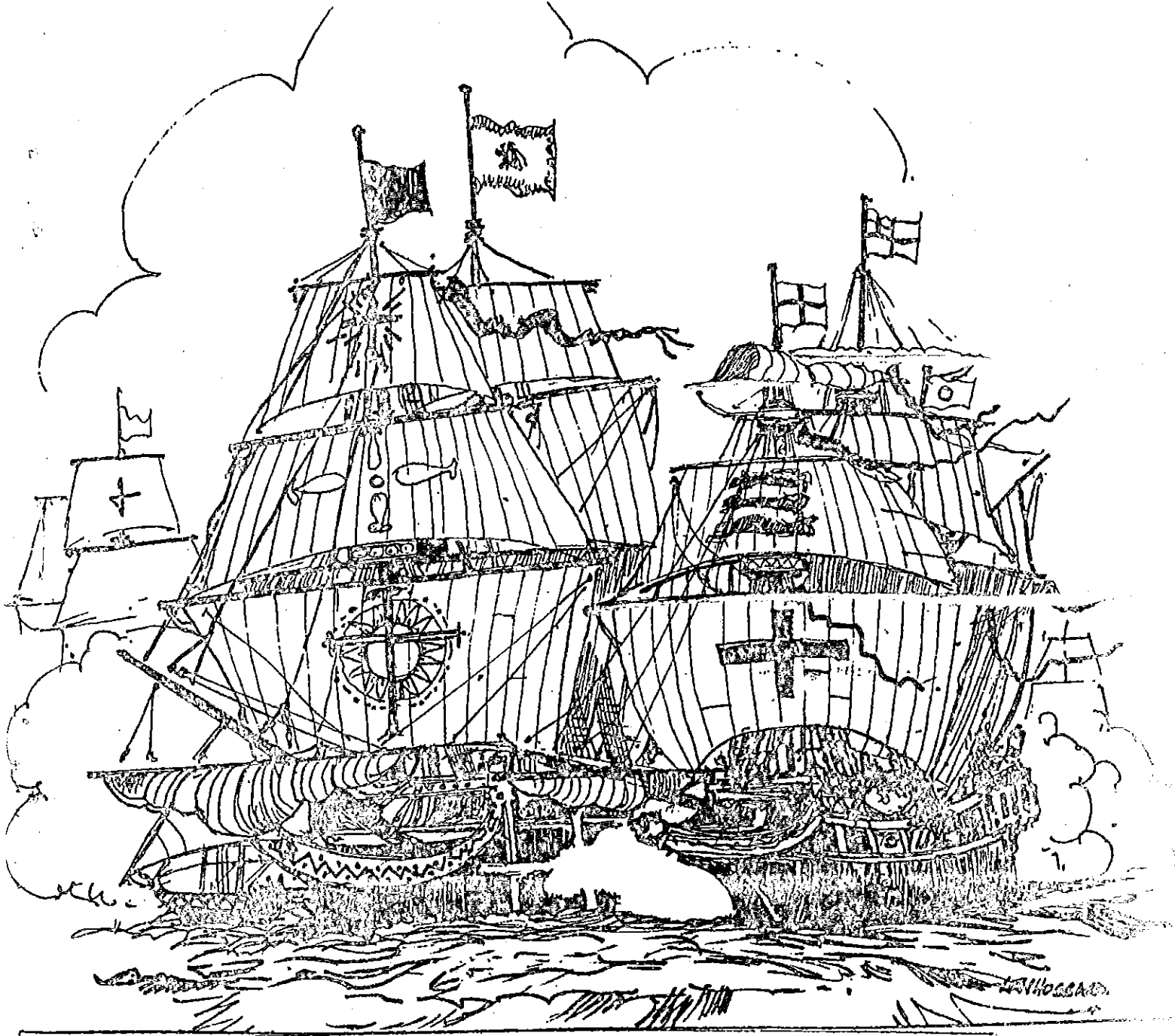


# VILLAGE VOICE

SPONSORED BY THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL



THURLESTONE  
**ARMADA 400**

CELEBRATION WEEK  
18th to 23rd JULY.





PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

EDITED AND PRODUCED BY:

Dudley Drabble  
Kendall McDonald  
& Penny McDonald

at

Gradles Cottage  
Thurlestone  
Kingsbridge

Tel: Kingsbridge  
560239

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Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

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IT DOES SEEM APPROPRIATE that in this special Armada edition of Village Voice we should take a look at villagers' rights. After all on a much grander scale the whole of the battle of the Armada was about our rights - the most important of them all, of course, was our right to be free.

Now having rights is all very well, but rights are no good unless they are recorded somewhere. That recording has been one of the roles of books, leaflets, newspapers and magazines ever since the earliest days of the printed word. So Village Voice is carrying on that tradition and here records one of the village rights - the right of way across the golf course to Long Stone Point.

At this moment we are not very interested in whether or not the County make this a definitive footpath. We are only interested in recording that the right to walk across exists and that no one should try to take it away from us. And to make it official we are recording here the words of Councillor Jack Thomas, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee of South Hams District Council at the Thurlestone Parish Council meeting of May 24, 1988. He said: "It must be made clear that there is a right to walk there."

Quite so, Councillor, and so Village Voice hereby puts it on the record and makes it as clear as clear can be for everyone to see.

# From the

## Rector

Prebendary P.S. Stephens.

THIS IS the Armada issue of Village Voice. Someone has remarked that Armada 400 has caused more upheaval and affected more people than did the Armada itself! That is probably true, but it is only true because the Armada failed!

A while ago we heard a good deal about playing down the victory and forgetting all about Sir Francis Drake - presumably to avoid upsetting the sensibilities of the Spaniards for whom the whole enterprise was an unmitigated disaster. Had we heeded such nonsense then there is no point in keeping Armada 400 anyway.

I'm probably biased having spent much of my life in Plymouth from which Drake sailed; having been for ten years Vicar of Buckland Monachorum and having in my parish Drake's home at Buckland Abbey, and having been Rural Dean of Tavistock where Drake was born and grew up.

The consequence of the defeat of the Armada on Nation, Church and Navy cannot be over-emphasized although we can only speculate as to what would have been the consequences of a Spanish victory. Our naval supremacy, certainly in psychological terms, if not in practical and actual, can be traced back to the Armada.

Nor should we overlook two other notable anniversaries which take place this year which, though remote from the Armada in time, would not have happened at all without that famous victory. 1988 is the three hundredth anniversary of the landing of William of Orange (at Brixham) all part of the story of maintaining the Protestant succession which would have been non-existent had the Armada been successful.

May has marked the 250th anniversary of Charles and John Wesley's 'conversion'. Had not the English Church (enabled by the defeat of the Armada) been free to continue her existence, (traceable back to the fourth century, at least, long before Augustine's Mission in 597), there would have been no scope for the Wesleys - and therefore no Methodist Church. It is interesting to speculate what else would have happened had the result of the battle been reversed. I leave that to you!

## ARMADA SPECIAL

*Thurlestone Men were there!*

ooooo000ooooo

# THE DAY THEY LOOTED ST PETER

\* \* \* \* \*

ON THAT STORMY day, there were men from Thurlestone, from Bantham and Buckland, from Hope and Huish, South Milton, and perhaps from Malborough too, all standing in the surf on the beach at Hope, ripping and tearing the clothes off the backs of the survivors of that great Spanish ship, which was speared on the rocks nearby.

For on that day - October 28th, 1588 - the only Armada ship to be wrecked in the whole of England was being pounded to pieces by the great breakers driven in by a howling South-Westerly gale. But the wind and the spray and the cold of the sea, did not distract the locals from their prey. They robbed and they beat the shipwrecked men who struggled ashore in ones and twos, but they didn't kill them - for that at least the Spaniards could be grateful. There were, make no mistake about it, other parts of Elizabethan England where they would have been dead seconds after touching dry land.

Those who got ashore from the San Pedro El Mayor, or St. Peter the Great, were lucky even if they were to be prisoners in Devon for the next four years. Over a hundred of those aboard had died since setting sail

OVERPAGE:::::

with such high hopes with the rest of the Armada from Lisbon.

Here then is the story of the ship which is often called an Armada galleon and the way she was lost at Hope in South Devon.....

The San Pedro El Mayor, or St. Peter the Great, wasn't really a galleon with high forecastle and sterncastle, but an urca or freighter, a tubby ship, confiscated by the Spanish for use in the invasion of England. She was to be a hospital ship and she was listed as such in the inventory of the Armada made in Lisbon on May 20, 1588. She was under 100 feet long, 550 tons, and she carried, when she sailed, 35 sailors, of whom 13 were Portuguese, 10 French, 2 Italians, and 10 Dutch, either pressed or in it for the money. 100 soldiers and another 50 army personnel aboard who were to tend the sick and wounded and run the hospital facilities.

Those hospital facilities were to be used almost as soon as the Armada sighted England.

The San Pedro which carried 30 guns herself, moved up Channel inside the Armada's great crescent-shaped battle formation. She was safe inside those arms with the rest of the 23 supply-and-service urcas in the squadron commanded by Juan Gomez de Medina from his flagship Gran Grifon. Though the Gran Grifon was the flagship of the urcas she wasn't a much better sailer than they were and in some winds tended to straggle behind her charges.

The first skirmishes took place off Plymouth on July 21, 1588. The English ships in those first engagements were commanded by Drake, Howard, Hawkins and Frobisher. Drake recorded it like this: "The 21st we had them in chase, and so, coming up to them, there hath passed some cannon shot between some of our fleet and some of them, and as we perceive they are determined to sell their lives with blows."

Blows was the right word. On August 3 the Armada was past Portland Bill and still keeping their formation. The weather helped them a great deal - periods of complete calm were followed by a very gentle breeze from the West. But the weather wasn't any help to the Gran Grifon. The wind was too light for her and she straggled way behind the seaward horn of the crescent. The English spotted her and crammed on all sail to cut her off. Drake was first to reach her with his Revenge.

Medina saw his danger and struggled to get back to the Spanish line. But he was too late and too clumsy. Drake put Revenge on broadside course, gave the Spaniard every gun, came about and gave her the other broadside. Then he raked again as he ran "half musket shot" distance under her stern.

Seventy men on the Gran Grifon were either killed or wounded and the blood ran down her scupper pipes into the sea. A report of the time says that she took 70 cannonballs in her hull, but despite this was finally able to rejoin the Armada. Once in that shelter her wounded were transferred to

OVERPAGE.....

## VILLAGE VOICE

### THE DAY THEY LOOTED ST. PETER - continuation

to the San Pedro.

We know nothing more of what happened to the San Pedro until she had to run with Medina before the gales up the East coast and reached the very tip of Scotland. Now there was only one way home - round Scotland and down the West coast of Ireland. The San Pedro lurched and lumbered on after her commander in Gran Grifon heading West between the Orkneys and the Shetlands. On August 20 the ships passed through between Ronaldsay and Fair Isle - at least the San Pedro did, but she had lost the main force and the Gran Grifon. The Gran Grifon was wrecked on Fair Isle, but Medina and most of his crew survived.

