VILLAGE VOICE

MAY – JUNE 1988

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VILLAGE VOICE

Rural Housing - S.H.D.C Research

In September 1986 the South Hams District Council approved a Rural Housing RESEARCH PROJECT. The Research commenced n October 1986 and was undertaken by the University of Exeter. The project has now been completed and the results set out in full in a 200 page report so obviously this article can only give you a brief outline thereof.

The main objective was to provide a better assessment of current and future rural housing needs, to focus attention of those needs and assist in the formulation of policies and practices which would produce the most effective use of available resources.

The major part of the project comprised a postal survey of all households in the district to ensure, as far as possible, that every resident had the opportunity to respond. The research project is believed to be the only one of its kind to have been undertaken in England and Wales, and the findings together with detailed Parish data collected and enable the Housing Committee and its officers to consider the formulation of a rural housing policy and programme which will encompass not only its own developments and policies but also those undertaken by Housing Associations and other agencies. The data will prove of particular value in providing a sound basis to assist the Council's involvement in the Devon Joint Rural Housing Programme and discuss-ions with the Development Commission, Housing Corporation and the Department of the Environment.

Population growth has resulted from in-migration, especially of commuters in the West and of elderly people along the coast. This population growth between 1971 and 1981 was the largest percentage increase of any district in Devon.

There has been an above average growth in owner occupation but this growth includes second and holiday-homes which form a higher proportion than any other district in Devon.

The report indicated a high proportion of respondents who had no access to private transport, but a surprising low level of dissatisfaction was expressed with regard to access to services apart from problems of access to the local G.P.

Although the main preference is for detached/semi-detached 2 - 4 bedroomed dwellings there is a significant demand in most areas for single bedroomed properties and sheltered housing. 72% of respondents wanted to buy their homes - 17% wanted to rent from the Council in preference to private landlords. 5% of households contained members who wished to set up their own home, but 35% were unable to leave for cost reasons.

Small villages have the lowest proportion of owner occupation apparently resulting from limited incomes. A lower proportion of respondents were registered on the Council's housing register with apparently above average demand for privately rented accommodation perhaps due to local expectations. Small villages contained the highest proportion of households containing persons wishing to obtain their own home but unable to do so as a result of a lack of smaller dwellings and income limitations. The level of mobility is lowest in small villages.

One the other hand Large villages (population in excess of 1000) appear to constitute some of the best housing conditions as a result of higher income households. Large villages contain the highest proportion of respondents opposed to further development.

Despite the better housing opportunities in towns than villages there is only evidence of a small tendency to move to towns - most people preferring to stay in their existing rural location.

(Acknowledgement and thanks to Dist. Councillor Jack Thomas for the data on which this article is based)

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Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

Number 32 Sixth year of publication. MAY-JUNE, 1988.

THE ON-OFF SAGA of the Village Playground is very much on again. Off has gone a letter from the Parish Council to all local land-owners asking if they have three acres of land to sell which would be suitable for a football pitch and pavilion and a children's playground. And on goes the hunt for such a site.

There is no question of compulsory purchase. The Parish Council, though hoping to be offered the land at a public-spirited price, realise that they may well have to pay the current market price for such a site, which will have to be level and accessible.

Much of the cost of a village playground will be obtained by grants, which, together with the money from the rates now tucked away in a correctly-named "Recreation Fund", could make this village dream come true. Perhaps one of our wealthy visitors might like to make his or her name immortal by helping us out with the land? We promise to call it by their name for ever more if they do!

Mind you, it is only in recent years that the village has been without a playground of its very own. In the 1700's, for example, the ground in front of the golf club was the village "Playstow" or playing place. And Bantham then had a similar playground on the Ham.

Perhaps if we asked ever so nicely, we could have them back?

Introducing Ozzie (our own Owl)

HERE'S HARRY HUGGINS' BIRD COLUMN...

FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE our bird diary, whence most of the facts for this column are dredged, is clogged with entries like "Blue Tit fed Blue Tit" and "Robin fed spotty Robin". This is because for eeveral years we collected data for a new Atlas of Devon Breeding Birds, which after some ten years gestation has just been published. The author's wife has expressed her relief, she says I married an Atlas, not a man! But she has two dear little maps to show for it!

We were required to record three grades of sighting. First was "Possible breeding", when there was a bird in a suitable place at the right time. That could be meaningless: for example, despite its rightful home being somewhere near New Zealand, there has been a Black Browed Albatross off the Shetlands each summer for the best part of twenty years. The place is probably suitable, but you need two to breed, unless you are a greenfly, and there is only the one! "Probably breeding" was a little more definite, a male singing or a nest being built. Third was "Confirmed breeding", when a nest was found (we had few of these, welfare of the birds comes before statistics) or we saw an adult carrying food.

This was all very interesting to us at the time, but is hardly the stuff to grip the critical readers of Village Voice.

But now and then something out of the ordinary did pop up. It was not relevant to the Devon Atlas, but one April, when we lived in Clacton-on-Sea, we saw in a churchyard a Redwing carrying nesting material: a clear case of "Probable breeding"! But as far as is known, no Redwing has ever nested in England. A very few pairs do so in Scotland; they are winter visitors to us and most breed in the great forests which stretch from Scandanavia eastwards across the Old World. Anyone who know the climate of the North Essex coast, however, will understand that the bird could easily mistake the temperature there for that of Siberia. Obviously it was broody; we hoped it might complete a nest and lay eggs, but nothing more happened.

Nearer to home, a year or two ago, in a tree by Merchants Garden, we heard a pretty jingling song, like that of a Dunnock, but much quicker and all run together. A search showed a little thing like a stripey Greenfinch, much smaller and with a yellow rump. It was a Serin, a common resident of the Mediterranean and a summer visitor to France, but almost unheard of on this side of the Channel. That might have been written down as "probably breeding" but we soon found otherwise: there was the one male and he left quickly when he failed to find a mater.

However, a few years before Serins did breed here in Thurlestone. At the time we were holiday-making in the flat we had while deciding if we liked the village, and, more important, if the village would put up with us. In a row of tatty elm saplings which grew then between the Hotel tennis courts and the road we heard a similar

song and found a similar bird. Then we found a pair with a nest in a big pine tree in the garden of Furzey Close.

For years the pundits have prophesied that Serins will start to breed in England, the touble being that the Serins do not know that. But we knew, and likewise we knew that Devon birders, of whom we did not then count ourselves two, play their cards very close to their chests when real rarities are found breeding. We took it therefore thatSerins had nested in Thurlestone for years, and that we had stumbled on a closely-guarded secret. It was a closely-guarded secret, but it was the first time they had bred, and alas the last.

Newertheless to be a bit out of the ordinary something does not have to be rare. Take for example Ozzie, who was a Tawny Owl, and I hope still is. Birds are wild creatures, struggling for life in a dangerous environment; one can help them with a bit of food in winter, but should not try to make pets of them nor doanything which might diminish their self reliance. But someone christened him Ozzie and it stuck.

From time immemorial Tawny Owls have nested in the garden of the Thurlestone Hotel. We suspect that about five years aga the hollow tree which was home to them was cut down as being unsafe, for in that year we heard the young calling for food, a sort of sneezing noise, from an old Crow's nest in the branch of a pine overhanging the gardens at the western end of Mead Lane.

Came a gale and Mrs.MacDonald, who lives at the end of Mead Lane, rang to say there was a very small owl on the footpath between the Hotel golf course and the Mead, and would we do something. With thick glowes and a sinking feeling we set off (it is illegal to take in any sort of wild bird without a licence, and anyway what do you do?). We took also an owl nesting box which we had made.

Ozzie was sitting in the middle of the path, a miserable fluffy grey thing about the size of a tennis ball. We tied the nest box in its proper vertical position in a tree in Mrs.MacDonald's garden, put him in it, and retreated to seek advice.

The first source was to be Chris Pierce, the Kingsbridge wild life photographer, who was wont at that time to rear young owls. He was out, and Mrs.Pierce, thinking that we were trying to wish on them another orphan, gave the sort of reception I mete out to that charming young lady who telephones in the evening when I am in the middle of dinner, to say "I am Jan; I work for Wunderplas". However, before she put down the peceiver I managed to get through that we were keeping our owl, and just wanted to know what to feed it on. Through gritted teeth she said "Earthworms" and so Mrs. MacDonald was deputed to dig up worms while we went off to set the mousetraps.

To our immense relief the box started sneezing lustily for food; hardly were we all out of the garden before the parent owl came and sat on it. For two or three days we dropped in earthworms and chopped up remains of mise; then a complication ensued - we found in a nearby tree Ozzie's two siblings.

Most sorts of birds do not start to incubate until the full clutch has been laid, so that all the eggs hatch more or lass at once and all the young grow at the same rate. But Nature has arranged it that in species whose food supply is uncertain, like Herons and Owls and birds of prey such as Buzzards and Sparrow-hawks, the hen starts to incubate as soon as the first egg is laid. The young hatch at intervals of a couple of days, the eldest is therefore the biggest because he starts eating before the others hatch; he always gets first go at the food and not until he is

HARRY HUGGINS CONCLUDES:

satisfied do his siblings eat, in descending order of age. There is no question of the parents showing our human concern for the weakly ones. If food is plentiful, all are reared, but if there is a shortage they raise one, or maybe two, good strong ones; the remainder starve (and are probably eaten!).

