

Thurlestone Parish

VILLAGE VOICE

MAY JUNE 1989



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THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

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Thurlestone Parish Council

Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of BURWOOD GALLERY, Thurlestone

Number 38. Seventh year of publication. MAY-JUNE, 1989.

WE ARE, AS NO DOUBT YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED, keen to preserve the best of our ancient traditions. So we take a modest pride in telling you that a Thurlestone tradition which dates back to 1536 may well be restored to the village this year and that this magazine has helped in that restoration.

When you read on, you will come to the Church House Story (which we have headed "Fair Exchange - for a pair of gloves") and there you will discover why a pair of gloves were placed on the altar of Thurlestone Church on All Saints Day each year for hundreds of years. Now we hear that the Rector is considering restoring that tradition to the village.

Only problem is that the gloves used in this ancient ceremony probably crumbled to dust long, long ago. Certainly our most diligent enquiries have failed to trace those in use between the two World Wars. So it seems that in addition to reminding you to give generously to the fund for the restoration of the Church organ, we must also ask someone to supply a pair of sixteenth century gloves. Needlewomen of the parish unite! We cannot afford to lose this piece of Thurlestone's past for the sake of a stitch in time!

A FAIR EXCHANGE

(for a pair of gloves!)

IF THERE ARE A PAIR OF GLOVES ON THE ALTAR OF THURLESTONE CHURCH ON ALL SAINT'S DAY IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, THEN THE INHABITANTS OF CHURCH HOUSE COTTAGES SHOULD BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF.

If the gloves aren't there, well then the Rector could enter their cottages and take a few of their prized possessions to the value of that pair of gloves - for those gloves were, in fact, the rent for the land on which Church House stands in the village.

However, those who live in Church House cottages have nothing to fear. It is highly doubtful if those ancient powers still remain with the Rector, and if they did, is Peter Stephens the sort of man to go breaking down cottage doors? We doubt it and we have it on good authority that he is not in need of a pair of gloves. Well, not at present.

The story of that pair of gloves and Thurlestone's Church House, which runs from just below the Nook to within a house of the Old Rectory gates, is fascinating and completely unknown to so many who pass by. For unless you know who would guess that once those stout walls enclosed a hall specially designed to contain the villagers' robust merry-making!

For in the Middle Ages, that is from about 1000 to 1400 AD, the parishioners of Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland, took their pleasures very seriously and the churchyard was the place that they took them. Fairs were held in the churchyard after many a religious festival. And so wild did the merry-making become that sometimes the Rector would be shocked to find his parishioners dancing and singing pagan songs in the very Church itself!

Not that this problem was confined to rural resorts such as Thurlestone. This sort of desecration of churches, usually no more than harmless fun resulting from an over indulgence in ale or cider, became so widespread that in the 15th or 16th centuries, the Church, as a matter of policy, encouraged the building near the Church of a "Church House" where the revelry could be held without "irreverence to the House of God".

In the Church Houses, the revelries became something more than the drunken aftermath of a village fair. Now the merry-making was well organised. And it is probable that the parish festivities in Thurlestone's Church House followed the same pattern as those in Cornwall and described like this in 1602:

"Two young men of the parish are yearly chosen by their last foregoers to be wardens; who, dividing the task, make collection among the parishioners of whatsoever provision it pleaseth them voluntarily to bestow. This they employ in brewing and baking against Whitsuntide: upon which holidays the neighbours meet at the Church House, and there merrily feed on their own victuals, each contributing some petty portion to the stock, which, by many smalls, groweth to a meetly greatness; for there is entertained a kind of emulation between these wardens, who, by his graciousness in gathering, and good husbandry in expending, can best advance the church's profit."

It all sounds rather like a modern "bottle party", but it wasn't confined just to Thurlestone parishioners. People from neighbouring parishes came over and joined in the fun. "The afternoons are consumed in such exercises as old and young folk (having leisure) do accustomedly wear out the time withal. When the feast is ended, the wardens yield in their accounts to the parishioners; and such money as exceedeth the disbursement is laid up in store, to defray any extraordinary charges arising in the parish..."

The Church House policy all seems to have gone rather well, for in the 17th century another writer tells us: "In every Parish is (or was) a Church House, to which belonged spits, crocks and utensils for dressing provision. There the housekeepers met and were merry and gave their charity. The young people were there too, and had dancing, bowling, shooting at butts, the ancients sitting gravely by and looking on. All things were civil and without scandal".

Mind you, not everyone agreed with the Church House concept. The Puritans were much against. But most of the Church approved the idea of keeping revelry away from the Church, off the streets, out of temptation and into the Church House. The Bishop of Bath and Wells, for example, wrote to Archbishop Laud in 1633 pointing out that if people couldn't hold their feasts in the Church Houses they would go into "tippling houses" and that the money raised was "by the benevolence of the people at their honest sports and pastimes; at which there hath not been observed so much disorder as is commonly at fairs and markets".

Getting revelry out of the churchyard and into a Church House in Thurlestone started on June 16, 1536. On that day - the deeds still exist - Richard Worth, Rector of Thurlestone, gave a piece of Church land belonging to the rectory of "Thorleston" 66 feet long by 24 feet wide "between the tenement in which John Yeoman now lives on the east and his (the rector's) land on south and west and the highway on the north, to hold to them and their heirs for ever, for the purpose of building a house for the convenience of all the parishioners".

The trustees of this land were David Stepheyn, Robert Cornysse, John Rogger, and John Birdwoode. On behalf of the parishioners they agreed in exchange each year to get a priest to pray for the Rector and the Bishop and to render to the Rector and his successors on the Feast of All Saints each year a pair of gloves which were to be placed on the high altar with a copy of the deed. The Rector was given the power of "entry and distress" if this was not done.

There is no record of any Rector having to break in and snatch the parishioners possessions. But for 303 years without a break that pair of gloves appeared on the high altar on All Saints' Day.

The Church House story concluded.3.

The gloves were placed there by the churchwardens, but the practice died out when Peregrine Arthur Ilbert became Rector in 1839, simply because nobody told him about it. The tradition was resumed when Frank Egerton Coope became Rector in 1897 and continued until at least until his retirement in 1922.

Church House Thurlestone was originally built of stone and was roofed with slate, later part of it was thatched. It was still a hall until 1649 when Charles I was executed, but not long after that the Puritans put down the feasting in Church Houses, in fact abolished their use for parish meetings. The Church Houses at Churchstow and Stokenham, for example, were changed into inns and that in Thurlestone was divided up into dwellings by building several walls (repair work on the building fairly recently showed that the dividing walls were later additions as they were not tied in to the outer walls). When Charles II came to the Throne in 1660, the Church House in Thurlestone remained as dwellings, and, except for a short period as a Poorhouse, has remained so ever since.

One of the buttresses of the original building is clear to see at the east end of the House. Not so clear on that buttress is the figure of an angel holding a shield on which are the arms of the Aysshefords, one of whom, Nicholas, was a patron of the Rector at the time of the original grant of the land. The decoration on the buttress is fast crumbling away but for the record you might like to know that the Ayssheford arms were "Argent between two chevrons sable, three ashen keys proper". If you want to know what that means I suggest you consult someone who knows about heraldry!

Incidentally, it seems that the ceremony of the gloves is responsible for Thurlestone Church being dedicated to All Saints. The original dedication of Thurlestone Church is unknown. So, taking as evidence the fact that the gloves were to be presented each year on All Saints' Day, when the Church was re-dedicated in 1904 after extensive renovation, the Bishop did so in honour of All Saints.

KENDALL McDONALD.

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

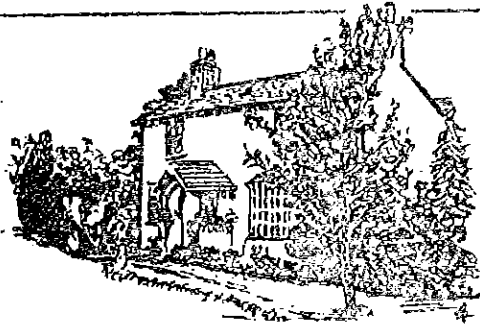
WATCH IT! WATCH IT!

"Since last year's newsletter, signs announcing the by-law and speed limit marker buoys were erected by the South Hams District Council. The round buoys proved unsatisfactory and have been replaced by square buoys which show the 8 knot speed limit clearly and which remain upright at low tide.

"Some infringements of the by-laws have been observed such as more than the permitted number of boats skiing at one time, and skiing taking place outside the designated area. If you see any boat, numbered or unnumbered, contravening the by-laws please report it to the SHDC and to Mr. Cater at Bantham."

— from the Spring 1989 Newsletter of the Aune Conservation Association, Burnt House, Buckland, Kingsbridge, Devon.

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The South Devon Breed of Cattle



NEVILLE C. OSWALD

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This review is written primarily for the benefit of those readers who do not know the difference between a steer and a heifer and that included me until recently (for the record, a steer is a castrated bull and a heifer is a young female). We should know something about South Devon cattle for they are all over the place throughout South Devon east of the Teign, up the Tamar as far as Tavistock and into the greater part of Cornwall. They are reddish brown and the largest of all English breed; indeed, they are enormous. They have existed in their present form for two hundred years and their forebears were around for centuries before that.

