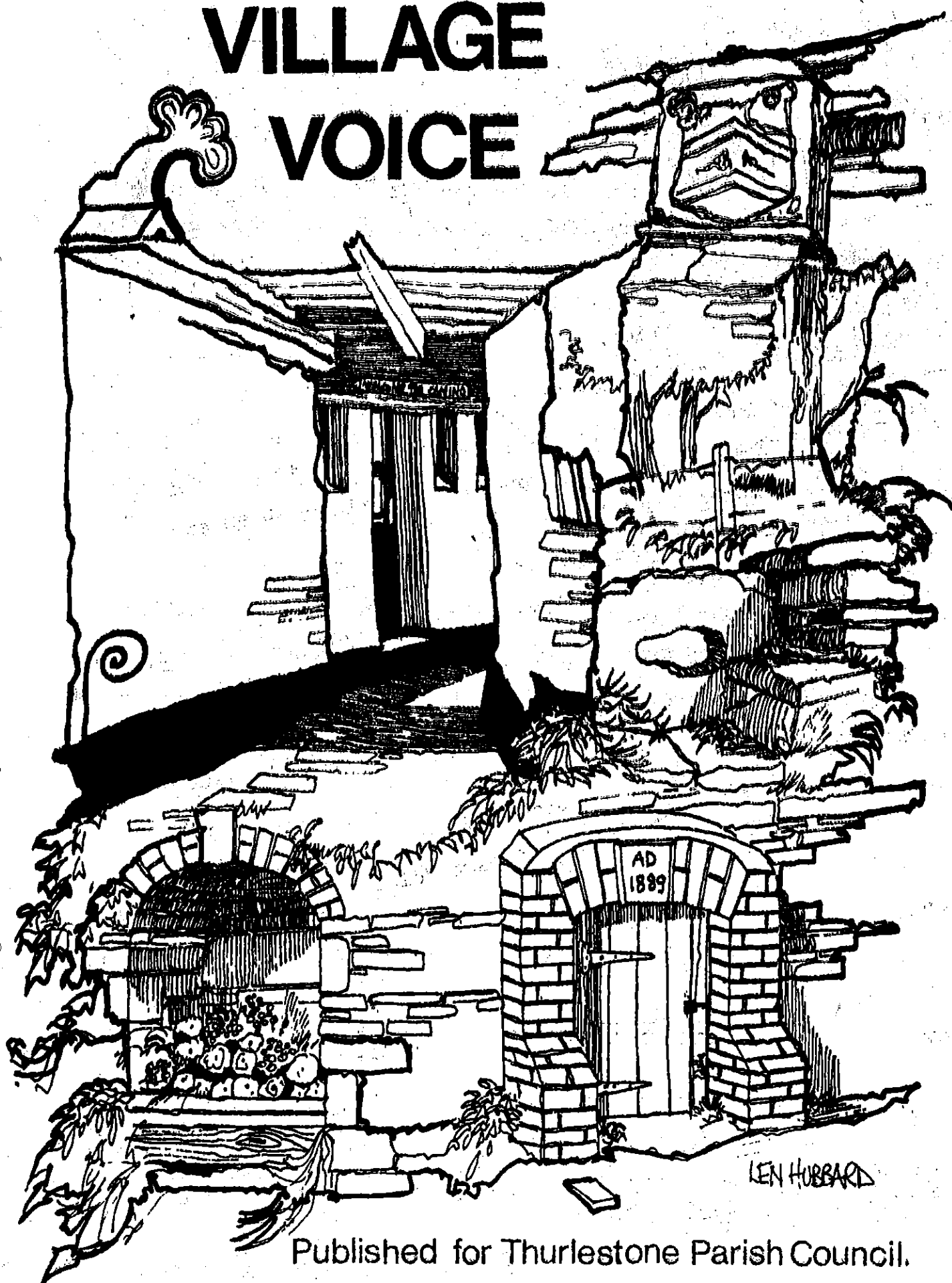


No.28 • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER  
1987

# VILLAGE VOICE



Published for Thurlestone Parish Council.

# Will this be LUCKY SEVEN?

Hidden in the front cover picture for this issue are seven spots in the immediate district. If you can identify all seven and know where they are, jot the exact locations down on a postcard or sheet of paper, add your name and address, put it in an envelope and pop the lot through the letter-box of Thurlestone artist Len Hubbard at Burwood in the village.

On October 1 - the closing date is September 30 - we'll put all the envelopes in a tub and then draw out one envelope as our lucky winner - if the seven spots are all correct of course!

We have chosen this method of finding a winner as many of our readers pointed out that our last competition was just a little unfair. That time we took the first phone call naming the spot as the winner, but forgot that not all Village Voices are delivered at exactly the same time and so some people gained an advantage. This time we hope you'll agree that everyone has the same chance.

This time, too, we have a super prize - the winner can choose one of six special colour prints by Len Hubbard, mounted and signed by the artist himself.

Don't delay, enter today - and it could be lucky seven for you!

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## THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

With the holiday season at its height the Parish Hall is at its quietest - so for this issue there is very little to report. Work on the outside of the Hall should have started by the time you read this issue and hopefully the new suspended ceiling with improved lighting should have been completed; both these items being dependent upon availability of materials and manpower.

D.M. Yeoman,  
Chairman, Parish Hall Committee.

# 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

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Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

Number 28 (No.5 New Series) 5th Year SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1987.

It occurs to Village Voice..that we don't know how lucky we are! By "we" we mean we lucky few who have pawned the family silver in order to live around Thurlestone. Or those even luckier, even fewer, who were actually born here.

Because we really are lucky to live here. All right, nothing is perfect, the seagulls can be a bit of a nuisance and sometimes neighbours can be difficult too, but that doesn't take away all that much from the sheer pleasure of actually living here.

If you doubt our word, then just cast your mind back a few short days to the height of the holiday season and the wails of despair of the second-homers and outright tourists when it actually dared to rain. A vital part of their life - their holiday - was being washed out. But, we ask you, did it really matter to you if it rained for a day or so - you live here all the time and can take your sunshine as it comes. Why, we're willing to bet that quite a lot of residents don't even notice a little drop of rain unless a soaking tourist loudly complains.

Come on, let's admit it - we are lucky to live here...even when it rains!

# FOR YOU'RE BOOKSHELF

COLLINS BRITISH BIRDS by John Gooders with paintings by Terence Lambert) (Collins £8.95)

This is not small enough to be used as a field guide, but it is very handsomely illustrated and a directory of the main British bird species with ample information.

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NEW ORGANIC FOOD GUIDE by Alan Gear (Dent £3.95)

With the increasing amount of interest in buying organically produced food this guide should be of real interest. It is a useful reference book to help those keen to eat only organically produced food, and you are told what organic farming is and what it aims to achieve, with a classified directory of suppliers in all parts of the country. An authoritative book on the subject matter.

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RSPB RESERVES VISITING by Anthony Chapman. (Christopher Helm £3.95)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has about 120 reserves in its care and about 100 square miles of the best bird habitats in Britain. It is compact yet a very comprehensive directory all about the reserves and where and if access is allowed. Fully illustrated with useful sketch maps. One for the pocket.

-----  
THE ORDNANCE SURVEY OUTDOOR HANDBOOK by Michael Allaby. (Macmillan £7.95).

This is a book packed with information, drawings and photographs, maps and many clear diagrams. A most readable introduction to the countryside for anyone exploring it on foot, perhaps for the first time, with good guidance on geology, weather forecasting, flora and fauna and very importantly, rights of way.

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The next Village Voice - NOV-DEC

# The Question is -

Many parish councils have, over the years, spent much time discussing their housing problems in their villages, exploring what action is open to them and often having to conclude by giving up the apparently impossible.

Most often, as in Thurlestone, a village survey or appraisal has thrown up the need for a small number of additional, affordable houses for first-time households and for the elderly; but in particular homes for some young people to stay in their village.

'Affordable' housing in villages like Thurlestone in these days, for people on average or low incomes is not going to be found in the private owner-occupied market, and the, one might say regrettable, sale of council houses, while helping a few people into the owner-occupier bracket, does nothing to help the next generation looking to set up a home.

It seems the private market and the district councils cannot be considered sources to which a village can look to produce new low-cost housing in an area where anything low-priced would be instantly snapped up by the holiday home fraternity, and thus merely add to the already growing housing imbalance in the community.

Under the district council Local Plan a small sector of land was earmarked for the type of housing envisaged here, but the need would be to attract a Housing Association to undertake the venture so that each dwelling would be fair-rented or equity-sharing to prevent exploitation for any purpose whatsoever than that intended. This, based on the experience of parishes which have succeeded is time consuming demanding work to get it off the ground, and it does require to be made plain, ~~does~~ the requirement for this type of housing as put forward in the Village Appraisal of 1980 still hold good? THAT is the question.

Such affordable housing as may be envisaged will never be erected 'on spec'. The need must be fully established by the community. Those genuinely interested must come forward and be counted by their parish council before it is fair and reasonable to expect progress.

VILLAGER

VILLAGE VOICE TAKES A BOAT TRIP AND FINDS A RIGHT....

# CARRY ON UP THE AVON

THERE ARE GOOD LAWS and bad laws, but the worst law of all is the one which can't or won't be enforced. It seems likely that we now have such a law up the Avon. New bye-laws concerning speeds on the river were approved by the Secretary of State early in July and came into force on July 22nd. So Village Voice waited a respectful 14 days before embarking on a cruise up the Avon to see what effect the new laws were having. Sadly they seemed more observed in the flouting than in the compliance.

Now the new bye-laws of South Hams District Council "with respect to seaside pleasure boats in the River Avon Estuary" are quite clear. They lay down a speed limit of 8 knots on the river from Hams End Point up to Aveton Gifford Bridge. But there is an exemption in an area to allow water-skiing. The exempted area is from the Old Limekiln to the Rockface at Doctors Wood.

"A navigator," says the bye-law, "shall not be prevented from exceeding 8 knots for the purpose of towing a person water-skiing in the exempted area if he has in his possession a valid written consent which shall have been obtained by him from the Council. The Council may refuse or withdraw consent under this bye-law to navigators who fail to comply with these bye-laws and the conditions set out in the schedule hereto."

The schedule covers things like "The navigator shall use only the boat specified in the consent - The number of the boat shall be clearly displayed in black numbers at least one foot high and two inches wide on a white background...Each boat towing water skiers shall be occupied by two responsible persons of whom one is in charge of navigation and one is an experienced water skier" - and so on.

Oh, and lest we forget, Bye-law 5 does say too - "No person, being the navigator of a pleasure boat, shall cause or suffer such vessel to be driven or sailed in a dangerous manner or without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons."

So you can imagine that we set off up the Avon with high hopes. But we are sad to report that we found water-skiers starting their runs in the deep water channel close into Stiddicombe Wood well past the heronry. We found another boat using the yachting turn mark right up by Villa Crusoe. And as we motored down to join the seabirds huddled at the far end of the water-ski buoyed run, we found reasonable consideration in short supply when we were nearly swamped by a gentleman who was not even towing a skier at the time - and we were, of course, well outside the water skiing runs. Any resemblance between the quiet beauty spot that once was and this desecration is difficult to see. The innocent might ask what the Bantham Avon has done to deserve this? The answer must be that Salcombe doesn't want water-skiing - and Salcombe has some bigger pull with the District Council than we have - so Salcombe hasn't got it and we have.

The Parish Council of Thurlestone has been told that the water-skiing club, which uses the Avon, has been behaving well and observing the new bye-laws - so those we encountered up the river must be just a bunch of visitors. So what will happen now? Well, the best that Bantham can hope for is that the new laws will be strictly enforced. Is that likely? Present omens are not good as the public servant who will finally be responsible for that enforcement, the District Council's Harbourmaster at Salcombe, Capt Jim Blazeby, has already gone on record, full of enthusiasm for this task, by saying that any enforcement must wait until special signs have been erected on the river, and no one seems to know when that will be. Nor does anyone know what the signs will say. Village Voice has a suggestion. How about "DANGER! BEWARE OF BROKEN BYE-LAWS!"

# Notes by the Parish Clerk

The Parish Council learned at its June Meeting that British Gas planned to survey Thurlestone, Bantham, Buckland and South Milton to ascertain whether sufficient demand for a main gas supply existed even if an initial connection charge of some £300 per consumer was involved.

Consideration of the County Council's traffic management measures for Kingsbridge led to conclusions that favoured the approach road proposals but not those for the Town Centre: parking by heavy lorries in Fore Street should be severely restricted but it was essential to permit continued access by other traffic.

Under the 1986 Bathing Waters Survey by the South West Water Authority, the frequency with which the E.Coli counts exceeded the EEC Mandatory Level had established that the most polluted beaches in Devon and Cornwall not yet scheduled for remedial action are:

<u>LOCATION (in order of severity)</u>	<u>Failure Frequency (% of all samples)</u>
1st. ILFRACOMBE (Maceration & tidal tank plant exists)	75.0%
2nd. COMBE MARTIN	50.0%
3rd. THURLESTONE NORTH (Leas Foot)	41.7%
4th. SALCOMBE NORTH & PORTHALLOW	33.33%
6th. SALCOMBE SOUTH, TREVAUNANCE, MAWGAN PORTH & TREVONE BAY	25.0%

The Parish Council in August supported a suggestion by Mr. Anthony Steen M.P. for the formation of a delegation to present to the Authorities the cases for Thurlestone and Salcombe. All interested persons, residents as well as traders, hoteliers and others concerned with obtaining cleaner beaches and promoting tourism to our district in the future, are urged to participate and to contact without delay any Parish Councillor or myself.

The Avon Estuary Bye-laws have at last been approved by the Home Office and came into force on 22nd. July 1987. Thus, from May to September each year pleasure boats on the Avon Estuary may exceed a speed of 8 knots only within the permitted water-skiing area between the Old Limekiln near Stiddicombe Creek northwards to the Rochface at Doctor's Wood (approx 840 yards), provided always that the written consent of the District Council has previously been obtained and the other detailed provisions of the Bye-laws complied with.

