

Thurlestone Parish — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 1988

# VILLAGE VOICE

NO. 36



SPONSORED BY THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

To set the Record Straight

MARRIAGE and DIVORCE pose a difficult problem for the church and the parish priest.

Clearly and beyond dispute the Church has a clear duty to witness to our Lord's standard for Christian Marriage - especially the aspect of it being a life-long relationship. That is not only an ideal, it is the Christian Standard. (It is also the States legal standard as witnessed in every Register Office). But not only must the Church witness to the Christian Standard, it also has a clear duty to minister to those who for some reason have "missed the mark", - fallen below the standard, and sadly, truth to tell, there are precious few families unscathed in the matter of a "broken marriage".

The Bible says "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". The Christian Gospel is one of Forgiveness, and "broken marriage and rebuilt lives" have to be accommodated within that forgiveness as do all other attempts to redeem the failures of the past.

In earlier times the church stressed strongly the need to witness to the life-long relationship of marriage and those who had been divorced and remarried could only be admitted to Holy Communion after the matter had been submitted to the Bishop for resolution. The emphasis today has changed and without in any way diminishing the "TARGET" standard of life-long marriage, the Church has to respond to the situation as it is, and seek to minister to those many who have suffered the traumas of divorce, many of whom have contracted a new marriage, in most cases, happily and successfully.

The present position is that the Church of England seeks to witness to the Christian Standard by not re-marrying in church parties who have been divorced with the former spouse still living. Nevertheless, in an attempt to minister support and love to those who have so contracted a second civil marriage the Church has provided a very lovely "Service of Blessing" where we can sincerely offer the new relationship to God and seek His Grace in seeking to rebuild the future.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion is one of the chief means of grace given by Christ to His Church and contrary to the view I have discovered to have been strongly held by some in the Benefice, those who have been divorced and remarried are as welcome as the rest of us sinners at the Lords' Table to receive the strengthening Body and Blood of Christ.

Please make this clearly and widely known; the "Invitation" is to all Communicants, 'Ye that do truly and earnestly.....  
.....Take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort".

Please do.

very sincerely

Peter S. Stephens.  
Rector.



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Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

Number 35.

Sixth year of publication.

NOV-DECEMBER, 1988.

ONCE UPON A TIME, so the Spaniards say, General Franco took a trip in his yacht along the Costa del Sol and was so appalled by the hideous developments he saw along that once lovely coast that, on his return, he had five developers shot. The next day he realised his mistake and shot the planners.

A similar voyage today along the Costa del Thurlestone almost makes one wish one was General Franco. So much so that most of us should be grateful for a sea view and not a view from the sea.

Not that "progress" has stopped. Villagers have been angered recently by plans for higher buildings and rows of garages and have joined their personal protests to those of the Parish Council. But, sadly, Village Voice can confidently forecast that all these protests will be in vain - the big developer, no matter what his scheme, will always win.

It appears that the planners are not on the side of the people, or that they dare not oppose the well-heeled developer in case they have to bear the costs of any appeal. This weakness cannot be because they do not have the power as anyone who puts up a garden shed without permission will doubtless tell you! Now if it was a block of flats...

LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

Dear

Village Voice....

On behalf of the Parish Hall Committee I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your generous participation in our "Sponsor a Chair" campaign.

To avoid 'first and second-class parishioners' it is our intention to renew all 120 chairs at one time and therefore price has to be our main concern. However, of almost equal importance is 'stackability' and this greatly limits our choice, but rest assured we will do our very best to ensure your comfort with the money so generously donated.

Yours sincerely,

DEREK YEOMAN

Hilltop, Main Street,  
Thurlestone.

Editors' footnote:

Credit where credit is due - the idea of 'Sponsor a Chair' came from artist Len Hubbard. It has been a marvellous success, as you will see if you read on...

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL.

This month it is nearly all good news and all of it due to the generosity of villagers and friends. As you are all aware the Hall Committee, prompted by those parishioners who have suffered from the seating, have been determined to replace all 120 chairs. First, the hard-working Armada 400 Committee raised sufficient money, not only to satisfy their own requirements, but to give very generous donations to a number of local charities, the Hall benefiting to the extent of £500. A suggestion by a villager that you be asked to sponsor a chair has shown just how generous and public-spirited you are with an further £500 being donated to date.

By the time you read this, most will have heard how successful our Grand Autumn Sale was - we raised a truly "grand" £500. This money will go a long way towards the refurbishment of the floor. My personal thanks go to all those helpers from all the groups who regularly use the Hall for their time and effort, both before and during the afternoon, together with those many people who donated the

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL continued:

goods which enabled us to raise such an excellent sum. I hope by the time you receive this copy of Village Voice that the money will have been committed, and possibly you will be enjoying the results of your generosity.

May I make a final plea to all those using the Hall. Make the most of the facilities provided and thoroughly enjoy yourselves, but please exercise a little extra care when doing so, particularly when drawing the curtains. At least once a week they become mysteriously detached from their runners, presumably as a result of over-enthusiastic pulling.

Again our sincere thanks for all the help so willingly given.

D.M.YEOMAN,

Chairman, Parish Hall Committee  
(560300).

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB - TENNIS SECTION.

IN SPITE OF the indifferent weather during August, the Tennis Committee managed to run most of the holiday programme tournaments which have become such an important feature of the club over the years. The Junior tournaments were run in two age groups of 10-13 and 14-16 and the enthusiasm of the youngsters is good to see with as many as 50-60 girls and boys competing on some days.

Coping with all these budding Beckers and Grafs is a formidable task for the organisers. However, it is very gratifying to see all these children in action with all 14 courts occupied. Thurlestone is surely quite unique in this respect - where else would you find such activities laid on?

The senior Mixed American (Round Robin) tournaments held on Saturday afternoons again proved to be very popular. An innovation this year was the introduction of a new sliding handicap system which gave the less experienced players a better chance. Most competitors approved of the idea and it will be continued in next year's events. The tournament for the Bryan Brown cup was held on August 13 and was won by Nick Woodhead and Veronica Handover. It was good to see Veronica back on form after her recent back problem.

Kay Morley did a tremendous job organising the local juniors for coaching sessions. These were attended by an average of about 20 juniors each week. Coaching was handled by James Isaacs from Plymouth and the children benefited from his patient and skilful tuition. Readers might like to know that James gives private coaching at the Club to both children and adults and anyone interested should contact the Chairman or Secretary whose telephone numbers are given below.

The Club would like to strengthen their numbers with more local senior members and there are also golf members who play tennis and could take part in the increasing activities. A Club afternoon is held every Sunday throughout the year, weather permitting and new faces are always welcome.

The Tennis Annual General Meeting was held on September 10, at which Alan Chapmen, Richard Handover, Ted Wakeham, and Norman

## THURLESTONE TENNIS CONTINUED:

Bradley were all re-elected with Polly Lonsdale also joining the committee. Lindsey Townsend, whose resignation from the committee was accepted with regret, was wished every happiness by the meeting in her forthcoming marriage to David Fletcher.

Dennis Egan, who was absent on holiday in Australia, was re-elected President of the Tennis Section.

Tennis has been an integral part of the Golf Club since the early 1920's and there has to be some very interesting stories of the events and personalities of those days. If anyone has any information about past tennis at Thurlestone, please contact Norman Bradley.

Telephone numbers are: Hon. Secretary Alan Chapman 560621. Chairman Norman Bradley 560582.

### NOTICE...

### NOTICE...

### NOTICE..

#### Eagle Developments (Plymouth)

Itd wishes to inform all persons using the garden waste dump on the Mead Estate that this facility has had to be closed.

This was due to unauthorised dumping which has created a potential health hazard.

British Telecom's "Watch a Box" campaign - it means a daily inspection of our phone boxes - is under way. Box watchers are P.Hurrell (West Buckland); D.Grose (Thurlestone Church); G.Stidston (Court Park Lane); D.J.Yeoman (Bantham P.O.)

By the way, box watchers don't have to watch their boxes on Sundays!

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## **THURLESTONE PRIVATE HIRE** (B. and A. HATTON)

FLATS AT MERCHANT'S GARDEN

The most disliked planning proposal within the Parish for seven years has revived the opposition to a development which PROPELS THURLESTONE EVEN FURTHER TOWARDS BECOMING A TOWN OF HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

In 1981 following a Public Enquiry and much local opposition, permission was granted to Eagle Developments (Plymouth) Ltd., to erect adjacent to Merchant's Garden, three blocks of flats involving 25 apartments. Up to now only one block of nine 2-bedroomed flats has been built. The remaining <sup>site</sup> with existing permission for two blocks containing 16 apartments and 47 bedspaces - twelve 1-bedroom and four 2-bedroom units - has recently been acquired by Henley & Capital Developments who wish instead to build THREE NEW BLOCKS containing seventeen 3-bedroomed flats providing 87 bedspaces.

The original plans envisaged many small economically priced dwellings to meet local needs of the community, and the site was to have parking spaces - not garages, whilst maintaining a 'rural' ambience with the major trees retained. Instead the plans now involve seventeen garages as well as a building 27ft by 14ft, to house a sewage treatment plant, all on the reduced area left after erection of the proposed three blocks of flats.

The Parish Council and many local residents have most strongly opposed this new project: it is quite incompatible with the previous consents, conflicts with many of the conditions on which the Department of the Environment's Inspector granted the 1981 appeal and also contravenes important assurances given by the original developer at the Public Hearing. Even with the private sewage treatment plant proposed, the existing (now widely recognised) deficiencies of the public sewerage system must be exacerbated. Thus the new proposals will impair the village attributes, amenities and appearance whilst being entirely without social or economic merit for the village.

Despite all the considerations it is understood that at the recent meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee, the proposals were scheduled for approval. Thanks to Councillor Jack Thomas that was deferred at least to permit a site meeting, but it would appear that there is only a faint hope that the desecration of the site will be prevented.

Nevertheless, ALL interested persons are urged to attend the site meeting or be obviously present in the area. They might not have the right to speak (except to ask questions through the Parish Council's Representative), but it may cause the District Planners to pay more regard to the strength of concern felt by the village community.

W.G.LADD (Parish Clerk)

THAT FOOTPATH ACROSS THE GOLF COURSE TO LONG STONE POINT has been the subject of much further deliberation and a Site Meeting, before the County Council's Amenities & Countryside Committee decided NOT to make an Order to add the path to the Definitive Map. That decision followed the recommendations of both the Parish and District Councils that the path need not be officially proclaimed, marked on the maps and signposted. Such actions would unnecessarily divert onto the golf course a considerable number of persons who use the adjoining South Devon Coast Path.

However, the fact that the footpath has not now been officially broadcast, does not detract from its continued existence as a public right of way. As many Parishioners have attested, and many more can confirm, the route across to Long Stone Point has been used freely for over half a century. It is to be hoped that all concerned will recognise the merit of the informal right of way being allowed to continue so that the community will never need to have more officially proclaimed and signposted the free accessibility between Long Stone Point and Footpath No.4. via the stile replacing the two former kissing gates.

W.G.LADD (Parish Clerk)

20/10/88

\*  
Merchant's Garden site meeting is on November 8. For time call Councillor Thomas on 560269.

