

VILLAGE VOICE

No. 30




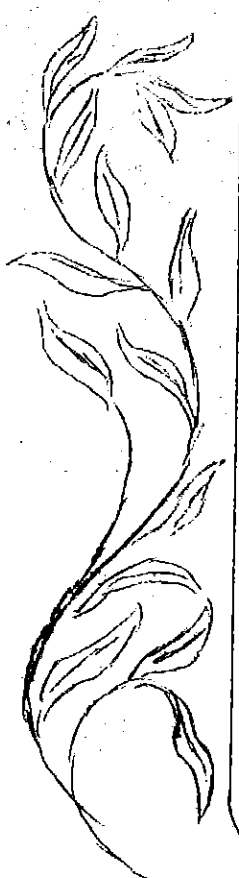
A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO EVERYONE

LEN HUBBARD

January - February 1988

From the Rector

As I wish you all "A HAPPY NEW YEAR", there must be many who will be glad to see the back of the old year, for it has certainly had its fair share, and more, of troubles, - hostages in the Middle East; the Ferry disaster; the Hungerford murders; the Enniskillen massacre; the disaster at Kings Cross, recurring famine in Africa, not to mention the collapse of the Stock Market - all of which I suppose are included in what that prayer calls the wearisome changes and chances of this fleeting world, so that same prayer points us to the unchanging faithfulness of God our heavenly Father. I can do no better and I point you so in the words made famous by His Late Majesty King George VI :



I said to the man
who stood at the gate
of the year -
" Give me a light that
I may tread safely into
the unknown"
And he replied
"Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into
the hand of God
That shall be to you
better than light and
safer than a known way."

OUR FRONT COVER is by Thurlestone artist Len Hubbard, of course, and shows the stile on the Thurlestone-Bantham footpath just before the Buckland Stream.



PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

EDITED AND PRODUCED BY:

Dudley Drabble
Kendall McDonald
& Penny McDonald

at

Cradles Cottage
Thurlestone
Kingsbridge

Tel: Kingsbridge
560239

(Under the Sponsorship
of Thurlestone
Parish Council)

The views and opinions expressed in any item in the pages of this magazine should not be construed as being the views and opinions of any member of Thurlestone Parish Council

All communications relating to ADVERTISING should be addressed to: VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE, 10 Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge TQ7 3JH. Telephone: Kingsbridge (0548) 560533

Distribution is free to RESIDENTS ONLY. The Magazine is entirely self-supporting and not a charge on the Parish Rate. Additional copies may be purchased from Mr and Mrs Morley, The Village Store

Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

NUMBER 30.

Sixth year of publication

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1988

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of the Parish Council I welcome this opportunity to wish all readers - which must surely be all parishioners - a most Happy and Prosperous New Year. May any snowstorms never happen.

May I remind everyone that your Parish Council hold a short Open Session during every Council Meeting, in order to offer parishioners present the opportunity to raise any matter they feel is of urgent local concern, with Council Members.

More particularly, I do look for a really full attendance at our Annual Parish Meeting in March. This should not be a meeting to be confused with the Annual Parish Council Meeting which is held in May of each year. The Annual Parish Meeting is the Assembly where everyone on the Electoral Register for the Parish has a right to speak, and where full and open discussion can take place on all matters of community concern. What, for example, are your views on the present housing imbalance? Is there a worthwhile demand to see a Leisure Area established - for football, cricket, children or even a bowling club? What are your views on abolishing dog licences? Traffic and traffic speeds? It could almost be possible to update our 1980 Village Appraisal if there were a 'full house' this coming March. Do look out for the public notices announcing the date.

I do feel not enough use is made of the facility for free publicity of all forthcoming village Events which is offered by our Parish Magazine - and would not more reports from the various organisations in our parish engender

Please turn over

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - continuation

more interest. I am sure many newcomers to our community would welcome information of this kind and encourage them to join in.

I would like to congratulate Village Voice on completing five years of successful publication. The magazine was promoted by Dudley Drabble in 1982 when he was Clerk to the Parish Council, and received wholehearted sponsorship from the Council, and I am sure you will agree it has proved a welcome addition in providing news and information on many matters and projects. Although it costs over £100 to produce each issue, thanks to the support of all the hotels and business people who advertise in its pages - and from all reports reap some little benefit from your support for them - it has never been a cost to our Parish Rate Fund - even an original grant being repaid.

Now production has moved to Cradles Cottage, Thurlestone, the home of author and wreck diver Kendall McDonald and Penny, his wife, who have over the past year joined with Dudley Drabble in producing the magazine at his South Milton home. I am happy to report their association is going to continue from the new address.

May 1988 bring you everything you may wish for !

Very sincerely,

Peter W J Hurrell

Peter W.J. Hurrell
Chairman - Thurlestone Parish Council

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Thurlestone Probus Club

Some 27 members attended the November Meeting at the Thurlestone Hotel, at which the Speaker was Mr. Ken Carter, of the South Devon Heritage Coast Service. His was a subject of great local interest and the talk, supported by some excellent slides of our very beautiful coastline held the attention of all members present and prompted a number of questions.

Ken Carter's disclosure that his annual budget was generally in the region of £6,000/£10,000 - (I don't think this includes salaries) indicates just how much he and his team rely upon voluntary organisations and the co-operation of land owners to achieve the many improvements carried out annually, these being in addition to the general maintenance of footpaths, car parks, etc.

At the request of the Ladies we have arranged for a Ladies Night to be held at the Golf Club on January 8th. this being in place of the Ladies Lunch held in the past at the Thurlestone Hotel just prior to Christmas.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at the Thurlestone Hotel on Friday 12th February, at which it is hoped that as many members as possible attend to ensure that our plans and ideas for 1988 reflect the views of as many members as possible. Any nominations for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and one Committee Member should be forwarded to the Secretary, together with the name of proposer and seconder, by no later than January 12th.

D.M. YEOMAN
Hon Secretary
Tel: 560300

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Any Event that is being organised for the months of March and April can be announced in the March/April issue of Village Voice - without charge - but particulars must be sent in by February 10th. - earlier if possible please.

PATRIC



WALKER

Your Guide to 1988

EVERY NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE OF ANY NOTE HAS ITS OWN ASTROLOGER. VILLAGE VOICE HAS, HOWEVER, THE BEST OF THEM ALL - PATRIC WALKER. HIS FAME IS WORLD-WIDE AND SO CLOSELY DO THE RICH AND POWERFUL FOLLOW HIS FORECASTS THAT HE HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS ONE OF THE FIFTY MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN BRITAIN.

PATRIC WALKER IS A DEVOTEE OF THURLESTONE, WHICH IS WHY THIS NEW YEAR FORECAST, WRITTEN SPECIALLY WITH YOU IN MIND, IS SO IMPORTANT. AFTER ALL, IF TYCOONS DON'T TAKE OVER ANYTHING BEFORE CONSULTING HIM, YOU MUST BE IN GOOD COMPANY IF YOU READ ON BEFORE TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF 1988...

Capricorn (December 22-January 20): You are a worrier and a workaholic, but you must now learn to think along new and more constructive lines. Stop dwelling on trials, obstacles, and disappointments. Neptune in Capricorn throughout 1988 should give you the strength and faith you need to remain true to yourself.

Aquarius (January 21-February 19): Unless you change your approach and tactics, 1988 could well find you involved in a great many unnecessary conflicts. Remember you have the wit and wisdom to turn the other cheek. Fate has marked you out to set new standards for others around you to follow.

Pisces (February 20-March 20): This will be one of the most enlightening periods of your life. Try out new methods, tactics, and routines. For too long you have been preoccupied safeguarding your possessions and protecting all you have strived so hard to achieve. Now you can show just how much of a go-getter you really can be.

Aries (March 21-April 20): The new Moon on January 19 ushers in a constructive and reassuring phase. Forget about impulsiveness. Now you have the opportunity to put down your roots where you know they should be planted.

Taurus (April 21-May 21): When 1988 gets underway you will see the traffic signals turn from red to green. Don't give in to self-doubt or self-pity and refrain from saying more than you should. A major home or domestic change is indicated, probably after March is out.

Continued overleaf.

PATRIC WALKER'S 1988 forecasts continued:

Gemini (May 22-June 21): You will soon be able to put ambitious plans into operation. Career opportunities present themselves, but Saturn demands that you become less self-centred and more conscious of the needs of others. Go it alone by all means, but benefit from all you have learned and endured over the past two years.

Cancer (June 22-July 23): As 1988 begins you may be unable to control events affecting your working life. However the changes are to your future advantage and later in the year you will see that unique opportunities are coming your way.

Leo (July 24-August 23): When the year is under way you will see the guidelines and the format for the future. The long phase of serious work problems should now be coming to an end and you can look forward to a more settled future.

Virgo (August 24-September 23): You have reached a major turning point in your life and only you can decide what happens next. Most of your financial battles should be over, but don't count too many chickens before they are hatched. Emotional attachments continue to be a problem.

Libra (September 24-October 23): First ensure that you are not exaggerating emotional and professional difficulties. As the year begins there may be a period of major upheavals, but the financial outlook is more encouraging so long as you keep money and friendship well apart.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): Get out of the rut and you will experience new bonds of friendship. Difficulties you have recently suffered should have taught you to avoid speculation and that only your own efforts will provide the success and security you seek.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21): You have worked too hard to settle for anything less than the best. Nothing will really thwart you in 1988. It is true that there may be times when you lose your sense of direction, but all in all this will be a year to remember for ever!

JOAN GALLOWAY will be pleased to take orders for marmalade again this year, price depending on the cost of the oranges.

In addition to ordinary orange marmalade she will also make (to order) lemon, grapefruit or chunky dark marmalade.

All proceeds to Thurlestone Church. Orders to: Edens,

Warren Road, Thurlestone. 560453.

DID YOU KNOW? That modern Christian wedding traditions derive from Roman customs. Brides then wore wedding rings on the third finger of their left hand because it was believed that a nerve ran directly from that finger to the heart. Brides were carried over the threshold to avoid the risk that they might stumble or enter left foot first - either was thought to bring bad luck from the gods!

**BE DRIVEN
IN COMFORT BY
THURLESTONE PRIVATE HIRE
TAXI SERVICE**
(NOT HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCE)

**SHORT TRIPS OR
LONG JOURNEYS.**

ATTENTIVE, RELIABLE SERVICE.

Kingsbridge 560 283

for your personal quotation.

COLD COMFORT

It's all very well just to feel sorry for the old and needy. Kind thoughts won't warm cold rooms or comfort the lonely. We know. We have been looking after old people and helping them to stay in their own homes for over eighty years. Every penny helps when it can mean the difference between intolerable discomfort and happy independence.

Please be a friend and send a donation - today. You can be sure it will be used efficiently to provide for the old and forgotten, wherever they are. Friends of the Elderly can only cope with a fraction of these sad cases. With your help we can do so much more to make old age a happy and dignified time - but we urgently need the funds.

Please send donations to:-

The General Secretary,
Friends of the Elderly
42, Ebury Street,
LONDON SW1W 0LZ.

Registered charity number: 226064

We also run eleven residential homes for the elderly.

FRIENDS

OF THE ELDERLY



**HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT YOUR
CHIMNEY ?**

Most people haven't, but those who have, look up at the part which they can see protruding from the roof, i.e. the chimney stack. They entirely forget that the chimney flue starts just above the fireplace and runs up through the building until it finally appears above the roof. They also forget that the chimney flue carries hot poisonous gases from the heat source out into the atmosphere and that if it is not working properly, the consequences can be extremely dangerous and in some cases even fatal !

Most of us never think about this until a problem arises - such as lumps of mortar falling into the fireplace, smoke or fumes escaping into the house, stain appearing in the plaster on the chimney breast or, more seriously, a fatality. If our heating appliance is not working effectively or is using too much fuel, we seldom realise that an unsuitable chimney flue may well be the cause of the problem.

Since 1966 all new chimneys have had to be built with an approved form of lining to make them safe for use with gas, oil and solid fuel heating appliances. All over Britain it is believed there are chimney flues built before 1966 which badly need attention. There is no doubt a considerable amount of worry can be avoided by having a chimney properly surveyed. Chimney fires and thatch fires are often the result of defective chimney. The condition of the actual external stack which might well have been rebuilt at some time leaving the stonework or brickwork lower down untouched, and where horizontal beams are supported in that stone or brickwork there is no doubt a fire risk exists.

One answer to any potential problem is undoubtable a system of having a defective chimney 'lined' - and this could well be a vital procedure to cope with the hotter gases drawn up the chimney from solid fuel and woodburning stoves.

Research: WD

Kate's Kitchen

"QUICKIE" FRUIT CAKE

that is moist and keeps well if wrapped in foil.

Into a large saucepan put:

- 1/4 pint water
- 4 ozs Margarine
- 12 ozs Mixed Dried Fruit & Glace Cherries
- 1 Dessertspoonful Golden Syrup - or
for a dark result Black Treacle
- 4 ozs Sugar.

Simmer and stir until all are nicely melted and mixed. Fold in quickly 8 ozs Self-raising Flour and 2 well beaten Eggs. Have ready a 6" or 7" cake tin with bottom lined with foil and well greased. Pour in mixture and bake for 1 1/2 hours approximately at 170c for first hour, then 150c to finish.

Villager

JEFFERY & PENWELL the Builders and Property Maintenance Experts advise that Michael Penwell's phone number is now KINGSBRIDGE 2245 - not 560666 as indicated in their advert.

Advertisements are pre-printed some time ahead and notification was too late for an amendment in this issue

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is due to take place at the Village Hall, Thurlestone on **TUESDAY 29th MARCH 1988** at 7.30 p.m.
Just the chance you've been waiting for to have YOUR say !!!

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FOR BANTHAM & BUCKLAND Parishioners

Once again the Parish Council will hold a Council Meeting at the Sloop Bantham on **26th JANUARY 1988** .
7.30 p.m. Naturally Thurlestone villagers are equally welcome.

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DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All at the Village Hall, Thurlestone commencing at 7.30 p.m.
MARCH 8th. APRIL 19th. MAY 24th
JULY 5th. AUGUST 16th. SEPT 27th
NOVEMBER 1st & DECEMBER 13th.

The May 24th date will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting

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All Planners please note the remarks of His Royal Highness Prince Charles - "Large numbers of us are fed up being talked down to by Planners & Architects"

If only they would really pay more attention to the views and reasons put forward by Communities - or must we always accept 'they know best' what is good for us?

+ + + + +

WHAT IT COSTS

The South Hams District Council Accounts and Report for 1986-87 tells you:

Planning	£851,000
Refuse Collection	£747,000
Rate Rebates	£1,312,000
Parks & Leisure	£868,000
Rate collection	£192,000
Financing adjustments	£343,000

(What a lovely way of dealing with over-expenditure ?)

Other Services £712,000

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MY CALENDAR tells me that 'Winter Began' on Tuesday 22nd December.'

You could fool me - I thought it had starter sooner than that !

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Age Concern say that last winter some 500 old people died of Hyperthermia and over 40,000 died from cold related illnesses. If you have an elderly neighbour living on their own - keep a warm-hearted eye on them.

+ + + + +

HAPPY 1988 TO YOU.

Now that the production of Village Voice has been moved to the quaintly-named Cradles Cottage in Thurlestone village, Kendall McDonald thought it a good time to tell you about...