The influences that were eventually combined to produce the red cattle of Devon may be enunciated, but the significance of most of them is obscure. Archaeological evidence shows that cattle inhabited the county as long ago as 6,000 B.C. Later, forest clearings and enclosures near water have been attributed to the raising of cattle and other livestock. When the Romans came in AD 43 they brought their whitish cattle with them from Italy which are rather similar to the Wild White Park Cattle that still exist in Britain in small numbers. The Vikings brought large cattle and, by the time the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086, there were cattle all over Britain, largely as a result of the farming skills of the Anglo-Saxons, including a concentration in the South Hams.

In the medieval period, roughly 1066 to 1500, cattle made an important contribution to the economy; they pulled the ploughs and supplied milk and beef. They were on large estates and manors; around here and at Kingsbridge,

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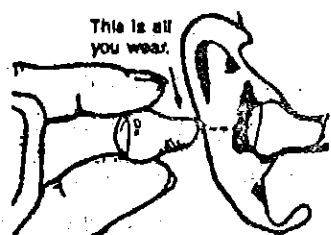
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VILLAGE VOICE

THE SOUTH DEVON BREED OF CATTLE - continuation

they were mainly administered from Buckland Abbey until the Dissolution in 1537. A similar number were maintained in small holdings by simple country folk. Whatever the appearance of the local herds may have been, and we do not know for certain, they must have mingled with the small black cattle of Cornwall and, with maritime trade, have been crossed from time to time with breeds from the Continent and the Channel Islands. Colour was not all that important in those days, but the Red Bull of Tavistock is much quoted; it was given to the Abbey in 1366 as a heriot or death duty, but we just do not know how many other red cattle there were in the county at that time.

During the years 1500 to 1800, the characteristics of various breeds gradually became recognisable. Devon came to be associated with red cattle which developed into two quite different breeds over the years, namely the North Devons usually known as Devons and sometimes as Red Rubies and the South Devons, previously known for a time as South Hammers, where they existed in their greatest numbers. The Devons were a muscular small breed, ideal for ploughing and supplying high quality meat; they were about half the size of modern Devons. They have been pure bred at least since the early 1700s and, concentrated especially around Barnstaple, they soon found their way into Somerset where they were fattened and sent on to London. Many were exported to the new colonies in America, especially Virginia and the Carolinas.

Cattle were taken to New England in the Mayflower in 1620 and more in the following years; whether they were Devons as has commonly been reported or the predecessors of South Devons is uncertain; as most of the ships going to New England left from Plymouth, the local stock would seem to be the more likely.

By the last years of the 1700s, South Devons had established themselves as a breed. They were powerfully built, they supplied rich milk and good beef and were the mainstay behind the ploughshares until well into the 1800s. With the Napoleonic wars at their height, they were relied on as the chief source of meat and dairy products for the Royal Navy and the population of Plymouth. Yet they were by no means uniform in their appearance due to lack of attention and even carelessness in breeding. They had by then ousted the black bullocks of Cornwall, but had not quite achieved the plain red of their successors. They found little favour outside South Devon and Cornwall. Contemporary accounts were by no means flattering. The breed was thought to be 'in the course of manufacture' and was 'looked upon as a mongrel'; the carcase 'more of the fourpenny and less of the ninepenny beef'. The breed evidently had a long way to go.

During the 19th century the South Devons gradually consolidated their reputation.

OVERPAGE:-



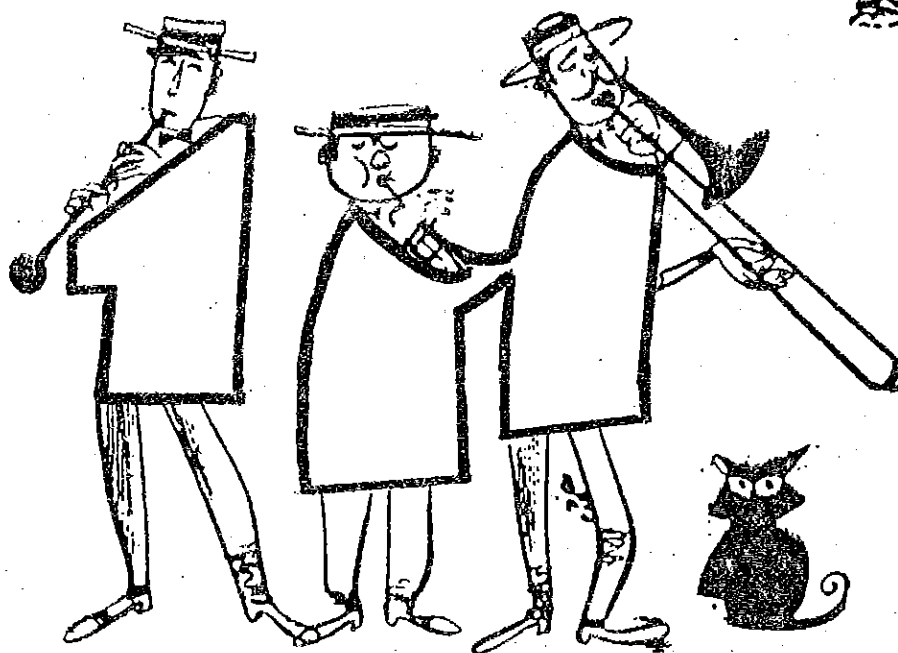
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THE SOUTH DEVON BREED OF CATTLE continued:

Whilst Herefords, Shorthorns and Aberdeen Angus dominated beef breeds over most of the country, South Devons retained the confidence, whether by pride or habit, of their local breeders; for beef they almost matched the most popular breeds and their milk, although irregular in volume, was rich and was supplemented at times by admixture with cattle from the Channel Islands. When the Royal Show visited Plymouth for the first time in 1865, the Senior Steward thought them to be 'useful as a farmer's stock and more likely to pay the rent than the more elegant Devons'. The Show returned to Plymouth in 1890 and by then the South Devons had been much improved through careful selection. Milk yield had risen to about 5 pints a day, a volume that was unsurpassed by other breeds at the time. Further the 'full-grown bull filled the eye at once and looked like a veritable giant compared with the neat and compact little Devon ones'. The improvements were formally recognised when the first edition of the annual South Devon Herdbook was published in 1891.

(to be continued)

....1988: A spokesman for the Television Licensing Authority said: "We have discouraged the incentive scheme whereby prizes were given to those of our employees who brought the greatest number of prosecutions for non-possession of a licence, after two cases were brought against members of the public who were blind."

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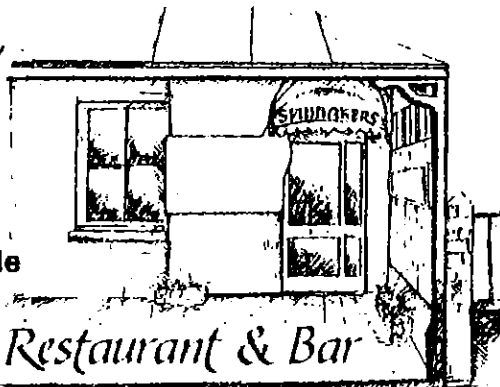
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On Thursday 4th May 1989 between the hours of 8 am and 9 pm. you will be able to cast your vote in the DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

On Thursday 15th June 1989 - this time between the hours of 7 am and 10 pm. you should have the opportunity to vote for a candidate in the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. At the time of writing this column there has been no announcement of who may be standing in either of these elections, and far be it from me to offer any suggestions other than perhaps to ask any candidate if he stands to support and serve the interests of the community or tow a 'party line' !

+ + + + +

I believe it was Shakespeare (though I stand to be corrected) - who wrote the line: "Present fears are less than horrible imaginings" although I have no doubt in quoting the words written by Lord Acton in 1887 to Bishop Mandell Creighton: "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power. corrupts absolutely."

There is none who can question that the government have absolute power, but regrettably do not appear to accept that to privatise that life sustaining fluid that falls from the heavens must surely be classified as an absolute corruption of that power.

I am more than a little troubled also about people who are unable to pay their water bill being arbitrarily cut off. You can survive just about six days without water. Will the government, I wonder, establish a privatised undertaking service for the poor souls who cannot pay. After all, if you don't pay for your gas or electricity you are cut off. Without water it would be another kind of cut off !

+ + + + +

Bideford town councillor Peter Christie is reported as saying: "I was quite staggered to discover the proportion of holiday homes in villages. The present situation without any forms of control can only worsen local housing problems." I must express surprise he has only just become aware of a situation that is overwhelming rural communities, forcing the younger generation to move out of their village and preventing any of them returning. In Denmark they ban houses becoming holiday homes without permission from local councils if they have been in continuous occupation for the previous five years. This idea has already won the backing in this country of the Countryside Commission, The Royal Town Planning Institute, the Town and Country Planning Association and the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Devon 'Greens' say local authorities should be allowed to control the amount of homes being taken out of local circulation and ownership.