PAT MACHIN'S  
CROSS - NUMBER

1		2			3		4	5		6
				7						
8	9		10				11		12	
13									14	
		15		16		17		18		
19						20				
				21	22					
23	24		25				26		27	28
29		30					31	32		
				33						
34							35			

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Our Queen's coronation year
4. Phone No. of Kingsbridge Library
7. L% of DL
8. Nine-tenths of 9090
11. (500 - 253) x 25
13. Bingo - Two fat ladies
14. Square-root of 625
16. No of lbs in 13 stones
19. 100,000 - 1011
20. (1305 + 999) x 15
21. (30 x 20) + 10
23. No. of inches in a yard
27. 1 gross - 4 dozen
29. Four-fifths of 6685
31. No. of square yds in an acre
33. No of old pennies in a £1
34. The year of the Glorious Revolution
35. No. of pounds in  $\frac{7}{8}$  of a ton.

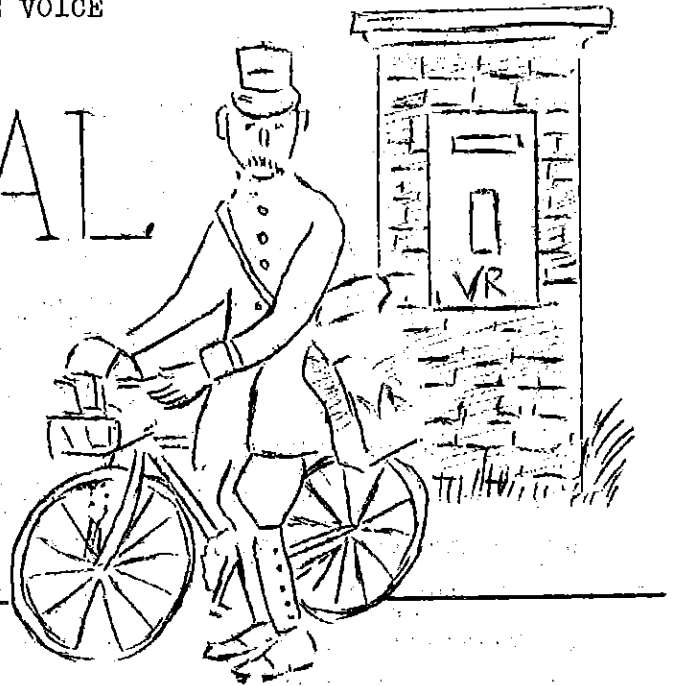
DOWN

1. Date on old parish pump
2. No. of millilitres in a pint
3. 519 x 72
5. A+++ Main road Kingsbridge/Totnes
6.  $\frac{1}{2}M + LV$
9. Cube of 3 minus 3 squared
10. Baker's dozen
11. Bingo. Clicketty click.
12.  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen dozen.
15. V x 10
16. Square of 14
17. Usual voltage supply
18. A dozen dozen + a dozen
22. Inches in a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile
23. Phone No. of Kingsbridge Health Centre.
24. (42 ÷ 6) x 9
25. 20°C in degrees Fahrenheit
26. No. of ounces in 4lbs.
27. C - VI
28. No. of millimetres in 6 metres
30. 25 x 23 - 97
32. 29 squared - square root of 25

SOLUTION. 1. 1953. 4. 2315. 7. 275. 8. 8181. 11. 6175. 13. 88. 14. 25  
16. 182. 19. 98989. 20. 34560. 21. 610. 23. 36. 27. 96. 29. 5348.  
31. 4840. 33. 240. 34. 1688. 35. 1680. DOWN. 1. 1888. 2. 568.  
3. 37368. 5. 381. 6. 5055. 9. 2. 18. 10. 13. 11. 66. 12. 72. 15. 495  
16. 196. 17. 230. 18. 156. 22. 15840. 23. 3551. 24. 63. 25. 68  
26. 64. 27. 94. 28. 6000. 30. 478. 32. 836

# OUR POSTAL SERVICE

NEVILLE C. OSWALD



WITH two post offices, half a dozen pillar boxes and daily collections and deliveries, our parish can hardly be said to lack postal services. Yet, if we go back a couple of centuries we find things were rather different. For instance, literacy was then a problem. As a matter of fact, we have a pretty good idea of how many people could read and write by looking at the parish registers. From 1753, marriages were recorded on printed forms which included the signatures of the brides and grooms. Only about two-thirds of them could sign their names, and some of them did so pretty shakily, while the remaining third rather sadly made a mark, usually in the form of a cross. Thus, only half the people in the parish were able to compose and read a letter; that was about the national average and little improvement was made until after 1842, when the rector founded the village school.

The next problem was the cost of sending a letter, which was twopence a sheet for up to 80 miles, fourpence to 140 miles and sixpence for over 140 miles. These prices would hardly have appealed to farm labourers who earned only a few pence a day. Also, the letters themselves did not amount to very much, most of them comprising no more than a neatly folded sheet sealed with wax; envelopes were not used because they counted as a second sheet and doubled the cost. Then there was the question of who paid. It was considered impolite for the sender to do so and that could cause all sorts of difficulties in first finding the recipient and then persuading him or her to pay.

Curiously, the village Constable was responsible for the supervision of mail. He would see to it that there was somewhere in the parish to which letters could be taken, probably the village shop. From there they would be delivered by a recognised letter carrier to a similar receiving office at Kingsbridge at a cost of a penny or twopence; doubtless, some letters

CONTINUED OVER.....

## OUR POSTAL SERVICE continued: 2

were taken free of charge by people who were going to Kingsbridge anyway, especially on market days. Most local letters would be collected and paid for at the Kingsbridge office; those that were not would be taken to their destinations by other letter carriers and paid for on the spot.

Much of the mail going further afield than Kingsbridge would go in a postbag carried by a private messenger on horseback, possibly to Buckfast-leigh or Ivybridge to meet the weekly mail from London to Plymouth which, instituted on 1620, consisted of relays of postboys (usually men) who were employed and supplied with horses by postmaster/innkeepers along the route under licence from the Postmaster General.

In the late 1700s, the postal services passed through a bad phase. Some postmasters paid little attention to punctuality and unarmed postboys were often robbed of their mail, while the General Post Office in London remained complacent. Then with the improving state of the roads, the magnificent Royal Mail coaches began to grace the countryside. The first on the scene travelled from London to Bath in 1784, beautifully turned out and bearing the royal insignia with two pairs of horses and an armed guard dressed in scarlet livery. They were privately owned and hired by the Post Office on a rate per mile except that the guard was a Post Office man. They travelled untaxed on the roads, claiming the right of way over all other transport and paying no tolls.

The Quicksilver coach, travelling from London to Devonport, was the fastest long distance Mail in the country and the only one to have a name. It covered the 213 miles in 24 hours including 20 changes of horses and two half-hour breaks for meals. Leaving Hyde Park Corner at 8.30 in the evenings, it made for Salisbury and the windswept Wallops at Shaftesbury for breakfast. It went on to Chard, Monkton and Honiton, a busy coaching centre with over 50 inns in the main street, where it was due at 12.55 in time for lunch. It then sped along the straight through Rockbeare to reach the New London Inn, Exeter at 2.50; the inn was the largest in the West with stabling for 300 horses and stood at the crossing between High Street and Sidwell Street until the 1930s when it was demolished to make way for a cinema. Next, it drove over Haldon to Chudleigh, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh, negotiated the narrow hump-back bridge at Ivybridge before dashing on to Plympton, Plymouth and Union Street to reach Elliot's Royal Hotel, Devonport by 8.30 p.m.

Coaching of all kinds was at its peak in the years 1820 to 1840 when up to 371 coaches reached Exeter each week. With the coming of the railways the Royal Mail coaches ceased in 1846 and few of the others survived beyond 1860.

### Rowland Hill and the penny black

In 1840, much to the consternation of senior postal officials, the

CONTINUED OVERPAGE,...

OUR POSTAL SERVICE continued - 3

Government adopted and issued the penny black and twopenny blue adhesive postage stamps that had been devised by Rowland Hill, a schoolmaster, and which had a portrait of the monarch on one side and were 'covered on the back with a glutinous wash'. They were the first postage stamps to be issued by any Government and, preceding by several years the appearance of similar ones in other countries, they bore no mention of Britain, nor have any of their successors done so since. They were distributed for sale in main post offices throughout the land, the penny black for letters up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. and the twopenny blue for up to 1 oz. but they did not cover the whole of the British Isles until about 1900.

The new stamps led immediately to several improvements in the postal service. A uniform charge, regardless of mileage, greatly simplified costing. By making prepayment obligatory, it avoided the delays and expense of collecting postal dues and it simplified charging by taxing letters by weight only. It also led to a considerable rise in letter writing. Then, in 1843, the Post Office undertook free daily delivery of letters to any village handling at least 100 letters a week; hopefully Thurlestone received or sent as many as that by then in a newly acquired post office.

Mechanised stamping and sorting.

During Victorian times and well into this century, postage stamps were cancelled by postmarks stamped on them by handstamps in large and small post offices all over the country. Then, as cancelling was taken over by machinery, fewer and fewer offices stamped mail passing through them. Now, in Devon, it is done only at three district Mechanised Letters Offices at Plymouth, Exeter and Torquay, each of which can process up to 25,000 letters an hour.

One of the big problems in delivering mail is getting letters into some kind of order. To take an extreme example, a postman in a busy city might spend as much as four hours sorting his mail and then deliver it to his customers in less than an hour by nine o'clock in the morning. To overcome this, the Post Code was adopted in the 1960s (ours is TQ7 3NJ) and is electronically typed onto letters in the form of two lines of light blue phosphorescent dots. The bottom line, the outward code, indicates the post town to which the letter is going (TQ7) and the top line, the inward code, shows the actual delivery area (3NJ). All our letters go to Torquay for sorting and thence to its number 7 area, which is Kingsbridge, where they arrive having already been further sorted at Torquay according to the units designated by the inward code. Each inward code covers only a few houses, rarely more than a couple of dozen, so that the parish of Thurlestone has at present no less than 53 different inward codes, with more being added as more houses are built.

The plethora of inward codes greatly facilitates the delivery of mail; indeed, a letter addressed to a permanent resident with no more than his name and postal code can hardly fail to find him. Most mail, especially from institutions and large businesses, is correctly coded and delivered with expedition. Yet many private letters are uncoded, often because the sender does not know the code of the addressee. This is a problem which, so far, has not been overcome. If and when British Telecom automatically includes codes in its telephone directories, local letters should be coded more often, but those from a distance would still be unaffected. A line of squares near the bottom right hand corner of the envelopes might be a useful reminder. Meanwhile, an efficient system of dispatch and delivery is available for those who care to use the code. Hopefully, more people will do so in the future.

Neville C. Oswald.

WHERE WOULD WE ALL BE WITHOUT THEM?

The decision of the Lambeth Conference to open the way to the consecration of the Anglican Church's first female bishop has inspired Paul Jennings of the Daily Telegraph to pen the following telling lines:

Although the Lord cares not the least,  
About the gender of a priest.  
One sees what Dr. Runcie fears  
Though some have said for many years  
'If women, just like men, have souls,  
Why keep them in inferior roles?'  
Ah, yes; but how should they be named?  
'Woman priest' sounds half ashamed,  
(You wouldn't say a 'woman nurse')  
And 'lady priest' sounds even worse.  
And what male sinner would confess  
If it must be to a 'priestess'?  
So if the bishops let them through  
The Church, it seems, will split in two  
And then the choice will have to be  
'Twixt C of E and C of She.