The Christening of CRADLES

Cradles. Now isn't that a strange name for a cottage? Niece though. And before you say it, yes it does sound just the place to spend your second childhood!

Penny and I bought Cradles Cottage over a year ago from Tom and Enda Gascoyne and from the moment that we knew it was ours the origin of the name kept butting into any conversations we had about it.

Now there were some of you who suggested, all poker-faced, that it was called Cradles because it had been a garden nursery when "Dider" Burgoyne, Enda's father, owned it. But you were pulling our legs, weren't you? For though "Dider" lived to the ripe old age of 95, the place was called Elm Cottages in his lifetime (you can see the stumps of the elms if you look up as you pass by) and it wasn't until later that Tom and Enda decided to change the name.

You see they spotted the original name of the cottage on the 1777 map of Thurlestone made for Sir William Courtenay. On that map the cottage was numbered "18" and in the survey book which goes with the map they found this: "18, Philip Lidstone and James Sherriff for Cradles Cottage". So Tom and Enda decided to give the cottage back its rightful name.

Mind you, there was more to the entry which had been written in the careful curly hand of Sir William Courtenay's steward who was compiling a list of Sir William's interests. Under Cradles Cottage he had written: "House (being two dwellings) with a Garden" and there on the map is the garden beside the house almost exactly as it is today. Marked with "18" too were fields and barns just across the road named North Stroll and on the same side as Cradles were more fields belonging to it called Middle and Lower Stroll.

So we know that Cradles was there in 1777, but it didn't answer the question of how the cottage got its name. Perhaps, said some bright spark, the women who lived there had so many babies that on sunny days the cradles were all parked outside the house and the locals called it the cradles cottage. Perhaps, said another deep thinker, the cottage was called after the occupation of the man who lived in it - perhaps he made cradles for a living. That would mean that Philip Lidstone was the village cradle maker, because there is some evidence that in 1777 James Sherriff was the village blacksmith with his forge out the back near Land Cottage.

The idea of Thurlestone having a special cradle maker is fun. Young Elsie Horn of South Milton, who was born in this cottage way back laughed when I told her this. Her father, William Morgan, had

More about Cradles Cottage:

been the village carpenter and builder. Had he been a cradle-maker too? Not really, said Elsie. He'd been the village undertaker as well and she remembered him making coffins not cradles!

We showed Elsie the cottage just about the time when Gordon Jeffery and Mike Penwell and their team of Chris and John and Ivor set to work on the cottage. They stripped away the battening over the walls to reveal two-foot-thick dry stone walls with red earth packed in between - it took Chris five days to point just two sides of one room! They uncovered too two magnificent five-foot-wide fireplaces. Down came a ceiling to reveal a splendid set of moulded beams and scratched on one was "17 May" followed by a squiggle just like a fish's head just where the year should have been. But there was no doubt as work went on that we were uncovering a very old cottage indeed.

From above each window emerged wooden-pegged timbers that could only have come from wrecked ships. In the roof the old roof beams which had once held up the thatch were still in place under the beams which today hold up our tiles of slate. The thatch was replaced with slates in the 1920's when my grandfather, William Kendall Hill, better known in Thurlestone as "Lor Lumme" after his favourite phrase, bought the cottage from Commander Evans of the Evans Estate.

Those of you in the village who thought that the whole of Cradles was coming out of the windows into the skip during the building work were really only seeing the top ten feet of chimney at the Northern end of the cottage being thrown away. Because we do know one thing about the man who built the cottage. He was great at walls, but lousy at chimneys. In Cradles he hadn't got the "stepping" equal on both sides and as a result the chimney cracked right across and the only thing holding it up were a couple of those old thatch beams and even they had broken under the strain. The chimney was on the way down and so we helped it to go the whole way. Then Chris and John rebuilt it with the same dimensions - except this time they got the "stepping" right!

But I'm getting away from the point. There are all sorts of things about the cottage to tell you. How they found a really old pair of spectacles with long thin wire frames and tiny lenses up in the roof, how we know the date of the extension at the back because they lined the wooden walls with old newspapers (the Kingsbridge Journal of 1875) and how at least one of the owners smoked and lost his clay pipe under the window seat. But all that will have to wait for a later edition of Village Voice. Suffice it to say at this moment that the Gordon Jeffery-Mike Penwell firm with their team of superb local craftsmen have given us a splendid house, retaining the best of the old and adding the comfort of the new.

So back to Cradles, which is still a funny name for a cottage. And we'd be puzzling about it even now if it hadn't been for local historian Dr. Neville Oswald. He lent me his registers into which he has extracted from church records all the births and deaths and marriages of Thurlestone and parishes round about. I wanted to track down one particular relation and having done so with the help of Neville Oswald's books was idly turning the pages looking at some of the odd names of centuries gone by when a marriage entry practically leapt out at me...

It read: "Cridle, 14.2.1704. James of Somerset and Mary Lidstone. And at that moment I knew!

I knew then that way back in 1777 when Sir William Courtenay's steward had asked someone what this cottage was called, someone

Concluding the Cradles story:

had replied "Cridle's". For that is exactly what it was - the cottage to which James Cridle had taken Mary Lidstone to live after their marriage. It was indeed Cridle's Cottage. But whoever had given the name to the steward had said "Cry-dels" with such a local burr that the steward had probably muttered to himself about fools who couldn't even pronounce things properly and written down "Cradles" in his survey book. And so it was ever since until someone sometime changed it into Elm Cottages. And there's probably a story about the reason for that too!

Now we know - or think we know - there's a fair old temptation to change the name all the way back to Cridle's, but we think we'll leave it as it is. After all Cradles Cottage is, as I said at the beginning of this tale, such a nice name for the place in which we are spending our second childhood!

P.S. I've found out where James Cridle came from in Somerset and why he made the long walk to Thurlestone. But that's another story for another time.

Time To Take The Plunge!

Our KADSPA correspondent writes: Have you seen the final design of the Kingsbridge swimming pool? If not you can find out where the model is on display by ringing Peter Betteridge on Kingsbridge 7393.

The final design has got all the things people have been asking for: A deep end; four 25-metre swimming lanes; a large leisure fun pool; a health suite; a viewing and refreshment gallery; male, female, family and disabled changing rooms and showers. The pool itself is cleverly designed to divide into sections so that different groups can use it at the same time without getting in each other's way. The whole complex is planned for the lowest running costs, so that once it is built and in operation we should certainly be able to break even or possibly make a surplus for future improvements.

But getting it built needs the help of the whole community. The Committee has gone as far as it can for now. They have this exciting design. They have got a superb site from the South Hams District Council. They have 'considerable interest' from the English Tourist Board who control large grant aid funds. They have good indications of other outside support. But to justify asking for outside funds they must show strong local backing. And that is up to you.

If the local community promises by 1st May, 1988, to raise £450,000 towards the cost of building this magnificent pool, the Committee believe they can obtain the rest of the money from national companies, charitable trusts and grant aid. If we fail to reach this target we may lose the chance of a pool altogether for many long years.

So what does this mean to YOU? Do you enjoy swimming yourself? Do you have children or grandchildren who live here or visit? Are you proud of a community with spirit, that helps itself rather than wait for a handout? Are you prepared to help the community or are you going to let that spirit be killed? We are already over a third of the way to our target. We need your pledge, not your money yet. Come along and hear more about it, about your own local charity, at the KADSPA meeting, details of which will be announced shortly.

Village Voice's Resident Birder spotlights some rare sights...

Here is the

~~F~~
WEATHER

FORECAST by Harry Huggins

THIS correspondent has to admit that as a prophet he is pretty poor - the sandpipers forecast have not come, for at the right time the meadows were too dry. Nor have the rare seabirds; they blew ashore all right, but the Great Wind carried them much farther to the East.

However, there have been compensations. This autumn our stretch of coast has been a twitchers' paradise, with vagrant birds coming from all ways. If at the time when the American birds migrate to the South there are deep depressions (there usually are), numbers of them are carried across to this country. The Isles of Scilly are the prime areas to find them, which is why the birders flock there in autumn, but we have our share.

Early in October there was a Black and White Warbler at Prawle. This is a very small thing, like a Treecreeper with black and white lengthways stripes; storm force winds brought it across, not the Great Wind, but there were 80 mph gales before that one. It is beyond comprehension how so tiny a thing could sustain flight across the Atlantic, even with a jet stream behind it, but cross the ocean it did, and many a twitcher came to see it. Nor was it alone; there was a Red Eyed Vireo, which breeds likewise in the North-Eastern States, a little thing rather like a Willow Warbler with grey cap and prominent white eye stripe.

A few days later, towards the end of October, there was a hoarse chuckling one evening in the hedge running down to the marsh from Merchants Garden. We thought "Fieldfare" and went to look, to find instead something Blackbird-like with white on its folded wings and a white crescent across its breast - a male Ring Ousel. Maybe it came from Dartmoor, a very few pairs still breed there among the old mine workings, or perhaps it came from the Pennines or Scandanavia.

A couple of days later a beautiful female Marsh Harrier took up residence in South Milton Ley for a few days to the consternation of the ducks and other birds. She was Buzzard-like with longer tail, warm brown plumage, golden-yellow cap on the top of her head, and golden-yellow on top of her inner wings. We had seen a breeding pair at the R.S.&B.reserve at Leighton Moss, just South of the Lake District earlier in the year, so perhaps she was from there, or she might have come from East Anglia where a few pairs return each year to nest. And after a Desert Wheatear, probably from North Africa at Prawle, we thought there could be nothing more.

But there was - an Isabelline Shrike, so rare that no European field guide shows it! This one must have come from somewhere to the East of the Caspian Sea and went off course on the way to wintering grounds in tropical Africa. It was at Wembury, quite literally among the guns of H.M.S. Cambridge.

Harry Huggins continued:

When we went to see it the Navy repelled boarders, saying it was about to do some firing practice. But someone had the wit to enquire at what time they went to lunch and was told half-past twelve (in my young day the rum bosun appeared with his paraphernalia at noon, but I believe that estimable institution has now been stopped). At all events at 12.30 precisely, the sailor defending the coastal footpath against all comers rolled up his flag and departed, and we walked along to find our bird dancing about among the gorse bushes by Number One gun.

There are several species of shrike, all now very rare in the British Isles; they are songbirds which have taken to predatory habits, catching large insects, small birds etc., and impaling them on thorns until needed, hence the popular name of Butcher Bird. This one was a little larger than a Chaffinch, very pale brown with a reddish tinge on rump and tail.

All this talk of twitching has strayed somewhat from the Editor's brief, which is to talk of what to look for in the coming couple of months. But it has not strayed too far - rarities come every year and are always interesting. It is easier to hear of them than it was, the grapevine has now been organised and, if you telephone 0898-700222 they will tell you about them and charge you 38p a minute, peak.

What we will see this January and February depends on the weather, and just as the weathermen say that if this happens it will usually be followed by that, we can say the same about our birds.

For us to get a mass of exciting winter visitors, we want our little bit of country to stay mild and open while the rest of Britain is frozen (so do our broccoli-growing farmers!). It happens. It did in 1982. Our bird diary talks of the hardest winter for years in most of the country; that was for the first couple of weeks of January, but although we had some ice and snow the ground here remained soft. On the 10th of January there were 3,000 Lapwings in the field below the football field, with numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings. On the 11th, Songthrushes, Fieldfares and Redwings were coasting to the West, fleeing harder weather to the Eastward. For many it was probably too late, they were too weak already to feed up again.

On the same day five Bewick's Swans arrived in Thurlestone valley, which was fairly well flooded. This is the species which goes to Slimbridge from breeding grounds in arctic Russia. Instead of a black knob at the base of the bill, as the Mute Swan has, it has a small yellow patch on the side of the beak (if the yellow extends in a point almost to the tip of the bill, it is a Whooper Swan).

Soon after on the marsh at South Huish, inland from the NT car park, there were over 2,000 Wigeons, 250 Teals, a Brent Goose (black, with a white mark on its neck) and four Pintails: the drake is quite the most elegant of ducks with a light grey and white body, chocolate head and neck with a white stripe on each side up to the nape, and black stern with a long pointed tail.

So if these conditions are repeated, which is quite likely in our mild maritime climate, then we will probably see similar birds again. But if South Devon has prolonged cold as well as the rest of the British Isles which happened a couple of years ago, then the birds which come here to find a final refuge are in perilous straits. In that year the ground froze too hard for bills to dig for worms and insects and, by the end of February, Lapwings and Redwings were dying of starvation in hundreds if not thousands.

Concluding Harry Huggins:

However in 1987, despite a cold snap in January which killed half the shrubs in our garden and made plumbers dream of early retirement, it was only short-lived. By the end of February Fulmars were back on their sites on the cliffs, Jackdaws were displaying, Magpies were carrying sticks and Mistlethrushes were building. May it be like that in 1988.

Village Voice has much pleasure in introducing a new contributor - Mrs. Sylvia Christie of Cob Cottage, Buckland.

Mrs. Christie was a P.E. teacher in Britain, who went out to India in 1947 to join her husband Rohald, a former Gurkha, who was tea-planting in Assam. While she was out there, Mrs Christie wrote several articles about their life for her own amusement. Here Village Voice prints one on a subject close to many a Thurlestone heart - golf. Mrs. Christie is very well qualified to write on this subject - she met her husband-to-be for the very first time..on the first tee!

*Where Golf is
really tough!*

Golf in Assam - nobody ever heard of it! Yet nowhere is golf more appreciated as a source of exercise, relaxation, social opportunities and competitive stimulus. What more could be asked?

Some months back I was interested in an article by Molly Gourlay in "Golf Monthly". Her theme was that the present day approach to golf is "not quite the same" as it was. That "the enjoyment of playing the game for itself, of conquering its many difficulties, of improving one's own standard, the thrill of achievement in defeating an opponent or contributing to a team's success" are not now considered sufficient reward. It struck me that at Kanjikoah, Assam, we play golf for just these pleasures.

We are mostly a community of tea planters with social clubs about twenty miles apart. Most clubs have a nine-hole course made in a clearing of tea. The use of the course and labour is by courtesy of the management of the tea garden. All officials are honorary.

There are two notable exceptions in Assam. One is an 18-hole course at Digboi, run by the oil company which we all enjoy. The other is a very good course in the hill station, Shillong. That is, however, almost as inaccessible to us as St. Andrews is to an English Southerner.

On our courses the grass is coarse, and only kept under control by the herds of cows inevitable in India. Greens are the size of pocket handkerchiefs compared with those in the U.K. Holes are somewhat rugged in shape and bunkers are more often filled with water than sand. Six months drought and six months rain does not help with course upkeep. The fairways are either bone hard or underwater.

We are enormously indebted to the Ladies Golf Union for turning a kindly eye on us and allowing our affiliation. In applying for entry we tried to be honest in giving a plan of

Golf in India continued:

our course. But who can assess the hazards of worm-casts, cows, several inches of rain, or a temperature of 100 degrees? I hope I am not jeopardising our membership in confessing this! Our lady membership, composed largely of beginners, who would never have dreamed of appearing on an English course, is only about one dozen. There is no professional help, so we take it in turns to help the beginners - the blind leading the blind! Every Friday we meet, taking our refreshments with us. Monthly medals, Extra Day scores and other competitions are meticulously recorded. Our teams go forth to play other clubs for much coveted cups, with handicaps ranging from 13 to 36. With the menfolk on Sundays there are mixed foursomes, followed by much beer drinking and never even a sweep to savour of professionalism!