Ozzie's two siblings were a good deal bigger than he was, and we were afraid that as young owls can fly well before they are fully grown the parents might take them elsewhere, leaving the feeding party stuck with him.

So we took him out of the box and put him up a tree (finding in the box besides the remains of mice and earthworms a good many legs and feet of birds, Starlings mostly, showing that the parents had certainly not neglected him).

He fell out of his tree several times and the Hotel gardeners put him back, but he grew, and although of course we do not know if he survived to maturity, we like to think he is one of those we hear calling around the Hotel of nights.

And now for something completely different...

WHAT ABOUT LEARNING TO DANCE

THE SCOTTISH WAY ?

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING is very popular in the South West. There are 18 groups in Devon and Cornwall, most of which are affiliated to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Scottish dancing is a very enjoyable pastime. It is a form of folk dancing carried out, for the most part, in "sets" of 3,4 or 5 couples in an atmosphere of courtesy, good fellowship, and great fun. It consists of a number of basic steps and basic movements, the individual dances differing from each other in the way in which the basic patterns are selected and sequenced. There are also two tempos: the fast movement - The Reel or Jig - and the slow movement - The Strathspey.

Because of the nature and structure of Scottish dancing, it is not practicable for those without experience to join in unless they have first attended a course of instruction to learn the fundamentals.

However, judging from the number of enquiries which have been received during the last few months, it seems that there are many people in the Thurlestone area who would like to learn and to be able to take part.

In view of this, and of the dearth of courses in the South Hams area, it is proposed to start a beginners' class in the Autumn in the Village Hall.

Mr and Mrs Bentley, assisted by Mrs.Gillian Williams, all very experienced dancers, have kindly agreed to give the instruction. A Wednesday evening is proposed, but neither the venue nor the day can be fixed definitely until it is known that there is a sufficient number of people who would like to learn and who would be able to meet at the same time (preferably evening).

Those who are interested are invited to contact Mr and Mrs J.S.B. Reynolds, 5, Meadcome Road (560643) as soon as possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Should we call it...

HIGH STREET

THURLESTONE ?

Dear Sir,

The time has come, it seems to me, to consider a name for our village street. With so many houses going up in the parish, some of us who live here feel that strangers might be able to find us more easily if they had rather more to go on than a name on the gate.

Also, I have recently seen it referred to in print as High Street, a name which suggests to me a busy shopping centre.

I wonder whether you, Sir, and your readers think the street should be named and if so what it should be called. Having thought about it briefly, I suggest Church Road as a possibility.

This is obviously not a matter that can be settled by the readers of Village Voice, but their views might be taken a stage further by the Parish Council.

NEVILLE OSWALD,
The Old Rectory,
Thurlestone.

Dear Sir,

I was most interested to read in Village Voice - who could fail to be interested in all the goings-on in your splendid magazine? - the article by Kenneth Weedy about the cottages at Bantham not appearing on the 1863 Ordnance Survey map. I wonder how those surveyors could have missed that whole row of cottages below the Sloop. They are certainly very much there on my copy of the Courtenay map of 1777.

I must say I'm now a bit worried about the Ordnance Survey. If they could have missed such a prominent feature of our village at the very beginning of the Survey, do you think that there are any other buuldings around here which have never appeared on any map at all?

DIANA IDE,
Quayle,
Bantham.

...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...

Thurlestone Parish Hall: With most of the major work completed the hall is now an inviting venue for private functions. Should you be contemplating a party, disco or other celebration, why not contact June Bickle on 560831 to check the availability of your Parish Hall?

For visitors as well as residents, the following clubs hold regular meetings during the summer:

Tuesday and Thursday evenings - Short Mat Bowls (Contact Jean Yeoman 560624). Friday evenings - Bridge Club (Contact Roland Lewis 560497). Every second Thursday of the month - W.I. (Contact Elsie Brewster 560345).

To continue our struggle for solvency, we are arranging a Jumble Sale for September 17 - make a note in your diary. And don't forget the Hall A.G.M. at 7.30 pm on May 18. Your attendance and contribution to the evening's agenda will be most welcome. D.M.Yeoman, Chairman Parish Hall Committee.560300.

...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB - TENNIS SECTION: Members are reminded that there is regular club play on: Every Tuesday from 1730;Every Sunday throughout the year from 1400-1630 and everyone is welcome and indeed invited to join in. The Tennis Section AGM is on Friday, August 12, starting at 1800.

...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...

Thurlestone Probus Club: At our last meeting Alf Wade gave a very interesting talk on Trading in the Middle East - slightly different it transpired to selling in the South Hams.

Our meetings are held on the second Friday of every month at the Thurlestone Hotel and at our next meeting on May 13 Jack Tanner will be talking of his life as a prominent trader in Kingsbridge, and Kendall McDonald, our well-known author, will talk about Shipwrecks around the South Hams coast on June 10.

Various outings are being investigated for the coming season, but at the time of writing the 1988 timetables are yet to be made available. More information hopefully at our April/May meetings. D.M. Yeoman, Secretary. 560300.

...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...

THIS IS YOUR SECOND WARNING... of a BONANZA SALE to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, June 4, 1988 from 10.30 to 12.30. in aid of Thurlestone's Armada Week from July 18-24.

All the usual stalls and excitements are planned for the Bonanza Sale on June 4 and contributions, large and small will be much appreciated. Details: Mrs.Neville Oswald (560555) and Mrs V.Brown (560202).

If you can't come please try to send a donation - cheques should be made payable to the Thurlestone Armada Committee and sent to the Secretary, Mrs.Kendall McDonald, Cradles Cottage, Thurlestone (560239).

STOP PRESS: Look out for a BONANZA RAFFLE with a star prize of a superb water-colour of a local view by famous local artist LEN HUBBARD. It's worth nearly £200!

Did you Know?

Since the introduction of the Homes Insulation Act 1978 it has been possible for owners and tenants of dwellings built before 1975 to obtain financial aid from the South Hams District Council to insulate their roof spaces and so reduce heat loss, energy wasteage and heating costs.

As from February 1st, 1988, however, a grant will only be available to those on low income who will be entitled to a 90% grant up to a maximum of £137 for the provision of loft insulation and associated works. This is a major change in the scheme as it removes the 66% grant (max £69) which was available to any owner or occupier of an eligible property irrespective of financial means. It also extends the 90% grant which was only available to the elderly or disabled, who were also on low income.

In the ten years since the introduction of the scheme the District Council has allocated £246,000 in respect of this type of grant, involving a total of 5,300 properties.

It is reported that Thurlestone Council housing has been included in the groups of dwellings to benefit from the painting and wallcoating programmes 1988-89 and Parkfield is also included in the Car Parking Improvement programme.

Development options under consideration for 1988/89 include 2 Elderly Persons' bungalows at Parkfield, Thurlestone.

Don't tell anyone, but all those numbered spaces in the top Fore Street car park are now open to you and me, according to the attendant, where there is no restrictive post still in place !

A parishioner raised a point of some little interest recently - that is when a council member should 'declare an Interest' in any matter under discussion at a Council Meeting. In the space available here is an abridgement from 'The Law and Practice of Parish Administration': A Member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter must declare his interest at the meeting where the contract or other matter is to be discussed.....

....the type of interest to which these rules relate is a relationship between the member and the subject matter which is of such a kind that he may receive a business advantage (such as enrichment or publicity) if the council makes a particular decision, but he is not to be treated as having a pecuniary interest if it so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence his conduct...A Member who fails to disclose an interest or who takes part in proceedings in which he should not have taken part, exposes himself to a fine on summary conviction.....Prosecutions may only be launched at the instance of the Director of Prosecutions.

D.D.

TORBAY Health Authority organised an 'AIDS Seminar' on the 22nd April to which Delegates from Health Authorities, County Councils local authority health and housing committees, Community Health Councils and voluntary organisations were invited.

The aim of the Seminar was to emphasise the need for public education and to raise issues such as employment, housing, insurance, confidentiality and co-operation between local authorities and the NHS.

THE lusty lionesses of Longleat are going on the pill to curb a population explosion. 2 year olds Elsie & Sonja will be implanted with a long lasting contraceptive, good for up to 3 years. Park Manager Mr Cawley explained: "The lions have been so happy they are breeding all the time and now we have too many for the demand."

Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show

The Annual Plant Sale

will be on

S A T U R D A Y 2 8 th M A Y 1988

2. 30 p.m. in the VILLAGE HALL, SOUTH MILTON.

Make a date to come and buy the high quality bedding plants, vegetable plants, herbaceous perennials, etc. we'll have lined up to sell !

Date of this year's Show (also at South Milton) is SATURDAY 13th AUGUST - a little later this year. Watch out for the schedules from the end of May - there will be some available at our Plant Sale.

Pat MacDonald - 560436

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

World War II Comes to the South Hams

by N E V I L L E C. O S W A L D, T.D, M.D., F.R.C.P.