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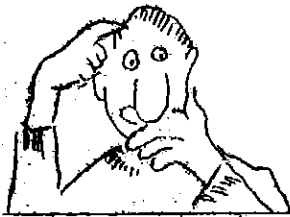
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Maidens, why don't you worry in choosing whom you shall marry. Choose whom you may, you'll find you've got somebody else !

John Hay.



# Drabblemania

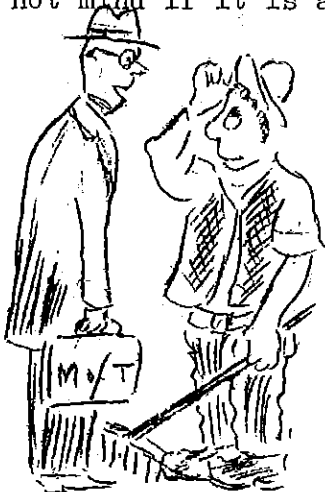
There is tremendous interest these days in house prices, mortgages, and capital appreciation, not to mention pre-occupation with how to find the money to purchase a house by first-time buyers. Early this century someone bought off a 'barrow-boy' (remember them?) one of Rudyard Kipling's early book of poems, 'Echoes'. He put it away for nearly 20 years and then, finding it again one day, sold it. Being a first edition of a rare publication it fetched £328 in 1929, and with this money and a mortgage he purchased a house calling it 'Echoes' ! One has to wonder what that house is worth today.

+ + + + +

This is what a boy of eight years wrote about his grandmother:

"Grandmother is a wonderful woman who has no children of her own, so she loves the boys and girls of other people. Grandmothers have nothing to do, they only have to be there. If they take you for a walk they go slowly past beautiful leaves and caterpillars. They never say 'Come along quickly', or 'hurry up for goodness sake.'

They are usually fat, but not too fat to tie up your shoelaces. They wear spectacles, and sometimes take out their teeth. They can answer every question. For instance, why dogs hate cats, and why God is not married. When they read to us, they do not leave out anything. They do not mind if it is always the same story.



Everyone should have a Grandmother, especially those who have no television. Grandmothers are the only grown ups who always have time. "

+ + + + +

When that EEC Directive to change miles to kilometres comes into force (which we all hope it never will' - I offer, with due apologies), - from 'The Social Contact' by Osbert Lancaster

..."Tell me, my good man, how many kilometres is it to Six Mile Bottom."

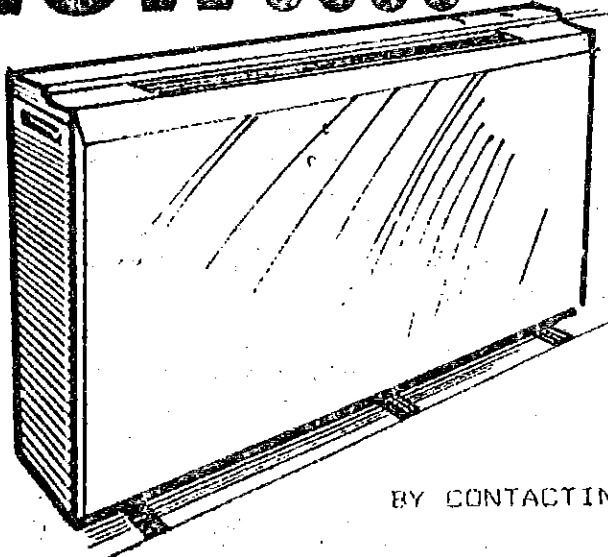
+ + + + +

To awaken each morning with a smile brightening my face; to greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains; to approach any work with a clean mind; to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things the Ultimate Purpose towards which I am working; to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart; to approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep; to be gentle, kind and courteous through all the hours and feel the joy that comes from work well done. This is how I desire to waste wisely my days,

+ + + + +

THOMAS DEKKER

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



*David Frost  
Electrics Ltd.*

BY CONTACTING :

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gives seven  
hours of  
low priced  
electricity at  
night time.

Government calculations also  
show that the running costs of  
electric heating, using Economy  
7 or White Meter tariffs, are lower  
in a number of properties.



**Freda**

## DRABBLEMANIA - Part II

The soldier had been caught playing cards instead of attending church service, and was later brought before his Colonel who asked him what he had to say for himself. The soldier said:

"I am a Private sir, and I have neither Bible nor Prayer Book. The only thing I have is this pack of cards, and I hope to satisfy you, sir, of the purity of my intentions."

"When I see the Ace, it reminds me there is only one God. When I see the Two, it reminds me of Father and Son. When I see the Three, it reminds me of the Holy Trinity, when I see the Four, it reminds me of the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. When I see the Five, it reminds me of the virgins who trimmed their lamps, five were wise, and five were foolish and were shut out. When I see the Six, it reminds me that in six days the Lord made Heaven and Earth. When I see the Seven, it reminds me that God rested on the seventh day, and hallowed it. When I see the Eight, it reminds me of the eight persons who were saved when God destroyed the world, namely Noah and his wife, his three sons and wives. When I see the Nine, it reminds me of the ten lepers who were healed by Our Saviour, nine of the ten never returning thanks. When I see the Ten, it reminds me of the ten Commandments which God handed down to Moses. When I see the King, it reminds me of the Great King, Our Lord God Almighty. When I see the Queen, it reminds me of the Queen of Sheba, who was as wise as King Solomon."

"When I count the spots on a pack of cards, I find there are 365, which reminds me of the days of the year. There are 52 cards in a pack, which reminds me of the weeks of the year. There are twelve picture cards in the pack, which reminds me of the number of months in the year. There are 13 cards in each suit, which reminds me of the number of weeks in a quarter. There are four suits, which reminds me of the four seasons. So you see, sir, that a pack of cards serve as a Bible and an Almanack."

"Go," said the Colonel, "for you are a more learned man than I am."

The only card not accounted for is the Jack, or Knave. Guess who he represents !

+ + + + +

I see it reported that an insurance claim for damage to the outer wall of an old farm building, which collapsed in two places during a storm in heavy rain last autumn, has been refused, on the grounds that the building had no gutters, and the saturated walls collapsed due to heavy rain and not as a result of storm damage and was, therefore, not specifically covered for damage due to rain. Heavybrain is not regarded as a storm.

Read the small print thoroughly !

+ + + + +

There is a rich seam of shop door or window notices, like the Shoe Repairer with his 'Young lads well leathered', and the old chestnut of the sheriff who scribbled 'Gone to lynch', and the Chinese dentist who promised he would return as 'Tooth hurtee', but I am assured that a taxidermist in Sidmouth closes for lunch with a notice: "Out stuffing myself until 2 p.m."

+ + + + +

Gravediggers in the Australian State of Victoria are demanding a £12 'disability allowance' as compensation for 'on-the-job-stress.' A union official said: "Occupational hazards faced by diggers included poisonous spiders, toxic weeds, bad weather and abuse from mourners. !

+ + + + +

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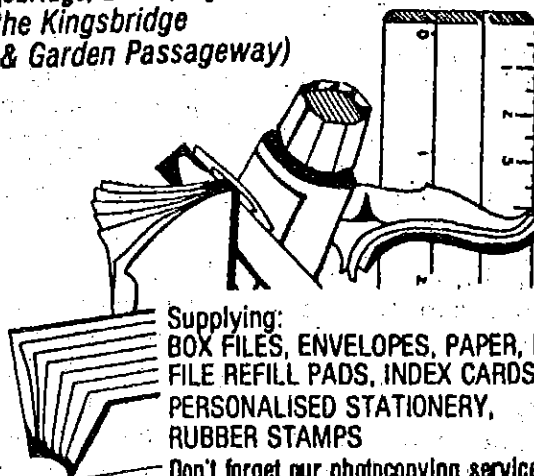
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The ancient cannon under 24 feet of water near Thurlestone Rock had a modern golf ball jammed in its breech. Not that golf balls are an unusual sight underwater anywhere within driving range of the Thurlestone course. But a cannon firing Dunlop golf balls! Here KENDALL McDONALD, who found the golf ball (and had to use a crowbar to lever it out), tells the grisly story of a wreck which was only discovered by divers a few months ago.

# ROCKY HORROR!

DO YOU REMEMBER reading in Village Voice's Armada edition about a diver called Neville Oldham of Galmpton, near Hope, who has spent the last seven years on an underwater hunt for the San Pedro El Mayor, the Armada hospital ship said to have been wrecked around here? Well, as Neville got more and more frustrated by finding nothing at all, he roamed further and further afield with his underwater metal detector, which its inventor had hopefully called "The Swagmaster".

There was, I can tell you, no swag for Neville until one day, much to his surprise, he got a loud buzzing from the earpiece of that same detector indicating that he was very near a large piece of iron. When he surfaced he was even more surprised to find he was right beside Thurlestone Rock. And very surprised too were some people who had clambered out to the Rock at low tide in search of some shrimps for their tea!

Now you should know that Neville Oldham is a very determined man, and once he was sure that his Swagmaster was not playing tricks - which it was not because the breech end of a cannon so covered with weed that it looked just like a rock was poking out of the sand beneath him - he determined to clear away all the two feet of sand which covered the rest of it. What is more he decided to lift the cannon and take it ashore for dating, because, you see, he hoped he had at last found his Armada wreck.

To do all that, he needed more divers and, for my sins, he thought of me. So, on quiet evenings when Neville had finished his building work, which was his real occupation, he would motor his big inflatable over from Hope to pick me up from Leas Foot beach. Mind you, he wasn't exactly doing me a favour. To move the sand we used a sand dredge, a sort of underwater Hoover. To give you some idea of what using this was like, I suggest you lie in a bath of icy cold water and Hoover the bath mat for an hour at a time. On second thoughts do not do that, it could be dangerous! It was cold work right enough, but the dredge did shift the sand. And we found not only cannon, but cannon balls and musket shot and even the bowl of a clay pipe in the concretion around them.

Finally we broke the cannon free and Neville skillfully lifted it and brought it ashore at Hope - where he was greeted by BBC TV cameras and quite a crowd. We were fortunate that world's greatest expert on cannon lives at Ivybridge. He's called Austin C. Carpenter on all his published works, but we call him Colin. He's a very friendly helpful man and he drove over to date the cannon for us - and once again the television cameras, who by now had convinced the nation that we were about to raise an intact Armada wreck, were there too. But Colin soon brought everyone back into line. He looked hard at the cannon and even he was clearly disappointed.. "It was made about 1650," he declared and then seeing exactly

## Continuing the Thurlestone Rock Wreck.

how our faces fell, he said "Sorry lads" and took us all into the Lobster Pot for a drink. Now I couldn't find a wreck that sank round here in 1650, but Colin did make life easier when he said that a good cannon was in use for more than 100 years in some cases. Which left us with one wreck that seemed very likely to be ours. Our suspicions were confirmed, or rather strengthened, when an expert guide to clay pipes showed us that the one we found was from the 1710-1780 period. So we think our wreck is probably the Chanteloupe. And what a horrible tale of Thurlestone's past that name brings forth...