W.G.LADD (560686)

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Chairman: Mr P.W.J.HURRELL 560496  
 V/Chairman Mr D.J.Yeoman 560607  
 Mr R.Adams 560247  
 Mr J.Dayment 560295  
 Mr D.Grose 560375  
 Mr G.Stidston 560695  
 Mr G.S.Wilkinson 560512

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Mr J.Thomas  
 560269

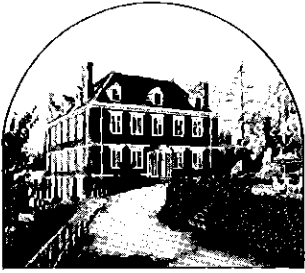
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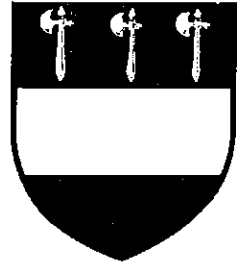
W. G. LADD

Tel: Kingsbridge 560686



# Buckland-Tout-Saints NEWS

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



## First Phase Refurbishment Complete

All five principal rooms have been completely refurbished in Regency and Queen Anne style, with 'Old Time Colonial Sanitaryware' - stylish and elegant - in the bathrooms, plus large powerful showers, and on the main floor we have knocked two bedrooms into one large Suite, fitted with triplex double glazing, and a delightful handpainted colonial suite of furniture to match the decor of the room. This suite even has a telephone in the bathroom. In the fourposter bedroom, we removed 5 tons of stonework and an old fireplace to enlarge the bathroom to luxury proportions. We now have four beautiful bedrooms and two luxury suites, in addition to the six smaller bedrooms on the second floor.

All these finely appointed bedrooms have direct dial telephone, teletext remote-control colour televisions, radio, trouser-press and hair-dryer, and we hope you will like what we have done to reflect the changing needs and demands of our clientele.

## Winter Breaks

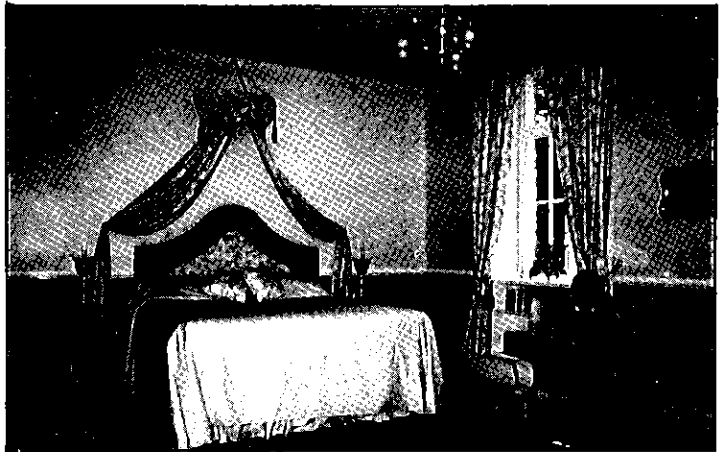
Buckland-Tout-Saints is again offering its popular, special Winter Breaks. These Terms include Accommodation, Dinner, Full English Breakfast, Early Morning Tea, Daily Newspaper, VAT and Service, and are for a minimum of two days.

From October 30th until the 31st March 1988, prices are from £43.50 per person per day sharing a Standard Double/Twin Bedded room with Bathroom, £53.50 Deluxe, and £58.50 for either of the 2 suites.

## Christmas & New Year

The Christmas break will be a minimum of four nights from the 24th December 1987, and New Year will be a minimum of two nights from the 31st December.

Prices will be from £60.00 per person per day to include Accommodation, Early Morning Tea, Daily Newspaper, Full English Breakfast, Dinner, VAT and Service. Deposits of £100.00 per room will be necessary to secure a reservation.



*The Cole Suite*

## History of Hotel & Families since 1189

After many years of research the 'History of the Hotel' has now been completed and edited by Ray Freeman a well known local historian. It covers the period of time from the arrival of the Tout-Saints family in 1189, through to the present day and you will notice that the recently refurbished bedrooms have been named after the families that have occupied this Manor House for over nine centuries.

The 'Shepherd' family crest, which now appears on most of our printing material as above, has the Latin words "Nec Timeo Nec Sperno" inscribed below, meaning "I neither fear nor despise".

Incidentally those of you who may wish to purchase a "History Book" may do so by sending to us £1 and a 2nd class stamp.

## Local News

Kingsbridge and District Swimming Pool Association have high hopes of raising £400,000 to begin work on a local LEISURE POOL for residents far and wide and also to help boost the tourism business in the South Hams.

This will be a private venture funded by those wishing to invest in the project, and so far pledges of £160,000 have been put forward.

Kingsbridge Sports Centre, once thought by some to be a White Elephant, is now making some vital contributions to the community. All sports are played there, ranging from Indoor Cricket in the winter months, Squash, Badminton etc., to all day Roller Skating in the summer. The new Swimming Pool will be built beside this.

## Message from Victor Shephard



Our second newsletter comes at the beginning of another season and at the end of a very cool Spring which has seen prolific blooms of rhododendrons from small shrubs only a year or so old, to the magnificent trees towering 12 to 18 feet, in colours ranging from dark scarlet to pale pink, to white blooms with scarlet centres.

Azaleas flank the many paths in our lovely gardens, from the heavenly scented deep yellow flowers to the bright flame blooms, and everywhere masses of bluebells, forgetme-nots, scabious and other delightful wild flowers too numerous to mention; certainly the May flowers will bloom well into June this year.

When the East wind abates, the air is heavily scented with perfume from azaleas, many of which are the original plants brought from the foothills of the Himalayas by Col. Warden just before he retired from the Army and came to live here in 1934. It is quite exceptional to have an East wind in May in South Devon, where the prevailing wind and warm air currents come from the South West. The weather in the South Hams has its own little corner, very often quite different from Plymouth or Torquay, and Dartmoor has much colder and wetter weather. We seem to get the best of the weather in this small peninsula.

We are very pleased to see our American friends already coming back this year and forward bookings for 1987 are looking better. There is a lull at present, due to the Local Elections, and as I write this newsletter we are in full swing with the General Election, so people's minds are not exactly on holidays at this precise time. However, from previous experience of 1979 and 1983, as soon as the election is over the bookings come flooding in.

Our first phase upgrading programme commenced on January 5th, and the BIG FREEZE arrived on January 7th. For the first time in living memory our mains water froze for a number of days, so there was no water at all - even worse than the drought of 1976 and 1979, when we were very nearly rationed. However, when the thaw came we had no burst pipes which was a blessing, and got back to work on the bedrooms after a week's delay. We were scheduled to finish at Easter and we finished a week ahead of time.

Alastair Carter, our Head Chef and his wife Vicky are supporting us with their great enthusiasm, and drawing an increasing volume of praise from both residents and non-residents. We do have one extra piece of news however, and that is we shall be open this Winter for New Year's Eve. We look forward to welcoming anyone who wishes to stay on from Christmas through to New Year. So why not book early and take a week off over this festive occasion.

In the meantime we look forward to making new friends this season and renewing our association with many of you who have been before in the friendly atmosphere of this lovely Country Mansion.

## Spectacular Celebrations In Plymouth



The City of Plymouth is set to host the United Kingdom's largest and most spectacular celebrations to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Spanish Armada during the month of July 1988.

4 years of planning have resulted in this unprecedented festival which will attract visitors from all over the world and will feature major events each day between July 1 and July 28.

Major events will include a Costumed Armada Ball, Ox Roasts, a Commemorative Yacht Race, a Re-Enactment of that Famous Game of Bowls and a Grand Finale event recreating the famous battle.

## A Message from the Flag Officer Plymouth

It is more than 700 years since the first National Fleet assembled in the River Tamar and from then until now, our Navy has been inextricably linked with the City of Plymouth. Many brave and famous men have sailed from our port both in peace and in war, though few so famous as Sir Francis Drake. One of the first popular Naval heroes, his name lives on in HMS DRAKE, the Royal Naval Barracks and Fleet Accommodation Centre in Devonport, and we are proud to be associated with the celebration of his most renowned battle.

## Banana Gratin

Serves 4 persons

by Alastair Carter, *Head Chef.*



½ pint Milk  
4 Egg Yolks  
3 oz. Sugar  
1 oz. Cornflour  
½ pint Whipping Cream  
4 Bananas  
Demerara Sugar

### Method

Place the milk on to boil, watching carefully; while the milk is heating whisk together the egg yolks, sugar and cornflour. When milk is boiling remove from heat and whilst still whisking egg mixture pour boiling milk onto it. Return milk and egg mixture to the stove and bring to the boil again, stirring all the time to prevent lumps forming. Boil for a few seconds until thick then remove from heat and allow to cool. This is your Pastry Cream. Pre-heat grill to highest setting. When pastry cream is completely cold begin to whisk cream to a thick consistency, then beat the cream and the pastry together to form a smooth thick cream.

### Assembly

Slice bananas into thin slices and divide between 4 individual oven proof dishes. Spoon the cream mixture over the top, completely covering the bananas. Sprinkle generously with demerara sugar, covering the whole surface. Place under the hot grill until sugar dissolves and turns dark brown. Serve immediately.



ANOTHER VILLAGE VOICE WALK WITH A PURPOSE...

# Here Lies HALLOWEEN

We're going to cheat a bit here as we continue our walk from the last issue. You'll remember that we had walked out to Bolt Head R.A.F. station at Soar from which the Clipped Wing Spits had carried out many sorties during the war and gone along the South-West Peninsula Coast Path as far as Steeple Cove to the point where the path almost falls down to Soar Mill Cove - and then had retreated to our car. We said then that we'd continue the walk in this issue, but really we're going to cut out that steep descent to the Cove - take great care in wet weather or you'll slide a long way down! - and get a friend to run us in his car to Soar Mill Cove Hotel and drop us there.

Out of season the hotel owners don't mind you parking in their car park, but in the tourist season there is a charge of 80 pence for the whole day. If you want to have lunch at the hotel it is not necessary to book, but you should do so if you want to have dinner there.

From the car-park it is an easy walk down to the Cove itself and though the path doesn't follow it all the way you can see where the old "road" used to lead right down to the sands. It was up this road that they hauled the marble from the shipwreck of the Volere, but we'll come to that in a minute.

Ahead of us all the time as we walk we can see the Ham Stone just off the mouth of the Cove. And we are now walking down into the spot where an amazing number of shipwrecks took place. The rocks, by the way, on the right of the Cove are called the Priest and Clerk. You'll need a pretty good imagination to make the two gentlemen out - and it isn't any better when you view them from the sea. Who said sailors don't have any imagination! But back to the Ham Stone. The rock is 33 feet high and old-time sailors believed that it was full of iron and so distorted the compass needles causing wreck after wreck there. Well, it isn't true and the ships were lost simply because they were lost, if you understand what we mean. But it is true that the Ham Stone did seem to be a menace to the old time sailing ships. It was the Ham Stone that the famous clipper Herzogin Cecilie struck and which gave her a mortal blow though she didn't sink until after she was towed into Starehole Bay much closer to Salcombe. That was in 1936.

Before that in June, 1887 the little French steamer Soudan, laden with peanuts, had hit the Ham Stone. She too was towed off and sank close to the entrance to Salcombe.

And the Cove itself is full of shipwrecks. Why they all hit here

## Village Voice walk continues

it is impossible to say. As is usual with shipwrecks there are mysterious stories about these lost ships. Take the strangely-named Lintor Ken. She was said to have been carrying marble when she sank in Soar Mill Cove in 1765. It has been said too that she was carrying statues as well and that these were salvaged and taken to Powderham for the decoration of the castle of the Courtenay family. The story becomes more complicated when you find out that a small Dutch ship, the Young Hendrick is recorded as having sunk in the Cove in December 1756. There is correspondence about this wreck between the Courtenay family and the shipowners concerning some "works of art" which had been salvaged. It may be that the Lintor Ken never existed, but there is truth amid the imagination around these old handed-down stories - well there often is - and there just may have been two ships carrying statues sunk in the little bay

We do know, however, that the Volere was certainly carrying marble when she too sank in the Cove on March 6, 1881. Her cargo is recorded exactly as 330 tons of Italian marble in blocks of six or 14 tons each. The South-Westerly gale which drove her in killed the Captain and his wife and one seaman, but the other nine crew were saved. Some of the marble was salvaged in 1920 and more in 1939. Divers drilled holes in the blocks and then used the tide to lift the blocks high enough off the bottom to get them ashore. They were then taken up that road that you could see on the walk down to the Cove from the car-park. Sport divers have found another 200 tons scattered about the bottom in 50 feet of water just to the East of the Cove.

But the shipwreck for which the Cove is most famous is that of the Halloween. On January 17, 1887, this fully-rigged iron tea clipper was fighting a South-Easterly gale on her way to London from Foochow with 1600 tons of tea in her holds. She was an exceptionally fast ship and carried a mainyard 78 feet long which in turn supported an immense mainsail. On her maiden voyage to Sydney she took only 69 days, and she held the Shanghai to London record with an amazing 89 days. She was one of the fastest ships afloat at that time.

On this voyage no records were to come her way. Bad weather had dogged Captain Dawton from the moment he left China on August 13. It had taken her 155 days before she sighted the Eddystone Light and now in the dark she was unwittingly running straight in to land. Huge seas and rain blotted out everything and at 7.30 p.m. she just missed the Ham Stone and crashed into the rocks of the Cove.

During the night three men tried to swim ashore with a line. One drowned. The other two lost the line but managed to get ashore and hours later reached Southdown Farm. The Hope Cove lifeboat was launched at 8.30 a.m. It was 10 a.m. before they reached the wreck and took off 19 men, more dead than alive, clinging frozen to the masts and rigging.

Within three days the ship was broken by squalls and her cargo was piled 12 feet high in a wall across the Cove. It is interesting to note here that it seems con-men have always been with us. A "gentleman" came down from London and contracted with farmers to cart the damaged tea to Kingsbridge where it was put on a train to London. The tea - and the man - disappeared and no one was ever paid for their trouble!