The highlight at the end of the season is the prize-giving when many a 36-handicap player receives a prize she will treasure for ever. The women folk, as at every gathering in Assam, rally round with chicken, ham, salads and so on producing a lunch worthy of any club in the U.K.

Recently, just before a L.G.U. competition involving all the clubs in the district, the Kanjikoah labour force went on strike. On the eve of the day we all arrived in Jeeps plus lawn-mowers and other tools. The men mowed the greens. They rushed around in the Jeeps dragging chains to clear the worm-casts. The ladies swept fairways and raked bunkers. Quite an unusual sight in India and fully appreciated by the idle labour force! I, for one, smoothed the bunkers meticulously, feeling certain that any clod of earth I left my ball would surely find on the morrow. Never had a course been better.

And so finally we go on leave, armed with our handicap certificates and letters of introduction, for the exceedingly generous hospitality of the L.G.U. courses. In return I hope we provide a few new members for home courses. Not first-class golfers of course, but at least enthusiasts brought up in the true tradition of the game.

STEEN (Your M.P.)

SAYS...

...That the hillside at Kingsbridge has been wrecked by unsympathetic houses...

...That the coastal village of Thurlestone has been swamped by a large development of town houses...

...That the Ivybridge skyline is one grey relief...

...That Totnes is being slowly ruined by identical homes...

...And that the South Hams planners are weak-kneed.

Who's arguing with him?

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Footpaths of the South Hams

PART ONE

by J.S.B. REYNOLDS

Footpaths Secretary (Acting) for the South Hams Section of the Ramblers' Association.

1. INTRODUCTION

Having been a rambler since about the age of 12, it was, as a matter of course that I joined the South Hams section of the Ramblers' Association when I retired to South Devon in 1981. Since then I have walked the area regularly two or three times a week and have become very familiar with most of the 314 footpaths in 34 of the 50 parishes of the South Hams which lie in an area bounded by the Dart, the Erme and the A38. (There are 61 parishes in the S.Hams District)

We who have the privilege of living in the South Hams have many blessings. Two of these are firstly that we live in a very beautiful sparsely populated region, ideal for walking, and secondly, that we have at our disposal a superb network of footpaths from which an almost limitless number of walking routes may be devised. When I moved recently to Thurlestone from Dartmouth, I was soon introduced to our splendid local magazine "Village Voice", which I have found both interesting and informative. It is, however, only recently that the idea occurred to me that perhaps an article or a series of articles on the footpaths, both local and also those in the South Hams as a whole, might be of general interest. The Editor gladly accepted the suggestion, hence this contribution, which will be followed by others if there is sufficient interest generated.

I propose to start by defining what is meant, in a legal sense, by a footpath and then give some statistics on the numbers of paths, their lengths and distribution. This might be followed by a discussion regarding the construction of walking routes using the raw material which is available, and conclude with the legal aspect of footpaths, the rights of walkers and the duties of local authorities and landowners. In this section I will also explain the serious threat to the network which can be warded off only by constant vigilance and positive action.

2. WHAT IS A FOOTPATH ?

The network which we enjoy has come into being largely by historic accident. The paths were created initially by millers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and a host of other tradesmen and professional practitioners who required access to carry out their business. Over the decades and centuries the users acquired gradually, by custom and usage, legal rights of way which became embodied in ... the deeds and inscribed on the maps. In addition, there were bridleways, tracks along rivers and canals - "green lanes, paths over common land, all of which became 'rights of way' ". Nowadays, most of these paths are no longer needed for the purpose for which they came into being. Fortunately, due presumably to some characteristic of our legal system, these rights remain. I believe that among our European neighbours, England is unique in this respect. Certainly, in France no such network exists (except in tourist regions like the Alps) and, apart from a few coastal paths used at one time by the customs men, paths are few and far between, and walkers are viewed by the country folk with the greatest suspicion. Whenever I 'exercise' my 'right' to cross a farmer's land, I am always conscious of the fortuitous way in which those 'rights' came about. I prefer to treat them rather as a privilege to treasure than as a right to exploit. I often ask a farmer for permission to cross when I feel that this is appropriate, for example, when I am leading a group of people over a path which has not been used for some time.

After the 39-45 War, a vast amount of new planning legislation was enacted which embraced, amongst many other subjects, the domain of footpaths.

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Continuation - FOOTPATHS OF THE SOUTH HAMS

An extensive rationalization took place as a result and rights of way over many thousands of footpaths were lost. One has only to examine an old 6" map to see the extent to which the network was decimated. Those which remained 'open to the public' were given a new name - Definitive Footpath - which are plotted on the Definitive Map kept up-to-date by (some) local authorities, and to which the public have access. One can find out what Definitive Footpaths are available either from the old Ordnance Survey maps (OS), 1 inch to the mile or 1/63,360, or from the new metric OS maps - 1/50,000. On these maps the Definitive Footpaths are denoted by red dotted or dashed lines or variants thereof, which are stated to be "derived from the definitive map". However, a red dotted line on an OS map is no absolute guarantee that a 'right of way' exists, for extinguishment orders and deviation orders are being enacted frequently. Another source of information is a new type of map, introduced some years ago by the OS - the 1/25000 "Outdoor Leisure Maps". These do not cover the whole country, but fortunately much of our area of interest is covered by No. 20 - SOUTH DEVON and No. 28 - DARTMOOR. On these maps, which should be used whenever possible because of their smaller scale, the Definitive Footpaths are denoted by green dotted or dashed lines (and variants to show different types of footpath/bridleway, etc.

As stated, in the area of the 34 parishes I have mentioned, there are 314 Definitive Footpaths - an average of 9 per parish, but they are by no means uniformly distributed. Blackawton with 29 has the most, whereas Moreleigh, Woodleigh and Sherford have but one each.

3. WALKING ROUTES AND WALKING POSSIBILITIES

On average I would estimate the length of a definitive footpath is less than a Kilometre. Some are longer, but many are only a few hundred metres in length. Such definitive footpaths do not of themselves constitute a walking route, that is to say a continuous track without obstruction, pleasant environmentally, and returning to the starting point. The Coastal Footpath and the Long Distance Footpaths, for example, "The Two Moors Way" are exceptions to the 1 Km. standard and in some cases definitive footpaths run co-linearly to form longer paths. Fortunately, in the South Hams, in addition to the definitive footpaths a splendid and extensive network of minor roads carrying little traffic, and also what are known as 'unclassified County roads' exists with which to 'link together' the definitive footpaths. Unclassified County Roads which the Devon C.C. no longer maintain but over which rights of way remain exist, and in time these unclassified roads will 'return to nature' and become a very useful supplement to the path network. They are, already, almost definitive footpaths, their only disadvantage being that they are bounded, as a rule, by high banks and/or hedges and hence have only a restricted view of the countryside.

4. A TYPICAL WALKING ROUTE

Perhaps the best way of clarifying the term "walking route" (as distinct from definitive footpath) would be to describe in detail what is probably the best walking route in the Thurlestone area. This is the delightful walk to Bantham, and then along the left bank of the Avon Estuary, almost as far as Aveton Gifford, returning through the countryside by a mixture of definitive footpaths, Green Lanes, Bridleways, etc. This Walking Route is not documented and is badly waymarked, but it is without obstruction. To encourage those who are not familiar with it to venture forth, I give below full instructions so that you will not 'get lost' ! I assure all walkers that their efforts would be well rewarded, for they require only to open (and close) five barred gates and vault over stiles - and the path is superb.

Walking boots (or rubber boots) are essential as it is muddy in parts, particularly at Stiddicombe Creek. The map to use is the 1/25000 OS: Bigbury: Sheet SX 64 and a compass - desirable but not absolutely essential.

- i) Start from Thurlestone Church and take Path Number 4 to the Sloop Inn at Bantham.
- ii) Turn right and go about 100 metres along the road to find a Fingerpost

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Concluding FOOTPATHS IN THE SOUTH HAMS - Part 1

indicating the start of Path No.6 to Stiddicombe Creek (2½ Km). There are no problems on this stretch. The path is high above the Estuary, in open country with lovely views in both directions. Just before Stiddicombe the path enters woods where it is well waymarked with yellow arrow markers. Leave the wood going East for 150 metres to find a suitable place to cross the creek.

iii) There is no waymarking to show where to go on the other side. Note that there is a barb wire fence running across the creek. 30 metres up-stream of this fence on the right bank, find a small wooden gate. This is the start to Aveton Gifford path No.6 (it is fortuitous that the path numbers are the same). Go through the gate Eastwards on a well trodden path. Gradually it bends round to the North over a distance of about 150 metres and starts to climb. A yellow arrow way mark will be seen nailed to a tree on the left hand side. Continue North to a barb wire fence, running north east, and follow it in this direction to a wooden five barred gate (yellow arrow way marker on the gatepost). Then follow the barb wire fence upwards and North to the top of the ridge. Meet another barb wire fence running North East and follow this about 200 metres until three five barred gates, all within a few metres of each other are to be seen. Take the middle one which is marked with a yellow arrow waymark. Finally, follow the barb wire fence on your left hand side, North East to Stadbury farm/manor, where you will join the access road linking the farm to the A. 379.

iv). Go 300 metres North along the access road. At this point it forks, the access road going East whilst a green lane (the continuation of Path No.6.) goes off to the left to Aveton Gifford. This is the critical point where you must not lose the route. The distance to the main road is 1130 Metres. There are 5 fields to pass before reaching the main road of widths 300, 150, 150, 250, and 280 metres. After 3 fields (600 metres) find on your right hand side two five barred gates set at an angle of about 120 degrees. At this point our Walking Route joins Churchstow path No.2 which runs from the main road (A379) approximately South to the Churchstow/Thurlestone parish boundary at Grid Reference 692451, just North of Reynolds Park Farm. Take the Easterly of the two gates and follow the hedge on your right hand side for about 250 metres to find an ancient stile consisting of a slab of slate set in a stone wall. Cross the stile and go South, South West to Osborne Newton farm. It is a meadow at the moment, but in summer there are crops and one goes round the edge of the field to minimise damage.

v.) Meet the road running East/West through the farm and go West for about 30 to 40 metres to the first five barred gate on your left hand side. Go through and descend to the stream. Go directly up the slope Southwards to find a five barred gate at the top of the hill which is easily spotted. This is the point - Grid Reference 592451 already mentioned.

vi) We now join Path No.11 (Thurlestone) which is a short Definitive Footpath -200/250 metres running South to the Bantham Road. Leave the farm on your right hand side and find a stone stile with accompanying Finger post set in the hedge and giving onto the road.

vii.). On the other side of the road there is a 'Green Lane' waymarked with a Bridleway fingerpost. This is the Bridleway to Heiland Cross and is a Definitive Footpath No.12. We follow this path only 150/200 metres as far as Worthy Farm.

viii.). There we continue South on Path No.13, well waymarked with two Foot-path signs for about 100 metres and go over a stile, then turn West. Continue West for 200 metres to a stile set in the hedge. Then follows a 700 metre stretch of splendid path across a meadow with lovely views towards Buckland & Bantham. The path climbs Southwest then contours round to the South. Exit the field in the Southwest corner through a metal five barred gate. A short track then leads to the West Buckland road..

ix.) Turn right about 200 metres to Clannacombe opposite the gate to which is a Fingerpost indicating the start of Path No.14. This is a short path leading steeply uphill and crossing a meadow S/South West to rejoin the main road to Thurlestone by means of a stile (or five barred gate alongside). Turn right and return along the road to Thurlestone Church (about 1½ Km).

IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TACKLE THIS WALK & ARE NOT ABLE TO DO IT ON THEIR OWN, I WILL BE AT THURLESTONE CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY with my packed lunch at 11.00 a.m. (wet or fine) & SHALL BE GLAD TO GUIDE THEM.

Small Talk

by NEVILLE C. OSWALD

A chance meeting with a visiting couple and their young children a short time ago soon led to a pretty searching enquiry about Thurlestone. The Conversation went more or less along the following lines -

"Our kids are mad keen to get down to the beach as soon as possible. What do you recommend?"

"Well, there is Leas Foot, that's the nearest, but you must keep away from the right hand side, because that's where the sewage comes out. Then there is Yarmer, which is probably the best but rather difficult to get at with small children and all their paraphernalia."

"Oh, we've got a car."

"That's no good, you'll have to walk."

"What, right through that housing estate?"

"Yes, except that we do not call it that. We used to be able to park there until a year ago, but now you will find the roads are lined with lumps of concrete. Although I think that it is quite reasonable to restrict parking in July and August, many of us no longer in our prime bitterly resent having to flog along the roads for some distance before we can enjoy the scenery from the cliffs."

"Why is the golf course surrounded by barbed wire?"

"I once asked one of the groundsmen whether it was to keep the visitors out and he said, "No, its to keep the ground staff in." (I gather that several have got away recently.)

"What about walking round the fields?"

"Even some of that freedom has been restricted. When I retired twelve years ago, I took pride in telling my friends that Devon was unlike snooty counties such as Sussex. If you wanted to go for a walk, all you had to do was to decide whether you wanted to go north, south, east or west; then if you met anybody, you exchanged greetings in a civilised fashion. This still holds good for most of the time, but you must be prepared on occasion to have your head bitten off by a farmer if he does not like the look of you."

"What sort of people live here?"

"There are the locals and those who have retired here, some of whom have been coming to Thurlestone for so long that they are more or less locals. Then there are the people who have second homes. We all muck in together pretty well, really. Some of the problems that arise I had not anticipated when I retired. For instance, The European Economic Community is much concerned about the amount of sewage that is discharged into the sea at Leas Foot. Then again, only last week, a lady excused herself from my wife's Keep Fit class because her dog had just had a Barium meal and x-ray and had not fully recovered; maybe I should have given more thought to the possibility of dogs having indigestion down here."

"Is my wife safe here - I mean, is she likely to be attacked?"

"Oh No. It is as safe as houses, but I expect you know that the figures for wife beating in Devon are above the national average."

His wife insisted, "Will I be alright?"

"How long are you down for?"

"A fortnight."

"You should be alright."

He then asked, "Doesn't anything exciting ever happen here?"

"Well, I suppose there may be the odd elicit relationship from time to time, but none of them seem to come my way. Oh yes, we will have some excitement next July when we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada. All sorts of parties and barbeques are being arranged involving the whole parish."

"Thank you for telling us about your village, I am glad we met you."

"Enjoy your stay," I said.

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

Well it has nearly all happened at last - only the new front doors to go. The curtains so generously supplied by the W.I. have now been hung and have turned the Hall into a very attractive and worthwhile venue. So let's hope that the efforts of all those many villagers who have, one way or another, assisted in the improvements will be rewarded by a greater use being made of the Hall in the future for private functions such as parties and other celebrations. I am informed by those regularly using the Hall that the new ceiling has greatly improved the heat retaining properties and I have even heard of some W.I. members taking off their coats at last month's AGM!

To reserve the Hall or to check on cost and availability, please contact our new caretaker, Mrs. June Bickle on 560831. I would ask all those using the Hall to ensure all doors and windows are closed and lights switched off when they leave.