On September 20, 1772, a great storm came out of the South-West and ships were wrecked all along the South Coast. Caught in that storm was Captain Tobin, who was homeward bound from Grenada in the West Indies with his ship, the Chanteloupe. She was a big sailing ship and a strong ship and her master, Captain Tobin, was known as a fine seaman. It was for this reason that many of the important personages of the island had set sail in the Chanteloupe with Tobin for England. And it is said that the Governor had even entrusted his prized furniture to the ship as his term on the island was coming to an end and he wished to furnish his retirement home with it in England. The furnishings included some important oil-paintings.

The oil-paintings were not the only beautiful things aboard. Mrs. Burke, who was one of the passengers was reckoned to be not only rich but handsome with it. Unfortunately, even a seaman of Captain Tobin's qualifications could not cope with such a storm and soon the Chanteloupe was in trouble, embayed in Bigbury Bay and being driven on shore at Thurlestone Sands, close to Thurlestone Rock. From the seaward side of the Rock you cannot see the opening of the arch - one local name for the Rock at this time was "The King's Gate" - and with the froth and spray covering it, it extremely unlikely that Captain Tobin would have known where he was.

Those on the ship, however, could see figures on the shore and though they must have realised that there was nothing these people could do to help them at that distance, they must have hoped that willing hands would pull them from the surf if they could swim in.

Certainly Mrs. Burke believed this. Just before the ship struck she put on her finest gems and richest dress, thinking "that if she was washed towards the shore, those who found her might be more induced to save her". And she was washed ashore alive, but half-drowned. A report of the time says: "... the savage people from the adjacent villages, who were anxiously waiting for the wreck, seized and stript her of her clothes, even cutting off some of her fingers, and mangling her ears in their impatience to secure the jewels, and left her miserably to perish."

It is said that the men who did it did not realise that she was still alive until they saw the blood run out of her fingers. They buried the body in the sand, but it was dug up soon afterwards by a dog belonging to the father of Jan Whiddon of Bantham. Mrs. Ilbert, then living in the dower-house of Horswell House, South Milton, had the body buried "in a Christian manner". It turned out that Mrs. Burke was a relative of Edmund Burke, the famous Parliamentary orator, and he came down to Thurlestone to find out what had happened to his relative. He stayed at Bowringsleigh, but no one would give any information to a "foreigner" and he went back knowing little more than when he arrived.

The men who did it came from Thurlestone and roundabout. The three ringleaders are said to have come to "a bad end within the year: one hanged himself in an outhouse, another went mad, ran into the sea and was drowned, and the third was killed in an

## Concluding the Thurlestone Rock Wreck.

accident."

Though there seems to be no record of a burial of a Mrs. Burke locally for 1772, this can be explained by another part of the story which says she was exhumed and taken to London for final burial. As short a time ago as the 1860's a fragment of finely embroidered muslin said to be part of Mrs. Burke's dress at the time of the wreck was in the possession of the Cranch family of Kingsbridge.

So there can be no doubt that something terrible happened near Thurlestone Rock on that stormy day of 1772. And, I think little doubt that the Thurlestone Rock Wreck is the Chanteloupe.

The diving goes on whenever the sea lets us, but it is highly unlikely that anything survives that will let us say for sure that the cannon are from Captain Tobin's unlucky ship - some idea of the power of the seas around the Rock in a storm comes when you know that one of the cannon - the one in whose broken breech the golf ball was jammed - is bent in two like a banana!

HERE IS...

PAT

MACHIN'S

PUZZLE

CORNER

(You'll find the answers on another page).

Anagrams seem to be popular with everyone, so here are another 20 for you. This time we've left the South Hams for Devon as a whole. These are all towns in Devon:

- 1, Odd Brief. 2, Tee Rex.
- 3, Nag Point. 4, Over Tint.
- 5, Wash Lid. 6, Up My Holt.
- 7, Torn Dice. 8, So Tick Vat
- 9, A Bun Short. 10, Inept Crown.
- 11, Bear Plants. 12, Hammer Stood Paten.
- 13, Not Make Hop. 14, Toughen Tim.
- 15, Bow at Bonnet. 16, Of Crab Lime.
- 17, Hit Noon. 18, Holy Throws.
- 19, Red Pot Ale. 20, But Shackle Fig.

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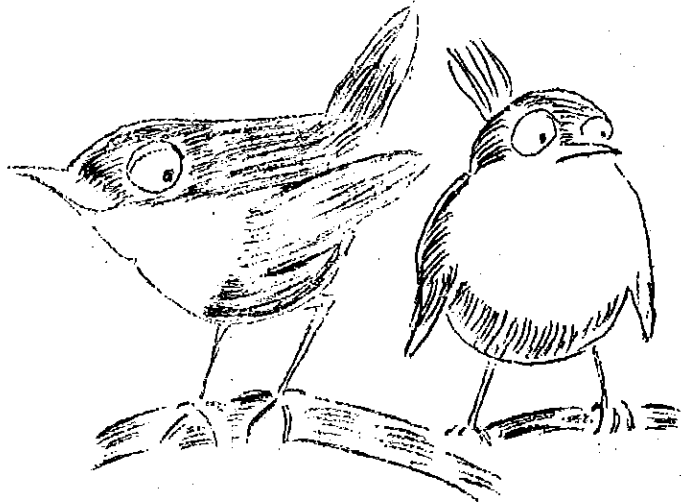
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# The Harry Huggins Column



IT WAS INTERESTING in mid-September, to compare the breeding habits of two different species of birds. The cliff nesting Ravens had reared their brood, gone away to wherever Ravens go for their summer hols, and by the end of August were back to take up their territory ready for next spring.

By contrast, the House Martins still had young in one of the nests on our house. Before they return to their nesting places, they will have flown to Africa, wintered there, and flown back to England again. The martins always have a place in our affections, despite being rather untidy neighbours, for as we moved in in May, a little over seven years ago, they climbed on, so to speak.

Their rearing of young is delayed these days, for as soon as they build their muddy cups under the eaves, the house Sparrows take over, throwing out the eggs or young chicks of the martins. We read somewhere that if you dangled strings with little weights close to the nests these would deter the sparrows, but not the more agile martins.

For one year it worked, but then there came a more determined and atrocious sort of sparrow and there was nothing more we could do. Luckily the sparrows raise a brood or two after which they depart, and the martins begin again, producing two or three lots of youngsters in each nest before migrating time comes once more.

The succession of broods can lead to difficulties, if not downright disaster, for after they have flown and are quite independent the young appear to come back to the nest at times, leading to overcrowding if by now their young brothers and sisters are growing up in it.

To this cause we attribute a catastrophe last August.

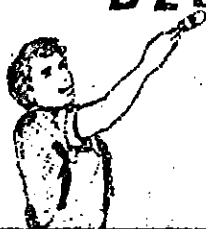
There were young in one of our nests. Came one morning a very heavy thundershower. We think, although we did not see, that the previous family raced into the nest for shelter and like rockabye baby the whole thing fell down.

The new brood seemed to consist of two birds. One plunged into the drain and had drowned by the time we found them. The other was sitting on the ground, a poor drenched little thing, but still alive.

June took it indoors and dried it - now what? We have often seen Swallows feeding young away from the nest: the fledged chicks sit on twigs or wires and the old birds come to them. But we have never seen a martin.

OVERPAGE.....

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feed young other than in the nest, and any which emerge before they are able to fly appear to die of starvation.

Fortunately the nest site was one which I could reach from a not very tall extending ladder. We put the chick in a margarine tub, on a bit of newspaper and the few feathers which had come down with the debris and I tacked him up in the right place. Then we just hoped, for there was nothing else we could do.

During the day the parents fluttered around from time to time, and finally, towards dusk, they flew in and must have fed him. At all events he survived, because all this happened on the 19th August, when we thought he was about a week off fledging, and I have recorded in my bird diary that he was still going in and out of the tub on the 12th of September.

You often see young House Martins peeping out of their nests, and I hoped I could photograph this one doing likewise.

So I put a chair in the garden, sat with the camera pointed at the nest, and waited. In vain: the tub was much deeper than the normal mud nest and all one could see was the top of his head from time to time. I did attempt a shot of the parent coming in to feed him, and await the outcome of that - if I had my usual success there will be a tail disappearing out of the frame!

It is only right to comment here that photographing birds at the nest is against the law unless with the permission of the Nature Conservancy Council. What the law has to say about photographing them at the margarine tub I do not know, nor really can it say too much about my sitting on a chair at my own back door.

+ + + + +

A few years back we had a pair of Lapwings in the valley. These are the black and white plovers with long crests which frequent our fields in winter. My wife calls them Peewits, from their call; I have always known them as Lapwings, and the old books called them Green Plovers, for when you look closely their plumage is not black, but iridescent green. They breed, you can hardly call it nesting, for they make none, on rather barren grassy fields and there must have been lots of them around here before there were so many people and farming became so intense.

At all events, towards the end of April we realised that there was a pair hanging about on Mr. Stidston's land in the valley and the male was displaying - whirling up and down as though to break his blunt wings off, sheleking "peewit" the while.

By early May they seemed to have an especial interest in a wet rushy area which was now drying out and on one occasion when we were watching they appeared to change over at a nest, which was just a depression in the grass.

Soon after we could see one sitting on the nesting place, while the other drove off Crows and things. One day both birds were swooping at a Heron which they succeeded in driving away, no mean achievement for a weaponless little bird.

Towards the end of May the water level in the valley began to rise after torrential rain, but the incubating bird continued to sit hard, and eventually the waters receded.

I should explain that we never actually saw the nest and eggs. I do not doubt that if I asked Mr. Stidston he would have given permission to go and look at it, but you cannot do anything in Thurlestone without being seen, we did not wish to draw attention to it, and so all our observations were made, mostly by telescope, from home or from what is now Wingfield, at the bottom of the Mead.

CONCLUDED OVERPAGE.....

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Harry Huggins concludes:

At the end of May, through the telescope, we saw a little figure run out from beneath the breast of the sitting bird, and realised the chicks were hatching - like chicken chicks they can run about as soon as they are dry.

However, the story has no happy ending. The parent birds could defend the unhatched eggs, but the chicks were defenceless against the many predators in the valley, crows, magpies, heron, foxes, mink, and the next day the Lapwings were pottering about aimlessly.

On the following day they had gone.

### LETTER TO THE EDITORS:

The beauty of Leas Foot is often spoiled by the debris washed up by the sea and left there.

I would be very willing to start clearing it with the help of a few friends.

If anyone is interested please ring me on 560904.

CARLOTTA ROBERTS.

### Letter to the Editors:

I thoroughly enjoyed solving your Clueless Crossword. Please may we have a repeat?

Mrs. A. Young,  
Etwell Road,  
Birmingham.

## TO HOSPITAL

Heavens! Have I packed my bag,  
Fed the ducks & cats & dogs.  
Have I cancelled all the milk,  
And filled the box with logs?

Are the bedroom windows shut  
Is the boiler turned off tight.  
Will the children get to school  
Can the cats get out at night.

Will the car be sure to start.  
Is there petrol in the can?  
Gosh, I should have cut the grass,  
Must leave a note for the paper man.

Nearly at the hospital.  
Got cold feet 'sweating hair,'  
Met at once by kindly girl,  
Who took me to my lonely lair.