3. E V A C U E E S

THROUGHOUT 1939, Chairmen of the various Parish Councils met to consider the reception and distribution of possible evacuees in their parishes. They were ready when a party of 100 schoolgirls and their teachers arrived from Acton Central School, London, at the beginning of September, three days before war was declared. The children settled easily as guests in private houses and were soon joined by others from theirnschool so that by early 1940 there were 120 girls in Kingsbridge who knew each other and mixed well with the children in the town. Most of them remained until 1942 when their headmaster tried to arrange for 50 of his boys who were billeted in Dartmouth to join them, but so many difficulties were put in his way that ultimatelyhe removed the remaining 64 girls to Newton Abbot.

Also in September 1939, as part of the general exodus from cities, other schoolchildren from London and elsewhere settled in the district. Some were welcomed at Malborough where the villagers competed to see who would be the best foster parents. Indeed, with few exceptions, the whole process of assimilation of these children was successfully accomplished in the early days, many of their new guardians feeling that it was the only form of national service they could undertake and that had their children been evacuated, they would have been grateful to whoever took them in.

In the summer of 1940, the fall of France and the rescue from Dunkirk made the possibility of bombing or invasion or both a reality. A hasty evacuation of schoolchildren from cities was organised, of whom more than 2,000 came to the Kingsbridge district in the month of June. From Kingsbridge station, the exhausted children were taken by motor buses to the Town Hall and Market Hall for medical inspection, in case any had infectious diseases; to the dismay of the helpers, many had infested heads, for which applications of Jeyes fluid were recommended. They then departed to their new homes for a long sleep. With few exceptions, they soon settled. Next day, the sight of boats and sand was a new experience for some of them as were fruit trees, one little girl having previously thought apples came in barrels.

The arrival of almost 1,000 evacuees in Salcombe completely disrupted the lives of the townspeople who, numbering about 2,000, a quarter of whom were old

Continued:--

EVACUEES continued from previous page:

old or invalid, could not understand why their population should rise by 50 percent when a comparable figure from Torquay was only 4 percent. The Chief Billeting Officer constantly had unwanted children thrust upon him, mostly by elderly people who found the strain of looking after them too great. He soon followed Kingbridge's example by comandeering empty houses for hostels and putting them in charge of paid staff.

With the bombing of London in September and October 1940, all empty houses in the district were requisitioned, most of which were soon occupied by evacuees, among them 280 women and children from one of the most heavily bombed parts of the East End of London. On their arrival at Kingsbridge "families with young children and babies made a pathetic sight as they ascended slowly up the steps of the Town Hall, carrying their personal belongings wrapped in ill-tied bundles. Small children held on to their mothers' clothing, the pallor of their faces telling of the strain of nights spent in shelters and tubes." They were greeted with every kindness, but the influx of mothers as well as children soon led to difficulties. At Stoke Fleming, either the evacuees were thought to be dirty or, they thought the quarters they were given were dirty; fights broke out over lack of space and communal kitchens. Longfield, a luxury holiday home in Bantham with six bedrooms, four living rooms and a kitchen with an Aga stove for which there was little or no fuel, had been securely locked and bolted in August 1939. The Billeting Officer's representatives, urgently needing space and unable to find the keys, broke open every locked door and installed a family in each of the six bedrooms. In due course a fairly harmonious routine was achieved, but the segregation of sexes in the bedrooms was not easy and adjustments had to be made when husbands visited their families.

The devastating air raids on Plymouth and Bristol in the period November 1940 to April 1941 meant that more space had to be found for homeless mothers and children, some of them were given lodgings that had been vacated by Londoners who had decided to go home. Blankets and sheets seemed always to be in short supply, as were clothes, boots and shoes. High spirited children were difficult to control at times. A kingsbridge mother took in two girls aged 12 and 13 who were "a wild pair , looking for excitement and reluctant to stay at home in the evenings." Similarly, bored evacuee mothers missed their homes and the hurly burly of city streets and markets; for them, a Director of Activities was appointed to channel their energies appropriately.

Finding suitable buildings in which so many children could be taught was a major problem, especially in Salcombe where there was no recognised school of any size. Further, with children varying in age from infants to teenagers and none knowing how long they would stay and with many of the teachers eligible for callup to the Forces and uncertain of their future whereabouts, continuity was difficult to achieve. Even where established schools existed the management of evacuees was by no means straightforward.

Continued:--

In Modbury, they soon swamped the admirable village school and overflowed into premises belonging to the Baptists and the Methodists. Then, in May 1941, 200 mothers and children whose houses had been bombed in Plymouth arrived at shoft notice. They were temporarily lodged in the school, which had to close for five weeks, and were provided with food and bedding by the teachers and the Womens Voluntary Service (WVS). During the next two years the number of schoolchildren and teachers in Modbury fluctuated violently with the fortunes of war and conscription, but many of them remained at least until 1943, the children insisting that the school playground and premises remain open throughout the summer holidays.

Whilst the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Urban District Councils were preoccupied with the care and education of over 2000 evacuees, the rural parishes that comprised the remainder of the South Hams also had their share. Their total numbers were noted each month in the minutes of the Civil Defence Executive Committee of the Rural District Council of Kingsbridge. In December 1940 they were listed as 671 unaccompanied children, 20 men, 269 women and 329 accompanied children. They must have derived for the most part from the general exodus from the cities, particularly London, one-third to one-half of whom had returned to their homes before the fall of France in the summer of 1940. The minutes of the Committee also clearly indicate the incessant ebb and flow of evacuees, maybe no more than a couple of dozen a month, which occurred quite apart from the main intakes. With the bombing of Plymouth and Bristol in early 1941 the number of evacuees reached a peak in July 1941 of 2828, and remained high for the rest of the year.

In 1942, when the dangers of bombing receded, many evacuees who had houses to go to went home. Departures continued and were hastened when enemy aircraft bombed the area in the early months of 1943. By 1944, most of the remainder had good reason for staying. Maybe their homes had been bombed, they had nowhere else to go, the father of the family was in the Services overseas or they were contemplating permanent residence. When at last they did move on in 1945, the WVS did all it could to provide articles of all kinds, including clothes, for them to take with them. Indeed, it is difficult to think of the evacuees without the WVS, of which a senior member said in 1944 "I do not see how we could have done without them. No other body of people could have achieved so much in quieting anxiety, solving little human problems and doing unobtrusively but effectively the hundreds of little acts which no one could forsee and which seem so little but mean so much."

Perhaps the headmaster of Modbury school had the final word when he commented, in 1945, "City children did not understand all the ways of the country. They tended to be quicker and brighter than the Modbury children but not so reliable."

Part IV of this fascinating series will be on the subject of 'AGRICULTURE.

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THE THUNDERBOLT, or ball lightening, is a strange and little understood form of lightening which is actually rare in Britain. In other parts of the world, such as Norway, and in high altitudes, it is reported more frequently. Thunderbolts vary in size from that of a small bead, to a sphere several feet in diameter. They are usually red when mobile, and white when stationery, and they may emit sparks and a hissing sound. Some disappear quietly without causing any trouble, others cause considerable damage with fire and explosion, and sometimes loss of life, both animal and human. It is understandable that these strange lightening balls, with their uncahny movements and their ability to suddenly appear in a completely closed room, should inspire fear and superstition. In the past they were thought to have a sacred or supernatural origin, and today they are perhaps sometimes taken for UFO's. One country saying advises people toopen doors and windows for any thunderbolts to go out, and not to stand in front of a stove or chimney. W.D.

Walking the Lonely Path

The Walter Dee Page

In a way one would have to say another kind of footpath - the footpath of life. All of us who live in this lovely part of the South Hams know that country life is not always as idyllic as it might appear to those who just visit the area as 'tourists'. For most of us, most of the time, the back--ground of a contented, happy life is one where we are surrounded by family and friends.

For some there is regrettably a somewhat darker side to life, for living in a peaceful and tranquil part of England, mercifully at present free from the less pleasant characters who inhabit some areas, we are still not immune from the unhappy events and feelings which can affect us all regardless of age at some time or other - bereavement and loss, difficulties in relation--ships, illness, redundancy and money and housing worries, to name but a few. All of these, or any one of them can lead to feelings of loneliness and anxiety. Sometimes people can feel so alone and so afraid that they despair and wonder whether life is worth living at all. Perhaps we all know someone who has trodden this lonely path. Perhaps we have even been there ourselves.

It always helps to talk out problems. Someone who is in despair is often helped through the difficult times by family and friends; for many the family doctor or other caring professional is a life-saver. But sometime a person can feel that there is simply no-one to whom they can turn for a helping hand. The Samaritans handle tens of thousands of calls in Devon every year from people in this situation. Samaritans are not professionals; they are just ordinary people who will listen to and support someone for as long as they are needed. Their service is free and completely confidential. They can be contacted any time of day or night by phone, and most centres are open during the day for people who would like to drop in and talk over a cup of tea.

Samaritans also take calls from people who are worried about someone else and they sometimes make a discreet approach to see if that person would like help. Whatever the problem the Samaritans will listen sympathetically and without passing judgement.

