained Mrs. Tyler, which had been done up by the W.V.S. for the evacuees. "To get us a place Mother went up to the Council Offices at Manor House and she did one of the first sit-ins! While Father and I stayed down on the Quay, she took my young sister and wouldn't move until she was allowed to go into one of the empty houses. The first house we went into I slept in the cupboard as we only had one room. Then finally Father got a job from the Labour Exchange at the Thurlestone Hotel. He told Mr. Grose that he couldn't get there as he had no means of transport and he couldn't walk from Kingsbridge with his leg. So we were given a room in Rockhill, which was full of all sorts of strange people and mother didn't like it very much. And then Mr. Grose said that he had got somewhere else for us - The Old Post Office - I don't know how he did it, but he did, and so we moved in there. Mother liked that because now we were on our own....

OVERPAGE:



The Tyler's Tale continued:

"The house was just one storey. We bought some second-hand furniture. There was a Limestone range to cook on, We didn't have to go down to the Pump for water, there was a tap on the wall under Mrs. Snowdon's kitchen window. There was an outside toilet. And there we were - my Sister Violet, Rose, who was now three, Mother Father and me, I was 19. I had worked in a shop in London and had taken a fortnight's holiday. But we weren't going back. It was so peaceful away from the bombing.

"The Old Post Office wasn't a post office then. The Post Office was up the top and the Lanceys had the job. The telephone exchange was there too. There was Mr. and Mrs. Lancey and their daughter. The daughter ran it for a while when her parents retired. The house had to be sold when her mother died and she married an Edgecombe in Aveton Gifford. Everyone went up to the Post Office, though, there was a village shop and Broads was still there for dairy stuff. I think Mrs. Snowdon's niece had the shop. Mrs. Snowdon used to do teas for the Marine Cadets from the Hotel in a shed out the front.

"The Old Post Office had ceased to be a Post Office long before that, but there was still a partition inside just like a shop.

"We stayed there through 1941. Then in 1942 I got married to Bill. I had known him before we came down here. He came from Dagenham. He was called up into the Army and he used to come down here on leave. I got married from the Old Post Office in Kingsbridge Register Office. Len Jeffery drove us there in the Hotel car.

"Father ran the pub with Mr. Whitbread who lived in High Corner. Mr. Whitbread was also the Hotel chef. For a time the Village pub was taken over by the Marines as a sergeants' mess, but they didn't like it so they had their mess inside the hotel. The whole hotel was taken over by the Marines during the war. I worked in the Marines' NAAFI, doing cakes and teas from 10 a.m. til about 2 p.m. and I wasn't allowed to sell beer or anything. There were three NAAFIs. The Marines' was downstairs, the Corporals' at the end of the ballroom, and the Cadets' in the cocktail bar. The Sergeants' mess ended up in the lounge. There were quite a few permanent staff there for the Royal Marines Officer-Training Depot who had taken over the Hotel. There were a lot of Wrens - they were mostly billeted in the big houses along the front.

"Father ran the saloon bar of the Village Inn and Mother helped him. They were known as Mr and Mrs. Ted. Boreham was our surname. Mr. Whitbread used to look after the public bar. When Bill came home on leave, Mr. Whitbread used to let us have a bedroom over at High Corner because Grandmother had now come down as well. We were quite a crowd in the Old Post Office. Then in 1943, my Sue was born - that made seven of us in the cottage. We bathed in an old tin thing, like a great big saucer. We used to take it in turn. The little one would start first and Mother would keep putting another bucket of water in from the range and by the time the last one got it it was a bit soupy! It was too big to go through the door and it was too heavy anyway so we had to empty it with a scoop. Quick cooking was done on a primus stove out the back, but it was the rats which got us down. You could hear them in the wall behind the bed and during the day they would run along the beams. One day one ran up Father's trouser leg - luckily it was his artificial leg!

"Luckily Bill was posted to the Citadel at Plymouth. He was an instructor and he could come backwards and forwards at weekends.