Those who stop to think will realise that if parishes have no housing for the younger generation, eventually you just have an aged population and - holiday homes .

+ + + + +

Perhaps there is another answer ! Augustus the Strong, the Elector of Saxony who was elected King of Poland in 1697, is believed to have fathered more than 300 children though only one of his sons was legitimate.

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Bantham Sailing Club was held in the Sloop Inn, Bantham, on March 24.

The Secretary reported that 1988 had been a successful season in spite of the fact that the number of sailing races able to take place were seriously curtailed due to adverse tides and those races scheduled to take place at sea had to be cancelled because of bad weather.

The Regatta had also been split into two weekends due to the tides. Over 40 boats took part in the sailing events with visitors from Salcombe Yacht Club sweeping the board in the fast handicap. All the other fun events were well supported and the Treasure Hunt organised by John Grant, Mike Maguire and Roger Smith was voted the hit of the whole weekend.

The annual charity event was also threatened by the weather, but Gill and Tony Goddard and Celia and Michael Toll kindly came to the rescue by allowing the Club to use their boathouse on the quay, thereby turning what had threatened to be a damp and dismal failure into a roaring success, which resulted in the Club being able to donate £450 to the Ocean Youth Club to sponsor under-privileged youngsters from the South West for a week's sailing tuition during 1989.

Five young men and women from as far apart as Chard and Falmouth had been sponsored in 1988 and had written glowing reports of their exploits and experiences during trips across the Channel to Guernsey and Brittany, so it was agreed to continue fund raising in 1989 with a similar type of event.

The following Committee members were re-elected: Mr. Edward Ridgway, Commodore; Mr. Hugh Cater, Vice-Commodore; Mrs. Marilyn Cater, Hon. Secretary; and Dr. Myles McNulty, committee member.

The Club would welcome anyone interested in membership. There is a Club boat available for anyone who wished to learn to sail, the tides are more favourable this year, and the Regatta will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

MARILYN CATER. Hon. Secretary (560593).

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL.

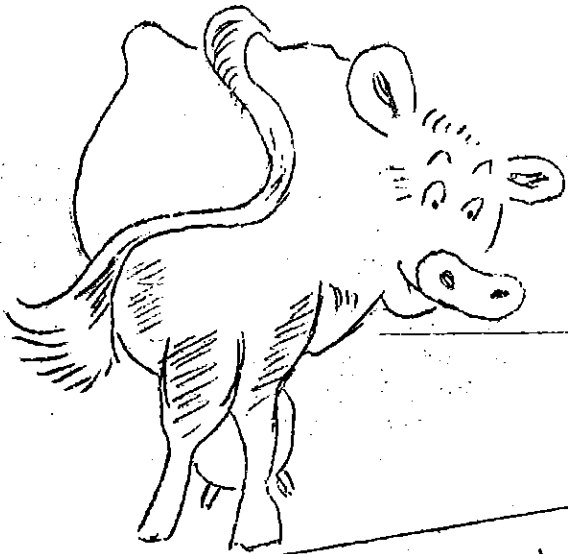
DON'T FORGET THE AGM ON MONDAY, MAY 15, at 7.30 p.m.!

This is your time to put forward your ideas for the improvement of the Hall. Improvements don't just happen, they result from ideas put forward by those using the hall. They also require the support and help of a large number of villagers. So come and have your say.

As many of you are already aware the income received from those using the Car Park contributes to the general running expenses of the Hall and helps, admittedly in a small way, to keep the hiring costs down. The car park is only free to those attending some function at the hall or as otherwise agreed in the interests of road safety etc. For residents there is a special and very reasonable fee payable annually on April 1. If you feel an additional parking space (CARS ONLY) would be useful, have a word at Hilltop"

D.M. YEOMAN (560300)

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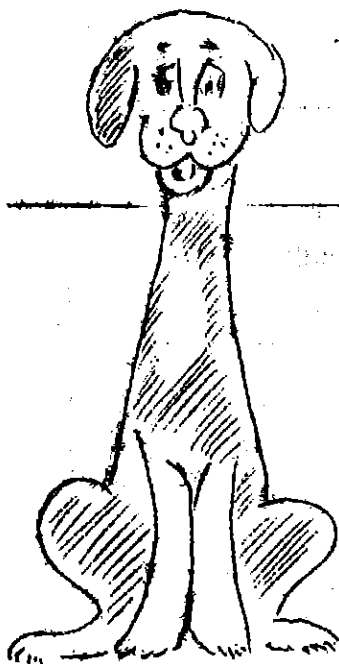
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Drabblemania

Sociologist Theodore Greenstein reckons that the best bet for a girl looking for a long and happy marriage is a farmer. Worst bets he declares are journalists, painters, soldiers, construction workers and nurses. !

+ + + + +

Sign on a footpath by the River Kennet in Marlborough
-" Permissive Path: Parsons using this path do so entirely at their own risk!"

+ + + + +

When you awake in a morning not feeling too happy about your health or your wealth, just take a look out of your window:

I see trees of green,
red roses too,
I see them bloom for me and you,
and I think to myself
What a Wonderful World.

I see skies of blue and clouds of white,
the bright blessed day after the dark sacred night,
and I think to myself
What a Wonderful World.

The colours of the rainbow,
so pretty in the sky
are also on the faces of people going by.
I see friends shakin' hands,
saying "How do you do!"
They're really saying "I love you",
I hear babies cry,
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
and I think to myself
What a Wonderful World.
Yes, I think to myself,
What a Wonderful World.

(Words & music by George David Weiss & Bob Thiele - have you got the record?)

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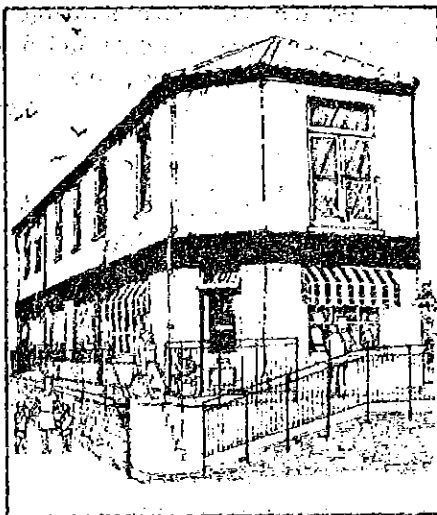
We've been together many years, no man can break the tie -
Though she's never said she loves me, I just know those eyes can't lie.
She's always ever faithful and she's always ever true,
If we were ever parted, I just don't know what I'd do.

She is always there to help me, at my every beck and call,
And always understanding when it's backs to the wall.
She always seems so tireless, and forever stands the pace,
For me, I know, no other will ever take her place.

But why does she always love me so, why does she not complain ?
I never pay her anything, so it's not for personal gain;

Continued overpage:

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DRABBLEMANIA - Part Two

Sometimes I sit an' look at her and ask myself just why
But I cannot find the answer, no matter how I try.

The only thing she asks for is the odd occasional fuss,
But when I come to think of it, so do all of us.
She is a little jealous though, and can't stand competition,
But who can blame her just for this, when I'm her life-long mission?

We are growing old together now, and both a little grey,
But we muddle on together in our own sweet sort of way.
I know she'll never leave me, and there'll be no other man,
For she's my ever faithful - my shepherd dog called 'Jan'.

Dennis Lovell

+ + + + +

Concluding that an increase in wealth would improve his marriage prospects,
Mr David Morris of West Croydon decided to rob the row of shops outside
which he was waiting for his girlfriend. "I went into the chemists and
handed the assistant a note saying that I would shoot unless given money",
he said, "but she thought it might be obscene and refused to read it. I
took the note to the sweet shop next door. The man who was serving explained
that he could not read."

+ + + + +

Soon, it would seem, we are to be subjected to the 'con-trick' that
surpasses them all. The privatisation of Water - the elixir of all life.

One naughty little thought bothers me. When there is nothing left to
privatise to fund the government what shall we do ? I'm just asking !

+ + + + +

Many of us have seen and read the Epitaph at St. Edmund's Church, Kings-
bridge - you know 'Here lie I as warm as they...' Well I give you another
published in "Epitaph Hunting" by Raymond Lamont Brown, which is believed
to have been written by or for a Catherine Aboff, a Sheffield washer-woman.
just before her death by hanging in August 1905:

The Tired Woman's Epitaph

Here lies a poor woman who always was tired.
She lived in a house where help was not hired.
Her last words on earth were: "Dear Friends, I am going
Where washin' ain't done, nor sweeping, nor sewing ;
But everything there is exact to my wishes;
For where they don't eat, mthere's no washing of dishes.
I'll be where loud anthems will always be ringing,
But, having no voice, I'll be clear of singing.
Don't mourn for me noq, don't mourn for me never -
I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever !"