So if you know someone who is lonely and depressed, let them know there is someone there. If you yourself ever feel that you need someone to talk to, don'tfeel that you have to be alone. The Samaritans are just a phone call away. There are Samaritan branches in Devon at Exeter 0392-39898, Barnstaple 0281 - 74343, Torbay 0803 - 25355, and Plymouth 0752 - 221666.

If you would like to help the Samaritans in any way, either as a volunteer or as a fund-raiser, please contact your nearest branch.

(Thank you for the inspiration for this article, to Christine, the regional representative, writing in the Community Council of Devon publication 'Village Green')

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Dairy farmers who have produced more milk than their quotas are faced with very heavy penalties - said to be going to average between £2,000 and £3,000 - and even up to £10,000, which will be taken by the Milk Marketing Board by withholding milk cheque payments from July onwards until the amount of any 'penalty' has been met. It seems there may be a threat that surplus milk may simply be poured away down the drain, and Geoff. Bateman, a South West Water Pollution Inspector is reported: "Milk is a very strong and toxic pollutant - 200 times worse than crude sewage - put any surplus into the slurry tanks." Incidentally, don't pigs thrive on milk - if they can get it?

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P.C. Cook, 24, underwent an emergency op. after a police horse he was mucking out bit off his right ear and swallowed it. The horse, it was said, would not face disciplinary action. !

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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The Wonderful Willow

There is no doubt in my mind that weeping willow trees stand as objects of great natural beauty. Some are tall and stately, or spreading and elegantly cascading, and in spring their first lemon-green leaves appear like trans--lucent festoons.

In a great many homes, objects and pictures of one kind and another - from cushion covers to calendars, tea-caddies to crockery - depict the famous Oriental willow-pattern design. Everywhere that the game of cricket is played seriously, willow trees provide the springy wood from which the bats are made. And there can be few places anywhere without a basket chair or something made of wickerwork - produced from willows in their guise of osiers.

These examples illustrate the range and universality of Salix, the willow tree, one of the most graceful of nature's creations, and certainly one of the most useful and fascinating, too. Including the osiers (or withies), and the sallows (or saughs), there are over 300 known species of willow, which makes it a very large family, as trees go. They range from tiny creeping alpines, to large noble trees of considerable size. All love wet (though not flooded) places, being happiest alongside or near water. All have long narrow leaves and showy male flowers, or catkins, set alternatively along twigs that are usually pliant, slim and springy. Hence 'willowy' for anything slender, graceful and supple - including a female figure! In fact, our word 'willow' derives from an ancient Sanskrit term for a pliant shoot or twig.

No doubt it was this pliant quality of osier twigs that originally attracted primitive man to them. Most probably he used them to fashion his first crude slings and baskets. This was an inventive advance now considered by leading anthropologists to have been a major step forward in human progress, for it enabled man to gather food far from home, and harvest berries, nuts, etc. in advance of his immediate hunger needs.

Of this big family of trees, at least 120 different species and varieties are currently cultivated, some for their timber and twigs for wickerwork, and many for garden and landscape decoration. Science calls the most decorative of these trees, the weeping willow 'Salix Babylonica'. The botanical name refers to the bibical story, as told in psalm 137, of how the Israelites in exile sat down by the waters of Babylon and wept in their anguish, hanging their harps on the willows there. In fact, the weeping willow like so many related species, is a native of China. Weeping willows, grown in England since about 1730, were introduced from the East into West Asia, Europe and North Africa much earlier.

Curiously enough, the famous 'willow pattern' seems to have been an English design, not a genuine Chinese one. It is thought to have been engraved in Pseudo-Oriental style in about 1775 by Thomas Minton when working as a transfer-printing apprentice at Thomas Turner's factory at Caughley, Shropshire. The inimitable design was first copied by many other English china potters, then, even more curiously, by the Chinese themselves, for their much prized blue Nanking ware. Obviously they recognised the background willow (and pine) as closely resembling their own species.

Cricket bats are largely made from the wood of the cricket bat willow, a natural hybrid of the native white willow found growing in Norfolk around 1700. This variety of Salix grows larger and more conical than most, and has long been planted (from cuttings) on good land in East Anglia solely for the purpose of making cricket bats. The trees, with their distinctive bluish--green foilage, grow very rapidly along the water-courses, about 30 feet apart, and are pruned to a height of only eight feet. By the time they are twelve years old, these willows already have trunks big enough for splitting into the 'clefts' from which cricket bats are made

OVERPAGE:-

THE WONDERFUL WILLOW concluded

Willow timber is always exceptionally light in weight, pliant and tough. But it has no heartwood and so is not durable out of doors. Various uses for it include such things as artificial legs - because of its lightness and strength - clothes pegs, pulp for paper making, and to some extent, for fuel

Most of the larger willows respond well to 'coppicing', where trees are cut down close to ground level. The willows then send up sheaves of the springy shoots which are needed for basketry. Skilled craftsmen weave the willow twigs when they are still moist and pliant, for theybdry and stiffen later.

Osiers are most extensively grown in Japan, the one country that has long taken the willow tree for its own. At one time, willows even helped to cure headaches and rheumatism. Salicin, from Salix, the bitter crystaline substance extracted from willow bark, was used for centuries as a medicine. At one time apothecaries used to visit the shops of willow-workers to gather up all the waste bark stripped from the twigs used for wickerware. They then sold it as a pain-killer. Then in 1838, the French chemist Piria produced a white substance from the same source calling it salicylic acid. A further deriva--tive of this, acetyl-salicylic acid, was isolated in 1893 by the German chemist Hoffman, whose employers, the big chemical firm Bayer, trade named it 'asprin(. Now produced synthetically, aspirin, the 'twentieth century's wonder drug, is swallowed in various forms by millions every day - most of whom are unaware of its origins in the willow tree. Willows certainly do much more than just weep..!

David Gunston

Spring Cleaning - how it all began

WHEN you pause to admire the picturesque effect of the thatched roofs that fortunately still adorn many of our cottages it is doubtful if there are now any who can recollect that the same material, whether it be straw or rushes, was at one time used to protect our feet as well as our heads. In medieval times, in houses, castles and churches alike, all floors that were not bare flagstones or trodden earth were covered with a layer of straw or rushes, sometimes mingled with dry flowers or herbs to make a kind of potpourri. In churches especially, since there were no chairs or pews for the congrega-tion, and frequent kneeling on the floor was required of worshippers, one can understand the need for the practice of 'strawing' or 'strewing'.

There are frequent references to the practice in medieval account books. One of William the Conqueror's tenants had to 'find straw for the bed of our lord the King and to straw his chamber and to pay three eels' whenever the Conqueror called. If the royal visit happened to take place in the summer, then the gift was to be straw for the bed, grass or rushes for the floor and 'two green geese'. The wealthier and more fastidius monarchs and nobles even employed a 'rush-strewer', whose task it was to attend to the regular covering of the floors in their palaces and mansions..

All this activity led to a considerable boom in the floor-covering industry. Rushes were brought from the East Anglian marshes and fenlands by road or river for sale in London, and eventually they were arriving in such quantities as to cause the capital's first recorded traffic problem: in 1416 it was decreed in London that all bales of rushes must be made up on the boats that brought them and not on the roadway or wharves, and that they must be sold by the cartload for easy and immediate transport.

One advantage of a rush floor was its ease of renewal. In fact, unfortunately, it proved to be rather too easy, for the general custom was to strew a new layer of rushes without first removing the old, with the result that, as can be only too easily imagined, the family was living on what was virtually a compost heap, and the continued presence of the old layers below only hastened the decay of the newer ones above. Even churches were not immune to this shoddy habit and, in about 1820, one Bishop Law, on entering the church at Saddleworth in Lancashire, averted his nose and declared that he would not even allow his horse to use the place. The effect of this remark upon the church wardens is not recorded. Erasmus in one of his letters called the English floor ' a collection of filthiness not to be named,' and continued with masterly restraint: "A vapour is exhaled, very pernicious, in my opinion, to the human body." Some, at least, of his contemporaries must have shared this view because Cardinal Wolsey used to have the rushes changed at Hampton Court every day, and was generally accused of wanton extravagance as a result. He was not the first though; another churchman, Thomas a Becket, gave similar orders. Perhaps cleanliness really was closer to godliness than was realised at the time.

The laying of new rushes throughout a house in the springtime obviously caused a major upheaval in the domestic routine. In some households it is even recorded that where it was customary to remove the old layer of rushes first the entire family would move out - to a second home if they were lucky enough to own one, or sometimes to specially-made bowers or shelters in the garden. With quaint delicacy but aptness this early forerunner of the modern spring-cleaning ritual was referred to as 'sweetening'.

Elizabeth I was a the last sovereign to have straw on her floors because her cousin and successor James, was a less frugal minded being, and introduced carpets. In private homes, however, straw was still in use in some parts of the country when Victoria came to the throne.

D.D.

Could this be the future face of farming asks Villager

What could the changes the EEC are imposing on farm production mean to a rural parish like Thurlestone? Farmer's are being advised to 'Diversify' - to convert unused barns and buildings to holiday accommodation and profit from attracting the tourist. Don't imagine it will have no impact for you have only to see what is already happening in the adjoining Parish of South Milton and note what is occuring at Trendwell, at Upton and at Wakeham.