Friendly Staff Nurse took my pulse,  
B.P. up to dangerous heights,  
Reassured me, said, "Don't fret,  
Expect it's all to strange new sights.

Put to bed and dressed in gown  
Waited for the knock-put pills,  
Porter came with friendly grin,  
Said "We'll soon cure all your ills.

Drifted slowly off to sleep,  
Surgeon wielded knife, and said  
"Operation great success,  
Get the patient back to bed."

Woke to tender loving care,  
Hot & woozy, not to mind,  
Feel I've had two double Gins,  
The nursing staff here are so kind.

Home today to joyous welcome,  
Bet the dogs jump on my toe.  
Good excuse to take it easy,  
Oh! It's lovely to be home.

H. McKILLOP  
(August 1988)

+++++

## GHOST OF THE MONK'S HOUSE

I've always been fascinated by ghost stories. My father had seen one in his old house in Bucks many times, and had told us how she looked, and how gentle she was, so I had no fear of an apparition.

Many years ago a lady told me the story of the ghost of Horswell - and then another lady remembers walking along the Horswell Road to the 'big' house, and listening to the footsteps behind her, which went up into the woods as she went to her own home.

My daughter rented Collicott (now called 'Collacott') house for three months. She had two small children, her husband being overseas in the army. She appeared one day quite white faced saying, "I'm not staying there another night. There's a strange atmosphere, and on the stairs there is an icy cold place and I'm terrified." She moved in with me.

On recounting this story I heard about the Monk who lives at Collicott. He is dressed in a dark coloured habit, and is seen going up the stairs and then disappears into the wall. I have a photograph of this house when it was called 'The Monks House'. Perhaps this monk is looking for the tunnel which is supposed to run from Collicott to the Church, or perhaps he just enjoys living in the oldest house in South Milton.

I would love to meet him.

DAPHNE JULIAN

## ON BEING GAZUMPED

If there were just one second  
In my life that I could live again,  
Properly this time, I'd take that moment when  
Fear made me slow to bid a few drab pounds  
I could have found, the day I wholly fell  
For a small cottage, poised upon a cliff  
At sunny Hope, with smell of flowers and whiff  
Of sea; garden a miracle of terraced plots, falling to the beach -  
But not before a piece of level ground  
Holding a garden-seat and lily-pond  
Made me imagine this the place in which  
I should write poems, dream, and watch the moon  
Shine on the sea, and 'Touch', I heard the dear  
Sweet owner say, 'The lily-pond with clear  
Bright rays of light.' But now some rich tycoon  
Doubtless will sprawl in my loved Helicon!

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With so many windfalls after the recent gales, I have been using these up in our family favourites. Apple desserts are popular both here and in Denmark. A friend of mine in Aars gave me some of her recipes, and here is one of them, which is quick and easy.

+ + + + +

#### INGER'S DANISH APPLE CAKE

1 lb. Bramley apples, 3ozs butter, grated rind of one lemon, castor sugar, 1 cup of fresh coarse white breadcrumbs, 1 cup of crushed macaroons.

Method: Peel, core and slice the apples. Put one ounce of the butter in a stewing pan and melt it. Add the apples and cover with a lid. Simmer gently until the apples have reduced to a pulp. Add the grated rind and sugar to taste. If the apple puree is very liquid, boil, stirring until you have a fairly thick paste. Put the breadcrumbs into a warm oven to dry out a little, but not completely. Then melt the rest of the butter and fry the crumbs until they are crisp and buttery. Add the macaroon crumbs. You may need to add more butter. Go slowly. They burn easily. In an ovenproof dish (souffle or pie dish) put a layer of apple and another of crumbs, i.e. two layers of each, with the top layer crumbs. Serve just warm with cream.

#### .....and My SIMPLE SPICY CRUMBLE

4 ozs Self Raising Flour, 2 ozs Marg. or Butter, 2 ozs Sugar plus 1 oz to sweeten apple,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz Coconut, 2 Large Cooking Apples,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. Cinnamon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. Coriander, Rind of 1 Orange.

Method: Grease a 6 - 7 inch Souffle or Pie Dish. Rub the fat into the flour and add the 2 ozs sugar and coconut. Mix together the 1 oz sugar (less if you like a more tangy taste) rind and spices. Peel, core and thinly slice apples, put into layers, sprinkling on the spice mix between. Put the crumble on the top and cook approx. 30 minutes at 360F (175C). Allow to cool slightly and serve with Custard or Cream.

=====

Whoever will know fully the vanity of man has but to consider the causes and the effects of love. Its cause is unknown: its effects are over-powering. This unknown something is so intangible a matter that we cannot analyse it. Yet it moves the whole world, princes, armies, and people. If Cleopatra's nose had been shorter, how many countries would have had a different history !

Blaise PASCAL (1623-62)  
(French mathematician, physicist & theologian)

# DOGS'

## DINNER

by R.W.F. Poole

R.W.F. POOLE was once Master of the Dartmoor Hunt based at Ivybridge. Today he writes regularly on country matters in the Weekend Telegraph, whose Editor has given Village Voice permission to reprint this article by Mr. Poole. We do so at an appropriate time - the opening meet of the South Pool Harriers took place only days ago...

A LADY ONCE ASKED ME how many tins of dog food it took to feed a pack of hounds. It is an interesting question and I should think the answer would be "quite a lot". However, it does not work like that.

Hounds exist on a basic diet of flesh and pudding. Let us start with the pudding, which Nanny would never let us do.

In the good old days, the pudding was made only from the best Scotch pinhead oatmeal and was made in huge coppers. The porridge required non-stop stirring with a shovel for 45 minutes, which was excellent for the stirrer's figure.

When the mixture was stiff enough the fire was knocked out and the pudding removed by bucket and turned out on to a slate slab to cool. Each bucket-shaped "spit" had to be perfect in shape.

Sadly, in these straitened times oatmeal puddings cannot always be on the menu. Rolled oats and a bit of flaked wheat make an acceptable pudding: the mixture is just left to soak in the trough overnight. But what of the meat? A bit of scrag end from the butcher will not go far with 30 couples of hounds.

Suppose you are a farmer. The first thing you see in the morning is a cow with all four feet sticking heavenwards: what do you do? Yes, and I am sure you feel a lot better for having said it, but you are now faced with a disposal problem.

You can either dig a hole or you can phone the local hunt kennels. Within a very short time a smart little man in a brown smock appears with a Land Rover and trailer. Buttercup is winched on to the trailer and removed from sight and the balance sheet.

Back at the kennels the carcasses are skinned and cut up in the flesh house. Whenever I have had parties of children at the kennels, this is always the biggest draw. They have to be driven away with whips and scorpions by

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Dogs' Dinner continued:

squeamish parents and teachers.

The cooked flesh has the bones removed and is then added to the pudding in the trough with gravy to taste. A satisfying hot meal awaits the guests.

This is not the whole story. Hounds work very hard and cover huge distances in a day. My calculations suggest that in a day's hunting a hill hound may well do something like 10,000 miles in an eight-month season.

They have to be fed right with high protein and a proper balance of minerals and vitamins. Meat pudding itself is not enough and so there are additions like mineral and vitamin supplements, cod-liver oil, and fish meal (or fresh fish, where available).

There is a great art to feeding hounds. Some are greedy and get fat on fresh air. Some are shy and picky feeders. If you just open the door and let them all pile into the trough, some will get too much and some too little. The huntsman will have the dining order in his head. Each hound is called forward by name and let into the trough. The shy feeders are allowed time to pick the best bits. Hound by hound the company swells (I use the word advisedly).

By the time the last morsel has been licked from the trough each hound will have been fed according to its needs. Then it is time for a little constitutional down-the-road-and-back to a bed of nice thick straw for a post-prandial nap.

There may also be one or two tasty bits of pudding to lick off a neighbour's head before settling down. You seldom see that in the Daily Telgraph canteen.

---

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

The September Meeting was very well attended with 35 members present to listen to an extremely interesting talk by Mr. G. Calvert on the Falkland Islands. He is particularly well-informed on this subject as his family own Pebble Island and have farmed it for many generations.

He, personally, visits the island very other year and was therefore able to give a very realistic idea of life, both past and present on this very remote spot in the South Atlantic.

Our next meeting is on November 11 at the Thurlestone Hotel, when Peter Tremlett, Director of Finance, S.H.D.C. will endeavour to set our minds at rest over the Poll Tax. I anticipate that question time may well come a little extended!

D.M. YEOMAN, Secretary (560300).

# NO BRANDY FOR THIS PARSON

BEHIND OUR COVER PICTURE lies a large slice of Thurlestone history. Len Hubbard has drawn the old pump in the Rectory grounds.

The pump, dated 1843, marks the year of the building of the Rectory by Peregrine Arthur Ilbert, Rector of Thurlestone from 1839 to 1895. He built the Rectory to house his large family - he had seven sons and two daughters.

The Rectorship of Mr. Ilbert brought to an end the days of "Brandy for the Parson, 'baccy for the Clerk", at least as far as Thurlestone parsons were concerned. Until then smuggling was a great Thurlestone occupation and the Church was heavily involved!

One Thurlestone man, who died in 1900 at the age of 91, told the Rector: "Many and many a time I carried up a ladder as many as 50 barrels of spirits on a dark night and hid them on the top of the roof of the Church porch behind the battlements. Us allus kept the tower door locked them times, lest one should go up and look down over."

The Thurlestone parson used to benefitt by turning a blind eye to this unusual increase in his congregation - but not after the coming of Peregrine Arthur Ilbert. He was offered a keg but "indigmantly refused to accept it".

This didn't stop the smuggling - a favourite landing spot was Yarmer Sands - and it seems that both the men and women of the area were fully involved. Leas Foot was another place for a run, but all routes led to the Church and it seems that the Reverend Ilbert never knew that goods about which he preached such damning sermons were just above his head!

When Mr. Ilbert retired and left the Rectory, he moved up the hill to a barn he converted into the house called Rockhill. Those round windows are the wheels of his wedding coach!