Today sport divers swim among the ribs of the Halloween in 30 feet of water just 100 yards off the Western end of the Cove. Those iron ribs are all that is left of that once great ship.

Now comes the hard part of our walk. We head Westward. But

### The end of the walk:

it doesn't seem so....All the first part seems Upward! By means of steps and a steep path the rest of our walk is along more magnificent cliff scenery - and yes there are more shipwrecks down below us! We'll leave the story of those for another time and, pausing only to note on the right the very, very old division of the fields by great slate slabs instead of walls or fences, stagger on until we reach the shelter of the Port Light and a well-deserved pint!

K.M.

## There's No Business Like GROW BUSINESS

There's no denying that gardeners have had a difficult time this year with the seasons sometimes seeming upside down, writes Pat Macdonald, Secretary of the Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show. Long dry spells with dessicating winds just at critical growing periods have meant that not everything in the garden has been ready when it should be, or whatever it is has long passed away by the date of the Show! This meant that overall the entries were one-third lower, but happily the Children's Section attracted a record number of participants. Despite the lower numbers, the judges were very complimentary about the condition of the produce benched at the 9th annual Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show.

Held on the afternoon of Saturday 1st August at Thurlestone, once more it provided a lovely display which made it a pleasure to enter a scented and colourful Parish Hall. Ranks of glowing flowers, glistening pots of preserves, scrumptious-looking cakes, mouth-watering vegetables, beautiful handwork of all kinds, demonstrated the wealth of talent there is in both villages.

Fine weather on the day meant a good attendance to see how the judges had performed their unenviable morning task of deciding who should be the prizewinners. (Sometimes the choice was obvious, sometimes not...Why did he choose that one? Sometimes gasps of delighted surprise came as participants realised that their entries had been awarded the coveted red card..."Only put it in to swell the numbers, didn't think it would really be good enough!"

Show Chairman, Ben Horn, expressed warm thanks to his hard-working committee, the willing helpers, and all the sporting entrants for another good-looking and happy Show. Dick White, President, presented cups as follows:

Amateur Fruit and Veg Cup: C. Johns;  
Thurlestone Residents Cup: M. Orr; South Milton Residents Cup: C. Johns; Marshall Trophy: Mrs. D. Amess; Open Fruit and Veg Cup: J. B. Horn; Cut Flowers and Pot Plants Cup: M. Orr; Senior Childrens Cup: Sarah Brice; Junior Childrens Cup: Joint: Emily Housego and Jonathan Howey; Home Economics Cup: Mrs. J. Milcoy; Flower Arrangements Cup: Joint: Miss A. Jenkins and Mrs. H. McKillop; Handicrafts Cup: Mr. K. Turner; Doris Jackson Trophy: Mrs. E. M. Applegate; Jennifer Yeo Cup: C. Johns; Derrick Yeoman Cup: Sarah Brice.

Certificates of Merit: Amateur Fruit and Veg: C. Johns; Open Fruit and Veg: J. B. Horn; Cut Flowers and Pot Plants: M. Orr; Children's: Sarah Brice; Home Economics: Mrs. E. M. Applegate; Flower Arrangements: Miss E. B. Snowden; Handicrafts: Mrs. D. Jackson. And the

## Harry Huggins continued:

underwings with a broad white trailing edge. Most likely any bird we see will have hatched this year, and will show a black "M" pattern across the upper wings. An immature Kittiwake is similar, but has a black half-collar behind the head.

Rare, very rare, is a Sabine's Gull, blown in from its passage from the high Arctic to its wintering area at sea off the coast of southern Africa. Its back and inner wings have a saddle of grey, the inner flight feathers are a broad white triangle and the outer flight feathers are a narrow black triangle, making altogether an unmistakable tricolour pattern.

The powers of flight of all these gulls are astonishing; however strong the wind, whether gale or storm force, they just ride against it, dipping to the waves to pick up the repast the outfall has provided.

Inshore, where the waves are breaking, is sometimes a Grey Phalarope - one year there were nine - looking like a tiny, starling-sized gull, as it bobs and spins, usually close to a raft of weed. It is a sandpiper, white on head and underparts, grey on wings and tail, and with a distinctive black mark through and behind the eye. This little creature nests on the northern coast and islands of the Arctic and winters far from land off the coast of Africa. Unusually for a bird, the breeding female is more resplendent than the male. She lays the eggs, then takes no further interest in the proceedings, leaving him to incubate the eggs and tend the young. This is in fact a sensible division of labour, for when his body reserves are depleted by the production of four large eggs, he is fresh for incubation.

Away from the sea, in September we will be searching among the legs of Farmer Stidston's cows, and horse, in the meadows opposite the gold club for Yellow Wagtails, which are very similar to the Pied Wagtails which frequent our lawns, but yellow below and brown above. Summer migrants, they do not nest with us, sadly like the Turtle Dove and Nightingale there is something about the South Hams area which they do not fancy, but they arrive in Autumn on passage, drifting off after a week or two in an easterly direction towards where the Channel crossing is narrower. Once we saw over 150 together in a field by the Avon, where the track runs down from Aunemouth farm.

While by the Avon in Autumn, we always watch out for an Osprey; in flight, in the distance, it looks like a cross between a Buzzard and a big blunt-winged gull. They often frequent the West Country rivers for a few weeks as they work south on passage from Scotland of Scandinavia; we have been lucky enough to see one on the Tavy estuary, though not yet on the Avon, but there was one reported at Stiddicombe Wood four years ago.

In October little robin-shaped birds, never more than one or two at once, start to appear on roofs in the villages. Links Court and Rock House Hotel are favourites with them. The male is dark charcoal grey, usually with a white flash in the folded wing; the female and young are paler grey, and all show vivid orange-chestnut in the tail as they fly away. These are Black Redstarts, on passage south - we saw thousands in M. Jorca last Christmas. A continental bird and a very rare nester in Britain, they frequent rocky places and buildings. The odd one sometimes attempts to winter with us, for unless there is dire cold there is always a supply of flies for an insect eater such as these along the tide line where the seaweed collects: whether any survive until Spring we do not know. The first time we ever visited Thurlestone, to view a flat one icy January,

# Old Thurlesstone Families

## PART 4 - THE 1900s

NEVILLE C. OSWALD, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P

ooo000ooo

There are still many people in the parish who were baptised or married in the church or who have close family relations living here. Short of making a house to house survey, their numbers cannot be properly assessed. On the other hand, the registers tell us which names have cropped up over the years and which have lasted into the 1900s. They have been measured in previous articles by the number of times they occurred in the registers. This is not a wholly satisfactory method because one person may have been born, married and buried here giving him three entries, whereas another may have dropped in for a day to marry one of our girls and then taken her back to where he came from, thus getting his name in the register once. An alternative scheme, trying to identify individuals, has its difficulties, particularly for people having common names such as William and Elizabeth and has been rejected in favour of the present formula, which at least has the merit of picking out who was around the place at baptism, marriage and burial and gives a fair assessment of the relative frequency of the various names.

In order to reduce the names to manageable proportions, those who have appeared at least 50 times and are still represented in the 1900s have been selected. The names are followed in brackets by the date of their first appearance and the number of entries in the registers in the year 1650 to 1975.

ADAMS ( 1661. 59)	POLYBANK (1650. 74)
BEVILL ( 1656. 80)	POUND (1744. 57)
CLARK ( 1657. 94)	RANDALL (1663. 69)
CRISPIN ( 1653. 67)	REEVE (1677. 63)
EDGCOMBE( 1737. 55)	ROBINS (1801. 67)
ELLIOTT ( 1668. 112)	ROGERS (1650. 58)
HANNAFORD (1775. 92)	SHEPHERD (1652. 182)
HINGSTON ( 1663. 136)	SHERIFF (1758. 125)
JARVIS ( 1695. 80)	SNOWDEN (1815. 69)
JEFFREY (1815. 69)	SQUIRE (1660. 169)
LUCKHAM (1652. 84)	STEER (1652. 91)
MOORE (1691. 297)	WAKEHAM (1665. 106)
MASTERS (1792. 53)	

Continued Overpage:::

OLD THURLESTONE FAMILIES continued:

Other names which failed to make the top 25, but are now well-known in the parish include:

Burgoyne (1787. 35) GROSE (1920. 21). JACKMAN (1820. 43). HILL (1653. 25) MITCHELMORE (1813. 45). PENWELL (1716. 27). STIDSTON (1656. 46) and  
YOEMAN (1653. 28)

The JACKMANS are interesting in that they can be traced back to the 1600s, mainly through female lines, yet the name did not appear until 1820. Tracing the descendants of those in the registers in the 1600s, the only ones that have continued in an unbroken line to the 1900s are now called JACKMAN (8) EDGCOMBE (3) and MOORE (2), all having lost their original names through married daughters at some stage.

The STIDSTONS were around in fair numbers between 1657 and 1792, then disappeared for a century and returned in 1897. The YEOMANS, with 6 entries in the 1600s and 2 in the 1800s, did not really get going until 1943.

The names most frequently entered in the registers in 1900 - 1975 have a familiar ring about them; they are:

MOORE (63)	BEVILL (24)
JEFFREY (44)	EDGCOMBE (22)
ROBINS (37)	ROGERS (22)
SNOWDON (32)	GROSE (21)
ELLIOT (29)	MITCHELMORE (20)

These figures are of course, rather less than one-half of those quoted in previous centuries, partly because fewer babies have been born and baptised. Yet they indicate the healthy continuance of several families even if the names of some of them are different. In time, they are sure to be replaced by others.

It does not take a computer scientist to detect the fall in the proportion of native born in the parish during the present century. It has arisen partly from the general mobility and increased prosperity of the country as a whole, but there have been factors rather specific to Thurlestone. Several happenings in the 1890s influenced the course of events - the rector, the reverend Peregrine Ilbert died after an epic ministry of 55 years, the new-style Parish Council took over from the church the responsibility for local government, the golf club opened, the Great Western Railway built an extension from South Brent to Kingsbridge and the Thurlestone Hotel opened its doors to visitors. As a result, the population trebled and now includes many elderly people who, after the heat and burden of their respective lives, want a quiet game of golf (incidentally, no such rise in population has occurred in neighbouring golfless parishes, such as South Milton.)

The effects of these various changes on the parish registers have been considerable. With some laxity over baptisms, the restriction of weddings in church to first-time marriages and the popularity of cremations, the registers are far less reliable as measures of demography and social behaviour than they were formerly. They are almost valueless in any study of people who retire here, many of whose names never appear in them at all; they frequently leave to be near their children or die in hospital or are cremated somewhere miles away. Yet they still give a fairly accurate record of families that settle in the parish and continue the fascinating ebb and flow of names, many of which are well-known throughout the South Hams.

(CONCLUSION)

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# HEAVENS ABOVE

SOME ADVICE ON AIRSPACE RIGHTS FOR YOU TO DIGEST !

THE advent of low-flying aircraft today hardly bears the hall-mark of sensationalism. Half a century ago it would have drawn the open-mouthed upward gaze of a fair proportion of the population. However there are undoubtedly occasions when light aircraft and helicopters passing low over the parish can give rise for concern.

IN THEORY, of course, land ownership extends wedge-shaped to the imagined centre of the earth and upwards into the stratosphere. The principle of this proprietorship is encapsulated in a forbidding 13th century Lat n tag - 'Cujus est solem ejus est usque ad coelum et ad inferos' !

ON the other hand, however, in a practical world the position is different and airspace rights, according to a significant court case of a few years ago, are limited to a height necessary for ordinary use and enjoyment of land ownership. The liminary definition, for obvious reasons, begs several questions, but in the light of that dictum customary ownership would presumably be hard pressed to lay claim to rights beyond tree heights or tops of added storeys. Urban rights may well extend to summits of high-rise flats.

NO RULING as far as I know has ever been made concerning private helicopter owners, but I surmise their rights extend to levelling-off height, at which point right to overfly adjacent property automatically derives from statute.

The logic of a limitation to the air-space rights principle is, of course, unassailable. If it weren't, we could all at some time or other, equipped with appropriate astronomical evidence, lodge claims for the odd satellite having violated our own particular wedge of heaven.

NEVERTHELESS, despite case-law ruling, airspace rights over sports and recreation grounds, open spaces and greens may give rise to marginal problems. For instance flying kites to the confusion of aircraft in regular air-traffic lanes is an offence but, on the other hand, fun kite flying can't very well be achieved without going well above most trees and buildings. Consequently, if the ceiling of airspace rights above open public spaces is for this reason higher than the norm it may well be that breaches by low-flying aircraft are actionable. But here again, practicalities control the matter. Right to take legal action is one thing; profitability is another.

NORMALLY, of course, a variety of aircraft crosses private and public land with impunity and little or no comment, secure in flying rights provided by both the Civil Aviation Act 1949 and other military Acts. Probably the only people regularly expressing a lively concern are those living both next to and under the flight paths of major airports and military airfields, but beyond acoustic insulation redress is limited to waving a demonstrative placard, for the Acts give watertight protection from nuisance and trespass actions to all aircraft flying at reasonable heights and the term includes a frequently offensive take-off and landing gradient.

In rural areas you may be concerned to know that the range and trajectory of shotgun pellets is marginally affected by airspace rights, for, if shot regularly invades the privacy of land ownership, evocation of airspace rights, may be the only way of obtaining redress.

LAW textbooks indicate that pellets travelling illicitly 75ft above private land are trespassing, although whether the inanimate shot or the shooter is the villain I am not entirely sure. On the other hand, trespass is only normally actionable if coupled with some measurable damage. If shot, therefore, completes its course without damage, airspace rights don't seem to be affected. OVERPAGE:-



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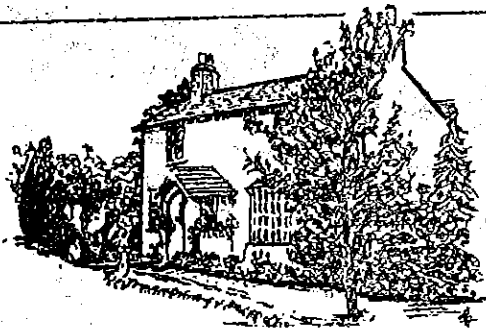
It is easy to lose sight of the fact that airspace rights are not confined to flightpaths. A private residence's lamp bracket overhanging a public footpath is a simple violation of airspace rights and, further, failure to take action invests the encroachment with legal protection after 20 years.