+ + + + +

Being, perhaps, a little old fashioned, I do dislike the modern trend to
refer to Devonsheer, Yorksheer, and so on. Thank goodness we still refer
to Shire Horses but little is heard these days of Shire Counties. Of
course, any intelligent 10 year old asked to name the County in which
Keswick is located would probably answer 'Cumbria' and not Cumberland, and
would tell you that Bournemouth is in Dorset, Wigan in 'Greater Manchester'
and Bridlington is in 'Humberside'. He may have read in his history books
that Cromwell was born in Huntingdonshire - which has long been 'abolished'
or that Wordsworth saw that famous host of daffodils in the breeze in
Cumbria. He would be wrong on every count although most teachers would
award full marks. Is our past so irrelevant?

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EVENINGS

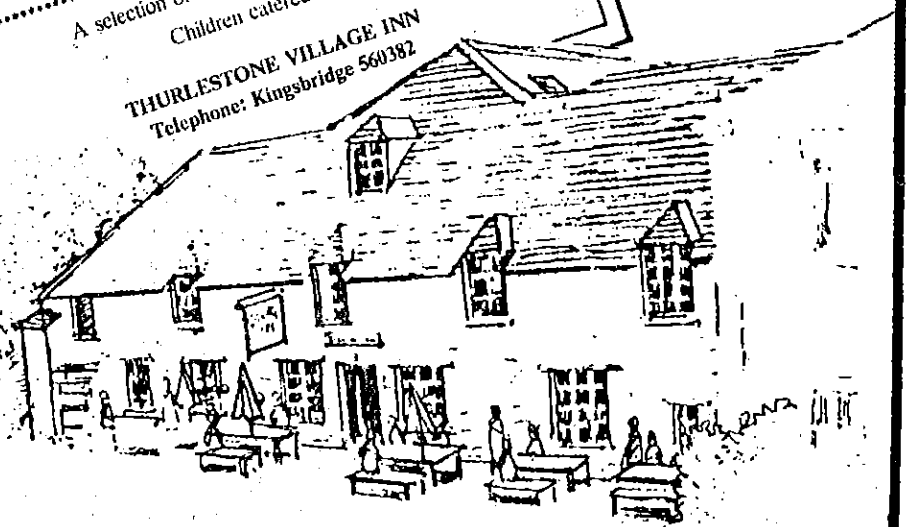
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The HARRY HUGGINS Column



RARITIES ARE THE CURRANTS IN THE BIRDING
BUN, but during most of last winter we found
very few - it was too mild.

In March we were luckier: gazing out of the window one day we saw a Glaucous Gull fly across Leasfoot Beach and on towards Hope Cove. It was heavy bodied and powerful, pure white without a trace of any darker plumage, and as big as a Greater Black Backed Gull.

The species nests only in the high Arctic - this bird was immature and will not breed for several years yet; they wander southwards in winter in search of food, fish offal, dead animals, even whales and polar bears, in fact anything remotely edible which can be scavenged or seized. Mistake not, gentle reader, it would eat you if it got the chance.

We found also a Mediterranean Gull, not all that rare, but we do not see them very often, especially in summer plumage as this one was.

I am always nattering about looking through flocks of birds to see if there is a stranger among them and that was what happened. We were counting Black Headed Gulls for our monthly record of estuary birds made for the British Trust for Ornithology. We noticed that the head of one bird was really black, and that the black extended well down its neck. I should explain that the hood assumed by a Black Headed Gull in the breeding season is not black, but brown, and is really not much more than a mask over the front part of its head. To start with we could see neither wingtips nor tail of our bird because it was standing behind another, but when they separated we could see there was no black on wings or tail, confirming our identification.

It is fortunate that most birds have one or more characters of plumage which enable you to pick them out, though there are a few exceptions, distinguished by the fact that they have no distinguishing characters. Garden Warbler springs to mind. It has no special features and even its pretty song is almost impossible to tell from that of a Blackcap: as both are usually found in much the same sort of place...!

We did not go to Wales to see the Northern Oriole, nor to Maidstone for the Golden Winged Warbler which they found in a Tesco's car park: we did not relish driving several hundred miles to look for a bird the size of my thumb, even if it was the first ever for Britain and Europe. With customary female sagacity my wife said she would wait until they got them at Lee Mill on special offer! But a friend did go. He said it was just like a Coal Tit (which is smaller than a Blue Tit) with yellow crown and big yellow splashes in its wings. It is an American warbler, uncommon even in the States, and how it got her will never be known; being an insect eater it was not likely to have been

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Janet Lemmy

brought by human means and almost certainly a hurricane, maybe as long ago as last October, was responsible.

When asked what would become of it, someone, I think in the RSPB, said it would wander about until it died. Quite true, of course: all birds do just that - so do we - but at once there was a lot of sentimental twaddle in the media about catching it and flying it back to the USA. A futile proposal: in the first place they would have to net it, if they could (by the time our friend saw it it had left the car park and was occasionally visible in what were described as "yuppies' back gardens", identified doubtless by the BMWs in the front gardens). But even if they did catch it, and it didn't die on the spot of fright, there was no way of feeding it nor of knowing whither in the States to take it.

It is better by far to transfer some of this sentiment to doing something for the auks, mostly Guillemots, which wash up oiled on our beaches every time some inconsiderate twerp on board ship releases a lot of oil into the sea. The warbler was a victim of natural phenomena and was doubtless perfectly healthy. The auks are dying of starvation because they cannot dive for fish, and are being poisoned by the oil they swallow in trying to clean themselves, all because of man's disregard for the environment, and it is fair to say they are much more deserving of our concern.

If you find a Guillemot, or a Razorbill, sitting on the sand (both resemble little penguins) you produce from your pocket the plastic bag you carry in the hope of finding mushrooms, or spinach (we eat a lot of that, boiling it well because of the dogs which have passed by it) or for collecting some of the manure which our farming friends strew about the highways. If you have them, you don a stout pair of gloves. If not, you hunt about the beach for pieces of rag to protect your hands: these birds have big stout beaks and can inflict wicked bites with them. The trouble is that although you are trying to help them, and they will die without your help, they do not know that!

Telling the dog to sit still, you then get between birdie and the sea, and grab him round the neck as near as possible to the head so that he cannot bite. I am not very good at this: as often as not the bird eludes me and I am left grovelling on knees and elbows in the wet sand while he nips back into the sea. But assuming you are successful, you stuff him into the plastic bag. His beak will appear immediately through the side of it, but you should be able to get him home and into a more secure container before he gets any more of him through the hole in the bag.

All this assumes he is pretty lively. The usually are, even if quite heavily oiled, and the very oily ones often stand the best chance of recovery, because they come ashore and can be got to treatment sooner. If he hasn't much go, or you feel otherwise there is little hope for him, you terminate his suffering by killing him at once. You don't try to wrang his neck, one needs a lot of skill and practice to do that. Instead you grasp him firmly by his after end, feet and wings and tail, and whack the back of his head, where his neck joins it, against a hard ledge, as on a stone. I know this is not very nice, but we are dealing with the natural world and often that is far from nice.

But assuming he has plenty of go, which they usually do have, you take him home. You do not try to clean him yourself, you will certainly kill him if you do, but you put him in a stout cardboard box with a wodge of newspaper under him for obvious reasons. Not straw, they can choke themselves with straw. The Editors have reproved me gently for writing about strong drink, but the box a

HARRY HUGGINS COLUMN CONCLUDES:

dozen bottles of wine come in is ideal (did not He make water into wine?). You tie the top down securely, otherwise you will have something like a jack-in-the-box which bites.

You then ring the nearest person who takes oiled birds, who is Mrs. Jill Davies on Kingsbridge 561541 and if she says she will have him, which she nearly always does, you take him to her at Furzdown Farm, Malborough. It is on the way to Soar Mill Cove, signposted Open Farm, Cream Teas. There you will find her, a sweet long-haired lass, surrounded by lambs, babies, puppies, rabbits, you name them she has them, and she will take the bird into her kitchen, to be conveyed to Plymouth the next day.

But if she is not there, or not going to Plymouth in the near future, you then contact the man who actually does the treatment, Mr. Ken Partridge, on Plymouth 405475. He lives at 165, Stanborough Road, left at the second roundabout on the double road where the A379 goes into Plymouth (the turning for Saltram is immediately opposite) and you take the bird to him. If you ask he will show you the patients he has already in their apartments in his garden. His success record is somewhere between 60% and 70%; some birds cannot be saved, but many can and it must give him great satisfaction when he is able to take a healthy bird to the water's edge to launch it back into the wild.

AND WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF BIRDS, MRS. SHIRLEY CHAPMAN

HAS GIVEN US THIS STORY OF HER SPECIAL ROBIN:

"It is four years since I came to Thurlestone to live, and found a resident in my garden that had obviously been there some years. Namely a Robin.

He was so tame he would come indoors and stay for tea. He would eat from my hand, and loved nothing better than to join me in a little gardening, picking up any little worm or insect.

Robin was well known to our immediate neighbours, and was loved by all, he would even come when called. Twice a year he would bring his family to see me, and would line up three or four babies on my patio to be fed with his favourite digestive biscuits.