The San Pedro was now alone. Her orders were quite clear. She was not to seek shelter in Irish ports for it was feared that any who did so would meet with no quarter. We can imagine the state the San Pedro was in for she seems to have ignored those orders and run for shelter into the port of Vacey, County Kerry. She was desperate to replenish her fresh water and one report says that the barrels aboard contained water so stinking and full of growths that they had to strain it through their teeth to get any liquid at all !

The temptation to stay in Vacey must have been immense but the San Pedro soon sailed again - right into more Westerly gales. Some of the more seriously wounded below decks drowned in the water which spilled back and forth inside her. And one other report says that soon there were not enough men aboard fit enough to handle her and the winds took her and drove her before them. Certainly we know that after a three-month navigation of the British Isles she was back off Plymouth in the latter days of October. And finally on October 28, it was all over. The wind picked her up again and drove her into Hope Cove where she ran on to a rock and became a complete wreck. Then the looting and the pillaging began....

The wreck is well documented. We know all about the pillage made by the locals from letters which still exist in the Public Record Office at Kew. Take this one dated November 5th 1588, written by George Cary, Deputy-Lieutenant of Devon. He was in Plymouth when he heard of the wreck: "And during my abode there, having understanding that one of the Spanish fleet was cast on shore (at a place called Hope near Salcombe) and the great pilfering and spoils the country people made, I rode thither and took order for the restoring and rehaving again of all such things as either by search or inquiry I could find out, and have put the same in inventory. And took order, for the orderly saving of the rest, as weather would give leave, to have the same on land, appointing two head constables to attend that service, and they and others to keep several inventories.

Continued OVERPAGE:::

## VILLAGE VOICE

### Continuing "THE DAY THEY LOOTED ST. PETER"

"The ship is a hulk, and called St. Peter the Great, one of those two ships which were appointed for the hospital of the whole Navy. She is in burden, as they say, 550 tons, but I think not so much.

"The ship is not to be recovered; she lieth on a rock and full of water to her upper decks.

"They confess that there were put into her, at her coming out of Spain, thirty mariners, one hundred soldiers, fifty appertaining to the hospital. There are now remaining about forty, or thereabouts."

Cary was close, for on counting the official list of the named survivors, held prisoner in Kingsbridge, and offered for ransom, there are exactly 42 soldiers, though you must add to this figure 35 sailors all of whom are listed as safe.

Even so these figures show the losses that the San Pedro suffered on that ghastly voyage and one can imagine what happened to all the wounded!

Not that the wreck of the San Pedro was by any stretch of the imagination a treasure ship. George Cary sounds disappointed when he reports: "There was put into her as much drugs and pothecary stuff as came to 6,000 ducats, of which I think there will come little good of the same, the weather such as none could get aboard. There hath been some plate and certain ducats rifled and spoiled at their first landing, both from their persons and out of their chests. The ship, I think, will prove of no great value; the ordnance is all iron, and no brass; their ground tackle all spent, save only one new cable. There are no men of account in the ship - soldiers and such as have risen by service, and bestowed all their wealth in this action."

It is clear that the weather continued foul that November, for another letter written on November 12 from the home of the Earl of Devon, Sir William Courtenay, says: "The ship being run upon rocks by the Spaniards is now through the tempestuous weather broken in pieces and scattered on the seashore."

From that moment the San Pedro El Mayor completely vanished. All that can be seen of her today are some very old timbers said to be from the wreck in the Village Inn in Thurlestone, a Spanish helmet, found hidden with some armour in the walls of a church at Aveton Gifford and now in the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge, and a dagger with the date 1588 scratched on the scabbard found imbedded in the walls of an old house near Plymouth and now in private hands. And the summer house of 'Swallows' in Thurlestone is built from more old timber said to be from the ship too.

Certainly Cary's constables must have frightened the living daylights out of the villagers for them to abandon their loot in churches and hide it in the walls of houses! But I wonder how much they actually recovered of the "plate and ducats" which Cary described as being "rifled and spoiled at their first landing, both from their persons and out of their chests." Because there were coins then and there are coins now. It is these coins which give us the first clue to the actual site of the wreck at Hope. These Silver coins found by locals and holidaymakers are all from the area of the beach around the slipway at Inner Hope. They are Spanish, worn pieces of eight, and it takes a storm to flush them out of the clay which lies under the sand.

These discoveries, together with local tradition that the name of the nearby Shippen Rock is really a corruption of 'Ship-on', could be considered the first real clue to the site of this Armada wreck. For the coins to be dropped on and trampled into the beach in the struggle to strip the survivors of all they possessed on that storm-pounded shore, the wreck could not have been all that far away - or the survivors would never have made it to land. Though the fact that 'chests' are mentioned in Cary's letter does suggest that a boat or at least a raft was used to get such things ashore, though it must have been a hell of a storm to stop would-be looters getting out to the ship.

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But surely there must be traces of the wreck underwater? After all a ship can't just vanish completely - what about the ballast stones, the cannon-balls, the pottery pieces, the sort of thing that we know that old wrecks leave behind them from all those programmes about underwater adventure on television?

Try telling that to local diver Neville Oldham. He's been searching for just one little trace of the wreck underwater in Hope for the past six years.

He has been particularly careful, of course, to cover the area close around the Shippen Rock, looking for those ballast stones, or cannon-balls, or just one tiny shard of pottery from all those "pothecary" jars.

Continued overleaf...

# SPINNAKERS

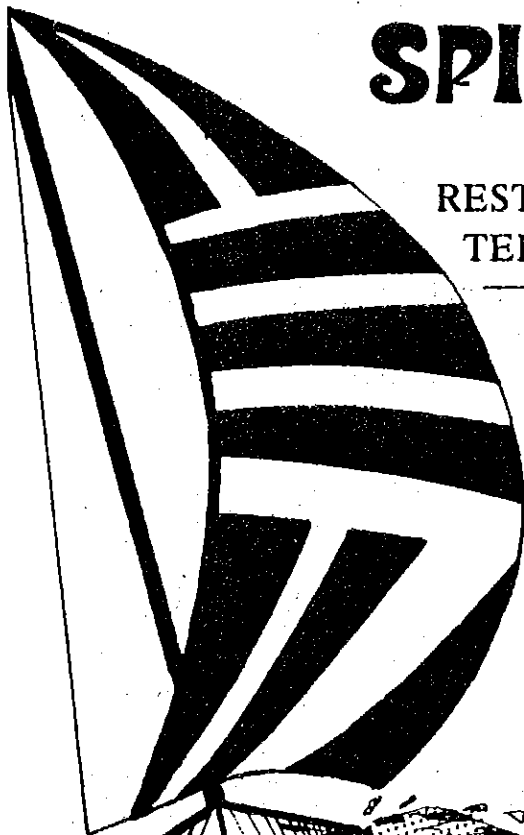
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### Concluding the story of the St. Peter...

And he took special care too with the area 200 yards from the Outer Hope beach of Mouthwell and 75 yards from the Shippen itself as this is the spot where a diver in 1960 says he saw big pulpy timbers on the bottom and, in fact, stuck his knife into them to hold himself down in the shallow water. If they are there now they must be well buried under the sand, or maybe they were just drift-wood and the name Shippen did really mean a cattle shed because it looked like one from the sea or they kept cattle on its grassy slopes.

Neville Oldham accepts that all traces of the ship could well be buried deep under the seabed, but he has now magnetometer searched not only the area around the Shippen, but the whole bay! As his disappointment grew so he extended his searches to cover the whole coastline from Bolt Tail to Beacon Point and from there on past the Great Ledge to Thurlestone Rock and even the Book Rocks. The only place he got positive readings with the magnetometer was close in at Beacon Point, but he knows this is the grave of the tug, Empire Harry. Now he wonders if the cannon and cannon balls of the St. Peter lie under the remains of the boiler of that 1945 wreck. He wonders too if the name of the rocks nearby - Great Ledge - have anything to do with the "Great" in the ship's name, for there is hardly anything you could describe at that point as a "great ledge".

He is looking at - and diving - the Books, those strangely-named rocks which lie off Thurlestone Sands. They are a mass of gullies and winding channels and divers have reported seeing a giant old anchor there, though this anchor could have been a last desperate attempt by the San Pedro's crew to avoid being driven on shore. But each time he gets this far away from Hope itself, he wonders why George Cary said "at a place called Hope" unless the wreck was in the bay of Hope itself.

One thing is certain - this former Grenadier Guards sergeant, who runs not only his building firm from Galampton, but a diving holiday service too with his wife, Jill, is not going to give up the hunt.

"In my wildest dreams," he says, "I see all 30 cannon spread out on the seabed before me, but I know it isn't really going to be like that...but I am going on until I find her. Wouldn't it be great to do just that in Armada Year!"

KENDALL McDONALD.

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AND TALKING OF DIVERS...Underwater archaeologist Colin Martin debunks quite a few Armada legends in his new book "The Spanish Armada", published by Hamish Hamilton at £15.

The idea that all the Spanish galleons were huge and that the English had only little ships is one legend that gets a swift come-uppance in the book. In fact 13 English ships were heavily-armed royal galleons and the largest of them, Martin Probisher's Triumph of 1,100 tons was bigger than any in the Spanish fleet.

Bang goes another legend - that the Spaniards had all the heavy shot and more guns to deliver them. Not so, says Martin, in fact the Armada had only 138 guns of 16-pounder size and above. Of these 12 were siege guns impossible to use on board ship and intended only for the invasion and smashing down the defences of London. The English fleet had 251 cannon of that weight. Another legend says that the Spaniards ran out of shot. Not true - every Armada wreck site is littered with shot of all sizes!

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ARMADA SPECIAL: WHAT THEY DID TO THE PRISONERS AFTER THEY  
DRAGGED THEM OFF TO SALCOMBE...

'HANG THEM!'

---

Said Sir William

(AND THEN HE CHANGED  
HIS MIND.)

AS THEY STOOD on dry land for the first time in months, the Spanish prisoners from the ship called St. Peter the Great, which had been wrecked at Hope, were simply glad to be alive. For a while they stood together on the beach, trying not to draw attention to themselves as they watched the looting of their ship. Then, when it seemed that there would be no more survivors, they were herded into the square of Inner Hope, and driven, with more blows, into some sort of building. We don't know which building it was, but it must have been large, probably a barn, for they were all driven in together to the one place. That crowding in itself must have given them some warmth as most of their clothes had been stripped off them at their first landing.

Another thing we don't know - because the letters which have survived in the Public Record Office at Kew and in the Paris archives don't tell us - is exactly how many survivors there were. George Cary, Deputy-Lieutenant of Devon, who had ridden over from Plymouth at the news of the wreck to take charge of the spoils, says that there were only about forty, but he might have been only counting the soldiers, for we know that 35 sailors survived as well. And yet another source lists a further 78 who were described as "soldiers not worth ransom".