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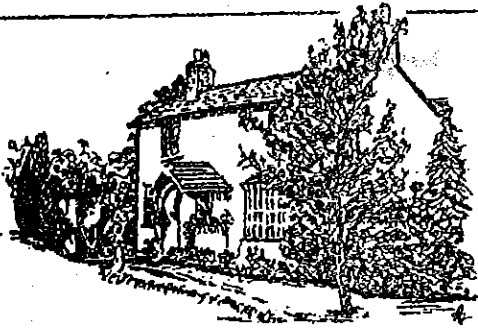
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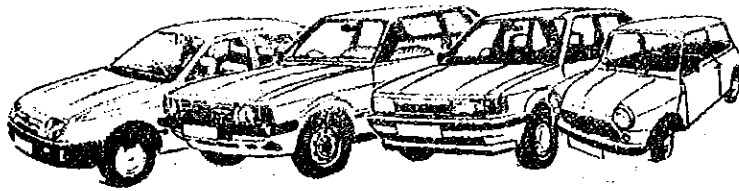
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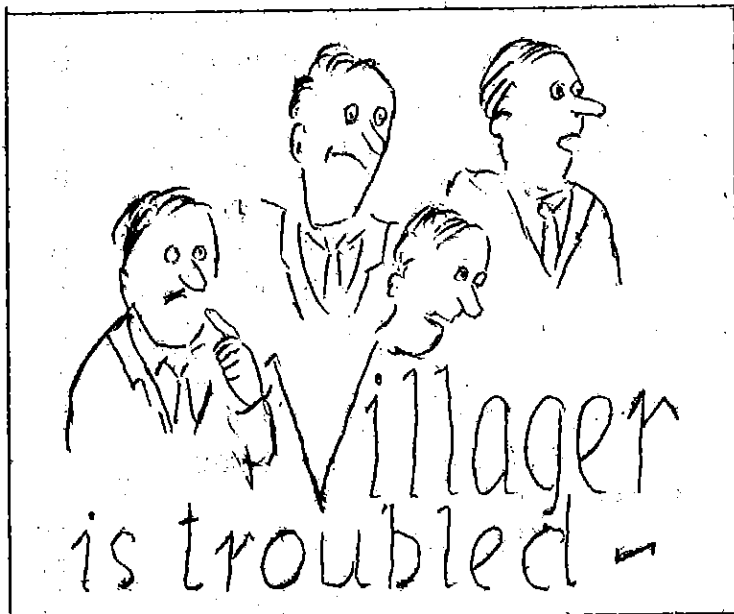
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A FEW READERS may recall the cover picture of the March/April 1984 issue of 'Village Voice'. This depicted a water-skier wrecking a small boat, and was duly ridiculed by all concerned with water skiing on the Avon Estuary at a time when there was considerable local concern regarding the suitability of the estuary for water skiing.

Sadly, many readers will have read of the tragic death of a young girl on Lake Windermere at the beginning of September.

A police spokesman said: "Mr Todd and his wife were in the front of their speedboat, and the children in the stern. They were simply bobbing up and down. Suddenly, from behind them a water-skier appeared. He was travelling at about 40 mph and zig-zagging across the water. His 30ft nylon tow-rope whipped low over the Todd's boat. They all had to duck. Unfortunately, Paula (13) did not see it quickly enough. The rope struck her around the neck and shoulders and she was catapulted into the lake. The water skier was towed by a speedboat crewed by a man and a woman."

Paula died almost immediately.

As Mr T.A.Yates of Chillington wrote to the 'Gazette' (2.9.88) "The sea is a far safer place to ski."

+++++

There happens to be two car parks in West Alvington. Would'nt it be helpful if the A381 through the village could be kept clear. It is not often an 'A' road is permitted to be obstructed by parked cars.

+++++

Did YOU complete your Electoral Registration form? If not you won't have a

vote either national or local. If you were RESIDENT on the 10th October 1988 there is just still time. Contact the Electoral Registration Officer, South Hams District Council, Pollaton House, Totnes. Tel: Totnes (97) 864499.

+++++

If you think parish footpaths are important, or a planning application concerns you, do remember that the Parish Council hold a short Open Forum at every council meeting when parishioners are invited to raise any matter of local concern. The Council meet every six weeks and there are public notices on all the parish notice boards giving you the time and date of the meeting.

+++++

Speaking of footpaths. There are 18 on the present Definitive Footpath Map for the Parish. Do you use them a lot or a little?

+++++

It's amazing what a difference one letter can make to history!

One small boy wrote in his essay about the Spanish Armada:

...when Francis Drake heard about the Armada he was on Plymouth Hoe, not wanting to show any emotion he said: "The Armada can wait. My bowels can't."

And that might just be true!

+++++

A few weeks ago a report from the National Consumer Council revealed that the average British family is now paying some £13 a week extra for its food because of the Common Agricultural Policy, yet year after year the Government has agreed it is mad, wasteful and highly damaging to the British economy. Only the Government can do anything about it - sometime!

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# Broadcasters ask the Parishes

By Nicholas Bull, IBA Regional Executive in Plymouth (With acknowledgement to the Community Council of Devon publication 'Village Green')

---

Wherever you live in Devon you can expect some big changes in television.

September, for example, saw the start of all-night broadcasting in the South West - one of the most significant developments in the region's television since the Independent Broadcasting Authority introduced ITV here in 1961. TSW is now broadcasting through the small hours until TV-am's breakfast service takes over at 6am.

Looking just a little further ahead, even bigger developments are in the offing which the IBA hopes will widen choice for every viewer in the land. First, there is satellite broadcasting and the launch of the first three high power channels next year; and there is also the launch by Channel Four of a breakfast television service. Increasingly we shall also be seeing independent productions on our screens.

These are certainties, but what lies beyond is very uncertain and the questions numerous. In particular, what will be the shape and role of regional television when the contracts of TSW and the 14 other regional ITV companies expire in 1992? Who will be allowed to be ITV contractors? Will there still be a place for public service broadcasting, in which a broad range of programmes are universally available and which are fair and impartial? Will there still be a watchdog for independent television? Will Channel Four continue as at present structured?

All these topics and many more are now open for discussion, as the Government prepares to bring in a new law that will shape the future of independent television in the 1990's. How good a television service we receive for the rest of the century and beyond will depend largely on getting the legislation right, and the IBA wants the interests of viewers to be paramount.

In rural communities television has a special role to play. In South West England, for example, the IBA requires TSW to provide no fewer than seven hours a week of local programmes. In practice they do somewhat more. The result is that local news, sport, weather, farming, arts, industry, horticulture, politics, fishing and much more have a very important niche in the TSW schedule. And when it comes to fundraising the generosity of South West viewers in raising more than £465,000 for the Telethon Appeal underlines the community strength of companies like TSW.

From the earliest days, television has always been seen as being every bit as much the right of rural communities as the post or mains power; and, like post boxes and power lines, television transmitters have been extended even to the most isolated areas, often at considerable cost, because they provide an important service. In Devon alone there are 50 IBA transmitting stations to reach fewer than a million people. Just one IBA transmitter at Crystal Palace reaches many times that number of people in London! More than 99 per cent of people can now receive ITV and Channel Four, and the service is reliable to within a whisker of 100 percent.

There is much talk of having more terrestrial channels - that is, services broadcast from land based masts. We have four such services now - ITV, Channel Four, BBC1 and BBC2 - but it is technically possible to have up to two more channels in some areas. The problem is the limited number of frequencies available and along the south coast, for example, the congestion of broadcast signals is such that the scope for new services is likely to be very restricted indeed.

Concluded overpage:

## Concluding BROADCASTERS ASK THE PARISHES....

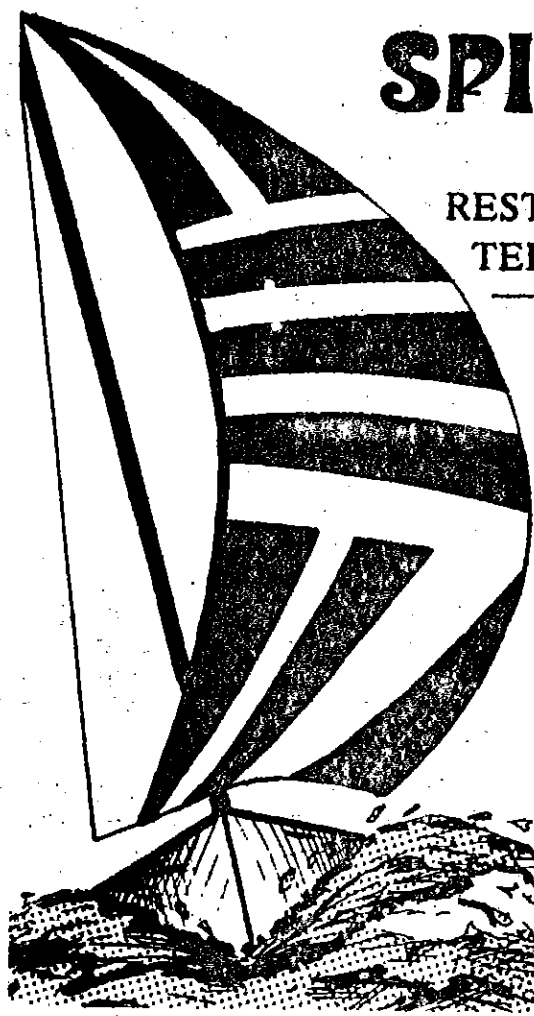
Issues such as these are bound to have considerable consequences for rural areas. Will the parishes have their say? The IBA very much hopes that they and all those concerned about extending and enhancing the television services will put their points of view. There are a number of ways in which the IBA is consulting the public over the coming months. It has published a free Viewers Guide for the benefit of those who are interested in the future of television, and it will be holding a series of meetings and consultations around the country. There will be a consultation in Devon in November for which a limited number of seats will be available. The IBA will also be undertaking widespread research.

But no parish or individual should wait to be asked their views on how television should develop over the next decade. They should write now to the IBA Regional Office at 153 Armada Way, Plymouth, PL1 1HY. For more information about the background to the debate the Viewers Guide is available free on request.

---

### NATIONAL TREE WEEK 26th November to 4th December

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Further details on another page.



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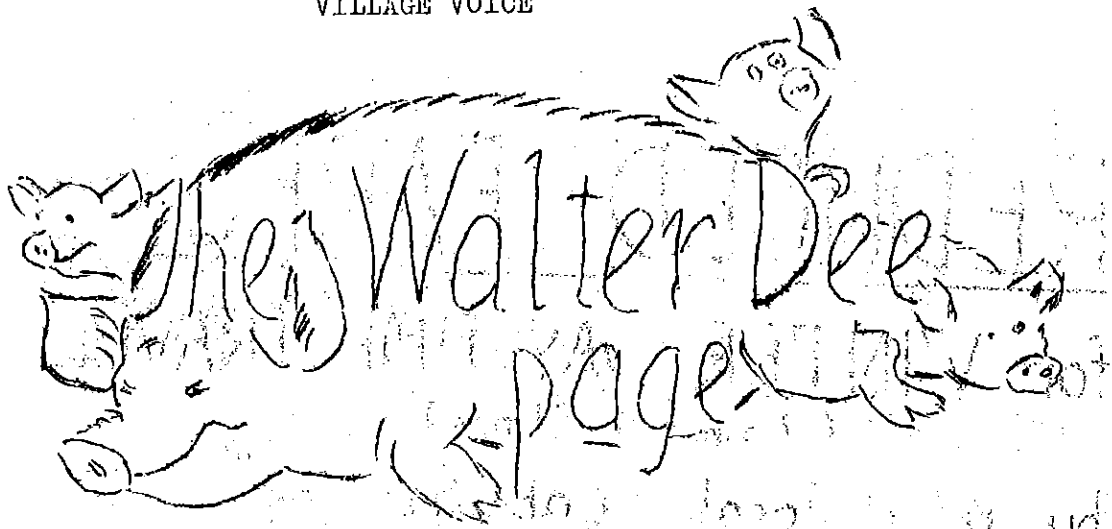
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MEDICAL advances to avoid the rejection of implanted organs like hearts and kidneys, have opened the door to alien spares from species including the pig.

Since the news broke the media has been making a meal of the story!

There will, of course, be a predictable howl of wrath from some animal welfare extremists. Techniques that may avoid the tricky ethical issues of whether a donor human being is actually dead or not must be welcomed with open arms. All reasonable people will welcome programmes which promise to save and improve human life, provided that donor animals, which are bred for slaughter anyway, suffer no pain in the process.