Surely it is unlikely for any farmer compelled to leave land lying fallow and profitless not to seek compensation by whatever means it may be available. The planners seem to be co-operative, possibly backed by government with a policy for the expansion of the tourist industry and the foreign exchange it can bring in from Europe and America - particularly Europe where our trade balance is very seriously 'in the red'. Increased employment is obviously also a vitally important factor, for tourism is now the only real growth industry left .

You may feel that any major development of tourism will never happen here. Don't lose sight of the fact that there is around 140 'holiday homes' in the parish now! Who in the early 1960's ever thought they would see the development of sites like the Mead Estate which has changed the outer face of Thurlestone village for all time. And Glebefield has played no small part in the expansion of the population. One is not in any way condemning such estates - it just shows how development can creep up and totally change the face of a community.

Adjacent to the Mead I believe it has been stated there is still an 8½ acre site in private ownership, which has outline planning consent obtained at the same time as the Mead Estate in the 1960's. That could face the community with the potential of yet more luxury homes at some time when the real crying need is to attract some of the younger generation and thus ensure a 'living community' rather than just one of retired people growing older.

So, what development might happen. In a country where millionaires can now be counted by the thousand it seems you have to accept that many of these people are active and eagerly seeking outlets for their energies and ideas. Surely what has happened at Land's End is an example - have you seen it lately? The battle to establish Marina's around choice spots on the Devon Coast is another example.

The tourist business is the growth industry - particularly in the South West. With increased affluence has come greatly increased leisure time. There is a great deal of money in it. One hotel at Chagford quote £297.00 a night for B & B - dinner is an 'extra' ! Thurlestone with its numerous attractive beaches, the lovely Estuary, the wonderful coastline and delightful hinterland is a gem. Even that area of marshland below the Mead Estate would convert to a lovely lake where children could learn to sail in safety, where, once the sewage problem is resolved you could have a fishery too. What about an artificial ski-slope down the hillside into Buckland valley θ with a chair lift from the Sloop, perhaps. Surfing, sail-boarding, water skiing, sailing, swimming - all you need is a 'Leisure Centre' to take care of the thousands who would come, in poor weather periods. And one could name numerous attractive places for that!

All a load of nonsense? It was'nt for Lands End or Brixham. Development, prosperity, enjoyment and lots of money - money, the key word in the life of today!

Turlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

Behind the Facade

KENNETH WEEDY

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To most of us the adjective 'Georgian' conjures up pictures of Britain at peace and of the flowering of arts and crafts of all kinds. The classical houses and the flowing lines of the great Nash terraces in London and Bath; the landscape gardens of CapabilityBrown, the fine furniture and silverware so prized today - these and many other examples give the impression of an era in which God was in his Heaven and all was right with the world. Unfortunately the truth was very different.

Agricultural depression and the progress of the enclosures of common land, allied to the consolidation of peasant smallholdings into larger farms had started an ever-accelerating population shift from the countryside to the towns, where the early 'manfacturies' were the forerunners of the industrial revolution that would characterise the next century. For the first time in our history, in the late 1700's the urban population of Britain exceeded the rural. Butthe developing industries were not yet ready to absorb this influx and the result was unemployment and poverty among unskilled working men and women on a horrendous scale. Incredibly overcrowded and unsanitary tenements, called "rookeries", appeared in cities, while copious supplies of raw untaxed spirits offered the only way to temporary oblivion for their tenants. Hogarth's savage cartoon 'Gin Lane' is in no way overstated.

Deprivation and despair, empty stomachs and crude alcohol are the most potent components of crime and violence. The upper and middle classes were terrified of the latent power and danger of the rabble, for they had seen what the mob could accomplish in the course of the French Revolution, while what they had thought of as a few ill-disciplined farmers had recently succeeded in defeat--ing our best soldiery, as a result of which we had been ejected from America in a most humiliating way in the War of Independence. To make matters worse, France was showing signs of military resurgence, which was to culminate in the rise of Napoleon, while Spain and the Baltic countries were unequivocal in their dislike of, and opppsition to, Britain. With exception of Portugal, we hardly had a friend in the World.

Domestically, the reaction of Parliament was to introduce harsher and harsher legislation, with the death penalty attached to some of the most trivial crimes, even for first offenders. The, to us, repugnant spectacle of public executions was encouraged in the hope that it would dissuade others from criminal acts, but from the continuous series of processions from the Fleet prison to Tyburn and their equivalents in other cities, one must assume they had little effect. One should remember that gallows with a falling trapdoor had not yet come into use. Prisoners were stood, noosed, at the tailgate of a cart which was driven away from below them, so that in the majority of cases the neck was not broken, they were strangled.

As a result a whole scatological vocabulary of sayings became attached to the death-throe antics of the condemned, which were conversationally bandied about among the rabble, with grim humour, in much the same way as Cockney rhyming slang later came into use. For those at the absolute end of their tether, the end of the hangman's rope had little terror.

In much the same situation as that in which we find ourselves today, prisons were overcrowded far beyond their designed capacity. The introduction of Sir Robert Peel's new police force, replacing the old inefficient Bow Street Runners, stepped up the detection and arrest rates and this made the situation even worse. In the prisons there was no attempt at segregation by age or sex. Men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds were confined, twenty, thirty or more to a cell, with no toilet or ablution facilities; no medical

OVERPAGE:-

medical care; no exercise, physical or mental, and only ever diminishing hope. In the major Naval ports, lines of warships retired from service, were moored to serve as prison hulks. Conditions aboard were only one degree better than those ashore....the fresh sea breezes blew away some of the stench, to the annoyance and discomforture of honest citizens living ashore nearby.

It was against this background that the Governments of the time tried to find some solution to what seemed an insoluble problem. It was Captain Cook's providential discovery of Australia which offered a remote dustbin into which the garbage of society could be dumped, out of sight and mind. And, by chance, the idea had a second, powerful, appeal.

A thousand miles Northeast from Sydney in the vast emptiness of the Pacific lies Norfolk Island, a tiny speck about six miles long by three wide at its broadest, thirteen square miles in total. When Cook found this remote islet he had on board an eminent botanist, Sir Joseph Banks. Norfolk Island carried a small but very impressive stand of an indigenous pine which was both very tall, well tapered and with a clean trunk, free from lateral branches, rising to anything up to two hundred feet in height. This was Araucaria excelsa, a close relative of our familiar Monkey Puzzle tree. Now the Mainmast of a first ship of the line measured some one hundred and twenty feet from the point where it was stepped into the ship's keel to the topmast truck. The only area in Europe where suitable trees could be found was in the forests of Scandinavia and some of the southern Baltic states, but they had formed a 'State of Joint Armed Neutrality', unfriendly to Britain, and the supply of masts and spars for the fleet could thereby be cut off at any time. In this situation the Norfolk Island Pines appeared a Godsend. Additionally, there seemed to be a further bonus in that on the island there grew a plant of the Flax species which, it was hoped, would provide sail-making material. After a period of typical Governmental delays and indecision, the idea was adopted -- human debris outward bound, with masts, spars and sailcloth in return. Had the ultimate failure of the project been attributable only to natural causes one could afford to be philosophical about it but in fact it was largely due to gross mismanagement and bureaucratic incompetence.

The vast majority of the prisoners shipped first to Botany Bay, then Sydney Harbour and thence onward to Norfolk Island were urban criminals, without any experience of agricultural or silvicultural work. The tools with which they had been provided were insufficient in number and of miserably poor quality. Norfolk Island by reason of its small size and remoteness was absolutely escape-proof, whereas in the mainland of Australia it was not long before convicts, successfully in some instances, began to disappear from the settle--ments into the bush, to become the first outlaw bushrangers. Trouble makers of all sorts were shipped to Norfolk, where the brutality of the regime made the mainland camps seem like a distant picnic. A sentence of two hundred lashes with the Cat o' Ninetails was not uncommon, some of three hundred are recorded.

Despite all the difficulties, trees were felled, trimmed and cut into the required lengths for the three sections of mast, main, mid and top, while smaller timber was trimmed to yardarm sizes. Coarse flax was woven into canvas and timber and sailcloth were shipped slowly and dangerously round the Cape of Good Hope back to Portsmouth and Chatham dockyards.

The long story should by rights have a happy ending but this was not to be. Norfolk Pine masts proved to be completely unsuitable for their intended purpose. Unlike their Scandinavian counterparts they had little or no flexing resilience and they snapped like carrots in winds that the Nordic trees would have handled with ease. The sailcloth fared little better, splitting and tearing on the least provocation. So, after a few years of trying to fly in the face of unpleasant reality, the Norfolk Island venture was abandoned and the convicts were returned to mainland Australia.

Concluded overpage.

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IT'S LOGIC!

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Another problem from the mind-bending pen of PAT MACHIN Village Voice's resident Puzzlemaster !

Five people were interviewed as to their favourite pastime. From the clues given can you find out their full names, their pastime and where each of them lived. A grid is supplied to help you find the solution....