Trees, however, are not quite in the same category. For one thing they are part of the land itself and not, like buildings, classified as fixtures. They therefore have a preordained natural right to grow to full size - that is, provided they don't become a nuisance or cause damage. An owner is entitled to lop branches overhanging his property and return them over the fence. Because it is in this sense privileged, branch growth over boundaries is never classed as 'trespass into neighbours' airspace, but depending upon circumstances may justify action as legal nuisance.

Recently a new factor made its appearance in the airspace rights debate and resulted in some salutary conclusions. A private landowner discovered that not only his property had been photographed from the air without his leave but the photographer subsequently had the temerity to offer to sell him the resulting photographs. Whether or not the photographs were of good quality doesn't seem clear, but, of greater importance, the court questioned the landowner's contention that his airspace must have been violated to get the photographs in the first place. The contrary point was made - with, obviously, little chance of disproof - that the cameraman's aircraft could just as easily have been hovering outside the boundary of the photographed estate. The case, incidentally, drew attention to the fact that an aircraft flown low repeatedly across property with the obvious intention of harassing the occupier would undoubtedly be actionable as a nuisance.

(Village Voice offers due acknowledgement to George Jaffa and the Local Council Review Magazine, for the information in this article)

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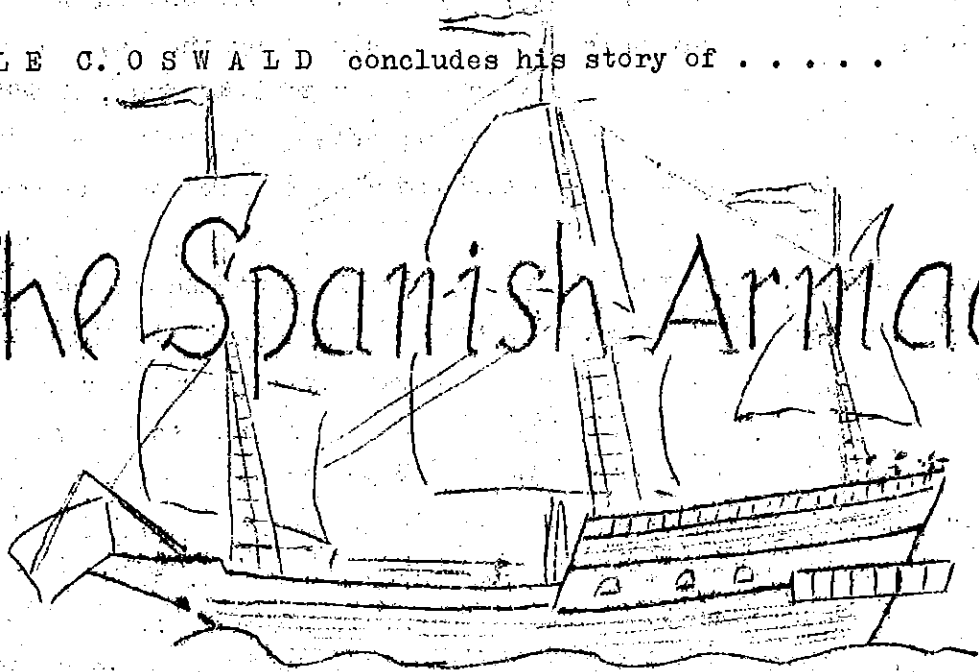
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# The Spanish Armada



THERE came a time when King Philip of Spain had taken just about as many insults from Queen Elizabeth and acts of piracy by Drake and Hawkins as he could tolerate. Then, when Mary Queen of Scots was executed, he could see no chance of restoring Catholicism in England unless he acted quickly. After all, he ruled the most powerful country in Europe with a population of ten million, twice as many as England and Wales, and had a formidable and experienced army, much of it in the Netherlands (roughly Belgium now) to the discomfort of the Dutch and French. He decided to build an Invincible Armada whose decks would be lined with boarding parties of musketeers and pikemen, ready for hand-to-hand combat at sea, in the way they had already defeated the Turks in the comparatively calm waters of the Mediterranean. His plan was for a 130 strong fleet with 18,000 soldiers on board to sail up the Channel, sieze Margate, collect another 30,000 picked Spanish troops from the Netherlands and invade England. Against him the English had smaller, faster and more seaworthy ships with greater fire power. Their mariners were far superior to the Spaniards and were used to the rough waters of the Atlantic; some of them were specially trained to use their newly devised tactic of firing cannon balls through portholes in the side of the ship, timing their discharge with the roll of the ship. Elizabeth had no standing army, apart from a guard of Beefeaters, but she was able to call up the militia through ther Lords Lieutenant in the counties when required.

THE sailing of the Armada was delayed for a year when Drake destroyed 37 ships and large quantities of stores in Cadiz harbour. When it did eventually set out from Lisbon in May 1588, it ran into a storm and was forced to seek shelter in Corunna for a refit and the replacement of rotten stores. About two months late, it resumed its journey in favourable weather. When it appeared off the Lizard, messages were given to couriers who were standing by

## VILLAGE VOICE

ready to dash off to Falmouth, Truro, Plymouth, Exeter and on to London, changing horses at the recognised staging posts along the way. Maybe some bon-fires were lit as well, but this now seems doubtful because, although they had already been prepared, they could not be ignited without the permission of a Justice of the Peace, without which anybody setting fire to one was liable to be severely punished.

ALL along the coast the militia was called out and the nation held its breath for a week while the Armada lumbered up the Channel. Plymouth, bursting at the seams with ships and soldiers, had hastily prepared a ring of blockhouses with gunsites, some of which can still be seen, on Drake's Island and from Mount Batten round the Hoe and Devil's Point to Mount Edgcombe; the inhabitants must have wondered what on earth was going to happen when the Armada appeared between them and the rock on which Eddystone Lighthouse now stands. In the event, Drake inflicted some damage and the Spaniards went on their way. The English pursued them up the Channel and continued their attack, often waiting for the heavy Spanish hulks to heel over in the wind before holing them with gunshot below the waterline. A shaken but by no means crippled Armada eventually reached Calais, only to find that the 30,000 troops they had come to collect were not ready to embark because they had been blockaded by the Dutch. While the Spaniards were digesting this unsatisfactory state of affairs, Drake floated eight fireships into the Calais Roads. The Spaniards panicked, cut their cables and fled eastwards, scattering as they went. Next day, they were forced into a major battle offshore at Gravelines and were thankful to escape total destruction on the Danish sand dunes through a change in the wind which allowed them to flee northwards, but without stores, water or repairs. They had then to face the rigours of the stormy coasts of Scotland and Ireland where many noble ships, some of them already damaged, were broken to pieces on the rocks. Of the 130 ships that left Spain, barely one-half returned home.

AFTER the Armada, Drake and Hawkins continued to seek booty on the Spanish Main but, with meagre financial backing and the small English army bogged down in Ireland, they were not strong enough to sieze and hold the former Spanish outposts in the West Indies. The real fruits of Devon's maritime ascendancy were not realised until the early 1600s when small groups of well found colonists sailed out of Plymouth and successfully gained footholds in Virginia and New England, where they were soon joined by thousands more to form the nucleus of the American nation. In the words of the distinguished historian G.M.Trevelyan, summarising his thoughts on the Elizabethan age, he gives full credit to Drake and Raleigh for their exploits and believes: "Englishmen have reason to be proud to look back on the reign as the most fortunate as well as the most wonderful in their history."

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# Fishing - a Tourist attraction ?



My experience of fishing in Devon is limited. It netted a fair quantity of shrimps and hooked an occasional dab in my youth at Exmouth; latterly I have, through the courtesy of friends who own boats, scoured the waters of Bigbury Bay for pollack, culminating in my finest haul - a bucket-ful of mackerel and a 3lb bass. Thus, I am hardly in a position to comment on fishing in the county, other than to confirm that it is a pleasant pastime in a pleasant place with pleasant people. Yet it seems to lack the glamour, indeed the showmanship, that I have seen in other lands. I remember particularly the way it is dressed up in America and cannot help feeling that, if one of our objects these days is to encourage tourism, we might borrow some of their ideas.

Back in 1938, I spent a year as a research fellow in New York, during which I discussed fishing with a friend who was similarly occupied in Boston. Our experiences were quite different. He was invited to join a party for a day's outing. Having boarded a smart looking craft at the civilised hour of ten in the morning, they sped straight out to sea for two hours, turned off the engine and drifted. Out came the fishing tackle which consisted of six coarse nets stuffed with rotting fish, each the size of a small football with a hook and line leading to a large float. These they nonchalantly threw overboard and retired below for a sumptuous lunch with unlimited wines and spirits. Two hours later they emerged to pull in the lines and found they had caught two large fish which they unhooked, laid on the deck at their feet for a photograph and then chucked back. Then they went home.

My experience was rather different. Invited by three colleagues with whom I was working to go down for ten days' fishing in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, we set off by train. Some hundred miles short of our destination, we changed into what was referred to as an old-timer, in which the last coach was an open space with seats around the edge and three cuspidors on the floor. We joined about ten men who were already there, chewing tobacco and spitting with deadly accuracy into the spittoons. I was given a quid to chew and was soon salivating freely. Regretfully, I could not control the trajectory of my sputum and when I found myself leaning forwards to take advantage of gravity, I gave up and swallowed the stuff.

Alighting at Sweetwater, where Dr. Cameron one of our group lived, I was interested to see how alcohol was obtained in a "dry" state, as Tennessee was then. Dr. Cameron telephoned a bootlegger whom he arranged to meet in a lane a couple of miles outside town; he invited me to go along with him but advised me to play it softly as the man had by then four murders to his credit. We sampled various bottles from the back of the bootlegger's car and settled for a dozen of whisky. On returning home, we found that some wives and others had turned up and set off for the Cameron's shack in the mountains, a party of twelve in four cars. On the way up we crossed six little bridges, at each of which we stopped and knocked back a peg of whisky without coughing; passing a woodman's hut, I noticed the skins of at least a dozen rattlesnakes hanging out to dry on the wall. We reached the shack in pitch darkness just before midnight.

Promptly at four a.m. next morning we were up again, threw down a snort of whisky and set off by car up a rough road alongside the river (a large stream) which ran down the mountainside. We got off at intervals of half a mile with instructions to make our way upstream and be collected four hours later. I was the first to go, clad in a mackintosh suit that extended from my feet to the middle of my chest. Plunging down through the undergrowth in semi-darkness was not much fun but, having reached the river, I saw a nice rounded stone.....



which I thought would be a good starting point. I was about to step on it when I saw a large green snake curled up on top. Taken aback, I slipped and within seconds was awash. As a matter of fact, it was not too bad, as I dried quickly and got on with the fishing. One thing was soon obvious and that was the abundance of fish; there were several trout farms in the vicinity from which the stream was constantly fed for the benefit of people like us. Yet half the fish I caught did not look anything like trout; at least, they did not when there was enough light to see what they looked like. In the end, after four hours, I managed to sort out half a dozen trout measuring, in my judgement, not less than the stipulated eleven inches in length. We then went back to the shack for the biggest breakfast I have ever had in my life.

This routine was repeated each day, but soon we had far more trout than we could possibly eat and, with nobody within miles on whom we could offload the surplus, we rather lost our enthusiasm.

Whilst these experiences could never be exactly reproduced in Devon, I do not believe they should be dismissed as irrelevant. Some of the well-heeled visitors who come down here in the summer might jump at the chance of a day trip that combined comfort, good food and drink with a glimpse of the angling scene. As for trout fishing, such trout as I have seen in Devon rivers and streams have barely progressed beyond the tiddler stage. Yet we have the hatcheries to stock them, as they do on expensive rivers like the Test in Hampshire.

All we need is a few conveniently placed shacks from which fishermen may emerge at dawn and cull their quota without too much effort, perhaps under the gaze of some Dartmoor ponies; they might even see a poisonous snake.

++++

Has Dr Neville Oswald suggested an interesting and possibly highly profitable tourism project - which might even get backing from the S.W. Tourist Board ??

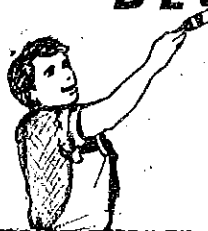
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# The Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks

REGINALD ADAMS, T.D., M.A., F.S.A.

The Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks is one of the ninety or more Guilds in the City of London which owe allegiance to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen from whom they receive, with one to two exceptions, a grant of livery and are therefore known as Livery Companies. The Parish Clerk's Company regards the fact that it is one of the exceptions as a mark of privilege since its Brethren possess an even older livery in the right, through long tradition, to wear clerical dress as servants of the Church.

The Company's first authenticated charter was granted by King Henry VI in 1442 to the "Chief or Parish Clerks of the City of London for the honour and glory of Almighty God and of the undefiled and most glorious Virgin Mary, His Mother, and on account of that special devotion they especially bore to Christ's Glorious confessor St. Nicholas, on whose day or festival we were first presented into this world, at the hands of a mother of memory ever to be revered." He thus gave corporate existence to the Fraternity of St Nicholas which had been in existence in the City of London as a religious guild since at least 1274 when there is a record of its members owning property near Bishopgate, where its first home was established on a site which is now appropriately named Clarks Place.

+ + + +

Through its history of seven centuries four kinds of activity can be traced in the work of the Company. The first is preserved in the name of Clerkenwell, where just outside the walls of the City a well can be seen today as evidence of the site where John Stow records that the clerks assembled in 1390 "to play some history of the holy scripture." They taught the stories of the Bible through the earliest form of drama.

The post-Reformation grant of arms to the Company in 1582 illustrates the next function since those who held the office of parish clerk had become responsible for the music of their churches. The crest is that of an open "prick song" book with a psalm tune inscribed. An organ was kept in the Company's hall in the ward of Cripplegate Within so that Brethren might practice melodies which, with the aid of a pitch pipe, they could sing as a lead to the congregations in their churches on the following Sunday.