We do know that while they were still at Hope, they were split up into the officers and the other ranks. And then the group of officers were split up yet again. Ten were sent into Kingsbridge. Cary took the "surgeon and the apothecary" to his house at Cockington near Torbay. And 12 officers were taken to Ilton Castle, a defended mansion with battlements, the home of Sir William Courtenay, on the west side of the Kingsbridge Estuary near Batson, Salcombe. Today Ilton Castle is no more and only a few traces of the foundations remain.

The Armada hospital ship had been wrecked on Sir William's territory and so the rest of the prisoners were put in charge of Anthony Ashley, Clerk of the Privy Council, and, guarded night and day, were marched to Ilton Castle too. They were not closely guarded because they might escape, but because they might fetch a great

### Continuing the fate of the prisoners:

deal of ransom money - despite George Cary's view that "there are no men of account in the ship". Sir William Courteney, having looked the bedraggled prisoners over, obviously agreed with Cary... "Hang them!" he said, but apparently the thought that there might be a few ducats to be had by keeping them alive, made him change his mind and countermand the order shortly after giving it.

The effect of this treatment on the Spaniards can only be imagined. Nor was the plight much improved by the food given to them. A penny a day was all that was allowed each one for his keep. We know the Spanish side of the story because one of the prisoners taken at Hope was Gonzalo Gonzales del Castillo and he wrote it all down when he finally got back to his beloved Castille. Gonzalo, with his brother Luis, was one of the first 12 officers to arrive at Ilton Castle. He and Luis were described by Sir William as "gentlemen adventurers" and he obviously had high hopes of them from the ransom point of view, though the brothers told him that 75 ducats each was the most they could raise and only that when they were allowed home.

Four days after the wreck (which Gonzalo says was on November 7 because the Spaniards and the English were using different calendars and the Spaniards were several days ahead of English dates) a "commissioner" arrived from the Queen. Gonzalo says that the English Queen gave 12 of the prisoners to Sir William as his "prize" and he decided to keep the 12 officers he already had in his prison. The 12 were allowed the magnificent sum of fourpence per day each for their "maintenance".

And there they stayed for a whole year until on November 24, 1589 all the Spanish prisoners in England were released by the Queen's decree. But this liberation did not, according to Sir William, apply to the 12 officers whom the Queen had given him personally! Sir William was not letting anyone go until he had his ransom money!

Gonzalo Gonzales put it like this: "We were kept in close confinement by him and he demanded 5,000 ducats for our ransom, which sum we could not pay as we were all poor men". So time dragged on until on August 11, 1590 when Sir William told his prisoners that he had reviewed his ransom demand and had upped it to 12,000 ducats.

This was too much. And Gonzales says: "As we could see no remedy for our troubles, we wrote to the Queen, praying that, as she had released all the other Spaniards in England, she would order us also to be liberated for a like sum as had been considered sufficient for the others of our countrymen".

Not surprisingly the letter was intercepted by Sir William and he flew into a mighty rage "thereupon imprisoning us closely, feeding us only on bread, pottage, and water. Seeing ourselves in these straits and in danger of death, we resolved to break out of prison and to appeal to the justices for redress, but they told us that they were unable to help us, as our owner was too powerful a person for them to meddle with. We were therefore sent back to our prison, where we remained suffering great hardship for seven months."

It seems extraordinary that Sir William Courteney thought that he would get the enormous sums he kept asking for the prisoners. He must have known that the Queen had ordered the release of all the Spanish prisoners after receiving ransom from the Duke of Parma on the basis of 100 ducats for captains, 50 ducats for ensigns, and between 15 and 20 each for all the others. Yet in February 1591 when someone from the Spaniards came to Brittany to start negotiations, Sir William asked for 25,000 ducats! All he got was an offer based on the original figures of the Duke of Parma.

CONCLUDING the fate of the Hope prisoners.

Exactly when Sir William cracked and accepted this offer we do not know, but at least one of the by-now very "dirty dozen" prisoners - Gonzalo Gonzales was able to sail from Exeter for Brittany on Christmas Eve, 1591. But even then his luck was not too good. He sailed right into a storm and had to put back into Dartmouth "where for seven weeks we awaited a fair wind".

During all this time, he had plenty of time to find out what the ordinary and not-so-ordinary Englishmen were thinking. He wrote: They were much grieved at the loss of one of the Queen's galleons, called the Revenge. They say that she was the best ship the Queen had, and the one she relied upon the most.

"They do not speak ill of our King; they only say that if it were not for the Pope he would be the best Prince ever born. They most sincerely desire peace, for they say that if they have it not within two years they will all be irretrievably ruined.

"Francis Drake is very unpopular. The people of quality say that he is but of mean origin to have risen so high, and the people look upon him as the cause of the wars. He is, however, esteemed by the Queen, who favours him highly..."

Gonzales went from Dartmouth to Plymouth in search of a ship and finally sailed for home on February 5, 1592 and he was home at last on March 9 that year, nearly four years after he set out with such high hopes to join the Armada!

K.M.

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### ARMADA NOT-SO-SPECIAL!

Just suppose, just for fun - that the Spaniards had won!

Well, of course, it would have been dreadful. Just think...

We'd all have been speaking Spanish and complaining about English tummy and top of the tv tops would be a programme about a mad Spanish hotel which had an English waiter who spoke in a funny voice and was called Michael...

We'd all be having a quick round of fundadors after Sunday lunch, or rather Domingo almuerzo, down at el Hotel de Penetrante Piedra before collapsing on the Playa del Yarma for a siesta on the Costa Crema.

We'd all look to our left past the Penetrante Piedra itself along the Costa Crema to the village of Esperanza, or to our right where the Rio Avon flows out to el mar by the playa de Prohibicionjamon Jamon. And across the river is, of course, the popular resort with us Spaniards of Grandenterra...

Adios amigos!

\*\*\*  
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

High Street ? Thurlestone.

Dr.Oswald's "our village street" has been known  
as The Village Street in local village conversations  
and discussions for many years.

The G.P.O. has not yet asked for it to be  
included in official addresses, although recently  
numbers were suggested to help postmen and delivery  
agents to identify properties bordering the main road.

"Church Road" may well be applicable and helpful  
at the lower end of the village, but it would not be  
helpful for the Parish Hall or the Bantham Garage.

We suggest that our village street could be  
named shortly and clearly "The Street".

R.H. AND J.L.HIDE, The Cottage, The Street, Thurlestone.

Editor's note: See later pages for more letters.

ARMADA SPECIAL.

# KATE'S

(ELIZABETHAN)

# KITCHEN.

TO CELEBRATE the 400th anniversary of the Armada, I thought it a good idea to give you a couple of recipes used in the kitchens of the 16th century.

For a banquet for a few friends you will need the following ingredients: 14 oxen lying in salte, 2 oxen ffreyssh, 120 hedes of sheep fressh, 12 bores, 14 calvys, 140 pigges, 3 ton of veneson, 50 swannes, 110 gees, 60 dussen hens, 400 conyngges, 5 herons, 4 fesauntes, 100 dussen pigeons, 120 galons melke, 12 galons creme, 11 galons of cruddes, 12 bushels of apples, 11 thousand egges...

But you will need just a little less for:-

CAPON IN MILK AND HONEY.      Serves 4-6 people.

A 3-4lb capon (or chicken) cut into serving pieces.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour mixed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  teasp. salt and  $\frac{1}{8}$  teasp. freshly ground pepper, 3 tabls. Oil, 3 cups milk,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of honey, 3 tabls. chopped fresh parsley, 2 small leaves fresh sage chopped or  $\frac{1}{4}$  teasp dried. 1 teasp. hyssop,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teasp. saffron,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teasp. salt,  $\frac{1}{8}$  teasp freshly ground pepper,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup pine nuts.

Method: Dredge fowl in flour mixture. Brown the pieces in oil in a large heavy pan until golden on both sides. Combine milk, honey, herbs, salt and pepper in a bowl. Pour liquid over browned fowl in pan, stirring to combine drippings with the sauce. Cover and simmer about 30 minutes or until fowl is tender. Check seasoning. Stir in pine nuts before serving.

SAMBOCADE (derived from the Latin word for elderflowers).

9-inch uncooked pastry case (using a butter based recipe).  
6 tablesp. fresh elderflowers or 3 tablesp dried.  
4 tablesp. heavy cream,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb farmers cheese,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb ricotta or cottage cheese, 2 teasp. dry breadcrumbs, 6 egg whites beaten until stiff but not dry.

Method: Bake pie pastry at 425F for 10 minutes. Allow to cool. Soak elderflowers in heavy cream for about ten minutes. Add sugar and stir until dissolved. Push cheeses through a strainer with the back of a tablesp. Combine cheeses with elderflower/cream mixture. Add bread crumbs. Blend thoroughly. Fold in stiff egg whites. Pour mixture into pastry case. Bake at 375 F about 50 minutes or until firm but not dry. Turn off heat and allow to cool with oven door open for about 15 minutes.

=====  
P.S. Kate says "conyngges" in her banquet recipe means rabbits and "cruddes" are curds.

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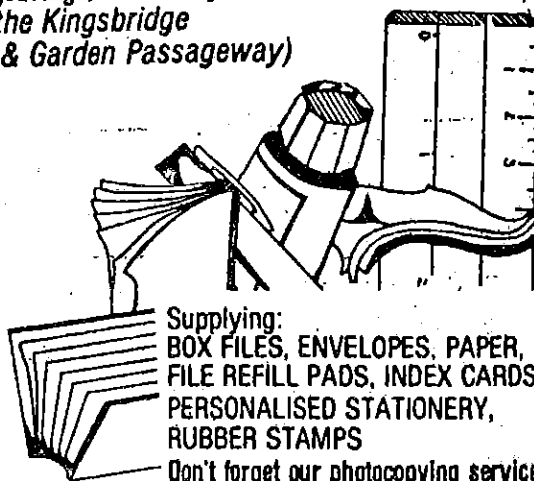
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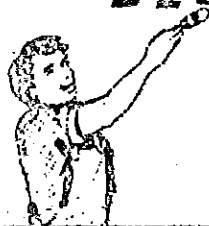
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South Milton and the beach**

# Was Lidstone There?

When they drummed 'em  
up the Channel all those  
years ago

"Write an account of a day in the life of someone in  
Thurlestone at the time of the Armada," demands the Editor.  
Who am I to disobey such an order? asks NEVILLE OSWALD -  
and this is what he wrote:

With almost a quarter of the 300 or so people then living in  
the parish having the surname Lidstone and being related to most of  
the other families in the place, I think it reasonable to call our  
young man Lidstone. In 1588, he was a lusty young swain of 20.

His full name, John Lidstone, would have been entered in the  
parish register of baptisms by the rector, the Reverend John Luttley,  
M.A., wh had, by the time of the Armada, been rector for 28 years  
and so was, presumably, at least 50 years of age and, according to  
the custom of the time, had a sizeable family of his own.