Concluding - MRS TYLER'S TALE

"The Village was quite lively around this time. Every so often there would be passing-out parades and the Royal Marines band would be marching up and down the main street. Bren-gun carriers used to be whizzing up and down the road. Quite a few of the colour sergeants had rented accommodation in the village. But if you went down towards the Hotel after dark, it was "Halt. Who goes there?" You see that little room on the corner of what used to be the petrol pumps was the Guard Room and the guard used to march up and down. When the Americans were in Salcombe, they held dances at the Links Hotel. The Americans used to come with their trucks to all the villages and collect the girls to go to dances in Salcombe. We used to have a cinema in the Hotel and the villagers could go to this and to the dances in the Hotel.

"But it wasn't all that sort of thing. Leas Foot had been mined and a Wren was blown up by a mine there and was killed. There were no mines on Yarmer and you could go there to swim. I remember too that some young chaps were killed at the Links Hotel when it was taken over by an engineering college. They picked up something from the beach and put it in a vice and it exploded.

"It was getting very squeezey in the Old Post Office and was even more so when my Pat arrived. We were now having to go up and down to the Pump for water and it was all a bit much. Then I heard that Delvers, a requisitioned Council house had room and I managed to get a couple of rooms there. In 1945 Bill was sent to Kenya to train African troops and he didn't get back until after VJ Day. But when he did come home he got a job with Coles, the builders, who were doing the Hotel up. When this finished Bert Grose asked Bill to stay on as maintenance man. There was so much work that he started up by himself with two lads to help as a painter and decorator. I worked with Mrs Bert Grose in the mornings in Kennedy. My father died in 1946.

"It was seeing the work being done on the Old Post Office which brought it all back to me...You see I did come for a fortnight and I stayed for forty years!"

(Doris Tyler was talking to Kendall McDonald)

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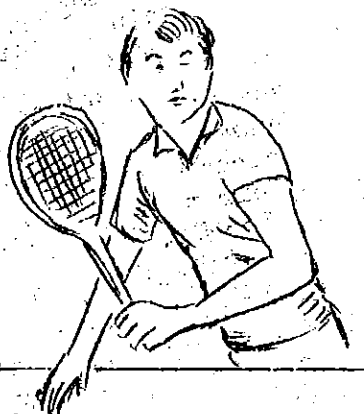
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# Tennis Anybody?



THE FIRST serious game of tennis to be played in Thurlestone took place just after the turn of the century. For the first grass court of Thurlestone Golf Club's Tennis Section was laid down in 1900. Four more courts soon followed and the caddies were delighted to weed them - for a penny a square yard!

By 1920 the game had boomed and there were ten courts. But soon more people wanted to play than there was court space and by 1930 the number of courts had increased again to 16. Thurlestone was now on the tennis map and several players of Wimbledon standard and notables of the tennis world such as H.R. McDonald, All-England Club member and lawn tennis correspondent of the London Evening News, came down each year for the Club tournament. This annual tournament was hard-fought despite the fact that most trophies were not all that ornate and winners had to be content with an enamelled spoon!

After the 1939-45 war tennis re-established itself after the slow return to normality, and in the 1950's there were tennis tournaments almost every day during the holiday season.

In 1967, a new pavilion with changing rooms was put up for the tennis section, which now uses 14 courts in the height of the season and attracts over 60 children on holiday to special twice-weekly competitions. It is in the holiday season too that the tennis section expands to accommodate the large number of tennis-playing visitors.

The 1987 season has just started and there will be a beginning of season party on Sunday, May 24, starting at 2.30 p.m. with friendly mixed doubles and round robin tournament with organised tennis for the junior section. Cream teas will be served. The evening get-together is at 6.30 p.m. when there will be drinks followed by supper. It is hoped that everyone will attend to get the season off to a good start and reservations should be made with the Steward as numbers might have to be limited.

During the season the Club evening is held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. The junior evening is on Thursdays at 6 p.m. And the Ladies morning is on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

The Tennis Section would welcome new members. Current Captain is Mr. Norman Bradley, who can be contacted on 560582.

## Just a word about Place Names

DID YOU KNOW...that "cot", "cote" or "cott" is one of the six most common bases for Devon place names? Well it is and in fact it appears in the county more than 300 times.