1. Miss Muggins was the croquet player. She did not live in South Milton.

2. Algernon came from Bantham. He did'nt play golf or ramble.

3. Claude Luggins hated playing cards and was not from Sth Milton.

4. Mr Ruggins lived in Churchstow but did'nt play bowls.

	LUGGINS	MUGGINS	NUGGINS	PUGGINS	RUGGINS	BOWLS	BRIDGE	CROQUET	GOLF	RAMBLING	BANTHAM	CHURCHSTOW	HOPE COVE	STH. MILTON	THURLESTONE
Algernon															
Bridget															
Claude															
Daphne															
Ernie															
Bantham															
Churchstow															
Hope Cove															
Sth Milton															
Thurlestone															
Bowls															
Bridge															
Croquet															
Golf															
Rambling															

5. The Hope Cove man's golf handicap was 16.

6. Bridget did'nt play corquet or ramble and Mr. Puggins did'nt reside in Thurlestone or play bridge.

SOLUTION is at the foot of another page of this issue.

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BLOWING THE SEEDS off a dandelion head can reveal the state of your love life, or so the tradition goes. If you remove all the seeds with one puff, you are loved passionately. If a few seeds remain, your lover is having second thoughts and may well leave you for someone else. If most of the seeds stay put, you're probably not loved at all. But you can always blame it on the dandelion.

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RECIPE FOR COMPOST. One half rotten cow-dung, two years old; one sixth sound earth, of an open texture; one eighth earth of totten leaves; one twelfth coarse sea or river sand; one twenty-fourth soft, decayed willow wood, found in the trunk of an old willow tree; one twenty--fourth peaty or moory earth, one twenty-fourth ashes of burnt vegetables.

Florists' Directory (1792)

Concluding BEHIND THE FACADE by Kenneth Weedy

We have to be thankfulthat despite our worst fears the Baltic remained open to us in those fateful years, so that Nelson's fleets at the Battle of the Nile, Quiberon Bay and, finally, Trafalgar had masts and yards, as well as men, that could take the strain without breaking. In the meantime the sentence of 'Deportation to His Majesty's Dominions and Colonies beyond the Seas' continued to be passed, frequently as a commutation of the Death Sentence. One such was Thomas Josephs who accosted a lady in a London Street, thereby 'putting her in fear', and stealing her handkerchief, for which crime he was sentenced to death.

A Staffordshire farm labourer, with a wife and two starving children, had stolen two hens, valued at a total of fourpence, and for this he was sentenced to be deported for seven years.

No, all was not well behind the facade of the urbane cicilised life that was the lot of the fashionable and rich minority in those Georgian times.

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NATURE'S WAY Gardening is NOT a recreational pursuit; you may get a kick out of it, but if you stick to the rules you should also get a rick, usually down at the bottom end of the vertebrae, but above the coccyx, after digging the trench for the new asparagus bed. When you get down to it, as sooner or later you must, gardening is a long-drawn-out war of attrition against the elements, a tripartite agreement involving the animal, insect and bird worlds, and the occasional sheer perversity of Nature. Tell me, if you will, using the other side of the paper on which you reckoned up those hours per annum, why is that we so often say 'we are doing it to save money' !

Whatever next?

Test-tube calves will soon be offered to farmers - thanks to a breakthrough that could revoluntionise the world's meat & dairy industries.

It seems the development involves the use of immature eggs removed from the ovaries of slaughtered cows. The eggs are then fertilised in a laboratory and allowed to grow. Then the embryos are frozen until they are needed for implantation.

Until now embryo transfer has been a costly operation involving the super-ovulation of a few expensive top-class donor cows. The new technique will cut the cost of the job to about £50 a shot - little more than the cost of artificial insemination, and should be within the economic reach of farmers round the world.

It could be the most important advance since the introduction of artificial insemination 45 years ago.

The breakthrough has been made by researchers led by Professor Ian Gordon at Lyons Estate Farm, University College, Dublin.

Their technique almost guarantees that twin calves are born - so far they have achieved a birth rate of 1.7 for each donor injection. There is also the possibility that within five years farmers will be able to select the sex of their test-tube calves.

The process involves the removal of immature eggs from cows sent to the slaughter-house. Up to 20 eggs can be collected from each ovary. Within an hour of removal they are washed 10 times in a sterile solution before being divided into single eggs and grown to the point of maturity. Once ripe they are fertilised using semen from high-class bulls at artificial insemination centres. The embryos are then carefully cultured and after a week are frozen until needed. In this form they can be implanted with the standard gun used for artificial insemination.

The test-tube calf technique should allow even the poorest farmers to cash in on embryo transfer.

With due acknowledgement to Edward Long and the Sunday Times - but it does rather make you wonder if vegetarnism is'nt more acceptable !

Kate's Kitchen

THESE TWO RECIPES are ideal snacks to take on picnics and won't end up soggy and unidentifiable offerings.

Nature's Own Snack

12ozs Oats, 6 ozs Raisins, 4 ozs Chopped Nuts, 5 ozs Margarine, 4 ozs Demarara Sugar, 4 ozs Honey or Golden Syrup, 1 Egg Size 2 beaten, ½ teasp. Vanilla Essence, ½ teasp. Salt.

Toast oats in an ungfeased large baking tin 350F (180C) for 15 to 20 mins, stir occasionally. Put all other ingredients into a mixing bowl and add the toasted oats Press firmly into a well-greased swiss roll tin. Bake about 20 mins at 350F (180C) until golden. Cool, then cut into bars. Store in an airtight tin.

Fruit Tea Loaf

Soak ½lb Mixed Fruit in ¾ cup of hot tea and leave overnight.

Add to the fruit ¼lb caster sugar, ½ teasp. mixed spice, 1 tablsp. marmalade, ½lb Self-raising flour, 1 well-beaten egg.

Mix well and put into a well-greased loaf tin. Bake at 360F (185C) for an hour, then place a piece of foil on top and bake for a further 20 to 30 minutes.

About Map Collecting

CHARLES I is considered to have set the vogue of hanging the panelled walls of the great parlour of Hatfield House with framed maps - and collectors have been wise to their decorative possibilities ever since.

Most of today's treasured maps, dating from the sixteenth century onwards, are on hand-made paper, but the earliest maps were painstakingly drawn on sheets of parchment. For the monks who spent weeks illuminating one map by hand, in gold and dazzling colours, it was a labour of love. Later, the Dutch printed maps from wooden blocks, but it wasn't until 1473 that a much finer impression was achieved using engraved copper plates.

John Speed (1552-1629), a Cheshire man, was probably the most famous mapmaker or cartographer of all. He produced his 'Fifty-four Maps of England and Wales' between 1608 and 1610. These maps were later incorporated into his 'Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain' (1611-12)

Accuracy was not, however, the strong point of these early efforts. Even Speed borrowed freely from earlier works, repeating their errors. The first man to take measurements seriously was Christopher Saxton (1542-1610). His on-the-spot survey of English and Welsh counties was undertaken in 1574 and only completed five years later. But it was worth his while, for the Queen showered him with honours and, fittingly, gifts of land as well.

The great charm of early maps for today's collector or investor are the extra-ordinary symbols and striking decorations the first cartographers loved to use. You'll find elaborately engraved shields, crests and coats of arms; decorative scrolls, rebuses, swags and cartouches - to use the map-fanciers' jargon - cover the geographical canvas.

Speed's maps are like an open-plan history book in addition: he specialised in depicting land battles and sea fights, On his and on other old maps, the sea is often alive with ships with billowing sails, grotesque dolphins, and puffing heads symbolising the four winds.

Interestingly, the way a map artist handled the sea is a rough and ready guide to age, Prior to 1520, swirling lines stood for the sea. After 1550, stippling depicted watery wastes.

Because many maps are reproduced over and again, accurate dating is really a job for the expert and you should buy from none other . But there are ways in which you can help yourself become a more shrewd map-collector. The first maps were made in limited editions, as the copper plates quickly dulled and the image became blurred. For these short runs, the heaviest quality hand-made paper - thick and soft - was used, and this was imported from France. Consequently, English maps up to 1610 should carry a French watermark. Early maps often carry a watermark in the form of a bunch of grapes.

OVERPAGE:-

COLLECTING OLD MAPS - concluded

The way paper was made is another aid to dating. The paper pulp was left to dry on a wire grid. Over the years, the distance between the wires altered and it is often possible to detect this and date accordingly.

Colour is another clue. Applied by hand, old coulour was so dense it usually sank through the paper and reappeared on the other side. Modern colour is generally wishy-washy by comparison. A seam down the centre may indicate that your map was once bound into a theatre.

One thing you should not be fooled by is a date. This simply indicates when the original engraving was made. All things being considered, it could have been printed yesterday.

With acknowledgement to Mel Lewis.

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The Goldfish Story

That tame goldfish swimming contentedly round your indoor bowl, or in the garden pool, has a very remarkable story behind it.

Originally goldfish were found living wild only in China, and for many hundreds of years they were never seen, wild or tame, west of Tibet. A great many mythological stories exist about these earliest known goldfish: that they were originally confined only to the secluded lake near a great mountain called Ch'ien-ch'ing; that the first goldfish ever even suddenly appeared leaping up out of a well right at the very end of a long drought when special sacrifices were being made to beseech the gods to grant rain; that they were found only in sacred pools, and so forth. All the evidence goes to show, however, that gold--fish, as we know them today, were common creatures in the lakes and ponds of central China long before the civilisation of the western world existed.