Let us assume John's father was a husbandman, that is, he  
looked after animals and tilled the soil. He had, say, five acres  
of rented land upon which he kept three cows and grew corn, potatoes  
and fruit; he also had a pig and a few chickens. His home would be  
a small longhouse with a large doorway in the centre where cows  
entering took a smart turn to the right into their cowhouse which  
had a rough cobbled floor and a drain down the centre leading to a  
field outside. Turning left at the doorway, there would be a living  
room and kitchen combined, with, beyond it, a bedroom for the boys  
and any men who were boarding there. And beyond that there was a  
second bedroom for the farmer and his wife and their daughters.

Alternatively, John's father might have a two-up and two-down,  
possibly in a terrace. The 'K580's were a prosperous time for  
Thurlestone with rising prices for farm produce in the markets,  
especially in Plymouth, and Mr. Lidstone could well have a little  
cash to spare. That would be the time for John's mother to start  
agitating for a three-up and three-down which could be achieved  
either by knocking the cob building flat and starting again, or by  
building on at the back, possibly with a second staircase, so that  
her elderly parents, wracked with rheumatism from having lived in  
damp quarters for years and worked in all weathers, might be able to  
share the family home.

John was probably unaware of his claustrophobic environment,  
because he had never known anything else. There was no school, no  
newspaper and no need to write letters because there was nobody to  
write to and anyway there was no postal service. Indeed he knew

## Concluding Thurlestone in 1588:

almost nothing of the world beyond a radius of about five miles and had little sense of nationhood. Yet he could work, eat and sleep, enjoy the company of his family and friends, go to church, drink cider, smell the sweet smells of spring and, if he felt inclined trap a rabbit or two. Does our modern existence bring any more satisfaction than that?

John would ordinarily spend his day working long hours on his father's smallholding, perhaps hiring out his labour to a large landowner in the busy summer months. Were he to be given a day off, he could wander over to Bantham in the morning to see coastal shipping taking away fish and farm produce in exchange for a wide range of rural and domestic necessities; he might even be tempted to take a trip to Plymouth to see the hullabaloo pending the sighting of the Armada.

In the afternoon he might find rather more venturesome alternatives in Kingsbridge, where men were on the lookout for strong youngsters and volunteers who might be persuaded to join the Navy. There were others there too seeking volunteers for the militia, in case the Spaniards tried to land in Devon. As a matter of fact the militia never really got off the ground, because, despite the efforts of Walter Raleigh and the Lord Lieutenant, there were very few influential Gentlemen in the South Hams to encourage local recruitment. There were of course the Champernownes at Modbury and the Gilberts on the Dart, but they did not really carry much weight in Kingsbridge and Thurlestone.

I wonder what John decided to do. Did he cut loose and join the Navy? Was he out there when the beacons flared from hill to hill? Was he serving one of the guns whose thunder could be heard for miles further inland than his home? Or did he play it a bit safe and opt for the militia - or carry on with his farming?. We will never know.

---

---

# Light the

ARMADA SPECIAL.

Fire over England

- and Thurlestone too.

# BEACON!

THE USE OF BEACONS to warn of seaborne attack goes right back in British history to the last days of the Romans. The Saxons used bonfires on high ground to warn of the Viking longships. The Armada set those beacons flaring again. And more wood was all stacked and ready when Napoleon threatened us again in 1804.



fact, even after the use of the semaphore became common, the beacon chain was still the quickest and surest method of sounding the alarm over long distances. It was far faster than the fastest horse.

So important were beacons that each county had its own fixed places for them'- if you look at any map, the number of "Beacon Points" and "Beacon Hills" will surprise you. Look at the map above and you'll see Devon's beacon chain. In times of trouble this network was manned night and day. Because the position of each beacon was fixed, the guardian knew where to look for the one nearest to him and so the alarm was unlikely to be triggered off by some stray bonfire or thatched roof fire. An additional safeguard against calling the whole country to arms by accident was that in many cases it was necessary to get the permission of someone of standing, like a J.P., to light the beacon.

You'll probably be disappointed to note that Thurlestone and Bantam do not appear on the map above of the national network and it is true that the route of the fire from the West leaped over the sea from the Beacon Point near the mouth of the Erme directly to that other Beacon Point between Thurlestone Rock and Hope Cove before going inland to Malborough and on to Start.

Continued overpage.

## Continuing "Light the Beacon!":

At Beacon Point, near Hope, where they will light their fire almost exactly on the traditional site of the beacon, it is puzzling to know how the message was passed on to Malborough - until you see the Church tower standing proud and clear. A lookout in the tower must have spotted the Hope beacon and then one was lighted at Malborough in clear sight of South Pool and so on to Chivelstone and Start.

Mind you, though Start Point was a major beacon - having to pass the message straight across the sea to Dartmouth - it is highly unlikely that it was a popular duty. You see Start was also used for another kind of warning and those who kept watch over the beacon had to put up with a gruesome sight nearby - Henri Muge, a pirate, was hung there in chains on September 28, 1581 and his remains, they say, were there for many years to remind ships which sailed by of the final fruits of piracy!

But back to the chain of fire. If Thurlestone and Bantham were not part of the coastal warning system, they still had the duty of warning the countryside round about of any kind of invasion whether from Irish pirates or Spanish Dons. This was done by means of a beacon in a field which bears that name to this very day - Beacon Field.

It is partly due to the sheer genius of the Thurlestone Armada Committee (or so they like to think), but in reality mainly due to the generosity of Gordon Bromfield that Thurlestone's beacon to be lit on July 19, will be as close to the old site of the village beacon as it is possible to get without giving the golf club total apoplexy by lighting it on the real site - their 12th hole! For Thurlestone's beacon of Armada days was lit at the highest point of what is now the golf course, 261 feet above sea level. That land then was called what part of it remains today - Beacon Field.

In fact, Beacon Field is clearly marked on the Courtenay map of 1777 and next to it, where we shall light our beacon on July 19, that mapmaker noted the name of the field as West North Down. Today Gordon Bromfield calls that field of his Western Lower Down.

It is extraordinary to find too that the path we shall take to our beacon is the one the Thurlestone men of Drake's time took to go to theirs. It's on that old map too.

From the War Memorial we shall go past the West side of the Church into Lower New Park, which Gordon now calls Three-Cornered Field because that's exactly what's left of New Park. Then the path turns up through Wheat Park (still the same name today!) and into West North Down (Western Lower Down) right next to Beacon Field. Mind you the men of Thurlestone in Armada times obviously liked a drink - the path plunges down Wag Moor Hill to the Sloop!

# VILLAGER

Please make a special note in your diary regarding this ADVANCE NOTICE from the South Hams Branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. A FAMILY FUN DAY is to be held at the Thurlestone Hotel on SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2.30 pm to 5 pm. It is understood it will be under cover if that day unfortunately turns out to be wet.

+ + + + +

When the Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 24th May, Mr P.W.J. Hurrell was re-elected Chairman and Mr D.J. Yeoman, Vice Chairman for, I believe I am right in saying, the eighth successive year. Surely a fine performance of service to the community.

+ + + + +

Thurlestone and South Milton Parishes have to share just one appointment as a Governor to the All Saints Primary School. For the past few years Mr Geoffery Bell of South Milton has acted in that capacity - now Mr Geoffery Stidston is taking over on behalf of the two parishes. Mr Stidston is, of course, a Parish Councillor taking over from his father Mr Eric Stidston some years ago, after the latter retired after more than 40 years of serving the parish.

+ + + + +

I am advised that Thurlestone has now been included officially by South West Water on to the current 5 year plan of sewerage improvement throughout their area. They are to make initial tests on the tidal flow at Leas Foot, and of the marine environment in order to ascertain the best scheme for the parish. The potential cost is eventually believed to amount to one million to one point two million pounds, but at present Bantham, Buckland and South Milton will not be included in the scheme - though it is understood, ultimately, they will be.

+ + + + +

The Parish Council are concerned that any scheme will include total prevention of the pollution of the beach rocks by carrying all effluent from the existing overflow tank into the new sea outflow pipeline. Village Voice will keep you informed, never fear!

+ + + + +

## ANOTHER IMPORTANT DATE TO NOTE:

### South Milton

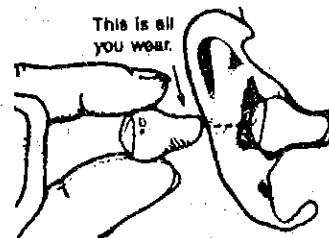
ELIZABETHAN CHURCH FETE will be held on SATURDAY 30th JULY 1988 commencing at 2.30 p.m. in the garden of St. Jude's  
By kind permission of Mrs Joan Walker.

THERE WILL, OF COURSE, BE ALL THE USUAL STALLS & THERE IS TALK OF SOMETHING THAT COULD BE QUITE EXCITING FOR THE CHILDREN.

# I'm not Deaf.

I just can't understand some words.

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# Armada Week

## THURLESTONE

and

## BANTHAM

### Monday, July 18.

10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee. Armada display as background in Rectory Barn.

3.30 to 5.30 pm. Cream Teas. Rectory Barn.

7.30 pm. Elizabethan Evening of Music and Drama. The Dodbrooke Consort Madrigal Singers. Soloists: Wendy Reed, Diane Tobin, Robert Gloyns, Tony Maunder and Barry Brooks. Instrumentalist: Paul Allen. Accompanist: Diane Brown. The Players of Kingsbridge Dramatic Society. This splendid mixture of the light and the serious includes a one-act play about the wrecking of the Armada hospital ship at Hope. Village Hall. Entry by programme only. Programmes free on demand from local stores, but numbers limited to 120. First-come, first served.

Church will be floodlit throughout the week.

Helium balloon races will be held at most events during week.

### Tuesday, July 19.

10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee. Rectory Barn.

3.30 to 5.30 pm. Cream Teas. Rectory Barn.

8.00 pm. Costume procession. Children and adults assemble at School.

8.15 pm. Procession goes down through village to War Memorial.

8.30 pm. Maypole Dancing for all. Music supplied by ~~Band~~ ~~Club~~. General dancing in street.

9.40 pm. Church bells ring out alarm. Signal for all to move up to Beacon site. This means walking up West side of Church (which will be floodlit) through Three-Cornered Field and Wheat Park and so into Western Lower Down where beacon fire has been prepared.

9.45 p.m. Barbeque and Beer Tent (from Thurlestone Hotel) open.

Continued on next page.



THE PROGRAMME (CONTINUED).

Tuesday, July 19, continued:

- 10.15 pm. Jim Woodrow, former High Sheriff of Devon, as a Justice of the Peace gives formal permission for bonfire to be lighted.
- 10.16 pm. BEACON LIGHTED. Talk about Fire Over England! The organisers' original idea was to have the beacons lighted one by one, minute by minute, as they did after the sighting of the Armada. But so many people joined it that the organisers finally had to give that up and settle for the beacons to be lit county by county. So Cornwall lights up - starting at Lands End - at 10.15. And Devon follows at 10.16 - and that's us! We're told that the last county lights at 10.28 pm.

Wednesday, July 20

- 10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee. Rectory Barn.
- 3.30 to 5.30 pm. Cream Teas. Rectory Barn.
- 8.00 pm. Dancing in the Old-Fashioned Way. Dartington Morris Dancers and the Green Willow Clog Dancers appear at the Village Inn.