"Cote" or "cot" means cottage or small-holding. And the areas to which it was originally applied ranked lower in importance than those with "tun", which meant a large farm or estate.





# Clean Britain's Beaches

Marine Conservation Society,  
4 Gloucester Rd,  
Ross-on-Wye HR9 5BU.

in association with the Coastal Anti-Pollution League

It is a sad fact of life that many of the most popular bathing beaches of Britain in the late 1980's are in a disgusting state. There are several contributory factors to this, but one of the worst, and one of the most easily avoidable, is simply raw domestic sewage.

Not a nice thing to think about, is it? We like to think that when we flush stuff down our sinks, our drains and our toilets, we won't have to see it again, and that someone, somewhere, will do something to render it pleasant and harmless. Unfortunately, too often, this is not the case. Send it down the loo, and go down and take a walk along the seashore, and you are quite likely to meet it waiting for you on the beach, having simply been dumped down a sewer and into the sea, or - in some cases - straight onto the beach itself. There it creates a visual eyesore and a potential hazard to the health of all those who use the beach. The Victorians had a better deal.

That is part of the problem. Britain's sewerage system was largely laid down by the Victorians, over a hundred years ago, and much of it needs replacing. The population has more than doubled since then, and the run-down sewerage system of modern Britain simply cannot cope. These old sewers need replacing with a sensible system that renders sewage harmless before disposing of it at sea. Modern technology can do this easily, and the sea can cope quite happily with the results ..... if the process is properly done.

Unfortunately, the Department of the Environment only partly agrees with this. In 1975, in response to a European directive to do something about the state of our beaches, the D.O.E. (and successive governments of all political colours) ducked the issue by pretending that Britain only had 27 beaches at which "bathing was traditionally carried out in large numbers". This didn't include Blackpool, Brighton, or Eastbourne, or many other beaches that have long been popular bathing places. A fair amount of pressure from groups like ourselves embarrassed them into designating a further 350 beaches a couple of years ago, but they still look unlikely to really do anything about solving the real problem of cleaning up all our holiday beaches in the near future. They say it will cost too much .... over a billion pounds.

Sounds a lot, doesn't it? But spread it over the ten or fifteen years it will reasonably take to do so, and the jobs it could create, and the figure pales into insignificance when compared to the amount we spend at the coast each year. It's about time that the D.O.E. realised that it's our money they are talking about.

So if they aren't going to do anything about clearing up this disgusting mess on our beaches, we are.

The Marine Conservation Society and the Coastal Anti-Pollution League are launching a major campaign designed to persuade the Department of the Environment and the Treasury to clean up Britain's beaches. We want to involve as many people as possible, ordinary people, who perhaps have never been involved in such a campaign in their lives, but who care for their country's coast because they know it, have spent time there, and love it. To do this, we will need your help.



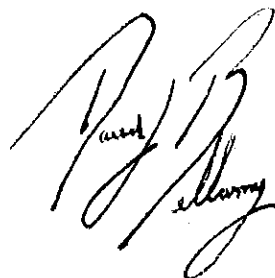
On March 1st, to launch the campaign, we want to put leaflets and posters explaining the problem in as many public places as possible - in libraries, doctors surgeries, through letterboxes and elsewhere. We believe that if people are aware of the problem, it can be solved. They can help those responsible for Britain's beaches to get the cash to clean the shore of sewage and similar wastes, and allow our beaches to regain their former glory.

To do this, we need money and hands. Your money - and your hands. If you feel you care enough about the state of our beaches to donate £5.00, we will send you in return 100 leaflets and 6 posters that detail the problem and its solution. Then you go out and distribute the leaflets (we will help with ideas of where) and put the posters up, in shops, windows - anywhere they will be seen by the people of Britain.

This is not a political campaign, and we wave banners of no particular colour. Our organisations simply believe that we deserve a better seashore, and that our beaches deserve better from us. There are simple solutions to sewage on the shore, with sensible treatment and sensible disposal, the sea can cope with these particular wastes. We need to see that these solutions are applied, and we need your help to do so. Unless you want to go to the seaside and suffer the massive indignity of bathing in your own excrement amongst solid, offensive wastes, in waters that may make you ill, then join us in the campaign for a cleaner sea.