Finally on behalf of the Parish Hall Committee I would like to express our sincere thanks to the W.I. for the hard work put in by their members in raising the money to pay for the new curtains.



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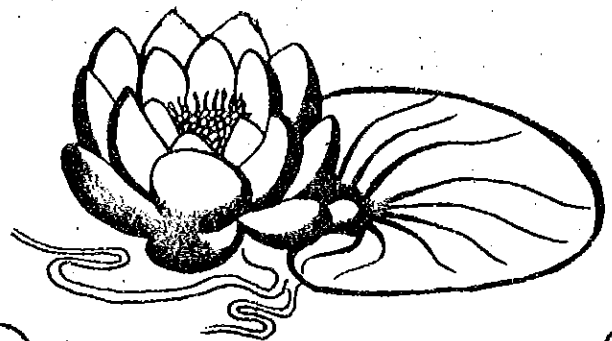
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D.M. YEOMAN

Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee
560300.

Funerals at a Crematorium (with or without a service at
at the Parish Church).

It has been a cause of considerable concern to the parochial clergy over the last few decades, with the increasing use of Crematorium facilities, that not infrequently Funeral Directors arrange such a service without reference to the parish priest concerned and arrange for the "Rota Minister" to take the service at the Crematorium. This is quite unsatisfactory for the following reasons :-

1. It is the duty of the parish priest to 'bury' the dead from his own parish. This duty extends to ministering to his own flock at a Crematorium unless he is unable to do so.
2. The "Rota Minister" arrangement at the Crematorium is provided as emergency cover (when the parish priest is unable to be there) and not as an optional alternative.
3. It is unsatisfactory for the bereaved to find the service being taken by someone, usually quite unknown to them, and who most likely has no knowledge whatsoever of the deceased, when their own Incumbent was both willing and able to minister had he been informed.
4. A not unimportant part of the parish priest's caring for his people is the pastoral ministry to the bereaved. He is often prevented from exercising this ministry by the mere fact that he has no knowledge of a death having taken place.

Most Funeral Directors are very good about ensuring that the appropriate Parish Priest is informed and enabled to minister to his own folk, unfortunately however, that is not always the case, and the purpose of this note is to inform all those who are my parishioners that it is my wish to be able to fulfill my duty in this respect for any of my parishioners at a Funeral, whether it be a burial or cremation, with or without a service in the parish church.

There is no reason why a Cremation cannot be preceded by a Funeral Service in the Parish Church, but even when that is not the case your Rector is very willing (indeed it is as I've indicated, my duty) to conduct a full service at the Crematorium Chapel.

I hope this note will dispel any wrong assumptions about this matter, and enable and encourage those undertaking funeral arrangements to be in touch with me.

Peter Stephens, Rector
The Rectory
Thurlestone

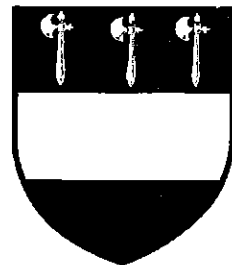
Tel. 560232

The present British royal family's surname was chosen by a commoner. Originally the family's name was Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. But in 1917, during the First World War, it was changed as a gesture to anti-German feeling. The name Windsor was thought up by Lord Stamfordham, George V's private secretary.



Buckland-Tout-Saints NEWS

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



Enter the 'World of Prestige'



Autumn is here yet again, time for a further newsletter after a most eventful Summer season. It didn't start off too well, the very cool Spring developed into the wettest May for years, and the coldest June ever, but July to September here in the South Hams has been the sunniest summer for more than three years, and temperatures well into the seventies; which bears out that the weather in the South Hams has a reputation of being much better than the rest of England.

What a lovely time of year this is, the countryside looking so lush and magnificent in the changing colours of the trees and foliage surrounding this beautiful mansion, overlooking a tranquil South Hams valley, with a recently formed lake, now stocked with carp giving that added sense of peacefulness prevailing over the whole area. In this part of the world, Autumn is especially beautiful, a time for reflection and for relaxation, and for that week-end break away from the stress of everyday cares, in a fast moving world that is loud and impersonal.

Here at Buckland-Tout-Saints, we can offer you that personal approach, that something special, in the comfort and luxury of your accommodation, in the attention to detail, those small matters that ensure the complete comfort of our guests. On August 1st this year, my family and I together with our staff received the outstanding accolade of being invited to join PRESTIGE HOTELS. This is not a hotel group or chain, but an exclusive club of some of the finest hotels in Britain (and a few abroad) that have come together with a common aim of achieving excellence in the provision of hospitality.

Each hotel has a different style and personality. Some are sophisticated establishments catering for the needs of capital cities, some are ancient inns or castles, and there are country house hotels, set in some of the most enchanting spots in Britain. No two of them are alike in size or architectural style. Some are Country Mansions and Stately Homes, often with no more than ten rooms, superbly furnished with antiques. What we all have in common however, is a dedication to providing the best that can be offered in the way of superb accommodation, good food and good wines, together with the very highest standards of personal service. It is a tradition that has grown out of the lavish country house entertaining of bygone days, when the owner of a country estate would invite guests down to be wined and dined and waited on. Today, that feeling of being a privileged guest in a private house, in an atmosphere that is elegant yet informal, is something that Prestige Hotels try very hard to preserve, and why we feel equally privileged by being invited to join this top hotel consortium.

As it is unusual for a hotel to belong to more than one hotel consortium, we are allowing our membership with Best Western Hotels to lapse at the end of 1987. We are now in an unique position of being the only Prestige Hotel in the whole of Devon and Cornwall, with our nearest neighbours being 'The Castle Hotel' at Taunton, which has been



Victor Shephard receiving the bronze 'Prestige' Plaque from Geoffrey Townend (right), Secretary and Founder Member of 'Prestige' Hotels.

welcoming travellers to Taunton since the 12th century, overlooking the quiet of Castle Green, it preserves the atmosphere of its ancient tradition: and there is 'Homewood Park Hotel', five miles South of Bath, overlooking the rolling countryside, a beautifully run country house, where their reputation is above all else for their kitchen, where the proprietor and his team have been warmly commended by all the leading hotel and restaurant guides, for the excellence of their cuisine.

Our friends from overseas have supported us well this year, making up for their absence last year, caused by the various acts of terrorism that we all know about. The Winter Breaks we are offering this year and into next year are proving popular and Christmas is very nearly sold out, just one or two rooms still available. We do still have rooms to offer over New Year, for those of you who need to unwind after a very hectic Christmas entertaining the family, or who just want comfortable relaxation over the year end. We have made many new friends this season, and renewed lots of old acquaintances, and to you all we wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, during which time we certainly hope to meet you again.

Wine Weekends every March and November

These at last are being well subscribed, especially for November, and anyone wishing information at this stage for the weekends next year, please call us.

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.

Telephone: STD (0548) 3055



Things are already hotting up for next year and the Armada Office is working flat out in publishing the events. Already many of the events have now received dates and this information is being mailed all over the world to help tour operators and agents sort out their programmes. Currently events include:-

FRIDAY 1 JULY

Opening Ceremony - Hoe Promenade.
Historic Costume Exhibition (until 28th).
Strolling Minstrels (until 28th).

SATURDAY 2 JULY

Plymouth Philharmonic Choir Concert
- Guildhall.
Elizabethan Fayre.

SUNDAY 3 JULY

Armada Commemorative Service - St. Andrew's Church.
'It's an Armada Knockout'
Start of the RNSA Feeder Race to San Sebastian.

SUNDAY 10 JULY

King's Singers Concert - World Premiere
- Guildhall 8.00 p.m.
Strawberry and Mead Costumed Picnic.

TUESDAY 12 JULY

Massed Bands Royal Marines Beat Retreat -
Hoe Promenade.

FRIDAY 15 JULY

Historical Association Conference - College of
St. Mark and St. John (until 17th).

SATURDAY 16 JULY

Elizabethan Fashion Parade
Armada Street Painting Competition
Start of the Armada Cup Race, San Sebastian
- Plymouth.

SUNDAY 17 JULY

Armada Treasure Trail
Marisa Robles Concert

MONDAY 18 JULY

EBA President's Team v. Sir Francis Drake
Bowling Club

TUESDAY 19 JULY

Re-enactment of Drake's Famous Game of
Bowls
Bonfires at Mount Edgcumbe and HMS Cam-
bridge
Armada Flower Festival - St. Andrew's Church
(until 21st)

Armada Cruise

Commemorative Bowls Match
(Oak Villa, Leeds v. Torrington) to mark the
Centenary of the Plymouth Cup.

FRIDAY 22 JULY

Gathering of Armada Descendants - (until 24th).

SATURDAY 23 JULY

Armada Costumed Ball - RNEC Manadon.
Gathering of all the Plymouths Worldwide -
(until 28th July)
Plymouth Philatelic Society Exhibition
- Guildhall.

SUNDAY 24 JULY

Gathering of World Plymouths - Church Ser-
vice.
- Laying of Wreath at Armada Memorial.
Civic Reception - World Plymouths.

MONDAY 25 JULY

Historic Armada Banquet

TUESDAY 26 JULY

Miss Plymouth International Beauty Contest
Costumed Bowls Match between New Plymouth,
New Zealand and Plymouth, Great Britain.

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY

Amateur Radio Link-Up with all the Plymouths
Worldwide
Armada 400 - The Grand Finale

Sitting Pretty

Many years ago, when Buckland was a private residence, the lavatories were located outside on the north bank, above where the garages have now been built. There were two, quite unique, dating back to the late 1800s, manufactured by Royal Doulton, beautifully patterned in green and white, both inside and out.

When we decided to refurbish the gentlemen's cloakroom, we investigated the possibility of taking the china pans out of their present location, and re-siting them in the hotel. The problem was lifting them out of the dilapidated building, with rotten floors in confined space that had not been used for decades. But we thought it worth a try, so we hacked down the overgrowth, tore down the cobwebs, and found a builder brave enough to embark on the task of getting out these two valuable pieces of porcelain, without cracking the bases, or chipping the edges, or dropping them into the pit below!

All went well, and they were rescued, when cleaned and polished, they looked as good as new. The next hurdle was to find suitable seats to match the period, and here Heritage came to our aid. They are superb, just like the ones great grandfather can remember. Now they are complete, in their new setting in all their splendour, and the gentlemen are "sitting pretty".

Hotels promote catering careers

Buckland-Tout-Saints Hotel has recently been helping to promote catering and hotel industry careers in the South Hams.

Eighteen youngsters from the St. Thomas More School, East Allington and the Ivybridge based scheme Training Opportunities South Hams got the chance to look around a local hotel to see how it works: and the general manager of the Buckland-Tout-Saints Hotel Mr. David Shephard gave a careers talk to fifth and sixth years at KEVICS in Totnes.

It was all part of the first nationwide Catering and Hotel Careers Open Day which aims to attract young people to jobs in the industry.

Activities in U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand

A very warm welcome to our overseas friends in America, Mr. Scott Calder and his associates. Scott was the first to point out that this Hotel is now the nearest 'Prestige' Hotel to the U.S.A.

Even more recently we welcome Brian and Colin Adams who will be looking after our interests in New Zealand and Australia.

Roasted Breasts of Duck with lime and marjoram

Serves 4 persons

by Alastair Carter, Head Chef.

4 duck breasts (farm reared)
10 fl. oz. good veal stock
10 fl. oz. duck stock
2 oz. sugar
6 limes
8 sprigs fresh marjoram



Method

First make the sauce. Reduce the veal stock and duck stock over a high heat by half. Peel the zest off the limes. Reserve a few pieces, cut into fine strips, then blanch and refresh, these are for a garnish. Cut limes in half and squeeze juice into a small saucepan, along with the sugar and 4 sprigs of marjoram.

Cook this mixture to almost a caramel and add to the reduced duck and veal stock. Simmer until correct consistency and flavour are achieved. Strain and keep warm.

To cook the duck breasts: turn on oven to Gas 7 (425 deg. F). In a heavy bottomed frying pan or roasting tin, place the duck breasts skin side down and cook over a high heat until nicely browned. Turn them over and finish in the oven to your liking. Allow duck to rest for 5 minutes after cooking time.

Cut into thin slices and arrange on plates with the lime sauce underneath. Garnish with remaining marjoram sprigs and blanched lime zests.

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Why are we waiting - asks Walter Dee

The South West Water Authority Chairman and Chief Executive, Mr Keith Court, has said that 14 of the 109 most popular beaches in the Authority's area between Land's End and Lyme Regis, failed to meet EC directives. (Yes - Thurlestone at Leas Foot Beach was one of that 14). 11 beaches are the subject of improvement schemes (but Thurlestone is not yet one of them). Mr Court has said; "The remaining beaches will be picked off sooner rather than later, provided the solutions are not too complex. It has become a socially significant problem." (Well, thank goodness for that!)

In an extremely well produced and glossy booklet on the subject of "Bathing Waters", published by South West Water refers to the areas concerned and mentions those already the subject of improvements, proceeds to say:

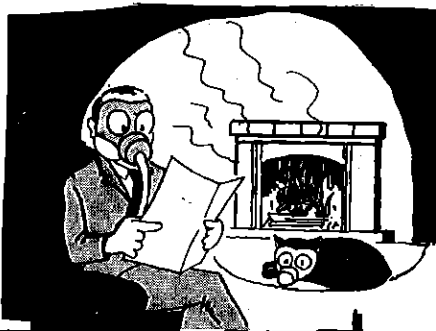
"Timetables for further remedial works to bring other stretches of bathing waters up to standard will depend on discussions taking place with the Department of the Environment. All round Britain sewage is pumped into the sea every day where it is quickly dispersed (the booklet asserts) by wave action and treated through the actions of sea water and bright light. The problem is not the method of dispersal but the fact that pipes through which the sewage is pumped (purely gravity flow at Thurlestone) are often too short, (and too small in diameter?) This might have been acceptable 100 years ago," the booklet continues, not mentioning anything about the vast increase in housing and population, "but not any more. In 1984 the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution reported that: 'With well designed sewage outfalls we believe that discharge of sewage to the sea is not only acceptable, but, in many cases, environmentally preferable to alternative methods of disposal' (And much cheaper?) - "The people of the South West are especially environmentally conscious. South West Water recognises this and a number of large-scale schemes are being commissioned to take sewage far out to sea. Using the most up-to-date technology, each scheme is researched for months and sometimes years - (you can say that again - fully 12 years at Thurlestone, and still no sign of movement!) - "All the schemes are designed to ensure that EC standards will be met."

"Construction of a long sea outfall" - (which may well be a Thurlestone solution) - "is a positive way of cleaning beaches. There are six basic techniques for the construction of long sea outfalls and submarine pipelines. The most common is the sea bed tow method for a steel pipeline. Here is how it is done: "

"The pipes in 12 metre lengths arrive at an open space specially prepared for them close to the sea and in line with the place where the outfall must enter the sea. They are laid in long lines and welded together to form a 'string'. The strings are then encased in concrete to protect them and provide weight so that the pipeline is stable on the sea bed. Each pipe string is supported by a series of rollers to facilitate the pulling operations. The end of the first string with its diffuser pipes through which the sewage will eventually be discharged, is now pulled to the water's edge. Meanwhile (if necessary) a dredging barge has dug a deep trench for the pipe to be laid in. Now a powerful pulling barge links up with the end of the first string and pulls it out to sea. When this is done the second string is rolled over and welded up. This second string is then pulled, and so the process is repeated until the complete pipeline is submerged."