Thursday, July 21.

- 10.00 am. Armada Flower Festival in the Church. Theme: "The Armada, its cause and consequences". Open for three days.
- 10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee. Rectory Barn.
- 3.30 to 5.30 pm. Cream Teas. Rectory Barn.
- 8.00 pm. Costumed Challenge Match at bowls. Thurlestone and Bantham have challenged Hope to settle the matter at Kearney Point, Bantham. Admission free.
- 9.00 pm. Floodlit bowls court now open to all to play. Kearney Point, Bantham. Bar from the Sloop open throughout.

Friday, July 22.

- All day. Flower Festival in Church continues.
- 10.30 to 12 noon. Coffee. Rectory Barn.
- 3.30 to 5.30 pm. Cream Teas. Rectory Barn.
- 7.00 pm. Children's Armada Games, plus pig roast Sack race, egg-and-spoon, etc. Prizes. At Bantham Ham, in field extension to car park.

Saturday, July 23.

- All day. Flower Festival in Church continues.
- 10.30-12 noon. Coffee. Rectory Barn.
- 3.30-5.30 pm. Cream Teas. Rectory Barn.

Sunday, July 24.

- 11.10 am. ARMADA DELIVERANCE THANKSGIVING SERVICE. Thurlestone Church.
-

WHAT'S ON NEARBY...

## SOUTH MILTON

South Milton Church will be floodlit through Armada week.

Tuesday July 19. Costume procession leaves Backshay Close at 7.20pm for Bungalow Field (on seaward side of Gordon Jeffrey's house). Original Beacon Field can not be used as it is under corn. Barbeque and bonfire to be lit at 8.30pm. Armada Beacon to be lit at 10.16 precisely.

Thursday, July 21. Elizabethan Evening, includes meal and entertainment, staged by W.I. Village Hall 7.30pm.

Saturday, July 30. Armada Church Fete, Fancy dress. St. Jude's Cottage. 2.30pm.

Sunday, July 31. Armada Deliverance Evensong, Church. 6 pm. To be followed by planting of commemorative oak tree in Footpath Field.

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 2 and 3. Working display of Elizabethan crafts. South Milton Village Hall from 10.30-1 pm., then 2.30pm-6 pm.

Friday, August 5. Game of boules. South Milton Sands.

Saturday, August 6. Armada celebration dance. South Milton Village Hall. 8 p.m.

Further details: Mrs. I. Young 560419.

WHAT'S ON NEARBY...

## HOPE COVE

Exhibition of shipwreck and Armada material at Reading Room, Inner Hope. All season, all day, not Sundays.

Tuesday, July 19. Armada Beacon to be lit at 10.18 precisely on Beacon Point. Earlier, 8 pm. Tug o' War, Ram Roast, Folk Dancing, Costumes. Marquee and bar.

Saturday, September 10. Re-enactment of Spanish prisoners being taken on beach. Replica galleon to be burnt at sea. Firework display.

Further details: Mrs. Patricia Elliott 561500.

FOOTNOTE: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Plymouth on July 21 and July 22.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

### ARMADA BONANZA SENSATION

The Armada Bonanza Sale at the Village Hall on June 4 raised a sensational total of over £700. Congratulations to Molly Oswald and all her helpers - and more thanks to all those who couldn't attend, but sent donations instead.

Please note that as a result of this success several very local organisations will benefit. The Armada Committee are confining the benefits of all monies left over to the parish.

#### BE QUICK!

Programmes for the  
ELIZABETHAN EVENING OF  
MUSIC AND DRAMA  
at the Village Hall on  
Monday July 18 will go  
into local shops on  
MONDAY JULY 4.

#### THERE IS NO ADMISSION WITHOUT A PROGRAMME.

Programmes are free and  
you'll find them at the  
Village Stores, at Broads  
Dairy, and at Bantham  
Post Office. Two programmes  
only per person.

Numbers at the Hall are  
limited. Interval refresh-  
ments are free.

#### NO ADMISSION WITHOUT A PROGRAMME.

Need transport to get to it  
- ring 560239.

Want to Eat Well -

#### BUY A BALLOON!

Superb prizes are to be won  
when Helium-filled Balloons  
go on sale at most events  
during Armada Week. Only 50p  
a go.

First prize - for the balloon  
which flies furthest - is a  
fabulous weekend for two at the  
THURLESTONE HOTEL.

Second prize is a magnum of  
champagne to be drawn from all  
the balloon tags returned.  
Both prizes donated by David  
Grose.

So roll up and get up, up and  
away from it all...

#### PUT OUT MORE BUNTING..

Will anyone who has any bunting  
please decorate the village  
street with it for Armada Week

First blood to Thurlestone..Derrick Yeoman and Doreen Deare won  
the best-dressed man and woman titles when they attended Hope Cove  
Armada Costumed Bowls Match recently. All of Hope's bowlers seemed  
to be dressed as peasants; Thurlestone's gentry...only right and  
proper, don't you think!

#### HAS YOUR CHILD GOT A MUG?

The Armada Committee are giving away the special Armada  
Commemorative Mugs, donated by Thurlestone Parish Council to  
every child under 17 in the Parish. These will be distributed  
to parents or child on application to Derrick or Jean Yeoman  
at either the Children's Games on Bantham Ham or at the  
pre-Beacon gathering at the Village Green on July 19. So there  
are 85 mugs waiting to be collected on those days.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...JAMES IS HOME...JAMES IS HOME..

ACROSS MOUNTAIN PASSES, ALONG DESERTED BYWAYS, OVER THE ROUGHEST ROADS, 3,200 miles with nothing worse than a broken plug lead - such was the stamina and efficiency of our 50-year-old Morris 8. The two co-drivers, confident in the reliability of their steed, were able to enjoy to the full the beauty of this most beautiful of countries as they progressed north with the Spring. The fresh green of beeches and larches, banks of flaming gorse, new-born lambs in all directions, the majesty of mountains in the Lake District and the Highlands, the sight of a red squirrel on three separate occasions, all added to our pleasure.

Details of our experiences were legion. We were sent on our way at 6 a.m. on April 22 by some eight inhabitants of Thurlestone and were welcomed home by a Guide Dog reception party on June 8. In between we called by prior appointment at the homes of 70 relations and friends, and were never more than about half-an-hour late; we drove in an open car all the way apart from 87 miles when rain forced us to put up the hood. We visited 14 churches or cathedrals and 10 castles. We marvelled at Portmeirion, we applauded a remarkably high-standard Scout Gang Show in Crewe, viewed the Liverpool Dockland site of the Tate Gallery's latest extension, and walked in the steps of Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter in the Lake District.

Our photographs, plus car of course, appeared in the Oban Times and the Scottish Sunday Mail. We revelled in the remoteness of Ardnamurchan peninsula. We failed to see the Loch Ness Monster! At Edinburgh, James spent the night under cover and secure in the main police garage (by prior appointment!). At Dunbar we were shown Belhaven Brewery, the most modern equipment in a Grade Two Listed Building.

In the Border country we climbed up to Housesteads Camp on Hadrian's Wall. In Lincolnshire we were given a special tour of the RAF hangar which contains the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight of five Spitfires, two Hurricanes, and the only Lancaster still flying.

An invitation to visit the Guide Dog Training Centre at Woodford Bridge, near Epping, was a most impressive experience; the care and expert handling of the dogs by both kennel staff and trainers, the health and enjoyment of 130 dogs in a superb environment and the overall friendliness of the Centre left a deep impression on us. The Head of the Centre is himself blind with a guide dog.

Thus by slow degrees through the Southern counties to Salisbury for five days in our old home area. Finally back to Thurlestone and a warm welcome from members of the local Guide Dog committee. It was a holiday we shall never forget and not least the amazing generosity of so many strangers who put money into our collecting box surmounted by its appealing golden retriever, and who helped to swell the sum collected which, when sponsorship money has all been gathered in, should amount to some £2,800.

We would both like to pay warm tribute to our youngest son, Robert, who has nurtured James ever since he rebuilt her in 1978 and who spent a large part of his Easter holiday this year giving her a thorough overhaul. She responded to his loving care by giving us a very happy and troublefree holiday.

JOAN AND MALCOLM GALLOWAY.

---

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Please note that BOUTIQUE 144 of Kingsbridge is now also open at:

10, CLIFTON PLACE,  
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Tel: Salcombe (0548-84)3003.

DON'T MISS, DON'T MISS..

THE GREAT ELIZABETHAN  
EVENING

It's at the Village Hall,  
Thurlestone at 7.30 pm  
on Monday, July 18.

ADMISSION BY PROGRAMME ONLY

GET THEM FROM YOUR LOCAL  
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A THOUGHT FOR ARMADA DAY 1988

And do they see the phantoms past the glitter of the day?  
Or the pale flotilla waiting in a dark viridian bay?  
And do they hear the whisper that sings along the blood?  
The Don is in the Channel and the tide is at the flood.

The sticky fingered children with chocolate on their lips  
Can they hear the anchor cables of the misty shadow ships?  
Can they see across the harbour through a cloud of candy floss  
The pale penants streaming, as the silver squadrons pass?  
There's a stirring on the headland and a sighing in the bay  
And the echo of a drum beat that throbs along the day.  
If they hear it in the taverns do they pause and raise a glass?  
To the phantoms of their fathers and the splendour of the past.  
And do they stop and wonder, with a startled prick of tears,  
At a wild and wistful trumpet calling, lonely, down the years?  
And do they hear the whisper that thrills along the blood,  
The Don is in the Channel and the tide is at the flood.

P.M.E.

A WARNING FOR MOTORISTS.

1588 and all that was, of course, 400 years ago and is a fine anniversary for Thurlestone to be celebrating. But there's another anniversary in Thurlestone this year which we should at least take note of in some small way. In fact a very small part of the village is now exactly 100 years old. And though practically everyone in the village passes it almost every day, few of them will have noted its one hundredth birthday.

A hundred years ago all the water in the village had to be drawn from the covered well and pump next door to the Village Stores. It was carried home in two pails swinging from a wooden yoke - unless of course you were lucky enough to have a well of your own like Rockhill and the Rectory.

Heaving water about like that was hard work and bruised your shoulders cruelly and it says a lot for the stamina of the women of Thurlestone who had this task while the men were out in the fields at work.

In 1888 they made an attempt to lighten this load and built an alcove with a water tap in it on the top corner of the Bantham turn opposite today's Home Cottage. The tap was fed by the same spring which filled the village well and did save those who lived up the hill from having to go quite so far to fill their buckets. When they had built the alcove around the tap, they were obviously quite pleased with it and the date - 1888 - was carefully carved in the stone above it, where, if you look, you can see it clearly to this day.

The Spears, who live almost right on top of it - the wall supports their garden - have for many years looked after that alcove and the plants which bloom in the box they installed there. Their care adds another little touch of beauty to the village.

But before that the tap had another guardian. On fine days in the years which saw the first Great War come and go, an old man sat on a little camp chair beside the tap, smoking a clay pipe and exchanging yarns with whoever stopped to get water. This was William Hingston Pound, born in 1843, and who was to die in 1920.