Last summer I noticed that a pair of new robins were trying to take over the garden and were chasing my robin away. In November Robin came one morning and didn't want to leave so keeping the door open in case he changed his mind, I found him happily settling down to be an indoor robin. He stayed 10 days and during this time, the new robin entered the house twice, each time chasing Robin round the room or peering in at the window after him. It was obvious he wanted Robin out.

Robin was a delight. He had his own chair with a bowl of water and mixed food and even shared the dogs' bowl much to their amazement. They were very good and just lay there watching him.

Concluding Robin's Tale.

"He would follow us around the house singing, and twice a day would go out and have a bath, returning after about ten minutes. He would spend his night on the curtain rail and didn't mind if we were up late watching TV!

"On the 10th day, Robin went out as usual for his bath. He never came back. I can't be sure, but as the new robin didn't come looking for him any more I feel convinced that Robin has been killed by him.

"Robin brought something unique and special into my life. I miss him still."

A LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I read with considerable interest the report of the 1897 Celebrations in Village Voice. Could new arrivals in the village be acquainted with the locations of the events, such as 'Mrs. Ilbert's picturesque house', 'North Down' and the 'sports field'. Also can a 'flea and elephant race' be described.

Congratulations on a most worthwhile publication.

JOHN WILSON.

The Hickories,
10, Old Rectory Gardens,
Thurlestone.

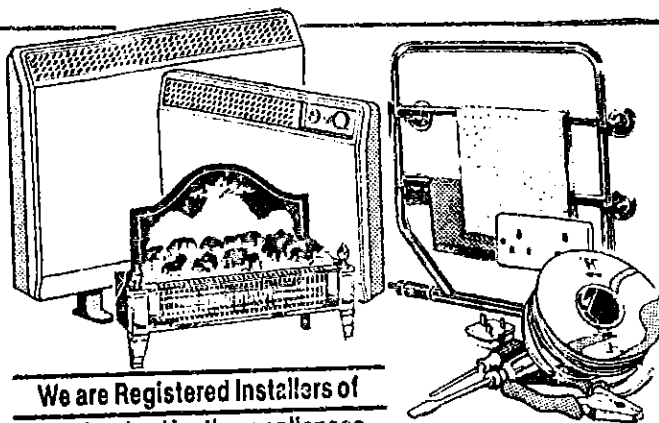
EDITORS' FOOTNOTE:

We'll do our best. Mrs. Ilbert's picturesque house is Rockhill on the left as you turn out of the village on to the Bantham and Buckland road. The round windows in the North end of the house are of stained glass set into the carriage wheels of the wedding coach of the Reverend Peregrine Arthur Ilbert and his bride. The Reverend Peregrine was Rector of Thurlestone from 1839 to 1895. He was a keen amateur builder and converted a barn to form a home after his retirement. His widow lived there after his death with son Donald and daughter Helen.

North Down is the second field in from the five-barred gate opposite Pipers Bench on the road to Buckland again where the "Public Footpath" sign points to the East. This is where the sports were held on that day in June, 1897.

As for a 'flea and elephant' race, we assume that this was a form of piggy-back race. If not perhaps some other reader can help?

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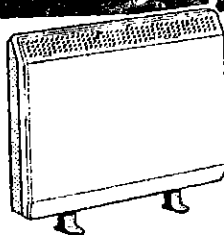
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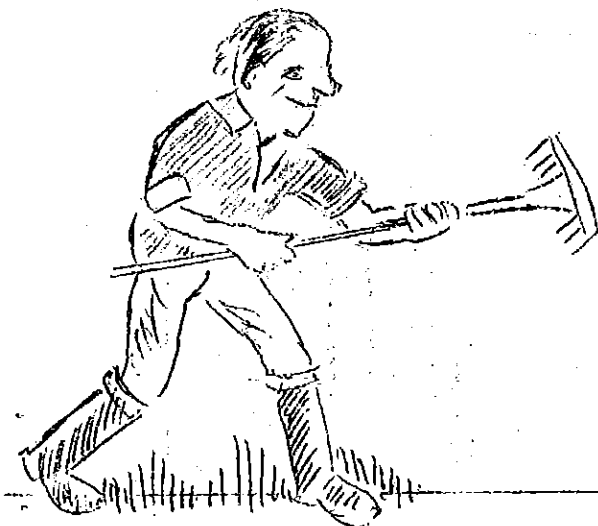


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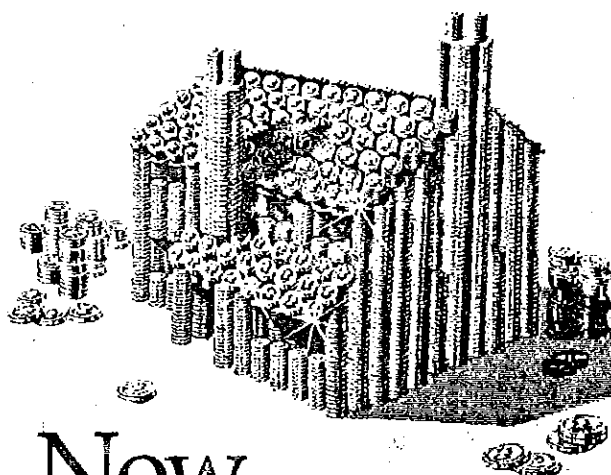
MOST gardeners find snail's appetite for tender young shoots as particularly revolting, but you might well think even more revolting are the tales of the curative powers given to their slime - that tell-tale trail they leave where ever they go. There were those who thought - maybe even today some people still do so - that because of the mucous nature of the slime it was effective in the treatment of troublesome coughs. A Welsh cough mixture recipe recommended boiling two or three snails in barley-water, and it is said gypsies dosed whooping cough with brown sugar soaked in snail slime. And not just coughs ! In Cambridge a person troubled by a blister had only to persuade a snail to walk over it and, snail, slime and blister would all move off together.

Let us turn to the snail and his/her appetite for those tender young shoots. Each snail's tongue moves with rhythmic strokes - in - out, in - out. As it draws its tongue in, rows of backward facing teeth on its surface rasp at the food. These minute exquisitely shaped teeth, whose pattern is usually different in each of the 80 or so species of snail, gradually wear and are replaced more or less on a conveyer belt system. Old teeth drop off at the front, and new ones, being formed at the back, move forward row by row. Garden snails, besides teeth also have a heart, a kidney, a unisex gonad, a simple lung and an alimentary tract but no brain we know of. Mind you, a snail's means of locomotion is pretty efficient. To climb high walls, even glass, by a mechanism which seems to be designed for sliding must be considered no mean feat. However, you have probably noted that they avoid travelling on gravelled surfaces and you might well find crushed eggshell quite an effective deterrent in restricting the desire to travel !

Neither slugs nor snails have waterproof skins which is why the popular 'beer-trap' is so effective. They absorb water through their skins and, because they cannot climb out quickly enough, they become too swollen for agility and too bloated to squeeze into their shells. Overlong exposure to hot sun will also shrink - even evaporate them - so they avoid exposure to heat, quickly seeking shade.

The slime trail acts as a lubricant for travel, and snails hunt a mate by following the trail with the most alluring smell. Once found, they court and, being hermaphrodite, usually exchange sperm; each of them goes off and lays 20 to 50 eggs in the soil, or under logs or stones. Fortunately for we gardeners only about one in twenty survives to reach maturity. Seldom do they live beyond two years and most fall prey to their enemies: thrushes, shrews, hedgehogs, some rodents and, of course, man. One would suppose the split second smash between shoe sole and the ground is preferable to a snail than the slow death from metaldehyde or equally slow drowning in a beer bath. Makes quite a pleasant change to talk about snails instead of planners, for they are a much greater menace to our environment, don't you think ?

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TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP

(THURLESTONE RAMBLERS)

Listed below is the WALKS PROGRAMME for the next seven months (Seven rather than six months) because the June walk, detailed in Village Voice No 36 has been changed). All walks unless otherwise stated, start out from the rendez-vous (RV) at 10.30 am. In general, a picnic lunch should be brought - but where there is an alternative of a 'pub lunch' this is stated.

NB: R stands for route number (each route we have walked has been given a sequential number.

JUNE - WEDNESDAY 21st. Bolt Head. R.12

RV: Malborough Village Hall carpark with lunch.

A triangular course as follows: To South Sands: To Sharp Tor: To Starehole Bottom: To Soarmill Cove: Return via Higher Soar, Rew, Plympton, Combe.

About 6 miles. Not strenuous. Leader CHALKY WHITE (560236)

JULY - WEDNESDAY 19th. ERME VALLEY (West bank) R.13

(A special walk by permission of the owner Mr Mildmay-White)

RV: Battisborough Cross. GR 599/483.

Walk Erme Valley via coastal path and Mothecombe Beach to Flete, returning partially by retracing steps and then cross country.

About 7/8 miles. Not strenuous. Leader Stuart Reynolds. (560643)

AUGUST - WEDNESDAY 16th. SOARMILL COVE. R.8

RV: Malborough Village Hall Car Park

A triangular course to Soarmill Cove along the coast to Hope Cove returning to Malborough via the 'Ridgeway'.