In this contest there would seem little difference between a pig providing a needy person with a spare part - or a pork chop!

\* \* \* \* \*

The conversation had turned to a discussion about District councillors.

First Man: "I consider when folk get elected as councillors and attend their first meeting, they are asked to stand in line and swear allegiance to the Queen after which I feel certain they all get into the first available bus and visit the local hospital to have their conscience removed."

Second Man: "Surely no one with a conscience ever puts up to be a district councillor."

No comment!

\* \* \* \* \*

An adequate supply of pure clean water is something we all consider a prerequisite of all communities, for is not such water our life-blood. The event in August in the Camelford area of North Cornwall must certainly make us wonder about the competence of some echelons of South West Water. I understand aluminium sulphate is used in the filtration system when a coagulant is needed in order to cope with a demand for water beyond the competence of a normal filtration system. What an excess of such a substance might have on health I would not feel competent to say, but I would say we pay more and more every year for our water and I do have to wonder about the competence of South West Water and their lack of immediate communication to the consumers of their product if a serious error in the treatment process has occurred. There is a tendency I feel, for the officials of many public authorities to consider they are a superior race who all too often fail to realise they are public servants paid out of public funds and, therefore, totally accountable to the public they have been appointed to serve.

\* \* \* \* \*

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# The Miracle at Fair Isle

A little cameo of the disastrous aftermath of the famous conflict

Storms of the autumn equinox came early to Scotland in 1588. The remnants of the Armada fleet escaping westwards through the Fair Isle Channel, met the full force of contrary winds as gales surged up from the south-west. It was to keep the most fortunate at sea for months while two of the ships were to perish in Scottish waters: El Gran Grifon came to grief on Fair Isle and the San Juan de Sicilia was blown up in Tobermory Bay to become the celebrated wreck there.

Many of the ships that left Spain on the orders of King Phillip II were Mediterranean-built and unfit for northern weather. Vessels from the Baltic like El Gran Grifon were better suited to the Atlantic, but were, in fact, converted merchantmen, not made to withstand the fire of purpose-built fighting ships or more than the occasional use of their own guns. The 650-ton El Gran Grifon was under the command of Captain Juan Gomez de Medina. Built in Rostock as part of the Hanseatic merchant fleet, she carried 43 sailors and 243 soldiers. By the time she was level with the Forth, biscuits, wine and water were rationed.

When the main body of the fleet passed through the Fair Isle Channel on 20th August 1588 El Gran Grifon and three other vessels had already fallen behind. When the Barca Amburg foundered southwest of Fair Isle, Medina accepted half her men. Shortly after the Grifon parted from its companions, the Trinidad Valencera was wrecked on the Donegal coast and the Castello Negro had vanished without trace.

Medina had been unable to repair the damage that his ship had suffered in battle, and on the 7th September, a storm opened up the ship's seams and it was restricted to sailing before the wind while the pumps were in continuous use. Three days later, El Gran Grifon was off St Kilda. Not long after, it had reached the latitude of Galway Bay only to be driven back to St Kilda. On 23rd September, Captain Medina tried to make the mainland, but almost ended up on the shores of North Ronaldsay. On the 27th, at two o'clock in the afternoon, the beleaguered vessel anchored off Fair Isle. All supplies had gone and there was no food, wine or water.

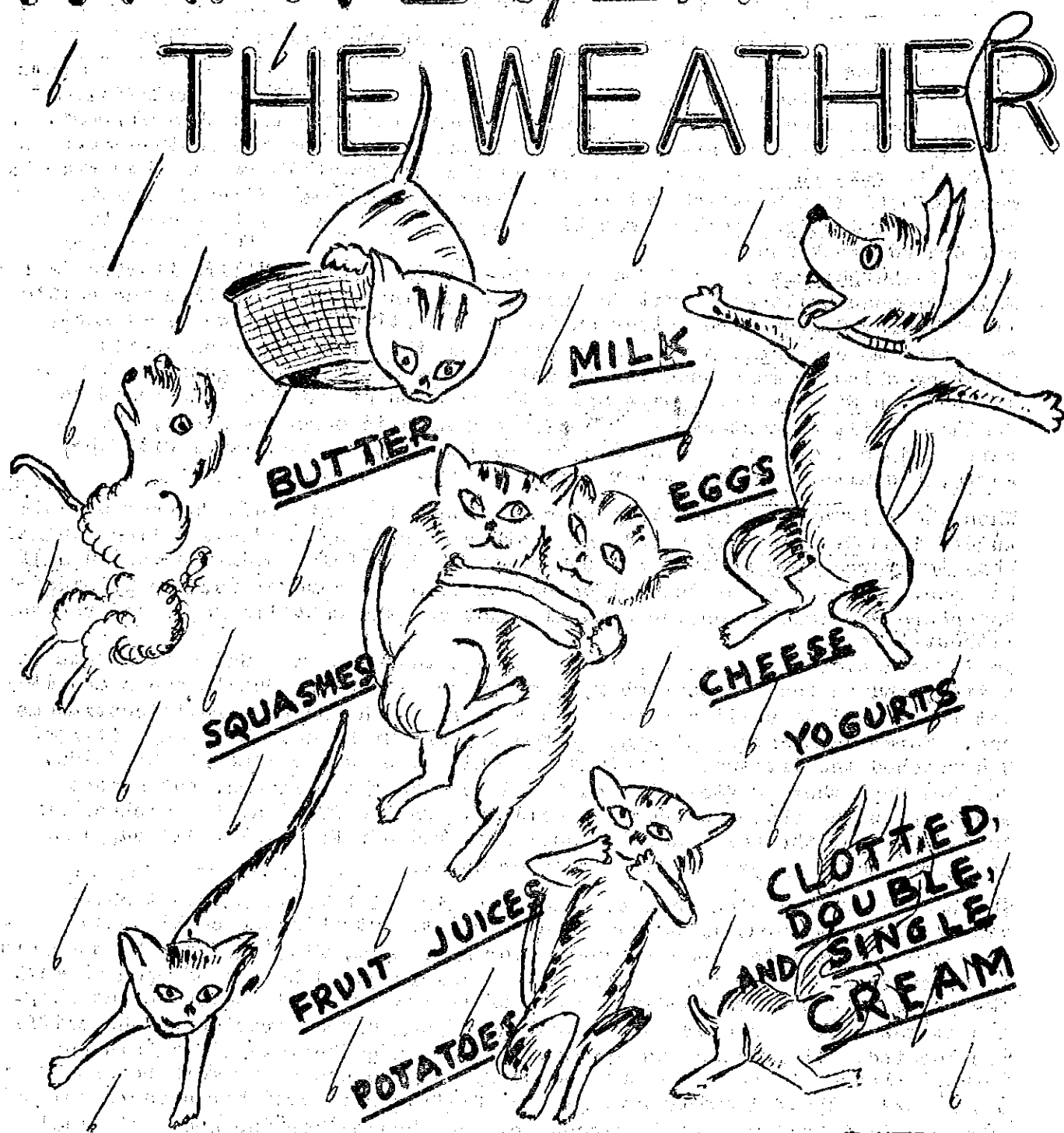
The people of the island had seen nothing like it before. Baltic trading vessels did not normally arouse much interest, but this one continually poured out more water than it could ever have held, flowing from the scuppers in a never ending stream. While the soldiers could be relied upon to work the pumps, the sailors needed a rest before repairs could begin on the ship. A boat was sent to explore the coast and a long narrow crevice in the cliffs was located. It is known as Swartz Geo and Medina decided to run his ship into it, beach at the inner end and carry out the necessary work before moving on. The following day, El Gran Grifon recovered her anchors and set enough sail to allow room to manoeuvre. She headed for the geo, but tidal conditions were not the same as when the boat had explored it. As the ship prepared to enter it safe, if temporary haven, a fierce tide race swept it past the entrance and on to Stroms Hellier where the vessel became jammed between the cliff and an underwater reef.

To an onlooker from the shore who knew these treacherous waters this action may well have seemed deliberate, so what then happened was nothing less than a miracle. The ship stuck fast and remained upright. Men climbed the rigging, walked along a yard and stepped on to the cliff.

Three hundred Spaniards landed on Fair Isle. The captain and the officers, both mariners and military, looked splendid in silks, fine clothes and jewels. Even the ordinary sailors and soldiers wore far finer clothes than the men of Fair Isle had ever seen, while to the Spaniards, the islanders must have seemed like pagan savages.

Concluded overpage:

# WHATEVER THE WEATHER



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## Concluding 'THE MIRACLE OF FAIR ISLE'

The 17 families on the island lived in half buried houses and existed on a diet of fish and barley meal bannocks baked in the embers of their peat fires. They supplemented this diet with sea birds, milk and butter, and towards the end of the year, meat from surplus cattle and sheep.

It must have been very difficult for them to find sufficient food for the crew and passengers of El Gran Grifon, but they sold them what meat and meal they could afford - probably more than was prudent. The Spanish paid generously, but winter lay ahead so the inhabitants hid the stock and stores necessary to carry them forward to the next harvest while they redoubled their efforts at fishing and catching sea birds. Fifty Spaniards died, probably as much from wounds and shipboard disease as from hunger. They were buried together in a corner of the island still known as the Spaniards Grave.

It was the end of October before the storms abated enough for a boat to sail to Orkney with news of the wreck. Andrew Humphrey of Burn arranged for the Spaniards to be taken to Orkney. It was the end of November before the Spaniards set sail again, probably continuing under the patronage of Humphrey of Burn. Medina made no mention of the vessels that carried them, but from their destination it can be assumed that they were a mixture of coasters and fishing boats.

On 6th December 1588, James Melville, the minister of Anstruther, in Fife, was awakened with the news that Spaniards had arrived in the harbour overnight. He called a public meeting at the Tolbooth where Captain Juan Gomez de Medina asked for asylum and relief. Gomez and the officers were entertained by the laird while townspeople took care of the others. Two hundred AND sixty soldiers and sailors could far more easily be accommodated in the prosperous port than on impoverished Fair Isle. The youthfulness of many brought out the best in Anstruther folk and the arrivals were fed on porridge, kale and fish. The Spaniards were later shipped across the Forth to Edinburgh to be feted by the Catholic community there.

(Adapted from 'The Armada in Scotland' by Robert Baptie in the 'Scots Magazine' - the World's Oldest Popular Periodical First published in 1739)

## =====

## Good Companions

WHY some plants should be more beneficial to others when planted together in a neighbourly fashion is not really known. But many gardeners believe that complementary planting aids growth and is useful in the unending battle against pests and diseases. Some individual plants are singled out for their effectiveness and the most popular of these is the marigold, especially the French marigold (*Tagetes patula*) and the African marigold (*Tagetes erecta*). Both these varieties are claimed to be beneficial to the growth of potatoes and tomatoes.

Tomatoes may also benefit from the proximity of basil and nasturtium. Other combinations the gardener may wish to try are: onions; carrots; beans; cabbages; potatoes; sweetcorn; potatoes; horseradish; lettuce; radish; celeriac; leeks; roses; garlic.

It could be that there are good chemical reasons for all this; perhaps one companion extracts a certain amount of trace elements or particular food from the soil, leaving the other plants an abundance of what it, in its turn most relishes. It could also be that the odour of things like basil and onions keeps away particular insects that would normally attack their companion plants.