His wife, Mrs. Susan Pound, ran the village sweet shop at Cradles Cottage, where they lived. That shop had to support both her and William in his later days when he was so crippled with "rheumatics" that he could only just crawl down to the tap with the help of a couple of walking sticks. Once there he would stay for hours at a time.

Motorists of today should bear this tale in mind when turning out into the main road and so avoid running over the ghost of old William or else he'll tell 'em a thing or two. For if William Pound in his last years was crippled in body, his mind was always sharp. It is said that once when he sat peacefully on his chair by the tap with his back against the wall, one of the visitors shouted out to him:

"Hey you, old Johnny there! Where can I get a decent night's lodgings?"

William Pound looked at him for a moment and then replied:

"Well there be Kingsbridge Workhouse, Sparkhall Lunatic Asylum, and Exeter Gaol, all suitable I reckon."

Thurlestone Golf Club

TENNIS SECTION

The tennis section committee will once again run a series of tournaments starting on Saturday, July 30.

We would like to emphasize that the tournaments are run for the benefit of all members of the tennis section, particularly local members, and especially local junior members.

Lists for entry will be posted on the tennis notice board in the foyer of the club house.

The meeting point for each tournament is the Tennis Pavilion.

Details of the tournaments are given below:

JUNIOR.

Each Tuesday, commencing on August 2 through to August 30 inc. Competition for ages 10-16. Starting time: 0930.

On August 9 the tournament will be for the EGAN CUP (ages 10-13) and for the LEONARD CUP (ages 14-16)

Each Thursday, commencing on August 4 through to September 1 inc. Progressive tournament for ages 10-16. Starting time: 0930.

ADULT.

Each Tuesday, commencing on August 2 through to August 30 inc. Ladies Doubles. Starting time: 1430.

Each Thursday, commencing August 4 through to September 1 inc. Mens Doubles. Starting time: 1430.

Each Saturday, commencing July 30 through to September 3 inc. Mixed Doubles. Starting time: 1400.

On Saturday, August 13, the tournament will be for the BRYAN BROWN CUP.

Pat Machin's

PUZZLE ?

CORNER ?

Here's another score of anagrams of places to be found in the South Hams. You'll find the answers at the foot of one of the following pages.

1. Hell Law. 2. Boat Drift. 3. Form Gore. 4. Says Moon. 5. Fresh Rod. 6. Stink Nog. 7. Do Sell Wild. 8. Worry Notch. 9. Timid Hats. 10. Mate Honk. 11. Morn Tinge. 12. Our Hog Bug. 13. Hob Glamour. 14. Flat Pail. 15. Kew Tales. 16. Listen Them Plot. 17. Gain Tall Stone. 18. Grime Hole. 19. Buy Grab Noise. 20. Malt Pong.

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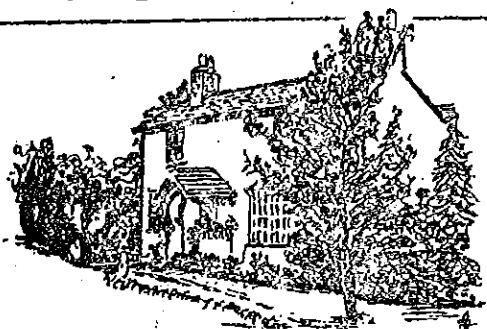


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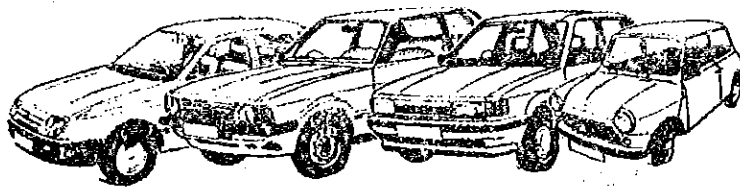
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Harry Huggins says -



If you would  
A Birder  
Be - read on!

You would like to take up birdwatching?

Well, before you decide, may I quote, please?

"Bird-watchers are tense, competitive, selfish, shifty, dishonest, distrusting, boorish, arrogant, pendentic, unsentimental and above all envious." The good people of East Allington who recently found their little lanes clogged by twitchers seeking a Black Stork could doubtless add to that!

These are not my remarks: the extract is from a work called "Bill Oddie's Little Black Bird Book" (Methuen, paperback, £1.95. worth every penny, and more.) For reasons on which I will not enlarge, Mr. Oddie is not my favourite television personality - how could he be when there is Moira Stewart? - but he is a very fine birder and a penetrating student of human nature: the little Black Bird Book is a bit about birds, and a lot about the people who watch them.

It appears flippant, and rude, but it is full of sound truth; the birding establishment was less than pleased by it, for it poked fun at them and it preached dangerous heresy: how to deceive fellow birders, and worse, how to deceive the Records Committee, ten erudite gentlemen who must give their approval of authenticity before any record of a really rare species, such as a Black Stork or a Whiskered Tern, can be accepted.

He admits he knows many birdwatchers who are none of those things - but they're no fun!

You have got to accept that if you are going to get deeply into birding you are likely to become tense, competitive....and above all envious. Maybe not all of them all of the time, but if, like Mr. Oddie you are going to be a dedicated twitcher, you are going to be all of them at some time.

If you are not prepared to accept that risk, then please turn to another column. But if you are prepared to chance it, let me give a little help on how to begin.

You are going to need a book, to identify what you see. I was reared in the early 1930s, on "Birds of the British Isles and their Eggs" by T.A.Coward, three fat little volumes which were a fantastic achievement for one man. Most of the illustrations were by Archibald Thorburn, probably our finest bird artist ever. Each was a proper little work of art showing the bird in a landscape, but the reproduction was poor and as a guide for use in the field the volumes were no help. In the late 30s The Handbook of British Birds by H.F.Witherby and others appeared. The letter press is still unsurpassed; some of the illustrations were a bit more helpful than Cowards - many of them were the same pictures - but few showed birds in flight, and you could not

Continued OVERPAGE:::

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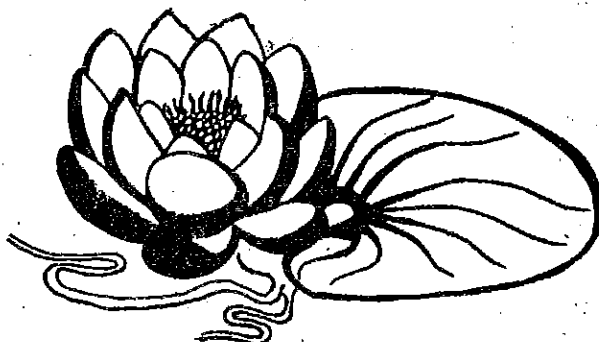
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take five stout volumes into the field with you.

But you did not have to take a book into the field with you. Those were the days when sight records were not accepted and birds were "obtained", a polite way of saying shot. You brought the corpse home to study at leisure and the maxim was "what's hit is history, what's missed is 'Mystery'."

But one day in the early sixties my wife came home bubbling with glee over a little book she had bought in W.H.Smith's. It was the first field guide we had ever seen, I think it was the first field guide to European birds there ever was. It was illustrated by the great American birder Roger Tory Peterson, and, small enough to carry in your pocket, it showed every bird you might expect to see in Britain and Europe, with where appropriate the grotty brown females and immatures, not just the adult males in their finery. The pictures did not set out to be great works of art, but they were helpful, there were little arrows pointing to distinguishing features, and there were very brief notes on identification, voice and habitat: there was a little map for each species showing where in Europe you might hope to find it.

Updated a bit it is still in print, published by Collins, and for Europe it is still the best guide there is. It costs £8.95. There have been many other guides published since, ranging in quality from outstandingly good to appalling. The Peterson guide is all you need to get going.

You need binoculars, a pair for each one of you. Again, you can buy good, middling and awful. Do not buy things advertised in the newspapers - 20 times magnification, the most powerful binoculars there are". They may be useful for something, perhaps for making money for the people selling them, but for birding they are useless: they do not transmit enough light the field of view is too small and you cannot hold them steady. Ten times magnification is the most a normal person can manage without wobbling. I cannot cope even with that and if I want a steady view have to sit, with my elbows on my knees.

Binoculars are described as 10 x 40, or 8 x 30. The first figure is the magnification, objects viewed are brought that many times closer. The second is the size of the object lenses, those away from your eyes, in millimetres. The bigger the magnification the less light you get through, and therefore the less well you see colours, especially in poor light (most of the English winter). The larger the object lenses the more light you get through and the better you see things: also the heavier the binoculars get, therefore the more difficult to hold up to your eyes and the more tiring for a long day's walking.

Once a year "British Birds", the essential magazine for every very serious birder, publishes a survey of its readers' preferences for binoculars and a price list. The choice, all regarded as satisfactory, ranges from Leitz 10 x 40 at around £500, Zeiss (West German) 10 x 40 at nearly as much (this is the most popular glass) to Zeiss Jena Deltrintem model 8 x 30 at about £55. If you haven't much to spend this little East German glass is perfectly adequate. If you want to spend a bit more East German Zeiss do a Jenoptem 10 x 50 at around £70 which is very good, and popular, but a bit heavy.

I have looked through most of the very expensive ones, and can see little to choose between them: but if you are going to be a fanatic you will not be satisfied with anything but the best!

The book and the binoculars are all you need. A telescope is not essential; you only carry one of those for other people to look through. If occasion does arise, use your charm and someone else's 'scope!

All you have to do now is to use the book to identify what you see through the binoculars. It is not easy. The birds decline to stay still, and you cannot find them in the book which lists things in an order devoid of any reason.

CONCLUDED OVERPAGE:::

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CONCLUDING - IF YOU WOULD A  
BIRDER BE . . . . .

In fact there is a reason, an anatomical one which does not concern any of us, for the order of listing. Most books follow it and you get used to it: If one comes across one which does not (the excellent little Mitchell Beazley pocket guide is one) it is baffling.

We all need help from someone, so join a Society. The solemnly named Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society (membership Secretary - Alf Cooper, 34 Stoneborough Lane, Budleigh Salterton) organises field meetings, nearly 50 a year, all over Devon. They are led by first class birders and one can learn a lot. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has a local members' group in Plymouth (Membership Secretary: John Boon, 25, Lynher Drive, Saltash) which does the same.

Better still, go on a conducted birding holiday. Specialist travel agents organise them, we have been on them many times.. My wife booked our first, and told me afterwards, to my horror. We went to Majorca, had a fantastic time and learned more about birds in a fortnight than we had found out in years before. I do not know how many species we saw that time, but surprisingly there are a lot of birds on Majorca, we went again at Christmas a year or two back and saw over 100 species.

When I hear where you have been I will have a little twinge. I have one today - my friends have gone to Dawlish Warren to see a Greater Sand Plover (breeds central Asia, winters south to New Zealand). I know what that twinge is - envy!