The third activity was the duty laid on each parish clerk of the keeping of church registers. The Company, by the grant of its present operative charter to the Master, Wardens and Assistants in 1639, included Brethren representative of 129 parish in the City and Suburbs of London and the Liberties thereof,

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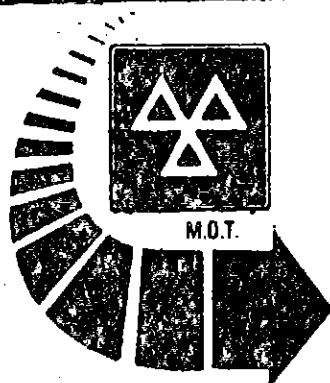
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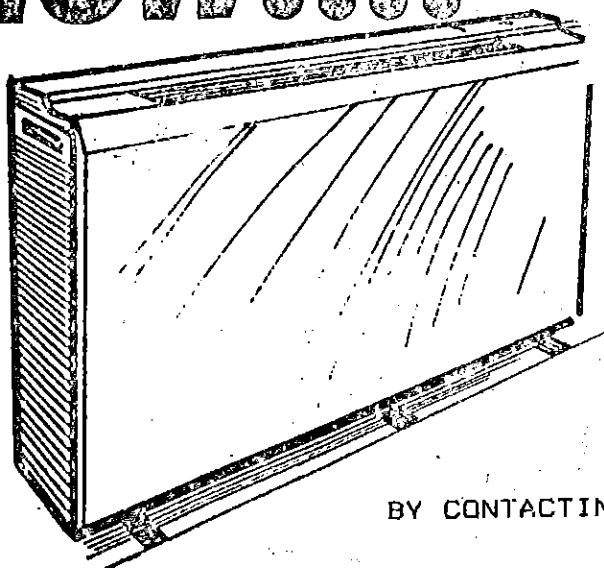
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the City of Westminster, the Borough of Southwark and the fifteen out-parishes adjacent."

By this time the duties of each appointed parish clerk included that of acting as registration officer for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen by completing the weekly "Bills of Mortality" which were for some time printed in the Company's hall on the Company's own press. These provide authoritative evidence of the population of London between the end of the sixteenth century and the start of the national system of registration in 1836, which superseded this role of the parish clerk. But, in the meantime, the extension of inhabited London - "within the Bills" in Dickensian phrase! was reflected in the foundation of 21 more parishes. In this way 150 parishes have become included within the ambit of the Parish Clerks' Company, just as tradesmen were recruited into the other Guilds who worked within a mile or so radius of the City.

+ + + +

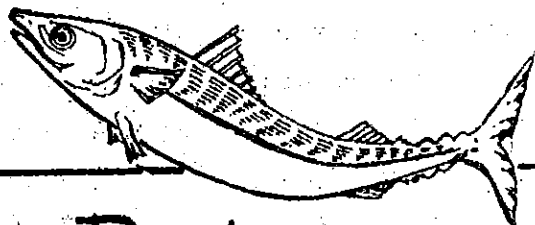
Today the size and composition of the Company remain exactly the same a century and a half later. Membership is restricted to 150 Brethren, each of whom is appointed to the office of parish clerk in these historical parishes, the existence of which within the City walls is perpetuated solely by the holder of this office. He is appointed to the freehold by the parochial church council of the existing churches or enlarged parishes within which the ancient parishes have been amalgamated. Only the clerks of such parishes are qualified to apply for admission to the Company.

This limitation makes the Parish Clerks' Company exceptional in another sense. As with only a few of the Livery Companies, its members must have a close connection with its original function. This establishes the fourth and present-day role of the Company - that of support for the City Churches. The personal qualification for membership comes from involvement in a wide range of duties such as Readers, Churchwardens, organists, vergers and active members of the Anglican Communion.

=====

In London, in Edward III's reign, the bells of St. Martin's-le-Grand rang curfew for the closing of the city gates and the shutting of all taverns. Before the end of the 14th century the Great Bell of Bow had become the Common Bell of London, and curfew was then rung by the whole peal of Bow. The Customary Records of London for the year 1495 show that curfew custom was then strictly enforced in the city:- "yf ther be anye paryshe clerke that ryngeth curfewe after the curfewe be ronge at Bowe Chyrche, or Saint Brydes Chyrche, or Saint Gyles without Cripelgat, all suche to be presented" (that is, the offending clerk was to be summoned to appear before the Quest - or Court-of Wardmote). Another typical record is furnished by the Articles of Faversham settled in 1531:- "Imprimis, the sexton, or his sufficient deputy, shall lye in the church steeple; and at eight O'clock every night shall ring the ourfewe by the space of a quarter of an hour, with such bell as of old time hath been accustomed." The curfew was evidently a municipal rather than a state institution. Curfew is still rung in several English towns and villages throughout the year - in some places at 8 O'clock, in others at 9 o'clock, and this variation of time has existed for at least four centuries. In the Middle Ages curfew ringing began at Michaelmas and ended at Lady Day.

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Throughout the centuries of civilisation flowers and plants have figured in folklore, superstition and even religious beliefs. Village Voice decided to research into

# A Few Ancient Legends

One of the most charming of legends is concerned with the story of Persephone on her return to the upper world. As she followed the dark path from Pluto's gloomy regions, coming up gradually into earth's sunlight, hosts of Primroses sprang up in her footsteps, and when she at last greeted her waiting mother a trail of gold lay behind her.

The first Primrose one sees in spring is a magic flower. It is a key to happiness. If you carry one in your hand you may be lucky enough to come to a castle with an iron-studded door. Touch the door with the Primrose, and it will fly open. Enter, and you will see a great pile of Primroses. Under the flowers lies a treasure. You may take the treasure, but be careful to replace the flowers. Fail to observe this precaution, and the treasure will be lost before you can get out of the castle. Like all ancient legends this one is full of meaning and symbolism.

Numbers of flowers are known as Cuckoo Flowers. It shows how much most of us love those two ringing notes, unlike the notes of any other bird. The real Cuckoo Flower is the Meadow Bittercress, often called Milkmaid's or Lady's Smocks. Ragged-robins are called Cuckoo Gilly Flowers and their relatives, the Red Campions are known to many an old Devonian as "geuky flowers; this queer word is easy to understand when you remember that 'gewk and gog' were local names for the Cuckoo. The Wild Arum of the hedge banks is the Cuckoo-pint, and the Wood-sorrel is Cuckoo's-bread. Before he begins to sing the bird is reputed to take a mouthful of the leaves of Wood-sorrel. The opening buds of the Hawthorn are sometimes called bread-and-cheese, and in Sussex the Whitethorn is known amongst old country folk as the Cuckoo's bread and cheese tree!

The Wild Peony has the power, according to old legends, to cure epilepsy. The root, fresh gathered, washed clean, and broken into small pieces is, it is said, the most beneficial part of the plant. But legend also says there is danger in the remedy; should a Woodpecker be in sight at the moment when the patient is carrying out the cure and eating the root, a worse fate is in store for the afflicted one, for it is told they will surely be stricken with blindness. Many old legends persist in the names country folk have given to certain wild flowers. Vervain is called Pigeon's Grass, because pigeons and doves use it to clear their sight, and Eyebright (Euphrasia) is useful in the same way to Linnets

THERE IS TO BE ANOTHER SPANISH

ARMADA IN 1988

This time it can be anticipated its crews will receive a welcome in Plymouth, for they will be taking part in a race against Britons sailing from San Sebastian as part of the 'Armada 400' Celebrations.

Hundreds of miles of Britain's coastline from Cornwall to Berwick-on-Tweed are proposed to be lit up with beacons. Thurlestone, too, hopes to play a part in celebrating this great event of 400 years ago.

If you want to know more - if you want to play any part - get in touch with Parish Council Vice-Chairman Derrick Yeoman at No 8 Parkfield, Thurlestone - or just telephone 560607.

A FEW ANCIENT

LEGENDS - continued

from previous page

WHEN Eve was banished from Paradise the snow was falling.

It was a sight she had never seen or imagined, and the desolation of the earth alarmed her. She noticed that the snow was covering all her flowers, burying them out of sight, and she began to weep bitterly. To lose her beloved flowers was the worst punishment that could come to her. Her grief was so great that an angel came to comfort her. In his pity he caught a snowflake in his hand, and, to her amazement, she saw it change to the flower we call Snowdrop.

He gave the flower to Eve and she smiled through her tears. Then she saw that the flowers were springing up all round the feet of the angel. And that is how, according to legend, Snowdrops came to earth. In spite of its beauty however, the Snowdrop is one of the 'unlucky' flowers, and the first Snowdrop of spring must never be carried into the house.

Legends about pixies and flowers are numerous. Perhaps the Stitchwort is the favourite of the 'Little People'. We may admire and love these pretty blossoms which are amongst the prettiest of our spring flowers, but to pick them is to beg for trouble and to run the risk of being 'kidnapped and Pixy-led.' Starwort seems to exactly describe the appearance of the starry blossoms in a Blackthorn hedge, but names such as 'Adder's-meat' is very curious and takes us right at once into the middle of the subject of plant names which refer to birds, animals and reptiles. Watch out for another chapter on the subject of ancient legends in the next issue of Village Voice.

# Take Time

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It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take Time to Pray . . . . .

It is the greatest power on earth.

Take Time to Love & be Loved . . . .

It is a God-given privilege . . . .

Take Time to be Friendly . . . . .

It is the road to happiness.

Take Time to Laugh . . . . .

It is the music of the soul.

Take Time to Give . . . . .

It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take Time to Work . . . . .

It is the price of success.

Take Time to Do Charity . . . . .

It is the key to heaven.



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# From Myddleton to Milton

Baswd on "The Story of a Devon Village" by the late Major G.W.Davis, who resided at 'Webbers' in South Milton.

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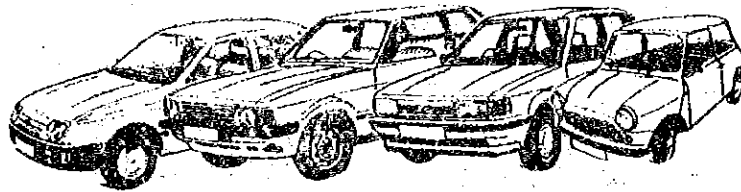
At the time of the Domesday Survey Thurlestone and Hope Cove were just burnt out ruins after raids by the Irish who landed at a cove just off Thurlestone, but from available records it seems that the early inhabitants of South Milton were more fortunate, taking refuge in a stockaded farm at Whitlocksworthy, which appears to have been the main rallying point of the area.

In all early records South Milton was named Middleton, with the area of Sutton being Southton and Upton recorded as Upperton. The word 'ton' is the Anglo-Saxon meaning for a settlement or habitation, and Saxon pottery is known to have been found in the village as recently as 1949. There are also signs of an early settlement on high ground to the south of the village where stone implements and a very early medieval copper cruifix were found and subsequently given to South Milton Church. A licence for the church was granted in 1269 by Bishop Broniscombe. In A.D. 1270 it is recorded that "The taxation of the village of Alfington and its chapel Myddetone and Hywsh (Huish) were appointed to dean and chapter of Salisbury." The chapel then erected was probably of rough cob or wattle and daub and the present church was built about 1432 on the site of this chapel, being thatched with reed. The list of vicars dates from Sir Thomas de Kentisbury in 1309. The font is particularly interesting, circular in shape and decorated with strange primitive designs. Human heads forming the main frieze above the thick cable moulding around the base. You can define the face of a bearded man close to that of a woman, and it has been suggested it could be either Adam and Eve or the Lord of South Milton with his Lady. This early Norman font is certainly one of the most curious and fascinating in the district.

The actual Manor of South Milton really starts at Whitlocksworthy Farm which was unadoubtably the first settled Manor House. After Sir William Pepard the Manor came to Carew of Hacombe and was sold off to Sir James Bagge of Plymouth, and then by marriage came to the Rupe family, who lived there. There is an old brass on the floor of the vestry in the church to an early member of that family. From the Rupe's it came by marriage to the Ilbert family, and then from Whitlocksworthy the Manor House moved to Horswell House. The present Horswell House was erected on the site of the original mansion after it had been destroyed by a disasterous fire. Risdon in his survey in 1640 stated "In the parish is Horswell House the seat of Mrs Ilbert relict (widow) of the late William Ilbert Esq.,"

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## VILLAGE VOICE

at 'Webbers Cottage' (which adjoins the church, then called 'Diamonds' or 'Mount Pleasant', it was noticed that oak rafters were of carved oak, and in comparing them with the remains of the old rood screen in the church it was found that the pattern was identical. After research it was found that in 1635 on the fall of Fort Charles (Salcombe Castle as it is now known), the Parliamentary troops came to South Milton in pursuit of Prince Maurice who was supposed to be at Whitley, and after pulling down the village cross they also pulled down the rood screen of the church, and it must be assumed the timbers of that screen subsequently found its way to the building of the cottage. In some way by chance in going through some old records it was found that in early times the priest lived opposite the church. One part of Manor Cottage (which adjoins the garage filling station) is very old and was always called the 'Priests House'. Next door to this cottage there was an old barn (now pulled down and re-built) and on the outside wall was a niche with the remains of a crucifix in it, unfortunately too rotten to preserve.

'Collicot' or 'Collycot' (now spelt 'Collacot') is thought to be one of the oldest buildings in the parish. The Anglo Saxon meaning of the name is 'The holding by the stream'. It was apparently held by the Elliot family until about 1940. In the 13th century a John Elliot of 'Sutton and Collicot' had twelve sons. One of these who lived at Courtlands on the Avon became a Bishop and progenitor of the St. Germans branch of the family and ancestor of the Earl. Another son, William, became vicar of West Alvington.