About 8 miles. Not strenuous. Leader Chalky White (560236)

SEPTEMBER. WEDNESDAY 20th. Triangle South Milton, Malborough, Hope Cove AND BACK. R.3.

Leg 1. to Malborough via Sutton and Davy Park. Leg 2. to Hope Cove via the 'Ridgeway'. Leg 3 return to South Milton via South Huish.

About 8 miles. Not strenuous. Leader Chalky White (560236)

OCTOBER. WEDNESDAY 18th. LODDISWELL I. R.7

RV: Loddiswell Car Park. West to Idston, Chantry and Combe Farm. South to Aveton Gifford. South west to the Avon at Hatch Bridge, then NNW up the hill and back to Loddiswell.

About 6/7 miles. Not strenuous. Leader Chalky White (560236)

NOVEMBER. WEDNESDAY 15th. EAST ALLINGTON I. (R.16)

RV: East Allington by the Church. Route East to Combe, Wallaton Cross and Abbotsleigh. North up the Gara Valley to Millcombe and Washwalk. Cross the Gara to Secombe Farm then on to Hatcher leigh, Higston Post, Pitt's Farm and then back to East Allington. About 8 m. Not strenuous. Leader Stuart Reynolds (560643)

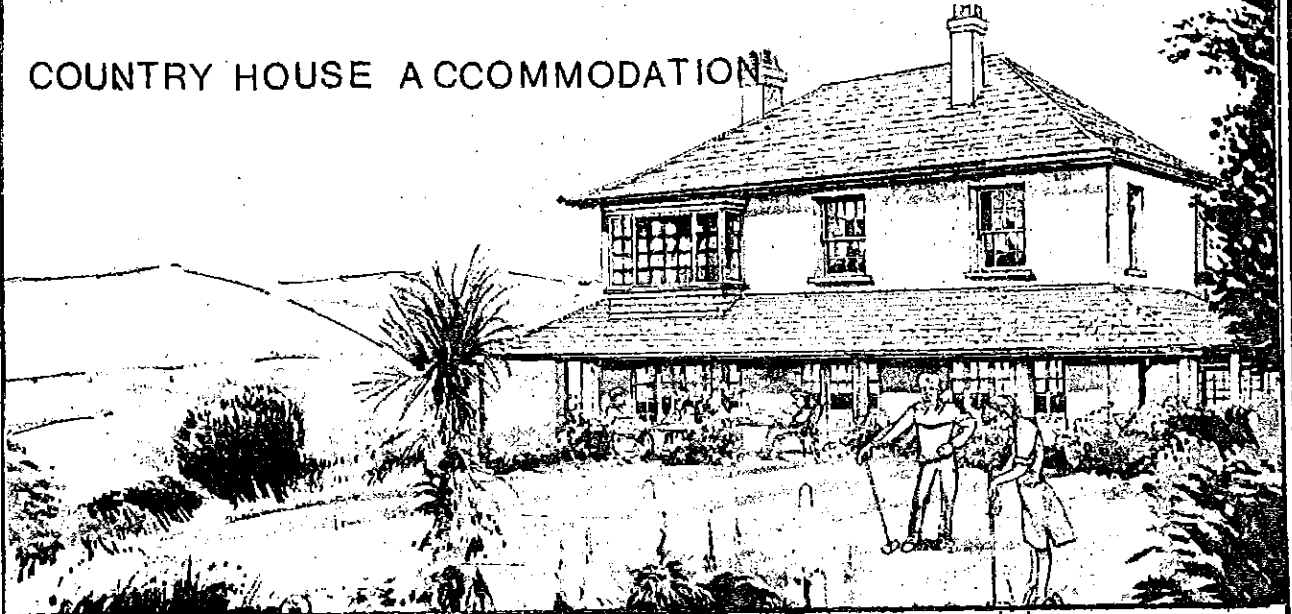
DECEMBER. WEDNESDAY 13th. WEST ALVINGTON. R.6

RV: West Alvington lower street Car park. A 'figure of eight' walk taking in Collapits, Woolston, Davy Park, Sutton, Preston, Easton, Kings-bridge, West Alvington Woods and back. About 9/10 miles. There are several points on the circuit from which direct return to West Alvington is possible thus foreshortening the walk. Not strenuous. Leader S.Reynolds (560643)



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Childhood Memories —————

We Moved every three Years

E. H A R P E R

We were moving again. Nothing very strange in that as generations of our family, back to Wesley's time, had packed and moved every three years at least. A Methodist Minister's family accept a nomadic existence as normal.

Such a way of life brings many crises. A small child cannot understand why a dearly loved garden has to be exchanged with one unsuitable for games. The minister's wife may have had a baby in August - but the move planned for September must take place. Teenagers involved in examinations have to adapt to a new school, with possibly a different syllabus. Looking back on a childhood filled with change, memories crowd in, some amusing - some sad. at least life was never dull !

True to family tradition, Mother followed on her forebears' footsteps, packing, cleaning and supervising in a tested, organised routine. Moving bred in us children an inborn urge for change that still rises as summer comes, only to be assuaged by a journey - or turning the furniture around!

Looking back, we moved through the ages of candles, oil-lamps, gas and electricity; from rows of gleaming, graduated meat covers on the kitchen wall, to modern plastic and polythene. Bedtime candles gave a soothing light and choosing from a selection of clean candle-sticks neatly arranged on a shelf, caused some childish squabbles. The best ones of silver or glass were not for us - but there was always a favourite among those of wood or enamel. Helping to clean the oil-lamps was a popular activity and the thrill of hooking a finger in the ring hanging from the gas-lamp made us feel really grown up. Switching on an electric light came too late for childish reaction.

Our furnished houses, called manses, were as varied as our circuits. We lived in turn in large Victorian, many bedroomed houses, a converted inn with cellars that flooded, a six-storied former guest house and a white painted villa - in a coal mining village.

Wherever we went, we could be certain that Father's study would find its way there. The large desk, rows of books and well worn carpet gave a sense of security. Old-fashioned wallpaper in gloomy colours and brown paint were also certainties, as were the faded patches on the walls left by previous occupiers' pictures, that ours never quite concealed. Attics were always crammed with left-overs from former households such as fire-irons, boxes and umbrellas. These assorted collections were a child's delight for make-believe games - and would sell for a small fortune nowadays.

Our childhood activities were bound by warnings of 'Mind the circuit furniture. This furniture was much used, solid, and often shabby and ugly. It was extraordinary how often 'throw-outs' from chapel members' homes found their way to the manse.

From our many gardens we unconsciously acquired a knowledge of which plants would thrive in different locations and soils that stood us in good stead as adult gardeners. Almost everywhere we met montbretias, Japanese anemones and dull but sturdy varieties of plant life. Another thing we learned was dialects. Professor Higgins had nothing on us. We could place a Yorkshireman in his Riding, talk 'native' with a Sussex man, and tell the difference between most county accents. Moving as often as we did was a splendid way to learn the geography of Britain too. An asset for our father was that sermons could be used over and over again, if brought up-to-date, while clothes, if old in our eyes, were new in a new place. Moving followed a fixed pattern and gradually all our goods, including the piano, were ready to go.

Concluded overpage:



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WE MOVED EVERY THREE YEARS continued

Those not familiar with Methodist ways cannot imagine how our childhood was governed by those august beings, the Circuit Stewards. From arrival to departure they were there, kindly, if solemn men, who seemed for ever in conference with Father. Invariably they met us on arrival and led us to what, for us children, was the test of the new circuit's potential - the reception tea. It is an old and welcome Methodist custom to have a meal and a well-stocked larder waiting for the new minister and his family. The standard of food provided, was, to childish eyes, our guide to the next three years. Only once did we (and our parents) have cause for misgivings when the larder was almost bare, except for bill-heads of various tradesmen, and when the account for the tea was sent in afterwards!

The real thrill began when our hosts had left. Until then we had been model children. Now we could race all over the house and garden, 'bag' our bedrooms and generally explore until we were sent, tired out, to bed. Waking the next day was strange too. In the half-world between sleep and consciousness, we would wonder where we were, puzzle over strange street noises and find the window in a different place from our last room - before realising we were in a new home.

A public reception meeting followed a few days later. Memories of those bring sympathy for animals in zoos. Everyone came to see, stare, and sum-up the new minister and his family. Once we were even perched on a raised dias, the better to be seen. Absentees had their chance next Sunday when the chapel pews were full.

Today, Methodist ministers stay longer in each circuit and schooling is less interrupted, but there were advantages, as well as disadvantages, in the old system. We grew up in an atmosphere of friendship and our constantly changing surroundings made for alert minds and an acceptance temporary set-backs. Modern ministers' children at least take their television 'friends' with them if they have to move, and in some ways, moving day brings less upheaval than it did for us. But I doubt very much if the pattern of the first day in a new house has altered very much. Children still love to explore and the attics of manses throughout Britain will still echo with the cry of a discovery of 'treasure' - 'That's mine - I found it first!'