Tony Wakefield. Chairman  
Coastal Anti-Pollution League



David Bellamy. Vice-President  
Marine Conservation Society

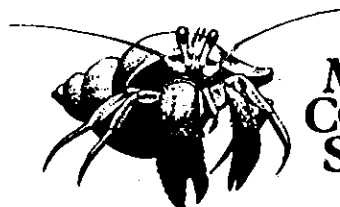
I want to help clean our beaches, and I donate £ .... I would like to distribute .... leaflets and .... posters, (let us know how many you want) which will be delivered at the end of February. I understand that they are not to be distributed until the 1st March. There is no minimum or maximum contribution, but 100 leaflets and 6 posters cost us £5.00 .... please adjust your order accordingly if you wish more or less.

Name .....

Address .....

Please tick here if you cannot deliver the leaflets or posters, but would like them to be distributed on your behalf by someone else in your area ....

Send this form to: Clean Britain's Beaches Campaign, The Marine Conservation Society, 4 Gloucester Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5BU.



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Have you ever given thought to what it might be like if you were a Castaway on some remote little island. The BBC with their 'Desert Island Disc' programme face different people with this problem every week - but here in this little extract is how it might really affect you :--

## *Would you manage to Survive?*

I found myself on my legs upon the beach, though hardly able to move from exhaustion of mind and body. When at length I had recovered sufficiently to walk about, I made a hasty survey of the little island or sandbank upon which I found myself. Thank God, I did not realise at that moment that I should have to spend a soul-killing two and a half years on that desolate, microscopical strip of sand!

The great thing was to ward off the dull agony, the killing depression, and manias generally. Fortunately I was of a very active disposition, and as a pastime I took to gymnastics. I became a most proficient tumbler and acrobat, and could turn two or three somersaults on dashing up the sloping ground; besides, I became a splendid high jumper with and without pole. Another thing I interested myself in was the construction of a sun dial..

I also played the part of Neptune in a very extraordinary way, I used to wade out to where the turtles were, and on catching a big six-hundred pounder, I would calmly sit astride on its back. Away would swim the startled creature, mostly a foot or so below the surface. When he dived deeper I simply sat far back on the shell, and then he was forced to come up. I steered my queer steeds in a curious way. When I wanted my turtle to turn to the left, I simply thrust my foot into his right eye, and vice-versa for the contrary direction. My two big toes placed simultaneously over both his eyes caused a halt so abrupt as almost to unseat me. Before the wet season commenced I put some straw thatch on the roof of my shelter to make my quarters as snug as possible. And it was a very necessary precaution, too, for sometimes it rained for days at a stretch. It never kept me 'indoors', however, and I took exercise just the same, as I didn't bother about clothes, and I rather enjoyed the shower bath. I was always devising means of making life more tolerable, and amongst other things I made a sort of swing, which I found extremely useful in beguiling time. I would also practice jumping with long poles. One day I captured a young pelican, and trained him to accompany me in my walks and also help me in my fishing operations. He also acted as a decoy. Frequently I would hide myself in some grass, whilst my pet bird walked a few yards away to attract his fellows. Presently he would be joined by a whole flock, many of which I shot with my bow and arrows, or lassoed!

But for my dog - my almost human Bruno - I think I must have died. I used to talk to him just as though he were a human being. We were absolutely inseparable. I preached long sermons to him from Gospel texts. I told him in a loud voice all about my early life and school-days: I recounted to him all my adventures; I sang little chansons to him, and among these he had his favourites as well as those he disliked cordially. If he did not care for a song, he would set up a pitiful howl.

John Parker.

### SOME PROVERBS

Do right, and fear no man; don't write, and fear no woman.

You can count the number of apples on one tree, but not the number of trees in one apple.

Truth is a jewel which should not be painted over; but it may be set to advantage and shown in a good light.

To understand oneself is the classic form of consolation; to elude oneself is the romantic.



# THE SLOOP INN

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