This is one likely method that one supposes could be used at Thurlestone Leas Foot. Since the Water Authority took over control in 1974 they have had the benefit of an almost net revenue - very many thousands of pounds per annum - and there should really be no reason for delay in getting on with the job in this parish - nor any threat that the cost of the work will mean any increase in the sewage rate, for have they not already imposed a substantial annual increase without giving anything at all in return. I consider this community has paid well in advance for improvement works to its outdated and totally inadequate pipeline system of sewage disposal. Perhaps if they cut out these expensive glossy booklets, etc. and many other ways they find of spending our money (see Village Voice Nov/Dec) they could make a start in 1988 ??

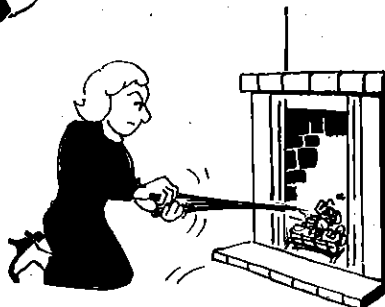
Fumes in the House?



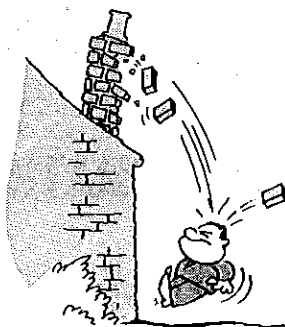
Mortar in the Fireplace?



Not Drawing Properly?



Unsafe Structure?



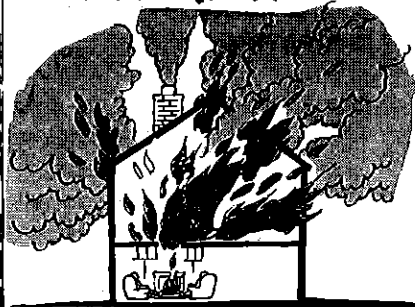
Using too much Fuel?



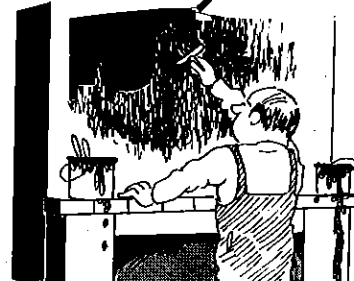
Excessive Soot?



Fire Risk?



Stains on the Chimneybreast?



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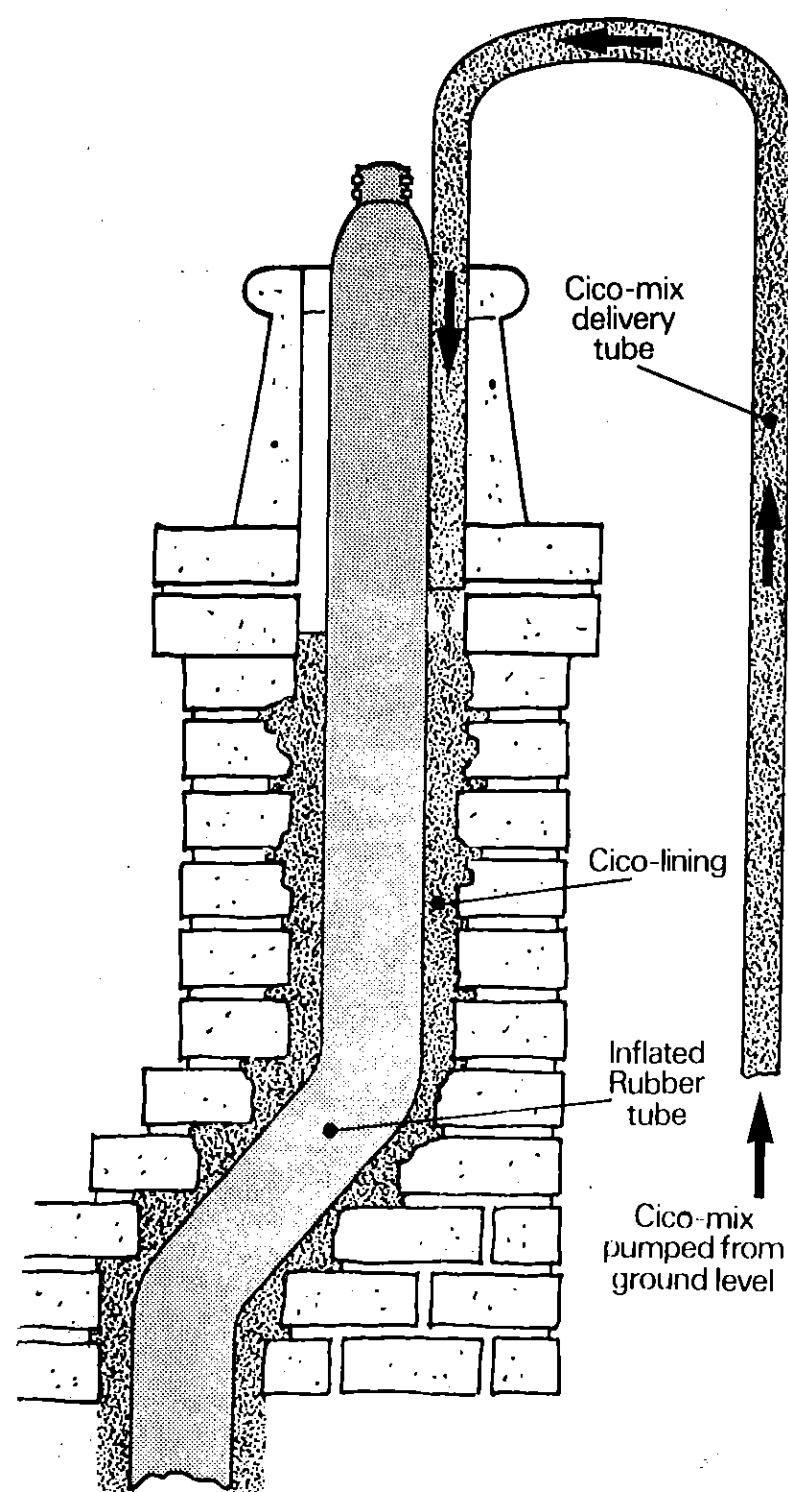
4. All the openings and the bottom of the flue are sealed. CICO-mix is pumped into the chimney filling the annular space around the rubber tube, sealing every crack, joint and void permanently.

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VILLAGE VOICE begins the New Year with a great new series of interesting and informative stories :

World War II Comes to the South Hams

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

1. THE CIVILIAN SCENE

What happened in the South Hams during World War II ? Fortunately, the 'Kingsbridge Gazette', which was published weekly throughout the war, recorded many of the day to day events. Also, quite a few people who lived here during those stirring times are still around and have interesting stories to tell. Hence, from one source or another, we can gain a pretty good idea of the way the community lived and responded to the emergency.

With the declaration of war at the beginning of September 1939, the two principal preoccupations of the South Hams were immediately apparent, namely the production of food and the provision of accommodation and care for several thousand people who sought safety from bombing, many of them children who were officially evacuated from their homes. In addition, Civil Defence and civilian services of various kinds were organised to meet the needs of the community and to support the demands of the armed forces, which were comparatively small until the Americans arrived in 1944 to prepare for the invasion of France.

Business in Kingsbridge and elsewhere continued much as usual throughout the war, albeit with shortages of all kinds. A Food Control Committee and restrictions on the sale of petrol were instituted in September 1939; rationing of food began in early 1940 and of clothing in 1941. There was very little trading in the black market or lawlessness at any time. Indeed, only one man was arrested for drunkenness in 1940, and 1941 was declared "another good year for sobriety, helped by the shortage of beer." Some peacetime pursuits continued, for example the annual Kingsbridge agricultural show, cricket and football matches. Others disappeared. Private motor boats were barred from 1940, among a mounting list of restrictions in the Kingsbridge estuary and its approaches. The South Pool Harriers were disbanded in 1940. Churches were poorly attended even in rural parishes, except on special occasions; the Bishop of Exeter visited the district twice and was warmly greeted and Battle of Britain Sundays drew large crowds.

continued OVERPAGE:

VILLAGE VOICE

WORLD WAR II COMES TO THE SOUTH HAMS continued:

At the outbreak of war several voluntary organisations were already in being at Kingsbridge, to support the civilian services that existed in peacetime. Air Raid Wardens took their place alongside the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), the Special Constables and a unit of the St. John Ambulance Brigade; Salcombe had a flourishing section of the Red Cross. The Womens Voluntary Service (WVS) quickly found much work to do and Womens Institutes were active in the villages. The Citizens Advice Bureau had an office in Kingsbridge which served as a clearing house for information about social problems.

Travelling around the South Hams some 40 years after the war came to an end, anyone who knows a little of the district is constantly reminded of events, some of them trivial, that happened in those days and especially when they are recalled by people who still live here. For example, a former Kingsbridge fireman remembered all the old people and invalids who came down for the duration of the war to stay with relations or, if they could afford it, in private homes and hotels. He spoke of the report centre for firewatchers in Rossetti and Peppercorn, a respected firm of solicitors; after the town was bombed in 1943, he was impressed when the establishment of full time firemen was suddenly raised from three to 50, by recruiting men from the Midlands. Evacuees, despite their virtues, raised a few rural eyebrows at times.

All the goodwill that had been heaped on children when they arrived at a rather remote village was shattered when the scalps of several of them were seen to be alive with head lice; a family billeted in a cottage resented having to empty a tin bath in the living room with a scoop because it was too large to go through the door; a group of mothers and children, temporarily lodged in a school in Modbury, caused considerable dismay when they dismantled much of the furniture to make a fire. Over at Salcombe, a port of embarkation for the invasion of Normandy in 1944, a lady remembers the drivers of enormous American trucks trying to negotiate the narrow streets in the town; also in Salcombe the owner of a small craft, going about his legitimate business, was grateful when occasionally a tin of Spam was tossed in his direction from one of the US ships in the harbour. Incidents such as these, which often meant so much at the time, went some way towards enlivening the local scene which, denuded of its menfolk by conscription into the Services, was really rather quiet. They also illustrate some of the consequences of the war such as Civil Defence, the evacuees and the arrival of the American troops; these and other aspects will be described in future issues of Village Voice.

Part 2. CIVIL DEFENCE in the March/April issue

=====

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VILLAGE VOICE is delighted to have the permission of the author to present this story - a story which has been accepted for publication by an American magazine.....

TO RESCUE A PRINCE

— by Ian C. Young —

The arrival of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and his clansmen in Inverness on 18th February 1746, changed the lives of many but none so effectively as the lives of Donald MacLeod, and his son Murdoch.

After the raising of the Stuart flag at Glenfinnan in August 1745, the chief events took place in Southern Scotland and England, so Inverness had been in something of a backwater with only rumours to feed the citizens' curiosity, while their public actions were watched by Lord London's militia regiment stationed in the Castle.

The militia had fled north the previous day, so there was no opposition and the Jacobite army were able to settle in their quarters and begin to repair the damage to themselves and their equipment caused by the long march to Derby, and their fighting retreat north to Inverness.

Murdoch, a student at the local grammar school was, like most of the young men, a committed Jacobite, and his first sight of the Prince confirmed him in his determination to serve his cause, and during the weeks that followed he, and many of his friends, watched every movement of the Prince while debating schemes to arm themselves and join the Highland army when it marched out to meet the Duke of Cumberland and his troops.

Donald, on the other hand, arrived at his decision more maturely. The family home, a croft at Gualtergill, in Skye, was situated in the heartland of the MacLeods, and his own chief had displayed great unwillingness to join the Prince and had instructed his clansmen not to get involved.

Although he was a crofter in Skye, MacLeod was also the skipper of a trading vessel well known in the northern waters and his reputation as a skilled navigator was respected by traders. He was in Inverness on this memorable day because a trip with a cargo of meal for the Western Isles had been delayed through bad weather.

Taking full advantage of his many contacts amongst the Inverness merchants and also members of fighting clans in the Highland Army, MacLeod was able to discover the reasons and the hopes, which had activated the Rebellion, and becoming convinced of the justice of the Prince's cause decided to defy his Chief and, like his son, pledged himself to serve the Prince in any capacity. The opportunity came quickly.

Early in April the Prince instructed one of his younger officers, MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart, to proceed to Barra, collect a cache of gold which had been stored there, and return to Inverness. MacDonald asked Donald MacLeod to pilot him through the dangerous waters of the north and west which were patrolled by vessels of all types, all determined to prevent help reaching the Prince.

Left to his own devices in Inverness, and proud of the part which his Father was playing, Murdoch set about arming himself for the battle which everyone expected, and when the Highlanders marched out of Inverness towards disaster at Culloden, Murdoch marched with them, carrying a claymore, a dirk and a pistol.

We have no knowledge of how Murdoch behaved in the bloody carnage on the afternoon of April 16th, but when he realised that his troops were scattered, and no longer a fighting force, the Prince, accompanied by a few friends rode from the field and headed west. Murdoch, true to his pledge, followed.

Continued OVERPAGE:

TO RESCUE A PRINCE continued

Meanwhile young MacDonald and MacLeod, having completed their mission landed in Kinlochmoidart, and prepared to return to Inverness, but the tragic news of Culloden reached them before they could start, and fresh instructions commanded their attendance on the Prince at Borrodale, in Morar.

On arriving at Borrodale MacLeod was no doubt surprised, but pleased, to be reunited with his son, Murdoch, who regaled his Father with the story of his adventures since they parted company in Inverness.

When presented to the Prince, MacLeod was informed of the change of plans. Before leaving the battlefield at Culloden instructions had been given to the officers remaining that the Highland Army should regroup at Ruthven, in Strath-spey, and from there continue the struggle. However, on studying the reports of the complete disaster at Culloden, and reconsidering his own position, the Prince decided that the army should disband entirely, the clansmen return to their homes and the leaders would return to France where they would try and raise further help for a renewed effort to regain the British throne for the Stuarts.

With these plans in mind MacLeod was instructed to contact his own and other local chiefs, in order that the Prince and his immediate party, should procure a ship to carry them to France. MacLeod refused to co-operate in any way with this scheme because he considered that local support for the Cause was very unreliable, and it was very probable that once the Prince gave himself into the power of the chiefs they would pass him to the custody of the Hanoverian troops. The only possible solution to the problem was for the Prince to move to the Outer Islands where it might be possible to engage a ship to carry him directly to France, or at least to the greater safety of the Orkneys.

Fortunately a suitable boat was available, and as he was the only person present with real seagoing experience, plus a knowledge of gaelic, it was agreed that MacLeod would lead the expedition and all would follow his instructions.

By the time all the arrangements had been made there had been a change in the weather and a gale was blowing, but the need to make a move was now so urgent that MacLeod reluctantly agreed to start.

The boat was fully laden because as well as the Prince and his three companions there was Donald MacLeod, now fully in command, his 15 year old son Murdoch, and seven other Highlanders who would act as oarsmen when necessary.

It was early evening, on Saturday 26th April, that the fugitives set out having decided that to risk death at sea was better than to remain where they were, and risk almost certain capture.