At any rate, it was the Chinese who first domesticated 'the fish with the red scales' as they called them . In their T'ang dynasty, which ended in AD 907, they made pets of numbers of cfish. But this is not so remarkable as it seems, for these ancient Chinese were the inventors of the modern zoo. Their interest in keeping wild creatures in captivity - in their gardens, or 'parks of intelligence,' as they called them - was very great, and as these gardens were designed to have numerous pools, many kinds of fish were kept and studied.

By AD960, in the even more advanced Sung dynasty, pet goldfish were oommon, and what we now know as goldfish ponds were familiar sights to mandarins and peasants alike. Once wild fish were firmly established in domestic waters, people began to start breeding them and very soon the learned Chinese were writing and discoursing on such technical subjects as colour changes, breeding habits and diseases of their fish - all this before the Battle of Hastings, by the way. 'If goldfish eat the refuse of olives or soapy water then they die; if they have poplar bark they do not breed live, ' wrote a monk who died in the year 999.

Goldfish were not introduced into Japan until about 1500, so conservative and jealous of their knowledge on all subjects were these ancient Chinese. But if the Chinamen were slow in distributing their fish, the Japanese were even slower in pursuing the art of breeding them, for it was not until about 1704 that they themselves began breeding ornamental fish.

Slowly but surely the goldfish began invading the other countries of the world. Wherever it was introduced, men were fascinated by the bright colours and the ease with which it could be kept and bred indoors and outdoors alike, but it was not until the year 1691 that England saw its first goldfish. By 1730, the keeping of various kinds of goldfish became a hobby of landowners, who stocked their ponds with specimens bought from traders from the East.

TWO MINUTES IN THE LIFE OF A VILLAGE 45 YEARS AGO

When seven Focke Wolf 190 planes raided a small South West village of some 300 inhabitants at tree top height they dropped three bombs in fields, two on marsh land, the black mud from which covered the long village road about three inches thick; one bomb completely destroyed the 13th century church, with its original round Norman tower and the perpendicular tower with clock and eight bells. There can be no doubt that in this instance the German pilot deliberately threw his bombs at the church, for the nearest and only other building in the vicinity was 500 yards distant.

Another bomb hit the Rectory some considerable distance away, which was partly used as an hostel for evacuees from London, seriously injuring one lady and killing her four year old daughter. Three other persons were badly injured in the village and another 17 slightly injured.

The attack lasted less than 2 minutes, but apart from the destruction of the Church and the Rectory, only 5 out of 110 houses were undamaged.

So next time you are vexed at having the wait in a traffic hold-up by those flashing red lights give a thought to what happened in Aveton Gifford village in 1943. In 1948 a congregation were congratulated by the Bishop of Exeter on being the first out of twenty-four war damaged churches to have completed the first part of plans for complete restoration. Research. Walter Dee

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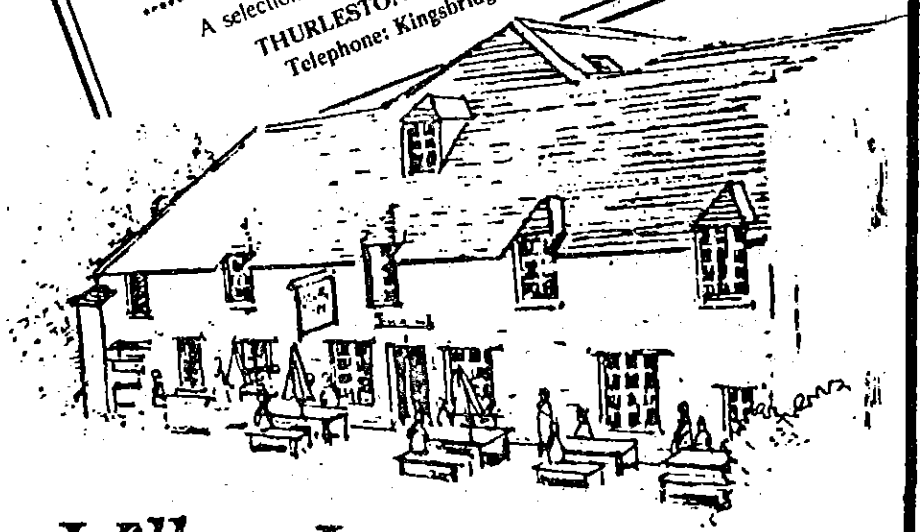

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ANOTHER ARTICLE IN OUR ' WINDOW ON DEVONSHIRE' SERIES

The Town on the River

AVETON GIFFORD - A Digest of the origins of a name based on the writings of Rev. C.C.Shaw, M.A.

AETHELWULF King of the West Saxons granted himself land by a Charter known as the 'Om Homme Charter' of 846 A.D. He included in his boundaries the old road, called in the Charter a "Straete", from Modbury to the Coast through what we now call Aveton Gifford, but he did not give that village a name and called the rive AFENE.

The Hiwisce Charter given by Edgar King of the Angles in 962 A.D. dedicated in the name of the Holy Trinity and signed with the sign of the Holy Cross by no less a person than Dunstan Archbishop of Canterbury gives this same clue again. This Charter boundary comes to the Bridge-end side of the river as far as the old Stadbury road and gives again the name of the river as AFNE (a form of AVEN).

In a local Borough Charter of 1305 the river is named as "the stream called ye old AWN." The source of the river on Dartmoor is known today as AUNE HEAD and the river mouth is known as AUNEMOUTH.

Many of the old maps mark the river as the AUNE and many mark it AVEN or AVON. From the river the village of Aveton Gifford derives the first part of its name so there is still room for speculation and almost of free choice. The Celtic AWN = River; The Celtic TON = TOWN.

So the name means the Town on the River. The records through the ages show an independence of mind characteristic of the inhabitants of this South Hams village and a'foreigner' will find that none here really minds whether it is called Aveton, Awton or Aueton. They would however find it troublesome if the lawyers start again to demand on their deeds as they often did in the past "Aveton alias Awton."

In the Domesday Survey the Exeter copy has Avetona, the Exchequor Copy as Auetona, and the Bishops Registers have every possible alternative down through the ages. The village is on the map and the signposts as Aveton but the visitor should, if asking the way, also remember Awton. It all depends on your favourite name for the River.

The part of the name Giffard or Gifford derives from the family of that name who owned the Manor for some 170 years, from about 1100 until 1270 A.D. This name too is spelt variously through the centuries in the records. Gyffarde, Giffard, Gyffard and Gifford are all quite frequently found. Hardinge F. Giffard esq. writes in Vol. 34 of the Transactions of the Devonshire Society in 1902. "The addition of 'Giffard' was of course made to the names of both places (Weare and Aveton) in consequence of their connection with the Giffard family. In all the early references this name was spelt Giffard, not Gifford, which is a corruption of comparatively recent date.

The estuary provided the village with a splendid means of communication with the outside world from the earliest times. At the entrance to the estuary stands Burgh Island, on the summit of which at one time stood a chapel dedicated to St. Michael and where there also stood at one time a lighthouse tended by the Monks of Buckfast. So Camden writes: "Where the Aven's waters with the sea are mixt; St. Michael firmly on the rock is fixt." Perhaps the Roman coin found at Aunemouth in recent years and identified as being made at Treve and dated Constantine II, 337 A.D. links us with the early traders who visited Aveton Gifford village.

Much of the stone used for the buildings in the village including the church must have been brought up the river from below Stadbury by the barge load together with lime from the various kilns on either side of the river. In the

OVERPAGE:-

early days the ground by the houses was not raised and the water must have brought the barges even as far as Jubilee Street on a very high tide.

In 1766 John Kent was paid 9/- for a boat load of stones. For drawing stones for mending the walls, one man and two horses for two days and a half 6/3. Paid for a thousand and a half stones - 6/9.

By barge coal was brought up river and by the same barge the children went down the river to Bantham for their Sunday School treat. The house on the bridge by the garage used to be known as Quay House. A house and quay newly erected is mentioned in a deed of the Seventeenth Century.

On either side of the river just below the bridge stand North and South Efford marking the site of the ancient ford across the river connected by the old roads to Waterhead and Stadbury, and as many a motorist learns today along Stakes Road by bitter experience the ford can only be crossed at ebb tide.

The bridge appears to have replaced the ford sometime between 1420 and 1440. This date is based on the following evidence gained from the Bishops registers.

1418. John Ulverton, Vicar of Stokenham, by will dated 14th March left for bridge at Aveton Gifford 6/8, for Staverton Bridge 3/4 and for Totnes bridge 3/4. 1407. June 19th in the will of Isabella Daimarle who lived at Stadbury a request was made of £10 for the repair of bridges. 1427. 31st August. Rogerus Bachiller, Rector of Churstow left by his will amongst other bequests to the building of the bridge at Aveton Giffard 100/-.