The original village shop was owned by two old ladies and stood on a site adjacent to the present entrance to Backshay Close. There is a story that tobacco was kept in jars in those days and one Miltonian with a desire for a cheap smoke would ask the old ladies to get something down from one of the shelves whilst helping himself to some tobacco. However, they spotted this one day and substituted black treacle for tobacco with a somewhat dire result on his next visit. The old ladies had a lodger, and when he left, because he was not as clean as he might have been they took his bedding out at the back of the shop to burn - and caught the thatch on fire. A Mr S. Baker, who then farmed Trendwell, working on his farm, saw the smoke, ran to the shop and running inside found the two old ladies had crept into bed in order, one supposes, to die in their beds as they had to be forcibly carried out.

In the days before television or the motor-car many village activities were held in a barn at Wakehams farm, but eventually a Village Hall was built in 1913. Such events drew capacity houses in those days. At the Coronation of King George V there was a village feast - 300lbs of meat, 2 barrels of cider and 2 of beer amongst other things for 302 inhabitants.

Incidentally, a field to the south of the village has always been called 'The Vineyard' - and was probably where vines were grown to make wine for the church and clergy. !

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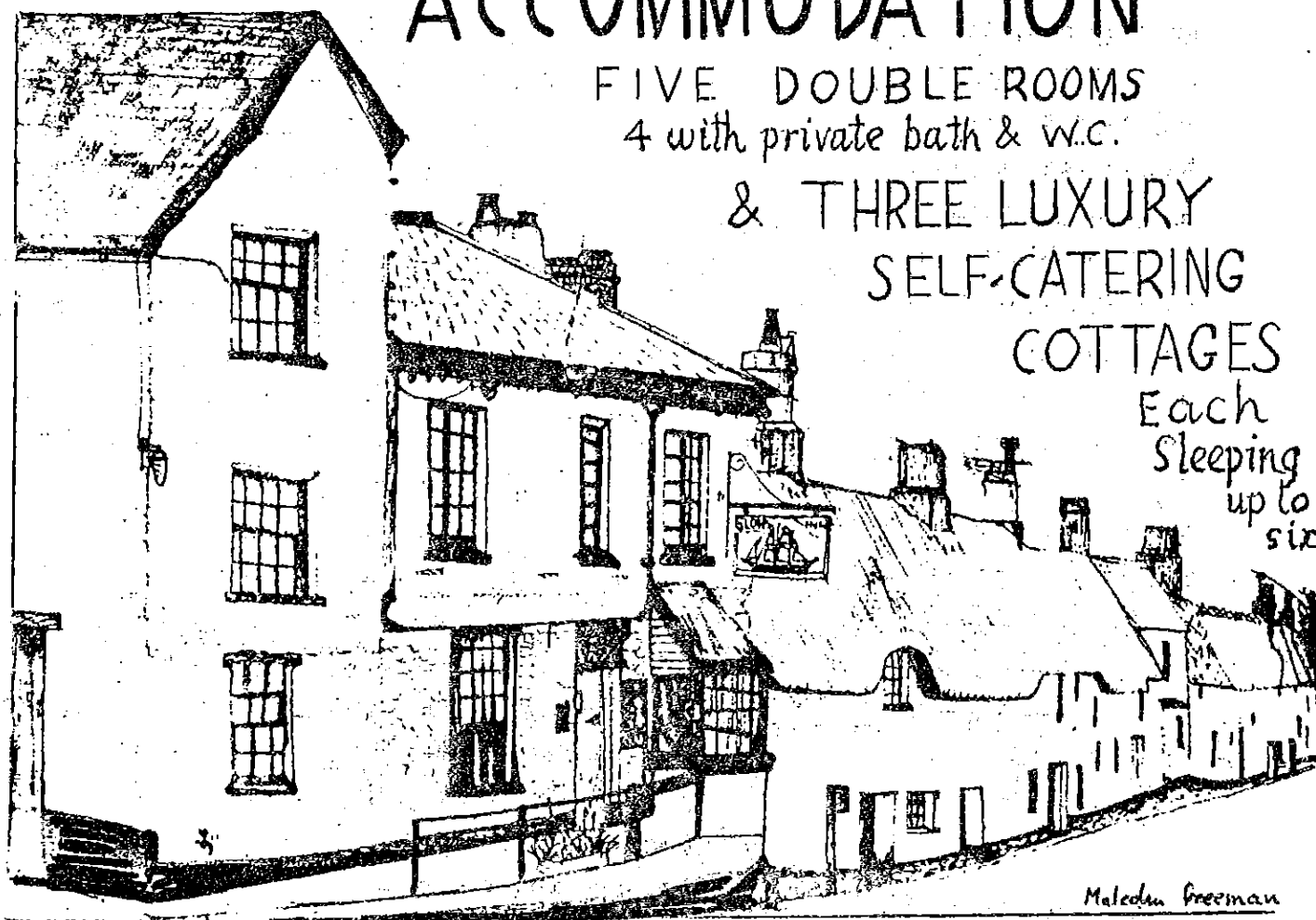
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# Local Government - What of the future?

As the Manor Courts declined, the influence, wealth and responsibility of the Church increased. The chancel of the parish church was sacred but the body of the building was the parish hall and the only sheltered public meeting place of the inhabitants of the parish. The Church as an organisation had recognised rights and also obligations of Christian charity. The parson was paid by means of the tithe, which was a local income tax levied in kind on the produce of land. He combined in his person the offices of schoolmaster, registrar and religious adviser. Attendance at church was normal and enforceable. At Easter everybody went.

It is, therefore, not surprising that the inhabitants began to meet together under the parson's direction for the social and administrative purposes of their religious life. Such meetings were often held in the Vestry after which they came to be named. The old civil obligation of the Lord of the Manor to maintain his starving tenants was matched by the religious obligations of charity. Here again facts outran institutions. The Church and especially the monasteries came to administer the only generally recognised system of unemployment relief and it was the parson's duty to enjoin almsgiving and the succour of the poor upon his flock. Charity, however, remained a virtue and its organisation local. It was essential that the burden should be evenly spread and as early as the fourteenth century attempts were made to make vagrancy a crime. The dissolution of the monasteries and the improvement in communications made the voluntary system unworkable. It was accordingly quite natural for the legislators of 1601 to confer upon the vestries the power of levying a poor rate: in so doing they were merely strengthening machinery which existed already and which was in their mind proper to the relief of poverty and the exercise of charity.

But meetings of inhabitants in an expanding population have an inherent disadvantage; they become unwieldily large and so, especially but by no means exclusively, in urban areas authority tended to slip into the hands of smaller committees called Select Vestries which claimed a separate existence by immemorial custom and which often were self-perpetuating. These bodies could be administratively more efficient than the open vestries and so their number was increased by public and private legislation but in the absence of a powerful and impartial auditing system they became notoriously corrupt. By the Napoleonic Wars this latter characteristic had become important because the vestries were beginning to administer huge sums of money. By 1819 they were levying rates which in the aggregate exceeded £10 millions a year, a

## VILLAGE VOICE

a reform was demanded and attempted: the Sturges Bourne Act enabled an open vestry by adopting the Act to create an annually elected committee (also called a Select Vestry) to administer poor relief.

Meanwhile the countryside was being transformed by inclosures. The manors had resembled islands of cultivation in a sea of common or unenclosed waste which was subject to public or quasi-public rights; the modernisation of agriculture ended the older collective methods of farming. Private ownership spread across the wastes and the commoners of the manor were compensated for their extinguished rights with smallholdings and allotments for food, fuel, stone and recreation. Such allotments existed mainly for the relief of poverty and it was as natural to place them under the control of the vestry as it had been to enable that same vestry to raise poor rates. The inclosure awards in redistributing property made extensive redistributions of public obligations and usually committed their supervision to the vestries. As a result the awards became, and in many places still are the fundamental documents of parish administration.

Now the vestry was in origin an ecclesiastical institution and depended for its efficacy upon religious unity. The damage done to the reputation of the ancient parochial system by its amateurishness and occasional corruption was completed by the Methodist revival. In hundreds of parishes the representative of the established church had to preside over an assembly composed mainly or wholly of people who were actively hostile to that church. Over extensive areas the church rate ceased to be levied and parish administration was reduced to the barest legal minimum. The critics who prized efficiency above democracy found unexpected allies in the democratic assemblies themselves and the glaring injustices inherent in the working of the Poor Law cried out for reform. From the third decade of the nineteenth century onwards public opinion turned, on the whole, against the parish. The Poor Law Act of 1834 withdrew much of the poor law administration from the parochial authorities and as new administrative services were created to meet the increasing elaboration of society they were committed as a rule to specialised bodies. The technique of organising these services on a comprehensive basis had not been learned. Local Government, notorious half a century later for inefficiency and complication. The confusion was spectacular and required twenty years of legislation and experiment to straighten out.

So you now have a system based upon that legislation and the coping stone of the new edifice was the Local Government Act, 1894. This took a year to pass and excited much controversy both in Parliament and outside; Gladstone's government had to deal with over eight hundred amendments; it was the proposal to create parish councils which caused the uproar. After all in 1894 the squire, the parson and sometimes the schoolmaster were the leaders of the village. Their influence depended upon their traditional prestige, their superior education

OVERPAGE:::



and their relative wealth, and, in a hierarchical society, upon their social standing. The vestries had followed their lead, taken their advice or bowed to their power. The parish councils were regarded as an intrusion. Most of them began without the co-operation of the influential and had even to face their active opposition. This, in an age when higher education was the privilege of a class, was a serious matter.

But their difficulties had only begun. In the 'seventies agriculture entered upon the long decline which only ended with the Second World War. The squire maintained his state on industrial investments. The revenue of parish councils came mainly from rates on agricultural land. Within eighteen months of their creation agricultural land was derated by 50 per cent without compensation. Until 1914 parish councils were locally opposed, often derided and poor. Nevertheless Parliament from time to time saw fit to increase their functions and it was in this period that they acquired their modern powers in relation to allotments, postal facilities and open spaces. The inconsistent currents of government policy (of which these early events are examples) are mainly responsible for the peculiar history of 20th century parish administration: the tendency (it can scarcely be called a policy) to give new functions to parish councils whilst reducing their financial assets was exaggerated during the period of the wars. Their spending powers, already attenuated by inflation, were again reduced (as usual without compensation) by still further derating and by new administrative methods introduced for collecting rates. Twentieth-century financial legislation has mostly been passed without regard to the interests of parish local government. From a strictly administrative standpoint the parish councils have remained the repositories of powers appropriate to an earlier stage in the development of society, and parish councils, in common with all other types of local government, must consider how they as institutions can be squared with the requirements of the new age.

(With grateful acknowledgment to Charles Arnold-Baker, O.B.E.,)

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# WALTER DEE

WHEN you read that Archaeologists in North Yorkshire plan a three-year study of ancient rabbit holes and traps, don't you really wonder what sort of a grant is sanctioned for that. From the Arts Council maybe?

+ + + + +

I have not heard that the introduction of the forthcoming 'Poll Tax' will also cover the sewerage and water rate, nor is it clear how Parish Councils will continue to operate without the present rate precept system. It couldn't mean that one more cherished process of local government is destined to return to the era of the Annual Parish Meeting - could it?

I wonder how hotels and holiday camps will go on when every 'live-in' adult employee will be liable for this Poll Tax. Perhaps even by the time this column is printed we shall know.

I'm not too sure the 'rich' should bank on getting richer, though! Certainly the poor look like being . . . Oh, why worry, there is always the DHSS.

+ + + + +

When, in July, the South West Water Authority were asking that we should be careful in the use of water - not because of a water shortage, but 'because the system of supply was being overloaded' - I really do have to wonder just what that Authority do with all the sewerage and water rate millions they bleed out of us every year. Our water supply and our sewerage system is just the same now as it has been for years past - yet the cost is astronomical these days. Compared with electricity, gas and telephone services I put South West Water even below British Rail! (Can you get any lower than that?)

+ + + + +

Someone asked the other day if local councils are allowed to keep secret Minutes. The answer is a very positive NO. Any matter taken in council from

which the public and press have been excluded by proper resolution, must be minuted in the Minutes of the Meeting, although such a minute need simply record sufficient detail to show what was discussed and clearly show what decision was taken.

+ + + + +

There seems to be an old local tradition that farms with strangely inter-mixed fields were a result of gambling. The late H.G. Hurrell (of South Brent) was told the story of 'Will's field, on a farm near Kingsbridge. Farmer Wills was helping on Court Farm at harvest time, about a century ago, when rain stopped work. The two sheltering farmers captured two spiders in a barn and raced them up a board; the six-acre field was 'Will's' bet - and he lost. Mr. Hurrell related that he has found more mixed fields 'through' gambling near South Brent, and heard of spider racing at Totnes market as recently as 1950. The spiders seem to complicate an already strangestory.

+ + + + +

I was asked recently if I thought dogs possessed 'extra-sensory perception' because of two - I'm assured true - stories:

A night-fighter pilot during the war had two Alsatians, and normally they would happily occupy the crewroom until their master came back from a foray. One night, asleep in their corner they suddenly rose to their feet and began to howl. Twenty minutes later Control reported that they had 'lost contact' with the pilot's Mosquito aircraft. Plane and pilot were never seen again.

Then there was the instance, I am told, of a lady walking her retriever dog on the Torbay cliff footpath when the dog refused to cross a small foot-bridge over an 80 foot chasm, and would not let his mistress cross. She turned back, somewhat puzzled and concerned. That night the bridge collapsed.

+ + + + +

Are you subject to the menace of midges? A tip was given me from someone who has visited China, and it seems they use a weak solution of Epsom salts on the skin as a means of discouraging the little blighters' attention. (Untried & unwarranted!)

Concluding Harry Huggins' Bird Talk:

there was a Black Redstart on the lawn. My wife liked the flat, fortunately, because anywhere that had a wintering Black Redstart had to be for me: I have often wondered if Eagle Developments put it there!

---

DONT FORGET...THE KINGSBRIDGE SHOW...

Borough Kingsbridge

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5th.

Entrance Fee: Adults £1.50 Children 50p.

Free Car Parking - in car parks.

DON'T FORGET...DON'T FORGET...DON'T FORGET...DON'T FORGET...

---

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

At our meeting on July 10th Dr. Neville Oswald gave a very interesting talk on the Armada. His dry humour and obvious knowledge of the subject kept everybody interested and it was without doubt one which could be expanded upon at a later date, perhaps next year in the lead up to the 400th anniversary of the defeat.