MacLeod set a course which would take them north westerly along the coast of Skye, with the islands of Rhum, Eigg and Canna on their left, and held the course throughout the night, and when day dawned the shores of Benbecula gave hope of shelter. A dangerous landing was accomplished, and the storm battered travellers took refuge in an abandoned hut with no sign of life nearby. They had been travelling for eight hours and had managed to cover 80 miles. The arrival of the strange craft had been seen by a shepherd who was collecting his flocks from the hills. He hurried to his chief, Clanranald, with the news that strangers had landed and were sheltering in the boothy.

It was unfortunate that when the news arrived Clanranald was entertaining one of the local Presbyterian ministers, Reverend John Macaulay, who overheard the announcement. Both Clanranald and the Reverend Macaulay decided to act. The chief set off to meet his Prince, while the minister headed for Stornoway where he hoped to alert the military, arrange for the Prince's capture and share at least part of the reward which had been announced - £30,000 dead, or alive.

By the time Clanranald had reached the hut, plans had been made for an attempt to reach Stornoway where there was a better chance of getting a larger vessel for the trip to France, or the Orkneys. So with the enthusiastic good wishes of Clanranald ringing in their ears the party relaunched their boat and sailed north towards the island of Scalpay, close to the busy port of Stornoway.

In the March/April issue you can learn how they got on.

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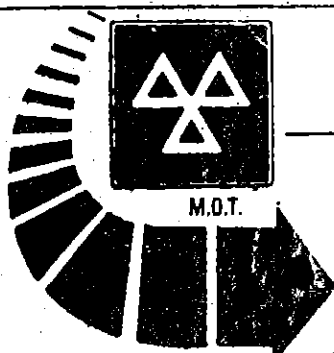
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From Mandrake to Burdock

The importance of plants to Mankind cannot be over-estimated. Our very lives depend on green plants in one form or other, not only because they purify the air, but because all our food is derived directly or indirectly from them. In the oceans, life begins with the plant. Certain fishes feed on minute forms of floating plant life, and they in turn are eaten by larger fish. On the other hand, the flesh eating animals prey on those which feed on grass and herbage, so that all life may be said to owe its existence to the plant.

In the Middle-Ages books, and especially references to plants, were rare. Herbs were endowed with all kinds of magical powers, and some of them were put to very different uses from what may occur nowadays, for their real properties were only imperfectly understood. There was then no means of identifying plants, and a great deal of confusion must have existed no doubt accounting for the legendary attributes of the various herbs which were implicitly believed. The Mandrake is a typical example. This plant which belongs to the potatoe tribe was reputed to have the form of a man or woman with its forked, parsnip-like root. It was said to be death to dig up a root, which shrieked and groaned, and none that might hear it would live. However, as it was esteemed for its medicinal virtues, it was recommended that the plant should be loosened in the ground, and a dog tied to it. In attempting to get away, the dog would uproot the Mandrake, and fall dead. Once out of the ground the Mandrake could be handled in safety.

Henbane and Belladonna also belong to the same family as the potatoe and tomato, but unlike them, all parts are poisonous. Another poisonous drug was obtained from Hemlock, which belongs to the carrot and parsley family - in fact, the leaves have been mistaken for parsley and the root for parsnip, but they have a bitter taste, but at one time the leaves and fruits were gathered as they were found of service in all spasmodic affections, such as epilepsy.

Garden Sage was held in the highest repute in the Middle-Ages "being singularly good for the head and brain, it quickeneth the senses and memory, strengtheneth the nerves, restoreth health to those that have the palsy, and taketh away shakey trembling of the members." It is a good blood purifier.

Common mint or Spearmint was considered of value in children's complaints. Spearmint Oil was added to many compounds for its warming and soothing properties, whilst it was considered an infusion of spearmint relieved stomach pains.

Fragrant Rosemary and Lavender are still grown in many gardens. Lavender, of course, for perfume and Rosemary was once used to flavour ale and wine, and also burnt as incense. Oil of Rosemary is distilled from the flowering tops, leaves and stems and added to liniments. Rosemary tea was regarded as useful against headaches and nervous ailments.

Liquorice has been cultivated in England since 1562, and is grown commercially in the Vale of York. It is a graceful plant with leaves like an ash, and small blue and white pea-like flowers. The roots, which go down to a depth of three to four feet, are dug up in the autumn, then crushed and boiled. The evaporated extract is rolled out into various shapes and was at one time an ingredient in all popular cough medicines as well as being well favoured as a sweet by many children.

The Marsh Mallows sold by confectioners, however, do not contain any extract of the mallow. Marsh Mallow is found in most of the sea-bordering counties in the south of England. It grows from three to four feet high with rounded, three to five lobed leaves, which are soft and velvety. The leaves, the bluish-white flowers and the thick, long roots, use to offer a popular remedy for whooping cough and chest complaints. Then we have the purple flowered Burdock which grows commonly by the wayside and is well known - or used to be - to children, who loved to throw the ripe flower heads or burrs at one another. The burrs are covered with hooked prickles, which cling to everything with which they come in contact, the seeds being carried long distances on the coats of animals.

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Housing: Government Proposals

On September 29th 1987, the Government issued a White Paper setting out the main strands of housing policy which it intends to pursue over the next few years. Legislation on many of these topics will be included in a Bill to be considered by Parliament in due course.

The Government has four principal aims:-

- i) To reverse the decline of rented housing and to improve its quality.
- ii) To give Council tenants the right to transfer to other landlords if they choose to do so.
- iii) To target money more accurately on the most acute problems.
- iv) To continue to encourage the growth of home ownership.

Proposals would include deregulation of new lettings by private landlords. Deregulation of housing association new lettings and the revision of the financial regime for housing associations to facilitate greater use of private sector resources. A simplified and better targetted system of improvement and repair grants and detailed changes to the right to buy.

The Government proposes to remove the present system of statutory rent control and security of tenure. New tenancies created by private landlords, including housing associations, would be either new-style assured tenancies or assured shorthold tenancies. The laws on harassment, illegal evictions and repairs will be strengthened to prevent abuse.

Under an assured tenancy, the duration and terms, including rent, will be negotiable between landlord and tenant with no restriction on the rent level. The tenant would have indefinite security of tenure, subject to the landlord being able to establish a right to possession under one of the specific grounds which are broadly similar to those in operation at present.

Under an assured shorthold tenancy, the tenancy would be for a fixed term only, with the landlord having the right to possession at the expiry of that term. The rent would be negotiable, but either party could apply to a Rent Assessment Committee to fix a reasonable rent.

The proposals are expected to increase the supply and quality of privately rented accommodation and this may reduce pressure on Council's resources. Rather like winter-lets, the increased availability of short-term tenancies would provide temporary assistance to homeless persons. However, increased homelessness may result when shorthold tenancies expire, and, particularly if those tenancies are taken up by persons from outside the district, this could reduce the re-housing prospects of applicants on the housing waiting list.

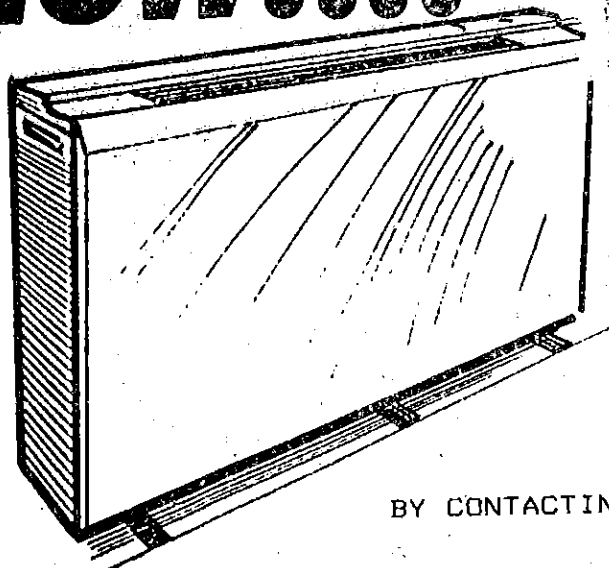
The Government proposes that, with an increasing proportion of rents in future not subject to statutory rent control, it will ensure, where a tenant's rent is being met through housing benefit, that the rent is not unreasonable by giving Rent Officers a new function of assessing reasonable rents for the purpose of housing benefit subsidy paid by local authorities. Subsidy will only be paid on a reasonable rent. In due course the Secretary of State will set maximum rent levels for each authority area for housing benefit purposes.

In Summary of Proposals: Deregulation of new lettings by private landlords. Deregulation of housing association new lettings, and revision of the financial regime of housing associations. A new local authority financial regime. A right for local authority tenants to transfer to other landlords. Powers to set up Housing Action Trusts in order to renovate run-down local authority housing. A simplified and better targetted system of improvement and repair grants. Detailed changes to the right to buy.

This is a very brief outline of 'Housing: The Government's Proposals' which may be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £3.30 net.

'Thank you' District Councillor Jack Thomas, who passed on this information to Village Voice

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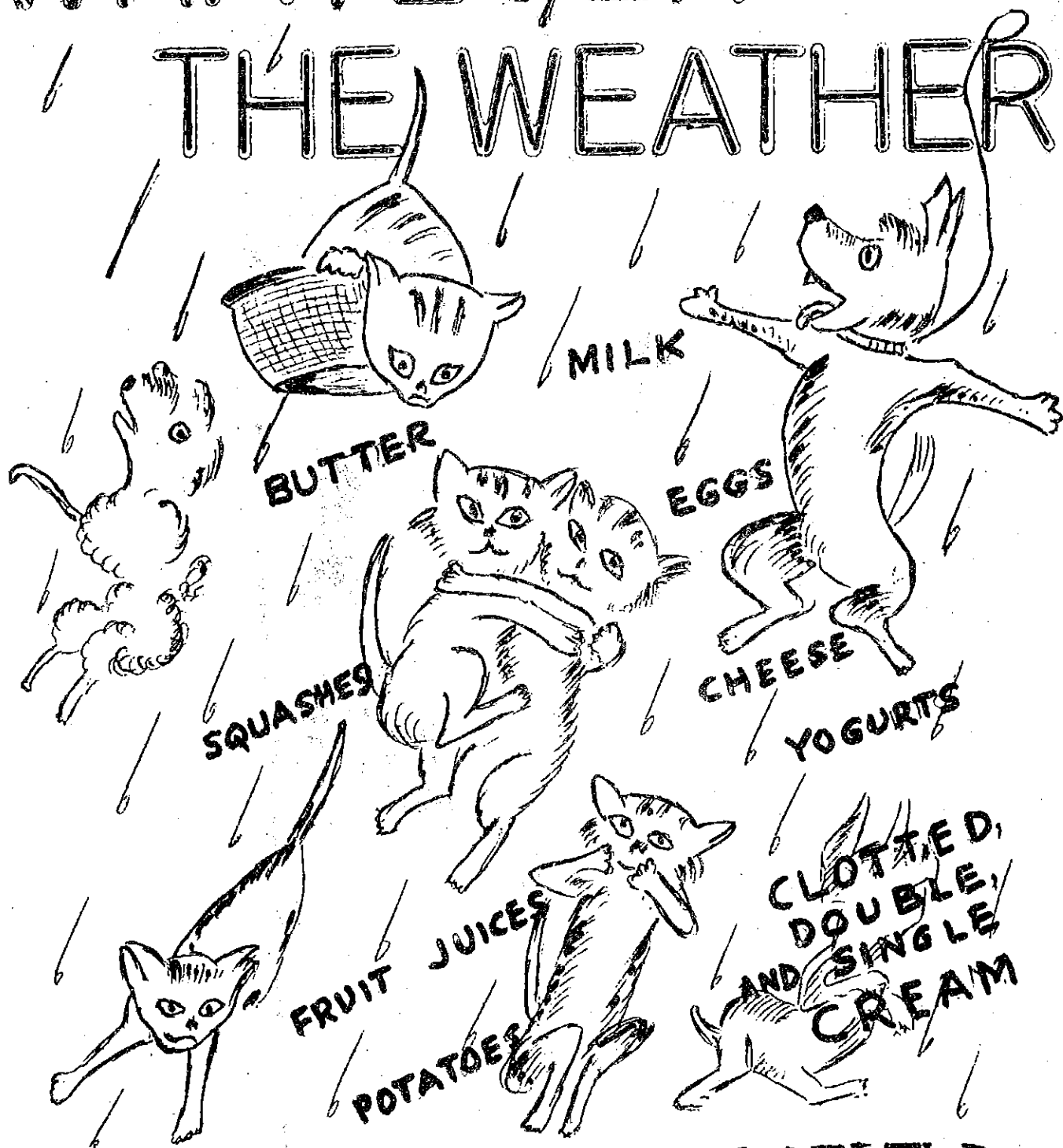
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In the period July 27th - August 1st, 1953 an Exhibition of Village History was held at Bantham, organised with the united effort of the whole village. The following 'Historical Notes' written for the Exhibition booklet will be of interest to the many newcomers into our Parish over the past 34 years....

BANTHAM

2000 B.C. - 1953 A.D.

BANTHAM is one of the Villages whose part in the shaping of England goes back to pre-historic times. Lying, with its population of barely one hundred (1951 Census), at the mouth of the Aune or Devonshire Avon, it is the most westerly of the three villages forming the parish of Thurlestone.

Bantham's name, like so many Devon names is descriptive of its situation. HAM - a dwelling place, on the Bents - the sea grass of the characteristic dunes.

Here on the Ham, there was a Promontory Fort, similar to the one on Bolt Tail, inhabited by early man of the Bronze Age. In the nearby kitchen midden or refuse heap, many traces have been found, bones and antlers of red deer, remains of domestic animals, vast quantities of shells (limpet, oyster, mussel, with some charcoal) together with spindle whorls and sherds of pottery. It is occasional glimpses such as these that help to reveal the story of the forefathers of our people today.

The site was uncovered during the great storm of November 1703, which raged for four days, and in which Winstanley's Eddystone lighthouse was destroyed. But the first person to take a real interest in the miscellaneous bones and fragments lying among the dunes was H.L.Jenkins, of Clanacombe, a late Victorian antiquarian, to whom those who follow owe much.

Roman and Saxon finds then carry us on through centuries, but it was not until the preparation of this exhibition that some of the pottery was first identified as being of the Dark Ages (500 - 600 A.D.) and previously only found at Tintagel in Cornwall and Garranes (S.Ireland). A discovery of major importance to archaeologists.

Today the kitchen midden is sometimes disclosed, sometimes shrouded in sand, according to the whim of the weather.

In Norman times those living by the sea had much to fear from invaders.

Please turn over...

VILLAGE VOICE

Irish marauding bands landed in 1057 laying waste the district as far inland as Totnes. But later it was the seamen who in turn learned to fear the villagers. Owing to the dangerous nature of the coast, wrecks have always been frequent, and for long periods "wracking" was really a local industry. An interesting letter from a Dartmouth Customs official in 1772 refers to the local people as "Barbarians" following the wreck of the 300 ton Chantiloupe in Bigbury Bay.

Another writer Henry Hingston, the Quaker, in 1703 says: "I have also been deeply affected to see and feel how sweet the report of shipwreck is to the inhabitants. . . what running there is on such occasions - all other business thrown aside and away to wrack!"