HARRY HUGGINS

---

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## *More Holiday & Second Homes - or?*

For many decades council houses have allowed many rural families who could not afford to buy to remain within their own community. The disposal of council houses into the private sector has created a totally new situation where their children cannot afford local housing in the villages that have been home to their families often for many generations. Town dwellers are moving into the countryside and can pay prices way beyond the hopes of local people. Many properties simply become second or holiday homes - merely rubbing salt into the wound. An initiative is required for something to be done under a Housing Association, either for part equity sale where the purchaser would buy 65-75% and on resale be entitled to the same proportion of the current market value - giving a youngster a foot on the bricks and mortar ladder, and where on the other hand the Association through its part ownership could ensure the new buyer was a local person in need, or otherwise the Association to build rental properties. However, unless the aforesaid local initiative happens we shall simply see a continuation of the £100,000 plus houses being erected. Of course, booms have always been followed by slumps which may well happen to the housing market as it did to the stockmarket.

WALTER DEE

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

At a poorly-attended AGM on May 18, Mr.D.M.Yeoman, the Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee reported increased use of the hall and that this together with an increase in hiring fees had meant that income had been sufficient to meet the fixed outgoings. But any money for repairs, maintenance or improvements had to be raised separately by jumble sales, cheese and wine evenings and raffles, and so he urged everyone to support such events when they were held.

"As a result of a number of such fund-raising events during past years, we have been able to complete the exterior maintenance programme as well as the installation of a suspended ceiling, which, in addition to improving the general appearance of the hall, has greatly improved the effectiveness of the heating system. In addition, the W.I. have generously supplied new curtains," said Mr.Yeoman.

"However, as always, a lot still remains to be done - the two most important items being the repair, sanding, polishing and sealing of the floor, and tracing the leak in the roof, a task which is, at present, defying the experts.

"It is unfortunate that such a small percentage of those living in the village take any direct interest in the hall, but we on the Committee have to be optimists and we always live in hope that the work put in will bring its just rewards and encourage more people to join the weekly bridge, bowls, keep fit classes, and the monthly W.I. meetings. I understand that subject to sufficient people showing an interest it is proposed to start Scottish dancing classes.

And the hall is of course always available for private parties, receptions and discos."

Concluding his report, Mr.Yeoman thanked "all those Committee members and Friends of the Parish Hall who, through their untiring efforts in organising events and generally helping in the running of the hall, have ensured its viability for another year. Coupled with those helpers, I always include those, almost anonymous, villagers who contribute so generously, either by outright gifts or covenants, to the hall funds."

The current officers of the committee were re-elected to serve for the following year.

SORRY. SORRY.SORRY.

The Editors of Village Voice would like to say sorry to those readers who found Pat Machin's logic problem in our last edition all a bit too much.

We are sorry because we made it more difficult than it should have been - by misprinting the first clue and calling Miss Nuggins, Miss Muggins.

We were the Muggins and we really are sorry!



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

# No Road Markings

DEAR SIR,

We were much surprised at Dr. Oswald's letter in your last edition. Surely part of the joy of Thurlestone is that we are not all regimented and "some of us who live here" feel that anyone who really wants to find us can do so without the help of great street signs stuck up everywhere. The names on our gates are quite sufficient.

We do not want to call our village street "Church Road" or "High Street" or "Main Road" or "Fore Street". We live in Thurlestone and that's enough!

VILLAGERS

(Names and addresses supplied).

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THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

A NEAR RECORD number of members and guests attended the May meeting. Whether this was due to the fine weather, the promise of an excellent speaker, or the knowledge that for once I would not be attending, will never be known.

However, I have been told that Jack Tanner's talk on his life in Kingsbridge was not only interesting and informative, but very amusing too. I'm sorry I missed it if this amusing story which Jack Tanner told is anything to judge by: After his talk at a local meeting the lady Treasurer asked him about his fee. He replied that he wouldn't dream of taking one. "Would you care to nominate a charity then?" "No, I leave that to you, have you got one in mind?" "Yes." "Which one is that?" "Well," said the lady treasurer, "I'm trying to put aside a small sum which we use so that we can afford to invite better speakers.." After that, dare I say that our speaker in July is to be Len Hubbard, our local water colourist! D.M. Yeoman, Secretary.

HERE ARE THE ANAGRAM ANSWERS TO PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER:

1. Halwell. 2. Bittaford. 3. Frogmore. 4. Noss Mayo. 5. Sherford.
6. Kingston. 7. Loddiswell. 8. Cornworthy. 9. Dittisham.
10. Stokenham. 11. Ermington. 12. Ugborough. 13. Malborough.
14. Fallapit. 15. Westlake. 16. Littlehempston.
17. East Allington. 18. Moreleigh. 19. Bigbury-On-Sea.
20. Galmpton.

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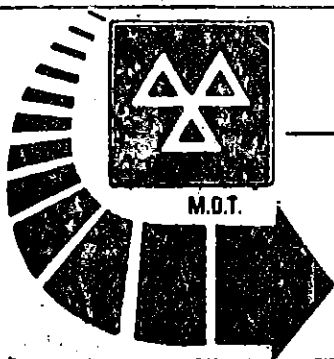
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# World War II comes to the South Hams

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

## Part IV - A G R I C U L T U R E

By tradition, farmers in the South Hams raise cattle rather than crops and many of them take pride in their herds of South Devons. Yet they are blessed with a fertile soil and a coastal strip where comparatively little rain falls - the so-called 'Barley belt'. In 1939, most of them had two pairs of horses to pull their ploughs and little more. They were thus able to plant and bank their swedes, mangles, kale and potatoes as their forebears had done before them, then at harvest time they hired a thresher for their corn. Water was usually pumped from a well, comparatively few of them having running water in their homes and barns. Oil lamps had to serve where there was no electricity; some whole villages, Blackawton for instance, had no electricity at all. Only Kingsbridge, Salcombe and Malborough were supplied with gas.

During the uncertainties of the opening weeks of the war, the farmers' first concern was the harvesting of their crops. They were able to do so when their skilled workers aged 21 and over were excluded for the time being from call-up to the armed forces and recruits to the Women's Land Army (WLA) became available. They were warned that all cattle, sheep and pigs would shortly be graded and bought by the Government at fixed prices, but when the Livestock Control Scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Food in January 1940, there was a "complete muddle" at first, especially in the distribution of livestock to slaughter houses, some of which were overfull and others underused. Difficulties were slowly resolved in the following months and in June 1940 the Devon County War Agricultural Committee praised the farmers for the progress they had made. The Committee's objective was then clearly stated, namely "to bring every field on every farm and holding to its maximum production as soon as possible" and warned that it had powers to enforce its orders. Inspectors graded farms as good, average and poor, a measure that was very hard to accomplish without showing favouritism at times. The good were left to themselves and the poor were advised or ordered to mend their ways if they were to avoid confiscation. Indeed, in June 1940, the Committee found some of the farms in Malborough, Salcombe and Bigbury were in a neglected state and took them over for cultivation "for the duration of the war and for three years afterwards."

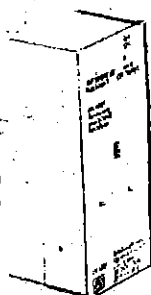
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## WORLD WAR 11 COMES TO THE SOUTH HAMS.....

The strong initiative taken by the Committee transformed the face of agriculture in Devon. Whilst ensuring that the small deficit in male farm workers as the war progressed was more than made good by women and prisoners of war, it oversaw the adequate provision of mechanical aids and doubled the acreage of crops and fallow (tillage). Meanwhile, the number of cattle remained about the same, but sheep were deliberately reduced from 1941 when the Ministry of Food adopted the principle that "one acre of ploughed land will support four times the population that one acre of grassland does." Pigs, despite repeated efforts to stimulate production by saving swill and forming pig clubs, rapidly diminished in number after reaching a peak in 1940.

In the South Hams, farmers complained of shortages of manpower and were firmly told they must state their needs. Already in 1940, men with agricultural experience were returning to the land from industry and suitably qualified foreign refugees had little difficulty in finding employment. University students and schoolboys eagerly volunteered in the summer holidays; the London County Council sent parties of schoolchildren to help the farmers in East Portlemouth, where they were well received. The lack of mechanical aids was a great disadvantage at first, only about one farm in five having a tractor in 1939, but with the number of tractors in the country as a whole increasing four-fold in the war years, roughly four farms in every five possessed one in 1945. Thus, a work force of similar size was called upon to cultivate twice the original acreage, almost all of which was sown with crops and potatoes.

The people of the South Hams were constantly urged to grow their own vegetables, particularly potatoes, finding the demands for allotments far exceeded the supply of suitable land, they cultivated their back gardens and even flower beds around their homes, thus enabling many families to be self-sufficient for much of the year.

Towards the end of 1940 the stock of food in the country became critically low due to shipping losses. Milk rationing was introduced in the South Hams in early 1941, but hundreds of gallons were wasted each week at first through shortages of churns and transport.

Indeed a year passed before satisfactory arrangements had been made. Drastic culling of livestock was ordered, mainly sheep and pigs. Food Officers were given the right to scrutinise every aspect of food production and sales. By these means and a steady increase in the acreage under cultivation, the fertile South Hams continued to make its considerable contribution to the national larder.

Rabbits! Few people who lived in the South Hams in World War 11 are likely to forget rabbits. To farmers they were a pest; to almost everybody else they were a godsend, especially as they were not rationed. Whilst trappers were no longer able to go out at night with their lamps and whippets, they still had their ferrets, snares and nets and thought nothing of catching a couple of dozen in an evening. Many families relied on them as their sole, or at least their principal source of meat and made certain that they were well stocked at Christmastide. Every day, consignments were sent up the line from nearby railway stations, many of them destined for the Midlands, and restaurants were able to offer them as a meat meal.

Fish were scarce throughout the war, some families often having none for a year or more. Fishing in the estuary was limited to a few licensed fishermen and no boat, not even a dinghy, was allowed into the open sea without a permit. Fish were not rationed and any that were caught were sold in the open market.

From 1943 to 1945, the wear and tear of wartime conditions affected farmers. The poor state of the roads, elderly vehicles and very small rations of petrol hampered the distribution of produce. Concentrated cattle feed, although rationed, was obtainable only with difficulty.

CONCLUDED OVERPAGE:-



Conclusion of Part IV  
World War Two comes  
to the South Hams:

Corn in ricks was threshed in winter as it was needed, but the threshers, like other machinery, were showing their age.

Failures in the water supply, which had dogged the military and civilian population throughout the war, were so frequent by then that a review of the whole supply to the South Hams was ordered.

Indeed delays of all kinds became longer and longer. Salcombe went as far as to appoint a full-time rat catcher.

Yet farmers did not go hungry. They made cream for themselves because they had always done so.

From time to time sheep broke a leg or 'died', and with no refrigerators, the meat was usually eaten in a hurry or shared with friends; a similarly disabled pig might be salted, at least in part.

In the last months of the war, with diminishing urgency, the agricultural output was allowed to decline.

The fifth and final part of this series appears in the next issue of Village Voice.

It is called "The Armed Forces". Don't miss it!