VILLAGER

The soul is dyed the colour of its leisure thoughts - said DEAN INGE

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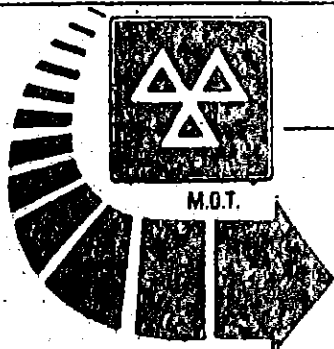
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## THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

1988 saw the fifteenth anniversary of the Devon Free Tree Scheme. From small beginnings in 'Plant a Tree Year 1973' when a few hundred trees were personally delivered to applicants' homes, the scheme has now spread its branches wide. Today, over 25,000 broadleaf trees are given away annually absolutely free to applicants who often drive 60 miles to Exeter to collect them.

The aim of the scheme is to attempt to replace some of the County's trees which are lost annually, at no expense to the planter. Only native or near native trees are on offer. Don't come to us for pink flowering cherries or purple-leaved maples.

There are fifteen species provided - ash, lime, beech, oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore, willow, alder, hornbeam, birch, wild cherry, whitebeam, poplar, field maple and rowan. Try and choose

just two or three varieties to make up your allocation of up to 25 trees, especially if you are planting up a field corner or a hedgebank. Nothing looks more unnatural (or betrays a greater lack of tree knowledge) than a scheme filled with ones or twos of every species on offer! Try and select trees that do well in your area, not trees that you cannot find in the locality.

To qualify, an applicant must live in the open countryside and be planting trees that in time will be visible to the general public. In return for Devon County Council providing trees ('whips' three to four feet high) and rabbit guards, the applicant must sign an undertaking to fence trees off from livestock, to keep trees well weeded (and watered) over the first three years and be prepared to reimburse the County for the cost of the trees if he neglects them. Where failures occur naturally the applicant may apply for replacement. Some people apply for further trees each year.

Please note that only one application may be made per year or per shared household. The scheme is not open to town dwellers, and inhabitants of the two National Parks must apply to those authorities, which run their own schemes.

Advice on species choice and maintenance accompanies the application form which may be obtained from County Hall, (Property Department) Exeter 77977 and from some District Council Planning Departments. Should anyone wish to plant larger numbers of trees involving considerable expense, Bob O'Bryen, County Council Forestry Officer can give detailed advice, pay a site visit, and also advise on grant aid. Next year Devon County Council will be celebrating its centenary - 1889-1989. with Plant a County Council centenary tree!

You must contact the County Forestry Officer at County Hall, Exeter or telephone the number quoted.

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# Sense and Nonsense

The secret of long life is to have many birthdays !

+ + + +

A study of Police Records shows that no woman has ever shot her husband while he was washing the dishes !

+ + + +

## The 1988 version of an old Carol

On the Twelfth day of Christmas  
The Taxman sent to me,

12 Bills for payment,  
11 Last Reminders,  
10 Cheques for signing,  
9 Forms for filling,  
8 Large Policemen,  
7 V.A.T. Men,  
6 Burly bailiffs,  
5 High Court Writs,  
4 Tax Returns,  
3 More Bills,  
2 Summonses,  
and a refund for 21p.  
Merry Christmas.

+ + + +

Leading scientists have criticised the misleading messages about 'Natural' foodstuffs.

Foremost among the critics at the recent British Association for the Advancement of Science conference at Oxford was Emeritus Professor, Arnold Bender. He disputed claims made on behalf of organically grown foods for nutritional superiority, better taste, or even greater environmental safety.

Ever since the Food Standards Committee in 1966 sought to curb the term 'natural' there had been an increase in terms such as 'traditional', 'Mother Nature', 'Nature's Way', 'Natural goodness', and 'naturally better'.

Natural yogurt simply meant unflavoured while naturally stabilised wheat germ was claimed as a natural source of protein as though there were no other source. Laws might be required to prevent unwarranted claims that food products were 'natural' he said.

If food labelling was to protect and enlighten customers then why exclude the natural produce and include only the desirable while concealing the undesirable qualities.

He cited as an example the kind of labelling which should be attached to an apple: 83.4% water, 11.8% sugar, 23% waste, little protein, little energy, no vitamins other than C and not much of that, low in sodium - 2mg (good) low in calcium - 4mg (bad), 3mg iron (so-so), 1mg zinc (poor), dietary fibre 2 mg (not bad), only a trace of fat (good).

FARMER'S WEEKLY 23.9.88

## FOOTPATHS

You may recall Village Voice reported on a High Court Case where the judge ruled in favour of the Ramblers' Association - a judgement which meant that it would no longer be possible to bring historical evidence to show that footpaths and bridleways were incorrectly marked or drawn in error on the definitive map held by county councils. New legislation may eventually clear the way to settle footpath disputes. The government will amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act as soon as parliamentary time is available. There is unlikely to be room in this year's Queen's Speech - so next year is a possibility.

## ARTHRITIS victims turn to CODFATHER

Dale Alexander is known as 'The Codfather' because of his unshakeable belief that the world's population should swallow a table spoonful of cod liver oil half an hour before breakfast every morning. "If you take it shaken up well in milk so that it creates a million tiny globules its stops tasting nasty and becomes really yummy," he says. Beg, buy or borrow his book - "Arthritis and Common Sense". Paperback - Cedar Press at £3.95.

## TIMES DON'T CHANGE...

"From the sixth of August those preceding were baptized by me; which with the present, are years of blood and confusion both in Church and State not only in this kingdom but in Ireland, the judgements of God setting themselves in array that none knoweth by reason of the present misery what to expect but utter ruin, if God stops not the ferment.

"This is for our sins, lukewarmness, spiritual pride, contempt of God's messengers, and open profaneness.

"This I write, that when God sends a blessed calm those who succeed me here might faithfully admonish the Lord's flock of these horrid sins, that all men follow their calling and seek to know what is fitting for their soul's health, to seek and pray for the peace of Church and Commonwealth, lest they plunge themselves and their posterities into the like dreadful calamities. The Lord look in mercy on us.

"Written this present April 22, anno 1644.

JOHN ROBINSON

Minister of Malborough."

Malborough Church appears to have closed for 20 years about this time.

Anagram answers: 1, Bideford. 2, Exeter. 3, Paignton. 4, Tiverton. 5, Dawlish. 6, Plymouth. 7, Crediton. 8, Tavistock. 9, Ashburton. 10, Princetown. 11, Barnstable. 12, Moretonhampstead. 13, Okehampton. 14, Teignmouth. 15, Newton Abbot. 16, Ilfracombe. 17, Honiton. 18, Holsworthy. 19, Appledore. 20, Buckfastleigh.

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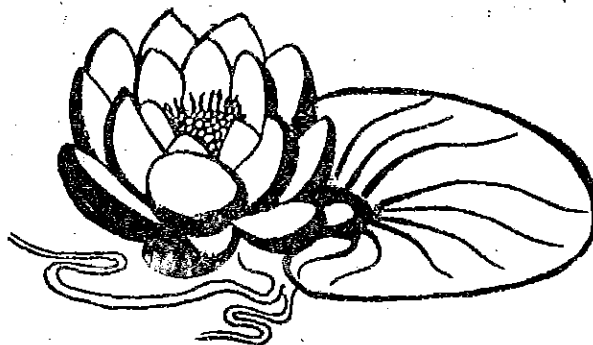
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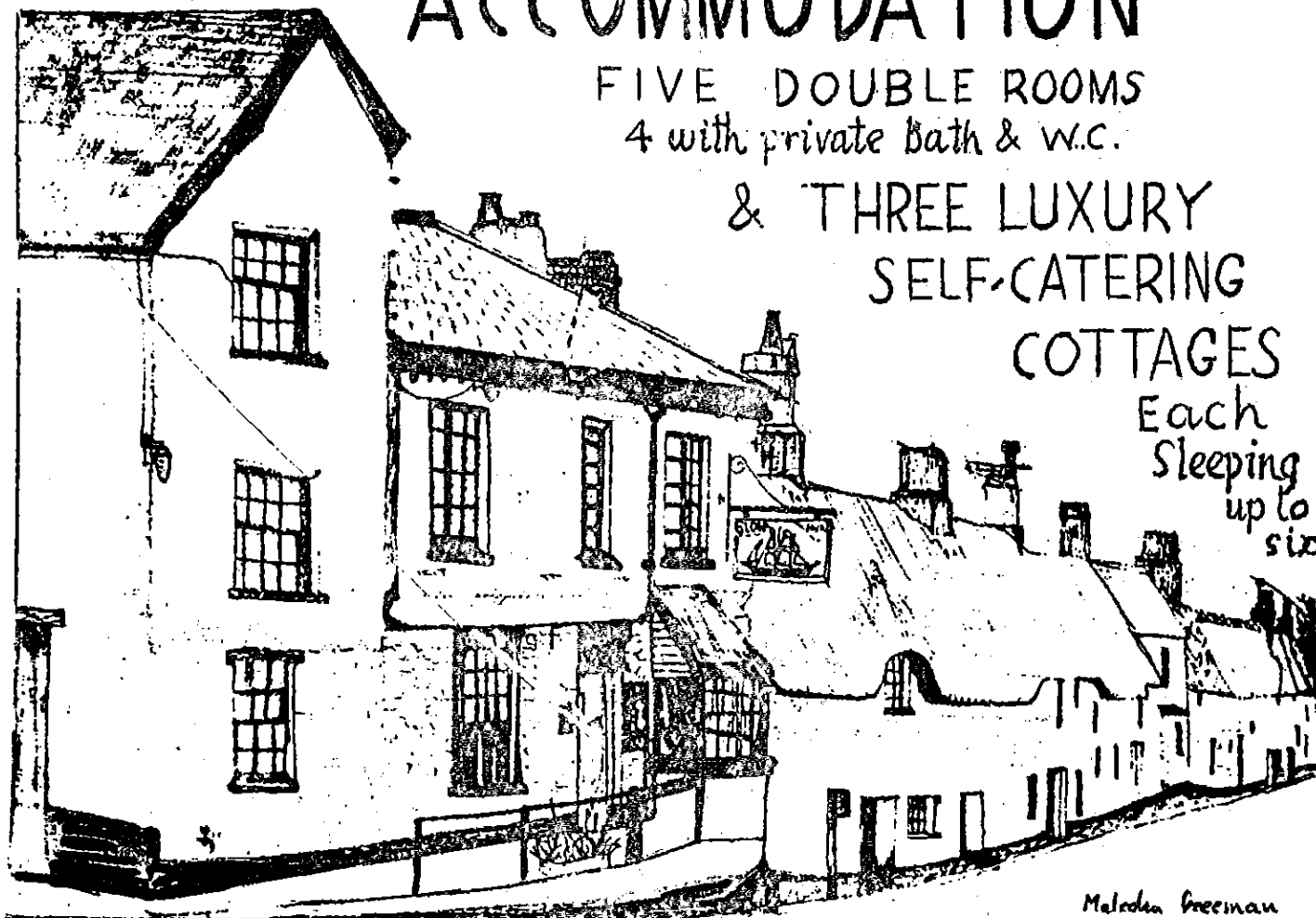
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