At the September meeting the speaker will be Derek Brown of South-West Water - a talk which should produce a number of very interesting questions and observations.

Members are reminded that the October meeting will take place at the Golf Club, when non-playing as well as playing members will be welcome at the lunch. More details at September's meeting.

D.M. Yeoman. Hon. Sec.

---

# VIVA THURLESTONE!

You can't get away from Thurlestone, can you? On holiday in Spain earlier this year, I was lucky enough to stay for a while at a place called Aiguablava, where a superb hotel blends into the red cliffs of the Costa Brava. The Aigua Blava Hotel is owned and run by one of Spain's greatest hoteliers, Xiquet Sabater. His hotel is so popular that there is a waiting list to stay there during the peak holiday periods.

Xiquet Sabater is also the possessor of a fine memory. When he saw my home address, he said: "Thurlestone?...I had some guests here who came from Thurlestone...they were golfers and had a friend who had a villa near here...In fact I think they were founder members of the Aigua Blava Golfing Society...Please ask them to renew their subscriptions when you get home as they are slightly overdue and I can't keep our resident caddies waiting for them much longer.."

Xiquet Sabater is also possessed of an excellent sense of humour because I believe the Thurlestone golfers last stayed at the hotel in 1965!

Can anyone name the golfers concerned? Village Voice would be happy to print their memories of golfing in the Costa Brava all those years ago! K.M.

CREAM TEAS in aid of ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE and RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

The Thurlestone and South Milton Fellowship have been serving Cream Teas every Thursday in the Rectory Barn throughout June, July and August, and the last one will be on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd. These have been going extremely well and at the time of writing there have been 90 plus on the last two Thursdays.

+ + + + +

AS A FINAL FOLLOW UP - PLEASE COME TO OUR

C O F F E E M O R N I N G & B R I N G A N D B U Y

to be held in the PARISH HALL

on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th 1987 - 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon

STALLS will include: Cakes & Delicatessen, Produce, Fancy, Bric-a-Brac, 'Nearly New', Books, etc.

VERY GOOD DRAW with 21 lovely prizes

(This has been an 'on-going' DRAW throughout the summer and will be drawn at 11.45 a.m.)

Contributions towards any of the Stalls will be very gratefully received and may be taken to any of the following or will be collected on request, or may be taken to the Parish Hall on the morning of the sale.

Mrs Stephens  
The Rectory  
560232

Mrs Lindahl  
Aune Cliff  
Bantham  
560401

Mrs Galloway  
Edens,  
Warren Road  
560453

We hope that the final target of £1,000 will be reached so please help us to achieve this.

N. S. P. C. C.

C H R I S T M A S B A Z A A R

will be held in THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

on SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER at 2 p.m.

Children's Clothes and toys + Christmas Gifts + Crackers  
and Cards + Jewellery + Bric-a-Brac + Clothes Stall +  
Cake Stall + Raffle

Contributions for any of the above will be gratefully received and may be brought to the Hall on the morning of the Bazaar. Alternatively - please contact any of the following:

Mrs J. Barton, 9 Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone - 560864  
Mrs M. Oswald, The Old Rectory, Thurlestone - 560555  
Mrs J. Wilson, Skerries, South Milton ----- 560302

Mrs A.M. Dickins, Hon. Secy. Kingsbridge & Thurlestone District of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children write:  
On Tuesday 28th July a Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy Sale held at the home of Mrs J. Barton raised £266. A Flag Day held in Kingsbridge on 31st. July realised £244. Grateful thanks to all concerned.

# HIGH BANKS and deep Lanes

KENNETH  
WEEDY

+++++

Soon after I first started work on a Devon farm in the Autumn of 1932 it was decided that we would concrete the surround of a newly installed sheep dip. As the spare hand, I was told to take a horse and cart to a local quarry to get the necessary broken stone aggregate for the mix. I asked how much I should get and was told "Git 'bout dree parts of a gurry-butt load." Newly arrived from the North of England I probably gawped like a stranded fish and when I queried what was meant I was asked if I didn't understand plain English. It clearly both puzzled and annoyed the speaker that anyone should not be familiar with a measurement of volume which he and his forbears had used for generations. It was to be nearly forty years before I was to hear the term again.

In the late 1700's a number of educated and observant men were travelling all round the British Isles, surveying the state of agriculture; noting and commenting on differences in practice between one region and another, condemning the obsolete and inefficient and extolling the benefits of methods which they held to be better. Probably the best known of these men was William Cobbett, whose journal 'Rural Rides' became a classic. However, at the same time, two others of less fame were on the road: William Marshall who wrote 'The Rural Economy of the West of England' and Charles Vancouver, author of 'A General View of the Agriculture of the County of Devon.' Marshall, the earlier of the two, was an advocate of the setting up of a government Board of Agriculture and there can be little doubt that his strongly expressed opinions were in part responsible for this being done. Vancouver's survey was, in fact, subtitled 'A Work drawn up for the Consideration of the Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement.'

I had hardly started to read Marshall's book of 1796 when lo and behold there once again was my old friend, the Gurry-Butt, and all was revealed. Marshall describes that during his tours of West and South Devon, including the South Hams, he found that by far the commonest form of transport on the farm for heavy loads was not the wheeled cart or wagon of later years but a strong, heavy and rather crudely built sledge, made out of two tree trunks of about nine inches to a foot in diameter and 'runners', with a rectangular shallow box body on top. They came in several sizes, to be pulled by a team varying between one horse and six oxen. "Gurry" was the mediaeval Devon word for dung and the Gurry-Butt was a sledge which, when loaded with manure, could be pulled by two oxen. Now this form of transport had several advantages. Above all, in a backward and rather impoverished area such as much of rural Devon then was, it was cheap to make out of readily available materials; it did not need the skills of wheelrights or wagon builders; being low to the ground it was easy to load and, finally, unloading was simplicity itself - you merely brought the hauling animals round until they were at right angles to the sledge when, with one good heave, they turned the whole thing upside down. But, of course, it had one major disadvantage. The Scottish road builder, MacAdam, was a contemporary and only the main roads in the most densely populated areas were being converted to his turnpike surfaces. For at least eight months of the year in our high rainfall area the sledges played havoc with the unmade roads, reducing them to a near impassable morass. As the mud started to dry out in the Spring, it was the custom to try to make good some of the damage by labourers using their 'Devon Long Stick' spades, (which our roadmen still use to-day), to shovel it out of the track, throwing the congealing mud up on to the roadside hedge banks. Actually the roadway got a little deeper and the banks got higher, giving rise to the typical Devon lane we know so well.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE----

The half-dry mud and slurry from the roads had another use, as the basis of 'cob' for building walls. Taken to the site in the box of the gurry-butt, chopped straw was added and trodden in to a thick paste by human feet, in much the same way as grapes were previously trodden in the wine making process. Walls, whether of enclosures, farm buildings or dwellings, were built up in courses of twelve to eighteen inches at a time, each being allowed to dry out before the next was added. Marshall was kindly disposed towards cob, commenting that it made a cottage warm in winter and cool in summer. He underlined the well known fact that if walls of this material are kept dry, particularly at the top and bottom, they have a life of very many years. Vancouver on the other hand was a bit sniffy about cob, saying that he could not understand why, in a county where stone was so abundant, such a primitive material should be so popular, although he did concede that it was cheap. He states that a cottage, consisting of a living room with a hearth and an oven, plus a scullery, larder and storeroom, with two bedrooms upstairs, built of cob, could be erected for £60.

Much of our agriculture in Devon came in for some fairly scathing criticism from both writers, strictures which the county's inhabitants themselves did not escape. Marshall accuses them of having 'an over-rated estimate of themselves.' He attributed this to the fact that the South-West was probably the first area of England to come into contact with traders, such as Phoenicians, from the civilised areas of the Mediterranean basin and were, in consequence, the most advanced citizens in the realm at that time. Their only fault was, he claimed, that they had just failed to realise that times had changed and the centres of civilising influences had moved to central and northern Europe! The food of the working people was also rated as being below par, barley bread, skimmed milk cheese and potatoes being the staples of the labourers and small working farmers, with any form of meat spearing only rarely on their menus. Cider and beer were the beverages, plus (occasionally), and here I quote both Marshall's words and spelling, "a bafe kind of fpirit diftilled from the lees of cider and fmuggled French brandy" ... Devon Calvados?

Our oxen were judged as being too small, which is surprising in view of the size of our South Hams cattle which were originally draught animals. Work horses came in for criticism on account of their hairy legs and feet, the Suffolk Punch or the Clydesdale being adjudged much better suited to our soils - a view which anyone who has worked with Shires in Devon's mud must share. Farm implements in the main were judged to be suitable for their tasks and the terrain, with one outstanding exception ... the pitchfork. Both writers pour scorn on this humble tool. It appears that in Dorset and counties further East and North pitchfork prongs were never less than twelve and most commonly, eighteen inches in length, while in Devon ten inches or less was the rule. "A man could pick up more hay with a soldier's dinner fork" and "With it a man might about impale and lift a rook's nest, but no more" are typical comments.

As a social commentary both reports contain some considerable surprises. Devon, and the area adound Tavistock in particular, receive praise for the existence of Provident Societies or, as they are widely called Box Clubs, which made provision for the old age or infirmity of their members and Marshall strongly advocates that the formation of such clubs on a nation wide scale should be 'an object of the first magnitude'. However, a thing which is surprising is the condemnation of the grouping of cottages into small hamlets, instead of being isolated and scattered on the farms. Such grouping of dwellings is alleged by by both authors to give rise to 'much immorality and creation of jealousy.'

But the picture which endures with me comes from the pen of Marshall when he describes ploughing in the South Hams. The ploughman and his accompanying plough boy sang to their team of animals as they worked. This is how he describes the habit: "The language, though in a great degree peculiar to the country, does not attract attention; but rather the tone or tune in which it is delivered. It resembles with great exactness the chantings of the Cathedral service. The Plough boy chants the counter tenor; the Ploughman throwing in ...

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## CONCLUDING 'High Banks & Deep Lanes

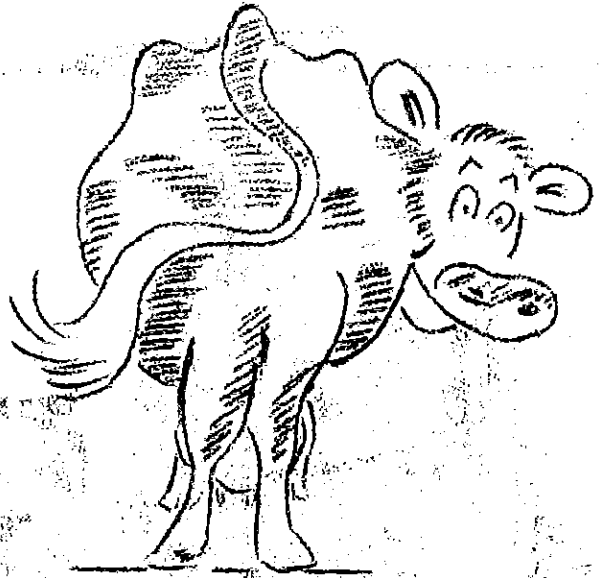
..at intervals, his hoarser notes. It is understood that this chanting march, which sometimes may be heard to a considerable distance, encourages and animates the team, as does the music of a marching army or the songs of rowers. Let this be as it may, I have never seen so much cheerfulness attending the operation of ploughing, anywhere, as in Devonshire.

Four good oxen on a single furrow plough turning the red earth under a Devon sky, with the man and boy singing to them at their work, is a scene to carry in your heart.

Kenneth Weedy

### RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP !

- + YOU are legally responsible for the conduct of your dog.
  - + Ensure <sup>dog</sup> is licensed and wears a collar bearing your name & address.
  - + Give your dog plenty of exercise and keep him under control.
  - + DO NOT LET YOUR DOG OUT ALONE except in YOUR garden and only if properly fenced to prevent escape
  - + Never let him foul other property especially gardens, sports area, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS, FOOTPATHS and verges. ENCOURAGE HIM TO USE YOUR OWN GARDEN !
  - + Be prepared to remove faeces accidentally deposited.
  - + Never leave your dog alone all day. It is unfair to neighbours if he is continually barking.
  - + Observe any byelaws and orders concerning dogs in parks and on the highway.
  - + You can be fined up to £100 if you allow you dog to foul footpaths and verges.
  - + CONTROL YOUR DOG ON BEACHES. Do not allow him to molest people or foul areas where children play.
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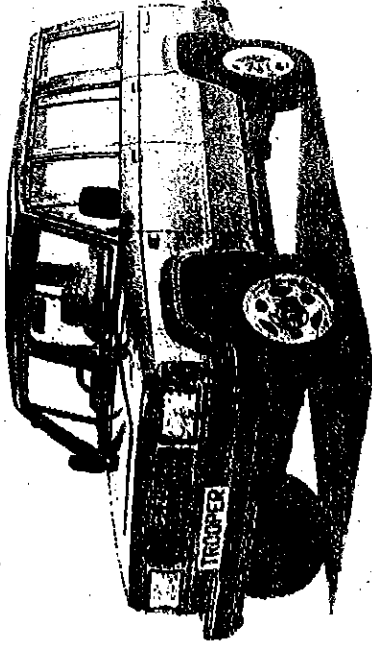
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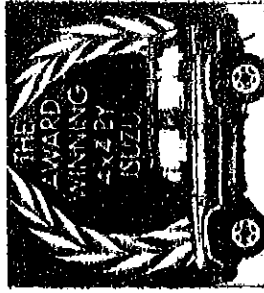
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PETER BETTERIDGE, Kingsbridge..2041

## CAN'T SLEEP ? COUNT SHEEP !

Half-awake I walked  
a dimly-seen sweet hawthorn lane  
Until sleep came;  
I lingered at a gate and talked  
A little with a lonely lamb.  
He told me of the great still night,  
Of calm starlight,  
And of the lady moon, who'd stoop  
For a kiss sometimes;  
Of grass as soft as sleep, of rhymes  
The tired flowers sang:  
The ageless April tales  
Of how, when sheep grew old,  
And their faith told,  
They went without a pang  
To far green fields, where fall  
Perpetual streams that call  
To deathless nightingales.  
And then I saw, hard by,  
A shepherd lad with shining eyes,  
And round him, gathered one by one  
Countless sheep, snow-white;  
More and more they crowded  
With tender cries,  
Till all the field was full  
Of voices and of coming sheep.  
Countless they came, and I  
Watched, until deep  
As dream-fields lie  
I was asleep.