On the 3rd. March 1442 the Bishop granted an indulgence of forty days for all contributing to the new building mainenance and repair of the bridge at Aveton Giffard. Indulgences were granted again in 1521. Perhaps this evidence or some of it suggests an even earlier date for the first bridge.

In the book "Old Bridges by Charles Henderson and E. Jervoise" the following description is to be found: "James Green describes it as a causeway 1,200 ft. in length with six arches each of 16ft. span, over the chief river. At the eastern end are three stone arches of the same size and five more of 12ft span at the other extremity. Three of these were stopped up in consequence of the embankment of the marsh lands above the bridges." He also noted it was a very old bridge and inconvenient from its great length and narrowness. The five mediaeval arches over the main river still exist but have been widened by about 6 feet on the up-stream side. At the western end there are two arches over the mill leat. In fact the sixth ancient arch is still there but is buried beneath earth from the marsh. Those who travel by boat beneath the bridge can see where the bridge has been widened. Aveton Giffard masons did their work well.

THE BATTLE OF THE BRIDGE 1643 - In Walker's "Sufferings of the Clergy" can be found the following concerning the bridge.
"As it appeared in 1643 it was a narrow causeway, raised above the meadows at t the head of the tidal estuary. It was here that the Royalists had at first intended to dispute the advance of their opponents. Mr William Lane had lately been appointed Rector. He had had much trouble in Plymouth and still had two of his sons imprisoned there...."at which time' his son says 'my father was active with Sir Champernowne and other gentlemen in these parts for rais--ing succours for His Majesty and was raising a fort on a hill (part of the Glebe of Aveton) which commanded the bridge leading to Kingsbridge. But before it could be finished the King's party was destroyed.'

The river is tidal above the bridge to a considerable distance as far as the weir. At the weir there is a Salmon Trap, the only one we are told left in the country. It was made by William Bastard of Garston, then Lord of the Manor, and William Lane, the Rector, in 1638. Rough plans for its construction were found amongst the Kitley Papers in the custody of Plymouth Library archives. The Salmon Trap is on private grounds and all fishing above the bridge is privately owned.

Researched by WALTER DEE

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

Footpaths of the South Hams

by J.S.B.REYNOLDS, (Footpath Secretary (Acting) for the Ramblers Association (South Hams Section)

PART III. FURTHER LOCAL WALKING ROUTES

ROUTE 1b. 7 KM (4.37 miles)

This is a much more interesting return route from Aunemouth Cross to Buckland.

a). At Aunemouth Cross, turn left and follow the Bantham road NE for almost a KM to North Upton (on the North side of the road). A few metres before this point, on the right hand side, is a finger post indicating the start of Path No.10.

b.) This path goes across a field diagonally SSW and crosses the hedge at a cattle trough set in the hedge. The stile, which should be here, is missing but one can get over quite easily using the cattle trough as a stepping stone. The path continues SSW across the next field (ploughed up at the moment - at the time of writing this) to a five barred gate (FBG) in the SW corner of the field.

c.). Here, the route joins Path No.8 - a Green Lane running WSW to the Aunemouth Cross/Buckland Road. After about 300 metres WSW along the Green Lane, find a finger post on the left hand side which indicates the continuation of Path No.10.

d.). Path No.10 descends about 150 metres steeply to the South, leaving the hedge on the left hand side, to a stile set against the hedge.

e.). Go over the stile and descend a meadow diagonally - direction SW to a FBG.

f.). Continue along the Lane aboutnanother 100 metres or so and along the back of some houses to emerge on the road by a telephone kiosk.

g.). Continue by road to West Buckland to join Route 1a. (Village Voice No.31)

ROUTE 1c. 15 KM (9.37 miles)

This is a slightly longer walk following Route 1. (V.V. No30) to the point where it joins the Thurlestone Road (Grid Ref. 689 448) just near Clannacombe. The return route is now via South Milton.

a.). Follow Route 1 to the above point (7½ KM)

b.). Turn left and follow the West Alvington road to the farms Langdon and Whitley (¾ KM). ¾ KM

c.). Just before the farm, find a finger post on the right hand side, beside a five barred gate (FBG) This is the start of Path No.18 (Thurlestone). Go ¼KM steeply SE down a meadow to a stream which is crossed by a sturdy wooden bridge.

d.). The path now becomes a South Milton (SM) path No.11 Follow the path up the hill, SE, leaving the barbed wire fence on the left hand side, to a stile Pass over and continue SE (barbed wire fence still on left hand side) through two five barred gates to find a third FBG entering a meadow (the final field before the minor road is crossed. Cross this meadow diagonally SW to find a stile and finger post set in the hedge. ½ KM

e.) South Milton Footpath No 11. continues on the other side of the road across a meadow 500 metres to a stile where it enters a 'Green Lane' leading to South Milton Church (North side). Turn right and follow the road to join the Links Road/South Milton road at Grid Ref. 697 429. ½KM

f.) Cross the road to a Finger post by a five barred gate. This is South Milton Path No.6. Go diagonally across the field SW to a wooden bridge across a stream, then 150 metres SSE to join the South Milton/Thurlestone Sands Road ½KM

g.) Turn left and go 350 metres along the road to find a Green Lane on the right hand side. Go 600 metres first South then West to the staft of South Milton Path No.3. 1KM

CONCLUDED OVERPAGE:-

FOOTPATHS OF THE SOUTH HAMS

Conclusion Part III

h). There is a Finger post at the start. The path crosses a very large field. Since the distance across the field is 500 metres it is better to cross on a compass bearing SW to find a stile and another Finger post. Cross and a matter of 30 metres further on, there is another stile and Finger post leading to a Green Lane. ½ KM

i.) Go west along the Green Lane to a Finger post indicating the start to South Milton Path N.6. ¼KM

j.) Go NNW down the hill to Horswell House, which is left on the left-hand side to re-join the South Milton/Thurlestone Sands Road. ½ KM

k.) Go by minor road to Whit--locksworthy. 1½ KM.

(Note: There is a path from Horswell House direct to Whit--locksworthy (South Milton Path No.7. This path is impassable except following a very dry period due to the marshy stream bed. Hopefully a raised catwalk will be constructed at some stage.)

l.) Find a Finger post indicat--ing the start of Thurlestone Path No.17. It is tricky to get onto the path so I will be as precise as I can. From the road go NW about 150 metres past farm buildings to find a five barred gate on the right hand side. This is a second Finger post. Turn half right, go through the gate northwards about 100 metres then under an electric fence. Turn half left and descend a meadow steeply to a stream which is the parish boundary. There is a bridge and a 'kissing gate' at this point. Path No.17 starts here and goes upwards to the WSW through a five barred gate to join Court Park Road by means of a stile. (Finger post along--side). ½ KM

m.) Continue up Court Park road to the Village Stores ¼ KM

LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS OF INTERESTING WALKS. Keep your copies of Village Voice so that you can refer back when necessary.

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

NORWAY is the most intensively irrigated land in Europe - only two per cent behind the United States in percentage watered crops.
Little wonder that this northern land is high in the artificial watering league - for some of its valleys suffer certain years with less rainfall than the Sahara desert. The Utta and Grtbrandstal valleys average just 265 mm of precipitation per year compared with the mountainous west coast of this country where annual rainfall tops 2000 mm.
But counties like Westfold on the western shores of Oslo Fiord are in the rain shadow of the western mountains which explains the Sahara-like rainfall. Here, over 14 per cent of farmers irrigate their arable.

THAT GREAT eighteenth century Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus gives a list of when certain plants and flowers open. For the benefit of those who don't possess a watch, here is a timetable to guide you:
3.05 a.m. Goat's Beard
4.00 a.m. Late Dandelion
5.00 a.m. Day Lily
6.07 a.m. Spotted Cat's Ear
7.00 a.m. White water lily.
8.00 a.m. Mouse-ear Hawkweed
9.10 a.m. Chickweed.

PLANT and the wife plants with you.
Weed and you weed alone.
Dennis Breeze.

THE GOLDEN HIND, the flagship in which Sir Francis Drake sailed round the world in 1577-80, started the voyage with a different name. She was, as many of you will know originally named Pelican - but do you know why the name was changed? It seems Drake suppressed a threatened mutiny and had the ringleader, Thomas Doughty, beheaded. This execution created something of a problem for Drake for Doughty had been secretary to Sir Christopher Hatton, a major shareholder in the expedition and a man who was high in Queen Elizabeth's favour. Drake solved the problem by a very clever gesture of flattery. The crest on Hatton's coat of arms was 'a hind statant or' which means a standing female deer without antlers. And by the time Drake's ship entered the Strait of Magellan a few days after Doughty's execution, the Pelican had become the Golden Hind in Hatton's honour.

That the Hedge Sparrow really isn't a sparrow at all. So next time you see one if you want to be correct you should really say:"Look at that Hedge Accentor!"Or you could, of course, say: "There's a Dunnock!" and you would be right about that too!

And here is something else you may not know - the solution to our logic problem IT'S LOGIC:

Algernon	Puggins	Bowls	Bantham
Bridget	Muggins	Bridge	South Milton
Claude	Luggins	Golf	Hope Cove
Daphne	Nuggins	Croquet	Thurlestone
Ernie	Ruggins	Rambling	Churchstow.

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