=====

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Something Sinister in the Bracken

Dartmoor walks are a favourite past time with many of us, particularly if we desire to give the dog some exercise or let the youngsters walk off some of their surplus energy. It was, therefore, with some little disquiet that I read that the pleasing, ferny bracken that covers much of the hills and moors of South West England is coming to be Public Enemy No.1 among plant pests. Not only does it take over from the heather shading it out, along with other beneficial plants, but it can cause cancer and it forms an ideal breeding ground for disease-carrying ticks.

Doctors are getting worried about Lyme Disease, named after the Connecticut town near where it was first identified. It affects human beings in a variety of ways - a sort of meningitis, a severe flu and an arthritis like condition.

The bacteria that cause it are passed on by tick bites and bracken is the perfect, shady habitat for ticks.

No cases of Lyme Disease have been reported in the South West so far: the nearest seems to be in the New Forest, according to John Land, veterinary investigation officer at the Ministry of Agriculture laboratories at Starcross.

Another tick-born disease, louping ill, hit the Brendon area of Exmoor hard last year, causing the death of some 100 lambs. Ferns have been suspected for some time of causing cancer. Pickled bracken fronds, a delicacy in Japan, are associated with stomach cancer. People cutting bracken mechanically should wear face masks, says John Lloyd, senior safety inspector at the Health and Safety Executive, in Plymouth. People cutting the ferns by hand should wear gloves, he says. These precautions would be most prudent, and failure to take them might leave an employer vulnerable to claims for compensation.

At first, bracken spores were suspected and there was a suggestion that hill-walkers should wear face masks. Now it is recognised that the spores are big enough to be filtered out by the nose and throat before they can reach the lungs. Droplets of sap are now regarded as the danger - the so-called aerosol effect.

Bracken already covers over 4000 square miles of Britain and threatens many more. It kills off the heather which is valuable to grazing livestock, and by shedding a very acidic litter, makes it difficult for anything else to grow. It is poisonous for animals to eat as well as harbouring the disease-carrying ticks in their thousands. Exmoor farmers now treat their lambs with tick repellent or vaccinate them.

(Based on an article by Donald Simpson, Farming Editor of the 'Western Morning News').

Y

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For Bantham harbourmaster and famous boat builder Hugh Cater has just completed a rowing boat in clinker-built, glued-plywood style (that means she has no ribs) which Greenpeace plan to row from London to Edinburgh. With three rowing and one steering, the trip is expected to take six weeks, calling at harbours and fund-raising on the way.

The boat which will be displayed at the Greenwich Wooden Boat Show on June 8, sets off for Edinburgh on June 11.

If you wonder how such a boat comes to be built at Bantham then Hugh Cater will admit quite happily that it was because he opened his big mouth! On an earlier Greenpeace rowing trip, the rowers sought shelter from the stormy blast in the Avon Estuary. Hugh Cater was there and scoffed at their craft, making particular mock of the fact that Greenpeace were rowing a fibre-glass boat and not the traditional wooden boat that surely would fit their image so much better. "If you're so clever, build us one!" snarled an exhausted and exasperated Greenpeace oarsman. And so Hugh has.

The boat which took three weeks hard labour and a lifetime's skill to build is now insured for £3,000. John McKillop, the Kingsbridge sailmaker, is providing and making the craft's canvas foredeck, but all the rest of the materials are Hugh Cater's. The boat will be on loan to Greenpeace for six months. And after her return to Bantham, she may be sold privately or, who knows, she may become the new Bantham ferry!

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

Rubbish Skip Service. (Commercial use prohibited).

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THURLESTONE: 1 skip - May 2 to May 5 adjacent to the barn adjoining the Parish Church.

1 skip - May 2 to May 5 in Parish Hall carpark.

BUCKLAND: 2 skips (in sequence) May 8 to May 12 Valleyside layby.

BANTHAM: 2 skips (in sequence) May 15 to May 19 entrance to the Ham

also, provided by Thurlestone Parish Council

THURLESTONE Mead: 1 skip May 22 to May 26 adjacent to Mead Estate cattle grid.

THE JIGSAW LIBRARY

Penny McDonald's idea of a jigsaw library has struck a chord with many residents. So many in fact that the library will be in action shortly. Official start date is May 15.

The Charnwood Nursing Home at the top of Thurlestone village have kindly agreed to house the library in one of their lock-up garages and their staff have offered to act as puzzle librarians between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. each day.

The joining fee? One jigsaw - or more if you can spare them!

Paperwork will be cut to the minimum. All you have to do is hand in your jigsaw and sign in the library book for the jigsaw you are borrowing.

How long can you keep a library jigsaw? As long as it takes to complete it! But the organisers obviously hope that it won't take too long.

Would residents who have spare jigsaws which can form the nucleus of the library, please drop them in to Penny McDonald at Cradles Cottage, Thurlestone (560239) as soon as possible.

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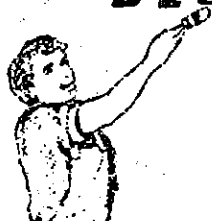
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Mr. Geoffery Stidston - - 560695
Mr. David Grose - - - - 560375
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THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

AT OUR MARCH MEETING a large number of members and guests listened to a very interesting talk given by Captain Graham Robinson, Executive Officer at the Britannia Naval College, and as a result of this interest it is hoped to visit the College either before or just after the main holiday season.

Details of proposed social events for 1989 have been sent to all members and will be discussed at the April meeting. I must again remind members of the importance of letting me know if they are unable to attend any of the monthly meetings (by Wednesday prior to the meeting). By so doing it will enable the Hotel to make the necessary arrangements for us and reduce the risk of them starting to charge us for any meals not required.

Our May speaker will be Mr. Adam of the National Trust.

D.M. YEOMAN. Secretary (560300).




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T	W	F	I	W	Y	O	A	T	L	N	T	W	X	O	F	T	O
I	E	B	N	B	F	D	G	L	I	P	F	P	R	D	E	Z	N
S	R	O	S	A	O	N	E	R	M	R	W	O	R	N	L	F	L
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A	K	T	Y	T	S	A	A	T	T	G	L	T	G	H	W	L	O
M	I	D	R	I	H	E	O	S	H	A	S	B	A	O	E	L	T
E	O	A	D	T	Y	T	H	M	P	E	I	U	R	L	T	A	E
E	D	D	N	Y	N	C	H	T	L	G	M	J	A	E	E	P	B
A	O	A	B	E	R	X	O	R	B	O	R	O	Y	C	R	I	L
L	B	C	S	U	N	N	U	U	T	B	A	N	U	B	T	T	O
W	C	B	H	O	R	H	R	T	T	U	T	S	O	N	S	H	H
E	A	C	T	C	T	Y	O	M	V	U	T	T	Z	S	T	G	M
L	P	R	T	O	R	C	R	O	S	S	E	R	Z	A	T	S	D
L	O	F	H	S	I	U	H	L	M	P	R	Q	G	N	J	A	F
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Please save those papers!!

Once a fortnight during the past two years I have (impersonating that well remembered TV personality 'Steptoe', but without the horse) toured the roads of Bantam, Buckland, Thurlestone and South Milton, popping in and out of garages and porches, picking up bundles of newspapers and magazines, which have been left for me by public spirited citizens of all the parishes.

The collected load is taken to a garage in South Milton. When the pile is large enough a van arrives from Plymouth, and after some serious lifting departs with a full load.

This rather flowery tale is the story of the Waste Paper Collection which has been organised from Backshay Close by Miss Snowden and myself, and has resulted in the collection of £200+, for Church funds.

'Village Voice' has been kind enough to grant me a small space to thank all those people who have helped us, in any way, to reach this satisfactory total. I am very grateful also for the friendship and personal encouragement you have given me as I disturb your Saturday mornings.

The price of waste paper is slowly rising so we are going to increase our efforts even more than we have done in the past. If you could pass the word amongst your friends and neighbours you might encourage others to join in our united drive for BIGGER and BETTER BUNDLES !

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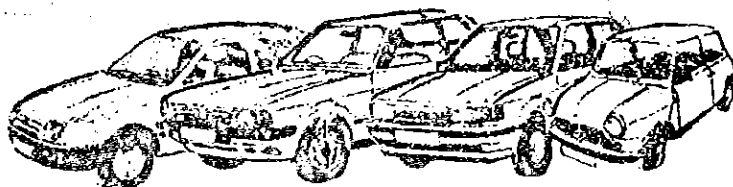
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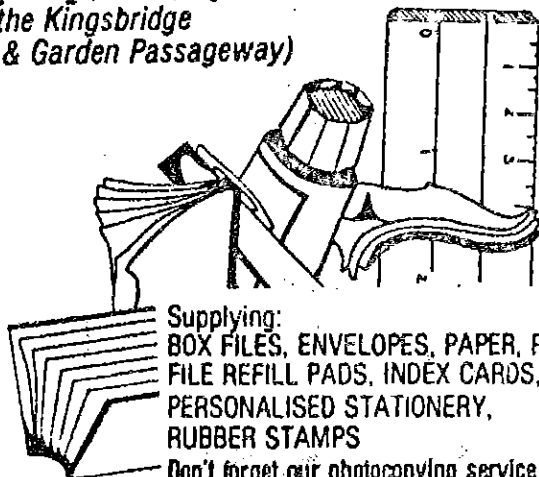
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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF THURLESTONE WAS HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1989, AT 7.30 p.m. AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED...