WILLIAM KERR

(This charming poem repeated from  
a previous issue by countless  
requests).

## THOUGHTS WORTH REMEMBERING

Wise men learn more from fools  
than fools learn from wise men

CATO

We cannot prevent the black birds  
of evil flying over our heads, but  
we can prevent them from building  
their nests in our hair.

CHINESE PROVERB

Act nothing in furious passion;  
it's putting to sea in a storm.

Almost twenty years since, I heard  
a profane jest, and still remember  
it. How many pious passages of a  
far later date have I forgotten !  
It seems my soul is like a filthy  
pond, wherein fish die soon, and  
frogs live long. THOMAS FULLER

Thurlestone  
Sewerage  
South West Water  
will tell you  
it is illegal  
to cause pollution  
of streams, rivers  
and waterways, -  
why therefore  
should it be  
Legal for them  
to pollute the  
stream and sea  
at Leas Foot  
with untreated  
Sewage ?

This was how it was before,  
the blight of development!

Miss Marianne Farningham writing in the 'Christian World' titled her article 'Some Sea Villages':

"There are two delightful places in South Devon, beloved of the artists, and known to few besides, which are called Hope Cove and Thurlestone. The map of Devon reveals several considerable spaces as yet untouched by the railway; and among them is that which forms the extreme South of the country, and includes the land that lies above Prawle Point, from Start Bay on the East to Bigbury Bay on the West. Those who wish to be 'Far from the maddening crowd,' and hold communion with Nature, who find their books in rocks, and can make companions of birds and flowers, may obtain here a Paradise of rest and pure pleasure. There are, indeed, plenty of villages to select from, but Hope is one of the best. Is it not a pretty name? There are seventeen or eighteen places in the British Isles that bear the same name; but surely the Hope of Devonshire is the loveliest of them all. It is only a few miles from Salcombe, and it is close to the sea. The climate is delightful, such as may be enjoyed in the South of France, on the shores of the sunny Mediterranean. It is sheltered by the rocky headland of Bolt Tail, and on all sides there is the grand beauty of hill and valley, rock and sea. The village is small, but extremely picturesque. Most of the houses are thatched, and a little artistic taste has been employed even in the thatching, so that they have a difference from that of the same class of cottages in the inland towns of the midland counties. There is a small inn, which is usually occupied by artists, for almost every year at the Academy are pictures which have been painted at Hope. Here there is quite enough to satisfy those who dislike noise the most; and the possibility of long days of uninterrupted work, such as life's busy places long for in vain. Also there are men and women of strong and striking individuality, whose faces are worth painting, and whose conversations are worth listening to. These people have lived by the sea, their bread is on the waters, the wind and the waves have spoken to them, and in their brown faces and flashing eyes there are the marks of intercourse with nature. They reverence the sea, and even fear it more than strangers do, because they better know its power. They have been robbed of their comrades in the great depths of the ocean; women have lost their husbands, and fathers, sons and brothers, who will not be restored to them until the sea gives up its dead;

## VILLAGE VOICE

and although they find it for the most part gentle, and even generous, they do not trust it overmuch, and a considerable portion of their time is spent in watching the clouds and the winds, and to speculate upon the weather.

What a mighty power this wind is the Hope people know as well as any. Even on a lovely summer's day there is a fresh breeze blowing, and the leaping waves are glorious sights to see. There is a magnificent walk over the downs to Thurlestone Sands, and the larks sing, and the wild flowers blossom, and the sea is so beautiful that such a walk will be long remembered. Thurlestone is so named from a curious 'Thirled' or pierced rock which stands up in the sea, as brave and resolute as ever, though a million storms have tried to beat it down. Through its arch the waters rush with a tremendous noise when the weather is rough, and the marvel is that the rock has such powers of resistance. It has given to the people of the neighbourhood a motto, which may be passed on-

Bear every shock  
Like Thurlestone Rock.

The coast is altogether interesting. This arched rock of red conglomerate, thirty feet high and forty long, resting on Devonish clay slates, is of itself enough to make it so; but besides this there are signs of a submerged forest here, and lovely sands and lofty cliffs to explore. An ideal summer holiday might be spent either at Thurlestone, or Inner or Outer Hope."

Many of the cottages at Hope (at this time) were constructed of cob walls and thatched roofs. The cluster of cottages forming the Square, Inner Hope, are still very picturesque with their whitewashed walls and low upper story. The art of building with cob was nearly extinct even at the turn of the century. Clay was kneaded up with straw by the feet, and then put on the rising walls that are usually enclosed in a framework of boards, though this is not always necessary where the clay is consistent enough to hold together, and all that is required is to 'shave' it down as the wall rises in height.

Editorial Note: Although Thurlestone does takes it name from the Rock oddly enough Thurlestone Sands is partly in the parish of South Milton and the remainder in the adjoining parish of South Huish. The Rock itself is just about in the South Milton parish.

Some day, when the Boundary Commission begin another 'round of duties' perhaps Thurlestone should claim its own! Until then, Thurlestone parish begins approximately half-way down the new Links Road - so all the properties in the area of Thurlestone Sands - including the Links Court flats (at one time the 'Links Hotel'), are in South Milton parish!

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LOCAL DOMESDAY NAMES: THURLESTONE - Torleston. MODBURY MORTBERIE.

SLAPTON - SLADONE. LODDISWELL - LODESWILLE. BOLBERRY - BOLTESBERIE, BOTEBERIE

ALVINGTON - ALVINTONE. BATSON (Salcombe) BACHESTANE, BADESTANE.

CHARLETON - CHERLETONE. COMBE ROYAL - CUMBE COURTE. GALMPTON - GALMENTONE.

WOODLEIGH - ODELIE. POOL - POLE. SHERFORD - SIREFORD. SORLEY - SURLIE.

STOKELEY (Stokenham) - STOCHELIE. HUIISH - HEWIS-TWIS. DODBROOKE - DODEBROCH.

# COUNTRY LORE

P.M. EATON

Coming into the cool dark of the Pub I blink and peer, after walking on the beach in a dazzle of sun. I order a beer and smile benignly at the assembled multitude consisting of Charley the pub dog, Nick the barman, and old Joe in his usual seat at the end of the bar. Joe sits hunched over sourly contemplating his glass. He cheers up when I buy him a refill.

Filled with warmth and a great feeling of well being, I say brightly, "Beautiful day." The old man wipes froth from his lips with a melancholy hand. "Enjoy it while you can lad - won't last - seen the Eddystone?" Humbly I admitted - no I had not seen the Eddystone. "Too clear," Joe said darkly, and lapsed into a gloomy silence.

Charley the dog yawns ostentatiously and rudely rolls on his back with his feet in the air. "There's Lapwings in the fields!" Joe continues, then shakes his head and returns morosely to the scrutiny of his beer. "Bad sign," he adds briefly.

The barman picks up a cloth and lathargically polishes a glass. "Males is digging deep they say." He holds the glass to the light and squints at it critically, with sad, dark eyes. "Males!" I query, bewildered. The man's eyes grow sadder as he looks at me over the glass. "Bad weather," he says, and puts the glass carefully on the shelf. "Saw a ring round the moon last night," he adds, with satisfaction. I decide not to ask the meaning of that. He and Joe exchange mournful glances and wag their heads sagely.

We sit for a while in heavy silence. A forlorn fly buzzes round the barman's head. He flaps at it ineffectually with the cloth, whilst the dog sits up and scratches.

Outside two seagulls swoop joyously across the sunlit windows. "Well," I say, with a touch of defiance, "at least the gulls seem happy." My words fall like pebbles in the silence. Joe's head comes up and he looks at me reproachfully. "Happy!" He rolls the word round his tongue with deep distaste. "Happy! - 'tis the souls of the drowned live in they birds." Chastened, I finish my beer and walk out into the brilliant afternoon. Children skip by, their sunburned faces concealed behind monster icecreams. Sadly I plod my way home, weighed down by impending doom and the lamenting ghosts of long dead sailors.

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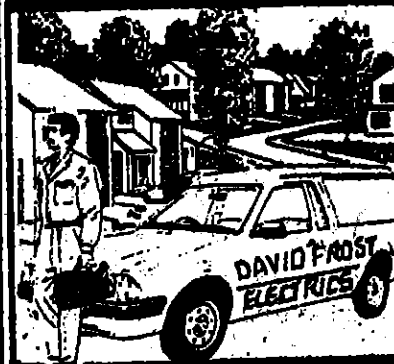
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THE RECTOR: PREBENDARY P.S. STEPHENS Writes.....

## WHAT IS IN A NAME ?

Well, perhaps not much, but judging by the number of people who ask me, the names and titles of the Clergy seems to be of considerable interest, not to say mystification to a number of people in the parishes I have served, for I'm always being asked.. "What is the difference between a Rector and a Vicar, or what is a Canon or Prebendary." etc. etc. etc.....so here, as best I can in limited space, is a brief explanation of these as they apply in the Church of England.

Such attempted explanation is made the more difficult because language, being a living thing, continually changes and so these names and titles have, sometimes quite deliberately, but more often by a process of evolution, changed to a greater or lesser degree with the passing of the centuries, so I shall attempt to describe what they meant at first and then show how they have evolved to their present meaning. Before we move to the more detailed "job" names we might begin with one very general word which is common to most of the churches and is shared also with the secular authority - I'm thinking of the word "Minister".

"The Minister shall kneel, and say the Lord's Prayer...." - so runs the instruction in the Book of Common Prayer, and it's a good word with which to begin because of it's general use in various churches and the State, and because it can also be used within the Church of England of all or any of the Clergy, although it is less used now than once was the case, which is a pity because it keeps before all who bear this title a reminder of their task and function which is "to serve" God and His people. We may be reminded that our Lord Himself said that He came "to minister, not to be ministered unto."

So all the clergy are ministers and within the Church there are three Orders of Ministry - Bishops, Priests and Deacons and all of the Ordained Ministry of the Church of England (and the whole Western or Catholic Church) are in one or other of these ancient and Biblical Holy Orders. All have been made Deacons, ordained to a preaching and caring ministry and some - a very few remain in this Order, but the vast majority move on to be ordained Priests, who unlike Deacons, have the added privilege and responsibility of Celebrating the Holy Eucharist, or Communion and proclaiming to the Penitent the Absolution - God's forgiveness. Some, I suppose about 2% of Priests, are further called to serve God and His People as a Bishop whose task it is to be a Guardian of The Faith, Pastor of the Pastors and the focus of unity for the whole church. Only Bishops acting singly or with others have the right of conferring Holy Orders (i.e. Ordaining) others, and Confirming.

All Ministers of the Church of England are in one or other of these Holy Orders of Bishop, Priest or Deacon. All the other names or titles to which I will move on next time describes not their Holy Orders, but the job they do, e.g. Vicar, Rector, etc. (A further article will be in the Nov/Dec issue)

# WATER METERS- BIG SPEND TO COME?

Did YOU happen to read about it ?  
"WATER SNOOPERS PLAN TO FLUSH  
OUT YOUR HABITS"

NEXT time you take a shower, it was reported, remember to pull the curtain because the men from the water board could be watching YOU!

The government, it is said, has launched a series of secret trials to investigate household sanitary habits across the country. The aim, apparently, is to discover what factors influence the number of times families take baths and whether social status is linked to the number of times the toilet is flushed !

THE REASON, it is said, for Whitehall's sudden interest in the nation's sanitary habits is that civil servants are collecting information to help them draw up plans for a vast national programme of WATER METERING.

This programme will affect ten million homes and cost at least ONE BILLION POUNDS, and is part of the government's plans for the privatisation of water wuthorities and will be on a scale equal to the conversion of homes from town gas to natural gas in the 1970s.

Legislation paving the way for privatisation has been introduced in parliament - and once it becomes law, water metering will become compulsory. Metering is said to already be widespread on the continent, but in Britain, where consumers may opt to have a meter installed, only 1 in every 1,000 households have taken up the option. The National Consumer Council is said to be objecting on the grounds that it could lead to sanitation problems by encouraging families to cut down on water consumption. Source: Nick Rutford in Sunday Times 26.7.87 Not pulling the plug so often, maybe.

For what it is worth Village Voice objects to the spending of such a sum on such a project when (the government) appear unwilling to do anything about the dreadful state of many sewerage disposal systems . Should they not get their priorities right ?

## SHOCK FOR PLANNING OFFICER

Village Voice understands that a planning officer is now in a stable condition after recovering from the shock of receiving an application to convert a holiday home into a farm building.

## ABY TAXIS

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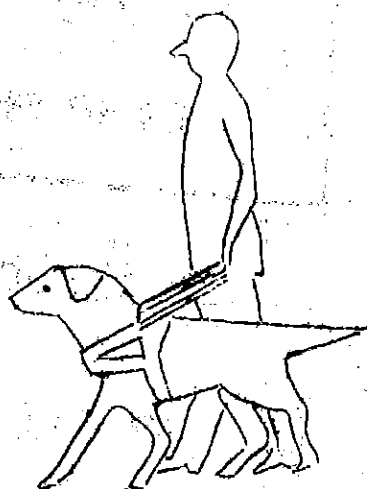
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## REGISTRATION OF ADULTS FOR POLL TAX

The Daily Telegraph reported on June 12 "The Electoral Roll for the General Election does not include the names of about two and half million eligible voters - 6.7 percent of eligible people." Will this be the kind of problem they may have to face in the cities - and make the project unworkable ? asks Village Voice, when the Poll Tax Roll is also produced - quite separately, of course.



# GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

( SOUTH HAMS BRANCH )

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## Thurlestone Hotel Grounds

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