Some of the old fever was seen to return when the tempting cargo of a food ship, wrecked in the Channel during the leanest days of the last war, was washed up on the beaches.

Smuggling, of course had also been a regular occupation, the contraband being sometimes disguised under loads of seaweed and finding a temporary resting place in Daniel Whiddon's old smithy.

Today the principle industries are sea-fishing and agriculture. Salmon are still netted by seine at the mouth of the river, in the Salmon Pool below Jenkin's Quay, the deepest and narrowest part of the river, where the fish stay to play before going up to spawn. In the Exeter copy of Domesday Book, among the sources of revenue of the Manor Of Loddiswell, the Salmon of the river are mentioned. The indentures by which apprentices were bound in the valley of the Aune contained the provision that they should not be fed on Salmon more than three times a week ! At one time large quantities of pilchards were netted in Bigbury Bay. Many of these were brought into Bantham to be salted and pressed into barrels in the old Pilchard Cellars on the Quayside.

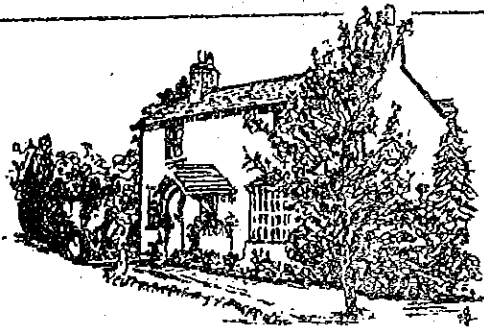
It was here, too, that Col. Montagu, the well known naturalist, first identified many of his birds, including the Harrier, named after him.

Shipping has suffered an even more serious decline than fishing. Until the last twenty years Sloops and Barges navigated the river carrying coal and limestone as far as Aveton Gifford. But craft even of this size would be an unusual sight on the river today. The old Lime Kilns in which the Limestone was burnt still stand at intervals along the river, but are rapidly falling into decay; their ruins now the haunt of picnic parties and the roost of owls.

The most disturbing problem since the war is the rapid encroachment of the sand dunes towards the village, caused in part by military use

Concluded overpage...

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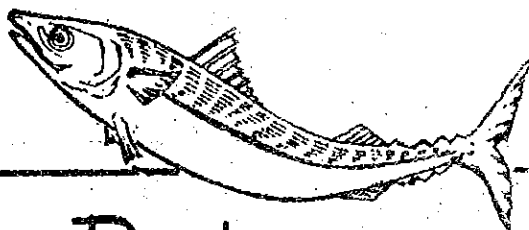
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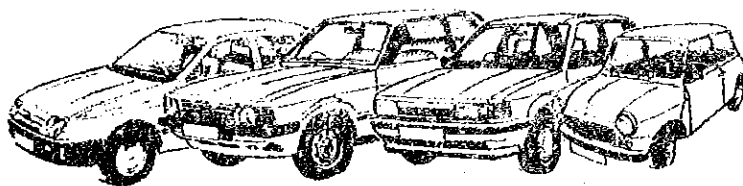
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during the war, which damaged the Marram Grass normally binding the sand. In making such in-roads, and in its constant toll, the sea always has the last word - as John Betjeman so aptly writes:-

And all the time the waves, the waves, the waves,
Chase intersect and flatten on the sand
As they have done for centuries, as they will
For centuries to come when not a soul
Is left to picnic on the blazing rocks,
When England is not England, when mankind
Has blown himself to pieces. Still the sea,
Consolinglly disastrous, will return
While the strange starfish, hugely magnified,
Waits in the jewelled basin of a pool.

It is hoped that the catalogue will be kept as a record for those who come after, and that it may add in some small way to the general knowledge of the country's past.

Bantham, 1953.

CLARE FOX

From "THE REFORMER" dated TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1837

HOW TO SEE STAFFA TO ADVANTAGE !

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., three Glasgow ladies, who happened to be on a visit in the Island of Coll, set off from thence for Staffa in a small boat with six of a crew. They had no more than time to survey the magnificent Cave of Fingal, when on a sudden a complete hurricane came on. To attempt to leave the island in their fragile bark in such weather would assuredly lead to their being swallowed up by the remorseless waves. They had no alternative but to remain in the island, desolate and uninhabited as it was - without a house, however humble, to shelter them from the storm - without fire, and with their slender store of provisions exhausted. The hardy Highlanders hauled the bark ashore, and, with the aid of the scanty sail, constructed a rude tent, under the shelter of which the unhappy ladies were constrained to pass the night.

Morning came, and brought hope, but no calm. The boatmen hoisted a signal of distress on the highest part of the island, but to no purpose - the storm raged as fiercely as ever, "return or aid preventing." Towards the evening of the second day, however, five daring islanders from Gometra, during a temporary lull, ventured their lives to rescue the party. But this only made matters worse; for scarcely had they reached Staffa, when the tempest broke out with redoubled violence, and, baulking their well-meant exertions, compelled them to remain with those whom they had come to succour. Thus passed the second night. On the third day, their hopes were raised by perceiving a steamer labouring and snorting amongst the huge billows; but when within a few miles of Staffa she consulted her safety, and put back. Shortly afterwards they saw another, the "Maid of Islay". All she could possibly accomplish was to send four quartern loaves ashore to the famished prisoners. Gradually the weather moderated, and in the course of the same day they were able to leave the island in their boats; and the ladies have now reached Glasgow in safety. The natural courtesy of the Gael is well known. By many a device, and by narrating many an ancient legend, the Highlanders strove to cheer up their low-country companions in their state of durance.

Sent in by J.M.

The Poor Law 1833-34

90p in Sussex to 19p in Lancaster

An Account, showing the Proportion of the Expenditure for the Relief of the Poor in the year ended 25th March, 1834, with reference to the Population of 1831, wherein each County is placed according to its Rate of Expenditure. Also a Statement of the Number of Pauper Lunatics and Idiots in each of such Counties, as shown by an Account required in pursuance of an Address of the House of Commons, dated 5th July 1836¹

COUNTIES	Pop in 1831	Expenditure per head in 1833-34		Families employed in 1831.		Lunatics	Idiots
		s.	d.	Agriculture	Trade		
SUSSEX	272340	18.	1	22,450	17489	99	165
BUCKS	145529	16.	11.	16,803	8395	64	145
SUFFOLK	296317	16.	7.	31,401	18116	166	179
BEDFORD	93483	16.	4.	11,364	5137	42	123
OXFORD	152156	15.	10.	15,384	9454	72	114
NORFOLK	390054	15.	9.	37,610	28871	215	179
NORTHAMPTON	179336	15.	8.	18,334	12895	81	166
ESSEX	317507	15.	1	34,589	18282	115	197
WILTS	240156	14.	6	25,045	15627	127	193
KENT	479155	14.	3	31,667	29419	235	233
BERKS	145389	13.	9	14,647	9884	79	153
HUNTINGDON	53192	13.	6	6,231	2940	14	24
CAMBRIDGE	143955	13.	5	16,093	8213	31	84
SOUTHAMPTON	314280	12.	11	22,761	20983	262	239
HERTFORD	143341	12.	00	13,268	8552	79	116
SURREY	486334	10.	9	14,647	49616	383	181
DORSET	159252	10.	7	14,601	10106	158	134
LEICESTER	197603	10.	3	12,352	29984	87	141
HEREFORD	111211	10.	2	12,838	6105	61	132
LINCOLN	317465	10.	2	35,749	17284	117	153
WARWICK	336610	9.	5	15,880	43291	169	231
RUTLAND	19385	9.	4	2,290	1103	16	23
YORK, EAST RD.	204253	8.	11	14,351	14715	112	74
SOMERSET	404200	8.	9	30,452	28230	209	275
MIDDLESEX	1,358330	8.	7	9,882	173822	941	318
DEVON	491478	8.	6	35,505	33339	217	414
GLOUCESTER	387019	8.	4	21,185	33179	230	183
WORCESTER	211385	7.	9	14,634	19939	122	143
SALOP	222938	7.	5	17,096	16216	78	183
DURHAM	253910	6.	3	8,408	18511	67	88
CORNWALL	300938	6.	2	18,351	13382	106	95
DERBY	237176	6.	1	13,324	20788	69 ²	91
LANCASTER	1,336854	3.	9	24,695	173693	402	280

Space does not allow details of every county, but the highest (Sussex) and lowest expenditure per head under the Poor Law Relief is shown - and one has to wonder how the poor wretches of Lancaster survived.

Jayne Price

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The Savage Hedgehog

Whenever you are walking in an area dotted with whin bushes and a blaze of golden gorse, a careful inspection of the bushes may well reveal our friend the Hedgehog - Urchin, Hedgepig, and of course, Mr Prickles being other names by which he is well known. This little creature, somewhat erroneously classed as of the order of insect-eaters, loves the gorse country, seeming to have an attraction for growths as spiny as himself.

Some ten inches in length, the Hedgehog noses about at night-time and is very vulnerable to speeding motorists. There is little he finds that does not come as a welcome meal and, indeed, the only criterion seems to be "Can I tackle this creature" ! If the answer is in the affirmative the Hedgehog attacks quickly and when the kill is accomplished tears his victim to pieces with a savage fury, grunting in satisfaction as he does so.

By day this self-assertive creature curls up and sleeps in some crevice or under the bushes, out of the sun's rays. But when the twilight heralds the approach of night he uncurls himself and plods forth on a foraging expedition. Grubs, worms and other small fry are taken in his stride, as are insects that cross his path. But if he should meet with the nest of a grouse or other ground nesting bird, he will dine on eggs or even young chicks. Should he see a frog or toad he goes to the attack fiercely and surely, tearing his victim to pieces with his sharp teeth and eating the flesh greedily. On occasion a young leveret forms a tasty meal.

He does not disdain ripe fruit and will nibble at garden plants. To allow him to approach the hen coop is to lose the young chicks. He also loves a mouse if he can catch it. Shuffling along at from one to two miles an hour, he walks considerable distances at night, and if bound to enter water proves himself a capable swimmer, spreading out his short tail behind him. This is the only time that appendage is visible.

But should an adder appear in the undergrowth the Hedgehog wastes no time in deciding what should be done. Like an arrow he flies for the reptile and bites quickly and surely. Immediately he has struck he rolls himself into a ball and leaves the rest to the adder. Maddened with pain, the snake raises its head and strikes hard at the spiny ball. Its jaws and head are lacerated by the hard spines, and the rest is easy - for the Hedgehog. In time the adder kills itself on the prickly balls it tries to wound. When at last it desists the ball cautiously unrolls, the Hedgehog deliberately bites its victim in two, and proceeds to gorge himself upon the delicacy.

In winter the Hedgehog will seek a dry bed of leaves under cover and curl up into a ball. He has previously fed well and become much fatter than usual. As the winter goes on his temperature drops considerably and he remains in a still, deathly state until the weather becomes warmer. Ten inches long with a poorly developed brain and weak claws on his feet, the Hedgehog could not survive as he does were it not for his spines and his capacity for rolling up and protecting his head, legs and unclothed stomach. From the base of the skull right down his body to his tail is a highly developed muscle. This, aided by some three other secondary muscles enables him to contract himself with lightning speed. A loud noise in the vicinity, such as a gunshot, will throw him into a spiny sphere in less than two seconds. If he attempts to climb a wall - as he sometimes does - and he should slip and lose foothold, he arrives on the ground as a ball, his spines taking the shock. A moment, and then he uncurls and recommences his climb.

His snout is long and flexible, and his nostrils narrow, while his mouth is well furnished with teeth, thirty-six in all, with sharp canines top and bottom. The upper jaw is slightly longer than the lower, and holds six incisors or cutting teeth, compared with four in the lower. There are ten cheek teeth in each jaw. His eyes are small in size, and the head is not so plentifully furnished with spiny covering as the back and sides.

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Care of the Sick poor in the Villages

Arrangements for the care of the sick poor in the villages remained remarkably similar from the Norman Conquest to the nineteenth century. The priest had his religious and social obligations and overseers of the poor administered poor relief. A poor house was usually available for the aged and those who had nowhere else to go. Whilst every effort was made to relieve suffering, the system was strained in times of war, famine and epidemics. Eventually, despite the Poor Law Act of 1602, local facilities were unable to contain the destitute and disabled and a system of workhouses was started in the eighteenth century, one being opened in Kingsbridge in 1837. (See Village Voice No.29 - article by Kenneth Weedy).

Old feoffment deeds from several of the villages have survived, for example from Loddiswell and Malborough. Best represented in Kingsbridge with half a dozen medieval deeds, the earliest probably from the late thirteenth century and the next dated 1316. They list the houses, gardens and revenues that had been bequeathed for the relief of the poor and the maintenance of the church, to be equitably allotted by "the chiefest portion of the inhabitants in vestry assembled." Whilst the sick were not specifically mentioned, they inevitably figured prominently among the beneficiaries, some of whom received as little as one penny provided they attended a church service. The value of the feoffees' holdings varied greatly from parish to parish. It was as much as four hundred pounds a year in Kingsbridge in 1600 which, in 1640, allowed the feoffees to build "almshouses with a quillet of land at the backside thereof in Dodbrook." Poor Law accounts, so meticulously drawn up each week, give a piquant insight into local affairs. The book covering the years 1765-75 at West Alvington lists the payments made to six women working in the poor house for their wool spinning, knitted stockings and cloth and incidentally confirms the existence of wool spinning in the village at that time. It also notes, in 1772, "2 gr. of sugar for Ann Barnes' child being sick with mercury to kill the rates (rats) 1d." Ann Barnes and her child were recurrent burdens on the rates, being allowed bread, butter and sugar up to the value of 6d. for several years. The same volume carries reminders of the alcoholism which was such a scourge in the preceding decades:

Feb. 1771 to Abigail Tucherman in lying in, a pint and a half of wine 1s. 1d.

Mar. 1777 Mary Ind in sickness a pint of licker 8½d.

1773 Elizabeth Adams was given a bottle of gin a month at 1s 4d, which was changed to a pint of wine at 8d., later increased to a quart at 1s 4d.

OVERPAGE:::

The Poor Law Accounts for Kingston run from 1648 to 1837 and contain many medical references. Among those in 1691-4 were:

1691 - payment for paper for Wm. Hatch's ledg. 2d payment for paper and brandy for Wm. Hatch's ledg. 4d. payment for salves for Wm. Hatch's ledg 1s 2d
1692 salve and grease for Wm. Hatch. (Wm Hatch was then provided monthly)
1694 coffin for Wm. Hatch - 8s 6d.

Mr. Hatch evidently had a troublesome leg and might have tried vinegar and brown paper as prescribed in the nursery rhyme, but his leg was not necessarily the cause of his death. An epidemic, probably smallpox, reached Kingston in the early summer of that year and 25 parishioners were listed in the burial register compared with the average of ten. The cost to the Poor Law Account for his coffin might have been diminished or eliminated had there been a village coffin such as existed for generations at Chillington and was kept between use in a recess at Living Waters, the centuries old cottage with the crooked chimney that still stands in the middle of the village.