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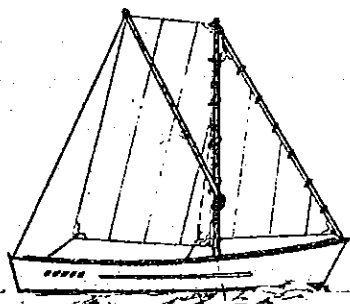
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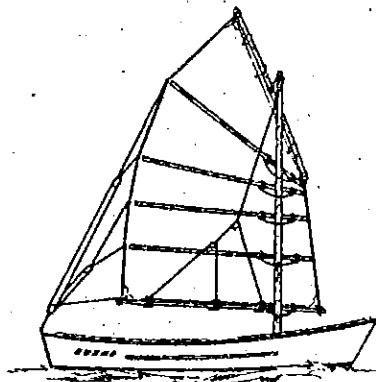
JOHN McKILLOP

WITH MORE -

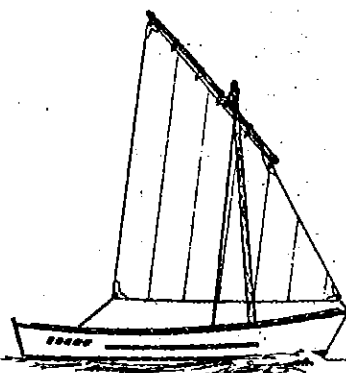
# Travels of a Sailmaker



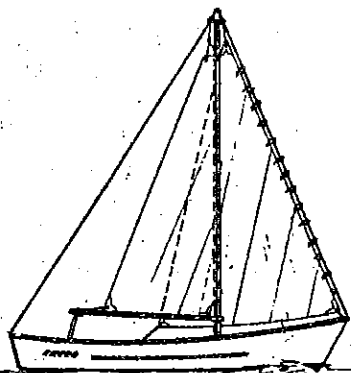
SPRIT RIG



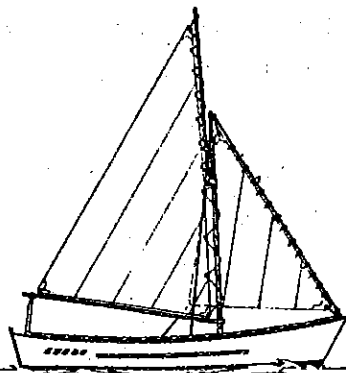
CHINESE JUNK RIG



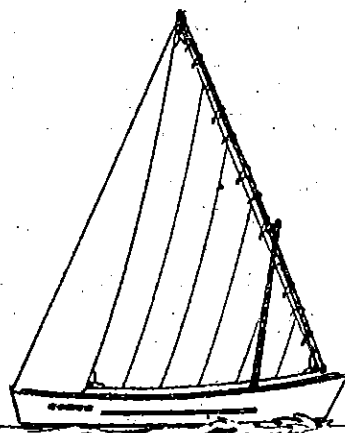
DIPPING LUG RIG.



BERMUDA RIG



GUNTER RIG



LATEEN RIG

My second visit to India was rather different to the first. I was asked to set up a sail loft in Madras, and train a crew to run it. This meant less travel, but gave me the opportunity to discover the incredible number of enterprises that exist in a large Indian city. Madras is India's third city with a population of some 12,000,000.

India operates a siege economy. Nothing is imported if it can possibly be made locally. Although this encourages local enterprise, without the stimulation of competition, design stagnates and prices are kept high, particularly in large operations which have a virtual monopoly. The only car produced in India is the Austin Cambridge, a 1950's design, the Royal Engfield Bullet motorcycle from the same era is made in Madras, as is the Vespa motor-scooter. They are very expensive and uneconomical to run, but all that is available. Further down the scale small workshops use ingenuity and hard work with incredible results. I saw a man and a boy making coil springs, by hand, from lorry suspension size down, to very exact dimensions from steel rod using simple home-made tools.

The hardworking and intelligent Tamils made excellent boatyard workers and quickly assimilated new techniques. They had been boat building, and sail-making, when we were running around in blue paint wondering how to make fire, but plywood and power tools were a new dimension as was anything other than the lateen rig.

The boatyard where the new design of surf fishing boat had been developed is in the suburb of Royapuram, the fishing port of Madras. A large space had been set aside for sailmaking and I had been authorised to order a full set of tools and a machine, which were all there when I arrived. All materials were to be obtained locally. The crew I was to train consisted of a supervisor and three working hands. In typical Indian fashion the supervisor did not consider it necessary for him to learn the basics of the trade.

He would make sure that the others worked hard and would look after the stores and any fiddles that could be managed in that direction, so we got rid of him, and concentrated on teaching the people who were going to do the work. As well as the three working hands, we decided to train one of the draughtsmen from the boatyard drawing office in sail design. This automatically replaced the supervisor by someone who could contribute to production. I thoroughly enjoyed training my crew, only the draughtsman spoke fluent English, two of the others only spoke Tamil, but we got on famously. The one phrase everyone knew was "machine broke" ! Fortunately it was never more than a case of readjustment because parts would have been very hard to obtain. Part of the project was to build two boats to the new design and sail them against each other, with everything very accurately recorded, to assess their all round suitability and the best rig. It would bore most people if I went

TRAVELS OF A SAILMAKER continued...

into the technicalities, sufficient to say that the boats were identical, 27' 9" long, 7' 5" beam, built of fibreglass and fitted out to carry Bermuda, Junk, Dipping Lug, Gunter Rig, Lateen or Sprit rig to an area of 288 square ft.

We made the six suits of sails for the trials at Royapuram, which gave the trainees an excellent opportunity to go through the whole process of design and manufacture several times, and finally to see the result in action. They learned very fast and I was soon able to leave them to it, which was just as well, because working under a corrugated iron roof in a temperature of 100°F. was pretty grim. The sails were made of cotton reinforced with upholstery webbing with steel rings to attach sheets, halyards, etc. The object was to produce cheap strong sails from local materials.

The first set of trials were carried out using sensitive instruments to ensure that neither boat was superior. This was established, as was the fact that they were extremely good sailing boats, achieving 6.8 knots in a fair wind, and 6.2 knots with an 8 h.p. engine. We then set about sailing the "Madras Cup". Stephen Akester, who had dealt with the rigging on the boats, and I were to sail each boat, under a different rig against each other, around a triangular course. The conditions were perfect, only one morning was calm, otherwise we had 12 to 15 knots of wind, air temperature around 90°, sea temperature 85°. The Gunter rig came first and this was the rig used on the whale boats and surf boats from which the design was developed. The Sprit came second, which surprised many people.

I was lucky enough to be able to stay with a Norwegian family, two months in a hotel would have been awful. They (the Overas) made me very welcome, and it was really through them that I saw what went on in Madras. Although anything that is not nailed down will be stolen, Madras is a law-abiding city, we thought nothing of wondering around at night, joining in religious processions and generally sight-seeing. The Madras Club provides swimming pool, tennis and rowing, of the racing-shell variety. There is a golf club and yacht club, both with marvellous facilities. The fact that these facilities are not available to everyone no longer has anything to do with race, just economics. Madras was the first British settlement in India, and has many fine buildings. The slums are nothing like Calcutta or Bombay, but there is terrible poverty. We attended the Church of Scotland most Sundays, where they have their first Indian Minister. It seems to be a thinning community, 8 percent of Indians are Christian, which is more than the population of Britain! My job in Madras was now completed and the inevitable reports written. Even though the temperature on the airport at Madras at midnight was 30° C, and on arrival at Heathrow at noon it was minus 3° C. I was glad to be home.

JOHN McKILLOP

# The Doctor's Fee

Talk of contented children,  
My Harry will stand with the best,  
As a baby he'd lie in his cradle  
As snug as a bird in its nest;  
And talk to himself by the hour,  
And cōo like a pigeon he would,  
And play with his little fat fingers  
As sweet as a pink and as good.

We never bought toys for our children,  
We hadn't the money to spare,  
Their playthings were my old bonnet,  
The lid of a box and a chair.  
But one day when Harry was five,  
And a knowing young Turk, bless his  
heart,

A lady that knew our children  
Came and gave him a horse and cart.

Oh, you could never picture  
One half of that boy's delight,  
He played with the pretty plaything  
Morning, noon and night.  
He drove me to market in it -  
(All a pretence, as you know)  
He'd crack his whip like a farmer  
And shout "Gee up" and "Gee-whoa".  
Sometimes he'd call it a milk cart,  
And pretend he had milk in a can,  
And then 'twas the Lord Mayor's  
carriage,

And then 'twas Pickfords' van.  
That summer he took the measles,  
I had all the children ill;  
But as Harry was getting better  
He somehow took a chill.  
And it flew to his chest so heavy,  
He fought for every breath,  
And for weeks we had him lying  
Just between life and death.

That was a time of trouble,  
But the Doctor was very kind;  
He came twice a day to Harry,  
And didn't seem to mind.  
I fretted a bit with thinking  
How we should ever pay,  
For work was bad that summer  
And seemed to grow worse each day.

Harry begged for his horse and cart  
To be put beside his bed  
And there he could lie and see it  
Without turning his curly head.  
One night he looked up at me earnest  
And his words came faint and few  
"If I go to Heaven, Mother -  
Will my horse and cart come too?"  
I told him, "Yes my darling",  
I couldn't have told him "No",

For in that blessed heaven  
Where little children go,  
I know there is joy for ever,  
And the Lord of that golden land  
Is sure to make them happy  
In the way they understand.

However, he recovered; we didn't  
lose our boy,  
He could run about and play again  
with his precious toy.

And then 'twas something happened  
I want to tell to you  
For if I didn't tell it  
You'd never think it true.  
His father and I were talking  
One night by Harry's bed,  
I thought he was sleeping soundly  
For he never moved his head.

Jim says, "I'm thinking, Annie,  
about the Doctor's bill -  
I guess it will mount up heavy."

"Ah", I says, "that it will."  
We paid into one Provident Club,  
But that was a club for Jim,  
To have medical attendance if  
sickness seized on him.  
We couldn't pay for the children,  
As it was I was well nigh beat,  
Patching and sewing and scrāping  
To try and make two ends meet.  
That's all we said about it, and  
Harry never stirred.

Though he must have lain there quiet  
and listened to every word;  
And his little brain was busy,  
Though he never lifted a lid,  
But the very next morning early  
I'll tell you what he did.

He took his favourite plaything  
As if he was going to play,  
And marches off to the Docotr  
Who didn't live far away.  
And the Doctor told me after  
That it gave him quite a start  
When the little boy marched up to him  
With his little horse and cart,  
"Please sir, my mother can't pay  
the bill," he said.  
"So I've brought my horse and cart  
instead."

"Now, I've had many a golden guinea,  
And many a handsome fee,  
But the handsomest I ever had" -  
The Doctor said and smiled -  
"Was the fee I took this morning,  
The Toy of a Little Child?"

(With acknowledgement to the  
Magazine 'This England' for  
reminding me of this charming  
monologue.)

D.D.

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