The payment of medical fees was necessarily difficult as the nearest doctor from 1650 was at Kingsbridge or, intermittently at Modbury. The account book of 1697 contains the statement "There is no doctor or apothecary to be paid for any physicke wth they shall give to any poor person within ye pish without the consent of the Churchwardens." Doctors' bills continued to be paid until 1796 when the overseers came to an "agreement with surgeon apothecary £3,13.6. annual sum plus £1.1.0 for each case of surgery or midwifery to include paupers in parish within 4 miles of Modbury."

Smallpox again visited Kingston in 1812 when £3.14.6 was expended upon the care of Alice Maunder. Dr. Longworthy, whose annual salary was still three and a half guineas, "inoculated 33 paupers at 5s.3d - £8.13.3." Vaccination against smallpox was compulsory and chargeable against the rates for the poor, but the definition of a pauper was elusive. When Dr. Cornish charged ten shillings each for his indigent patients at Kingsbridge in 1860, he provoked a hostile response from the Board of Guardians of the workhouse. In the 1890s the Kingsbridge Gazette recorded the prolonged controversy over whether it should be done at home, in a doctor's surgery or at the workhouse, how much should be charged for it and who was exempted from payment. It then cost the Board of Guardians £150 a year, no mean sum.

In the years 1500 to 1850 little progress was made in curative medicine and surgery, mainly because the nature even of common diseases was poorly understood and, without laboratory tests, the means of diagnosis were limited to questioning, looking and feeling. From about 1800 post-mortem examinations were regularly performed and revealed to students and others the conditions they were called upon to treat, thus greatly improving diagnostic accuracy.

Throughout the period popular non-specific remedies included purgatives, emetics and herbals. Blood letting, an ancient and rather impressive device, was regrettably common and contributed to many deaths up to Victorian times.

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Some effective drugs were available. By 1650 iron was used for anaemia, cinchona bark (quinine) for malaria and mercury inunctions for syphilis. Sudenham's laudanum, containing tincture of opium with saffron, cinnamon and clover, was a useful sedative. By 1750 cupping and leeches had found favour and antimony had replaced mercury. By 1850 digitalis for heart disease and vaccination against smallpox had been added. There is no reason why physicians in the South Hams should not have used these preparations as they became available. They and apothecaries came down to practice in a steady trickle, bringing new methods with them, and successive editions of the London Pharmacopoeia from 1618 gave recommended prescriptions and indications for their use. Considerable interest in herbals prevailed for centuries. The surviving feoffment deeds from Kingsbridge, Malborough and Loddiswell all mention herb gardens from 1600 onwards in conjunction with buildings which were vested in the feoffees. The Kingsbridge deeds show as many as seven in 1628 and eight in 1772, including one of over five acres; they were last mentioned, three in number, in 1876. The search for new remedies was stimulated in the sixteenth century by a fine series of German books on herbs and as may be imagined in the South Hams, by the flow of plants arriving in ships from overseas. Among the mass of imported vegetable drugs were cannabis from India, opium, aniseed, castor oil and turpentine from the Middle East and tobacco, cinchona bark, ipecacunha and cascara from America. Outstanding among home-grown herbs was a decoction of foxglove leaves which relieved cardiac dropsy and yielded its active principle digitalis in 1785. Few of the many herbs in the local hedgerows are still used medicinally, but the deadly nightshade with its belladonna (atropine) still thrives; maybe dock leaves hold a secret remedy for the stings of nettles.

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The Cuppa that can lay you OUT!

ANDREW SCOTT writing in the 'Sunday Times' says: "Herbs are considered to be a particular healthy kind of food. But they may have quite the opposite effect on some people, if work by American researches is correct."

"A few years ago a 49 year-old woman was admitted to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, with life-threatening liver damage. She was saved only by prompt surgery. Doctors investigating her case got a surprise. She was suffering from a chronic overdose of herbal potions and remedies, especially herbal tea."

Doctor Paul Ridker of Harvard Medical School has since conducted a survey of the natural toxic compounds present in herbal tea, and the damage they can do."

His findings show that at least 26 common herbal teas contain toxic ingredients. These teas have already caused a wide range of diseases of the digestive system, blood, the heart, the nervous system and skin. In America at least four people have died from herbal tea poisoning.

Dr. Ridker's list of the possible consequences of drinking herbal teas makes worrying reading: confrey tea is linked to liver failure and cancer; camomile to severe allergy and dermatitis; nutmeg to hallucinations; poke root to gastroenteritis, and bloody diarrhoea, sassafras to liver cancer, and so on. Usually one would probably need to drink large quantities of tea before suffering any harm, but not always. One tea drinker developed severe low blood pressure, gastroenteritis and bloody diarrhoea after a single cup of poke root tea. Several teas have been found to be contaminated with high levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, flouride and even arsenic. Dr. Ridker believes herbal teas should carry specific health warnings "

Sunday Times 27.10.87

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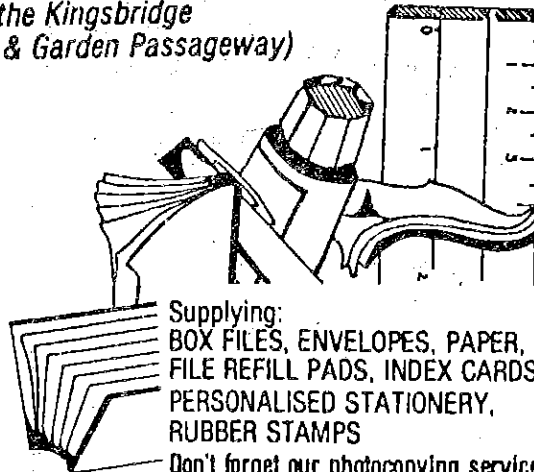
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In this year of the 'Armada 400' celebrations the following account of.....

A WORTHY FIGHT

Performed in the voyage from Turkey by five ships of London, against eleven galleys and two frigates of the King of Spain's, at Pantalarea, within the Straits Anno 1586 offers an interesting insight into the behaviour of our seamen in those days - right up to Falkland's standard !

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The merchants of London, being of the incorporation for the Turkey trade, having received intelligences and advertisements from time to time that the King of Spain, grudging at the prosperity of this kingdom, had not only of late arrested all English ships, bodies, and goods in Spain, but also, maligning the quiet traffic which they used, to and in the dominations and provinces under the obedience of the Great Turk, had given orders to the captains of his galleys in the Levant to hinder the passage of all English ships, and to endeavour by their best means to intercept, take, and spoil them, their persons and goods; they hereupon thought it their best course to set out their fleet for Turkey in such strength and ability for their defence that the purpose of their Spanish enemy might the better be prevented, and the voyage accomplished with greater security to the men and ships. For which cause, five tall and stout ships appertaining to London, and intending only a merchant's voyage, were provided and furnished with all things belonging to the seas, the names whereof were these:-

1. The 'Merchant Royal', a very brave and goodly ship and of great report.
2. The 'Toby'
3. The 'Edward Bonaventure'
4. The 'William and John'
5. The 'Susan'

These five departing from the coast of England in the month of November, 1585, kept together as one fleet till they came as high as the isle of Sicily, within the Levant. And there, according to the order and direction of the voyage, each ship began to take leave of the rest, and to separate himself, setting his course for the particular port whereunto he was bound....But before they divided themselves, they altogether consulted of and about a certain and special place for their meeting again after the lading of their goods at their several ports. And in conclusion, the general agreement was to meet at Zante, an island near to the main continent of the west part of Morea, well known to all the pilots, and thought to be the fittest place for their rendezvous....

It fell out that the 'Toby', which was bound for Constantinople, had made such good speed, and gotten such good weather, that she first of all the rest came back to the appointed place of Zante, and not forgetting the former conclusion, did there cast anchor, attending the arrival of the rest of the fleet, which accordingly (their business first performed) failed not to keep promise...

Thus in good order they left Zante and the Castle of Grecia, and committed themselves again to the seas, and proceeded in their course and voyage in quietness, without sight of any enemy till they came near to Pantalarea, an island so called betwixt Sicily and the coast of Africa; into sight whereof they came the 13th day of July 1586. And the same day, in the morning, about seven of the clock, they descried thirteen sails in number, which were of the galleys lying in wait of purpose for them in and about that place. As soon as the English ships spied them, they, by-and-bye, according to a common order, made themselves ready for a fight. In the meantime, the galleys more and more approached the ships, and in their banners there appeared the arms of the isles of Sicily and Malta, being all as then in the service and pay of the Spaniard.

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A WORTHY FIGHT...

Immediately both the Admirals of the galleys sent from each of them a frigate to the Admiral of our English ships, which being come near them, the Sicilian frigate first hailed them, and demanded of them whence they were; they answered that they were of England, the arms whereof appeared in their colours. Whereupon the said frigate expostulated with them, and asked why they delayed to send or come with their captains and pursers to Don Pedro de Leiva, their General, to acknowledge their duty and obedience to him, in the name of the Spanish king, lord of those seas. Our men replied and said that they owed no such duty nor obedience to him, and therefore would acknowledge none... They also demanded of the frigate whence she and the rest of the galleys were. The messenger answered, "We are of Malta, and for mine own part, my name is Cavalero. These galleys are in the service and pay of the King of Spain, under the conduct of Don Pedro de Leiva, a nobleman of Spain who hath been commanded hither by the king with this present force and army of purpose to intercept you. You shall therefore," quoth he, "do well to repair to him to know his pleasure; he is a nobleman of good behaviour and courtesy, and means you no ill." The captain of the English Admiral, whose name was Master Edward Wilkinson, replied and said, "We purpose not at this time to make trial of Don Pedro his courtesy, whereof we are suspicious and doubtful, and not without good cause"; using withal good words to the messenger, and willing him to come aboard him, promising security and good usage, that thereby he might better know the Spaniard's mind. Whereupon he indeed left his frigate and came aboard him, whom he entertained in friendly sort, and caused a cup of wine to be drawn for him, which he took, and began, with his cap in his hand and with reverent terms, to drink to the health of the Queen of England, speaking very honourably of Her Majesty, and giving good speeches of the courteous usage and entertainment that he himself had received in London... At the last he entreated to have the merchant of the Admiral carried by him as a messenger to the General, that some might be satisfied and assured of their minds by one of their own company. But Master Wilkinson would agree to no such thing; although Richard Rowit, the merchant himself, seemed willing to be employed in that message, and laboured by reasonable persuasions to induce Master Wilkinson to grant it - as hoping to be an occasion by his presence and discreet answers to satisfy the General, and thereby to save the effusion of Christian blood, if it should grow to battle. And he seemed so much the more willing to be sent, by how much deeper the oaths and protestations of this Cavalero were, that he would (as he was a true knight and a soldier) deliver him back again in safety to his company. Albeit, Master Wilkinson, who, by his long experience, had received sufficient trial of Spanish inconstancy and perjury, wished him in no case to put his life and liberty in hazard upon a Spaniard's oath; but at last, upon much entreaty, he yielded to let him go to the General, thinking indeed that good speeches and answers of reason would have contented him, whereas, otherwise, refusal to do so might peradventure have provoked the more discontentment.

Master Rowit, therefore, passing to the Spanish General, the rest of the galleys, having espied him, thought, indeed, that the English were rather determined to yield than to fight, and therefore came flocking about the frigate, every man crying out... And the Spanish General, being come to the galley wherein he was, showed himself to Master Rowit in his armour, his guard of soldiers attending upon him, in armour also, and began to speak very proudly: "Thou Englishman, from whence is your fleet? Why stand ye aloof off? Know ye not your duty to the Catholic king, whose person I here represent? Where are your bills of lading, your letters, passports, and the chief of your men? Think yet my attendance in these seas to be in vain, or any person to no purpose?"... These words of the Spanish General were not so outrageously pronounced, as they were mildly answered by Master Rowit, who told him that they were all merchantmen, using traffic in honest sort, and seeking to pass quietly, if they were not urged further than reason... And as touching his commandment aforesaid for the acknowledging of duty in such particular sort, he told him that, where there was no duty owing there none should be performed, assuring him that their whole company and ships in general stood resolutely upon the negative, and would not yield to any such unreasonable demand, joined with such

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Concluding A WORTHY FIGHT

imperious and absolute manner of commanding. "Why, then," said he, "if they will neither come to yield, nor show obedience to me in the name of my king, I will either sink them or bring them to harbour; and so tell them from me." With that the frigate came away with Master Rowit, and brought him aboard to the English Admiral again, according to promise, who was no sooner entered in but by-and-bye defiance was sounded on both sides. The Spaniards hewed off the noses of the galleys, that nothing might hinder the level of the shot; and the English, on the other side, courageously prepared themselves to the combat, every man, according to his room, bent to perform his office with alacrity and diligence. In the meantime a cannon was discharged from out the Admiral of the galleys, which being the onset of the fight, was presently answered by the English Admiral with a culverin; so the skirmish began, and grew hot and terrible. There was no powder nor shot spared, each English ship matched itself in good order against two Spanish galleys, besides the inequality of the frigates on the Spanish side.... Thus the fight continued furious and sharp, and doubtful a long time to which part the victory would incline, till at last the Admiral of the galleys of Sicily began to warp from the fight, and to hold up her side for fear of sinking, and after her went also two others in like case, whom all the sort of them enclosed, labouring by all their means to keep them above water, being ready by the force of English shot which they had received to perish in the seas. And what slaughter was done among the Spaniards the English were uncertain, but by a probable conjecture apparent afar off they supposed their loss was so great that they wanted men to continue the charging of their pieces; whereupon with shame and dishonour, after five hours spent in the battle, they withdrew themselves. And the English, contented in respect of their deep lading rather to continue their voyage than to follow in the chase, ceased from further blows, with the loss of only two men slain amongst them all, and another hurt in his arm, whom Master Wilkinson, with his good words and friendly promises did so comfort that he nothing esteemed the smart of his wound, in respect of the honour of the victory and the shameful repulse of the enemy.

Thus, with dutiful thanks to the mercy of God for His gracious assistance in that danger, the English ships proceeded in their navigation. And coming as high as Algiers, a port town upon the coast of Barbary, they made for it, of purpose to refresh themselves after their weariness, and to take in such supply of fresh water and victuals as they needed. Leaving Algiers they put out to sea, looking to meet with the second army of the Spanish king, which waited for them about the mouth of the Strait of Gibraltar, which they were of necessity to pass. But coming near to the said strait, it pleased God to raise, at that instant, a very dark and misty fog, so that one ship could not discern another if they were forty paces off, by means whereof, together with the notable fair Eastern winds that blew most fit for their course, they passed with great speed through the strait, and might have passed, with that good gale, had there been five hundred galleys to withstand them and the air never so clear for every ship to be seen. But yet the Spanish galleys had a sight of them, when they were come within three English miles of the town, and made after them with all possible haste; and although they saw that they were far out of their reach, yet in a vain fury and foolish pride, they shot off their ordnance and made a stir in the sea as if they had been in the midst of them, which vanity of theirs ministered to our men a notable matter of pleasure and mirth, seeing men to fight with shadows and to take so great pains to small purpose.

But thus it pleased God to deride and delude all the forces of that proud Spanish king, which he had provided of purpose to distress the English.

PHILIP JONES from HAKLUYT'S 'Principal Navigations, etc)

For him that may not slepe for sickness set this herbe in water, and at even let him soke well hys fete in Violet water to the ancles. When he goeth to bed bind of this herbe to his temples, and he shal slepe wel by the grace of God.

Source 'A Little Herbal', 1550

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