CHAIRMAN: Mr.P.W.J.HURRELL (Chairman of the Parish Council).

SPEAKERS in attendance: Inspector G.ALLEN (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary).

Mr.J.V.THOMAS (South Hams District Councillor).

MR.R.D.COOPER (South Hams District Councillor) accompanied by Mr.J.EATON (Development Control Officer SHDC).

MR.D.J.YEOMAN (Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council).

CLERK TO THE MEETING: Mr.W.G.LADD (Clerk to the Parish Council).

PRESENT: 65 Parishioners and several members of the public.

Apologies for absence: County Councillor Simon Day, Dr.McConnel Thompson, Police Constable P.Shepherd.

Minutes. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on March 22, 1988, having been circulated to Councillors and displayed on the Parish notice boards prior to approval and signature at the Council Meeting held on April 19, 1988, a summary was read to the Meeting for the general information of all present. No matters were raised.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. The Chairman highlighted to following events of the year now ending:

- a) The 2p rate levied had enabled one half of that precept - some £1600 - to be placed in a Reserve Account designated for the purchase of a Parish Recreation Area/Playing Field. This policy was to be repeated in 1989/90. The Council continued to operate on a cost budget of 1p rate to cover all its expenses.
- b) The Water Authority had confirmed that the long-awaited sewerage scheme was in their capital programme and was scheduled for completion by 1992.
- c) The County Council had agreed with the District and Parish Councils' views that the footpath across the golf course to Longstone Point should be left as it is and accessible for Parishioners from Path No.4 at the top of the course, but not put on the maps and signposted to divert tourists unnecessarily.
- d) The Director of Housing and Planning had confirmed that negotiations continued to acquire land for Starter Homes near Seaview Road, which he hoped would be built within two years, but there had been a later suggestion of a housing association in Exeter who might be willing to assist the project more quickly.
- e) Traffic congestion in both Thurlestone and Bantham had been further discussed with the Police and no doubt Inspector Allen would explain why it had been decided not to introduce more yellow lines.
- f) Mr.Geoffrey Stidston had been appointed as the representative for both Parish Councils of South Milton and Thurlestone on the Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School in the village.
- g). Among the various planning applications considered by the Parish Council, two had been strongly apposed, namely an

an extension of The Gables, Bantham, and the erection of three blocks of flats near Merchants Garden, Thurlestone. The latter had caused the Council to seek the support of our M.P., Mr. Anthony Steen, to obtain a change in the law so that Parish Councils would have the right of appeal against planning projects approved by the District Planning Authority despite opposition from the Parish Council and the local community.

Mr. Cooper, the Chairman of the District Planning Committee learned of our request to Mr. Steen and wrote him a letter decrying our suggestion, to which we in turn responded to Mr. Steen and copied the correspondence to the Chairman of all South Hams Parishes and others. Some 60 letters seeking support were so sent, to which 26 Parishes have so far replied; 21 support, but 5 of those feel increased influence is desired without a right of appeal being necessary. The other five do not support Thurlestone's suggestion, but two of those disapproved of Mr. Cooper's statement. The Chairman confirmed that the subject would be discussed again later in the meeting after Councillor Cooper's address.

- h) The Chairman thanked the many people who had contributed to the various Parish projects during the year, especially Mr. Dudley Drabble and Mr. and Mrs. Kendall McDonald for editing and producing The Village Voice so expertly; Mrs. Drummond and the Thurlestone Hotel for photocopying many documents; the Clerk for writing some 400 letters etc; Mr. Derrick Yeoman as Vice-Chairman and with his Armada Committee for organising the 400 celebrations during the past year. He also thanked the many parishioners who had attended so many Parish Council meetings.

INSPECTOR G. ALLEN reported that during the last year there had been 8 burglaries in the Parish, 4 thefts, including 2 from boats at Bantham, and one case of criminal damage in West Buckland. Detection of the culprits was not as good as one would hope, but the situation was helped by the Neighbourhood Watch schemes now operating in Thurlestone. No incidents had occurred since they were inaugurated. Recruits to the Police, particularly Special Constables would be welcomed.

Traffic problems could not be solved without spoiling the Devon environment and additional yellow lines caused enforcement difficulties and did not cure all the problems; parked cars did slow down speeding vehicles.

The Chairman drew attention to Kingsbridge parking regulations and the Inspector pointed out that only some six parking spaces had been eliminated in Fore Street, but the waiting time had been halved to 15 minutes. To assist the needs of residents and church-goers the restrictions no longer applied on Sundays and the Orange Disc system for invalids also allowed extra parking provided the vehicle was being used by the invalid.

The Inspector answered questions from parishioners including ones about the size of vehicles using minor roads; the need for a white line down the centre of the road between West Alvington Church and the Butts; and the need for planners to consider traffic congestion caused by building work and the increased width of cars today due to the increased size of "wing" mirrors. Width problems were a matter for the County Sub-Highways Committee.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JACK V. THOMAS OUTLINED his involvements for the district and summarised his Council's response to the Devon 2001 Structure Plan. He recommended parishioners seeing the new Ivybridge facility for providing Training for Occupations in the South Hams (TOSH) and confirmed that the projected housing for local needs in the parish was proceeding satisfactorily. Local people were now entitled to extra points under the Council system

but not necessarily the exclusive right to any available accommodation. The car parking charges were being increased despite his opposition, and he also regretted that water skiing in the area would be more concentrated in the Avon Estuary, subject to the byelaw restrictions, because the sport was not to be permitted in the Kingsbridge Estuary. In response to a suggestion by Mr. David Grose, Mr. Thomas undertook to pursue with the District Employment Committee the possibility of occupational training being made available for older people with fit minds, in view of the declining numbers of young people leaving school.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR R.D. COOPER, a member of the South West Sports

Council, was asked by Mr. Thomas to advise how Thurlestone might obtain a grant to assist in acquiring a playing field. Mr. Cooper said that would be possible if the Parish adopted a self-help scheme and followed Modbury's example by precepting a 1p rate designated for such a project and to also ensure that no work was started before a grant was approved. When a suitable fund had been built up a grant could be applied for to assist with land purchase or its development. The Chairman confirmed that Thurlestone was already adopting this policy, and then asked Mr. Cooper, as Chairman of the District Planning Committee to address the meeting on planning issues.

Councillor Cooper explained how the current planning procedures differed from those operating before 1974 when the County Council was the planning authority, delegating only some of its powers to the Rural District Councils so that all plans and technical matters were dealt with in Exeter. Parish Councils then had no legal right even to be notified of a planning application, whereas there now was such a right allowing 14 days for the Parish to notify their views, a period extended to 21 days by the SHDC. All objections by Parish Councils and by anybody else were studied by the planning committee members, the letters being copied to all members who considered the parish input was most valuable though total agreement was not always possible. Parishes could comment without legal responsibility, but agreement between the District and Parish views averaged some 80/85 percent of all cases. The District Committee had to be concerned with Government advice, the County Structure Plan, the Local Plan and legal precedents as well as the more general aspects of each case.

The suggestion by the Parish Council for parishes to have a right of appeal was not acceptable to him, because that procedure would create delay, cause actions which might be abortive and be costly to the Parish. The Government pressure was to approve, not refuse, applications, and there was no evidence yet in planning circles of the Government's alleged favour for a "green" policy.

Mr. Cooper urged the combination of District and Parish forces to press for improvements in the County Structure Plan, the latest revisions to which were not liked by the SHDC. For example, it was ridiculous to suggest expanding Lee Mill to accommodate 2000 more houses, but the other option was for such dwellings to be spread around the district. As the Structure Plan would become law to which the districts must abide, it was essential for all interested parties to ensure the revisions were acceptable because planning applications complying with the Plan could not normally be refused. Planning officers were constrained by precedents and on an appeal, they and other professional advisers (eg. County Engineers) can be called to give evidence for the appellant, so it was essential for a decision to be supportable by proper evidence, not, for example, by over-fastidious objections to aesthetic appearance.

Many points were raised by parishioners and debated with Mr. Cooper, in which he confirmed that the personal letter he wrote to Mr. Steen on January 10 expressed his own opinions in his usual forthright manner and there was no indication of any change in future planning policy which would give Parish Councils a right of appeal. They could be very costly to District Councils even at present as illustrated by cases in the South Hams at Newton and Noss and East Portlemouth, but none the less the Planning Committee did often refuse applications contrary to the Planning Officer's recommendations and they sometimes concerned major developers as well as minor ones. However, if a case does go to appeal the Inspector can grant consent even without imposing basic development conditions which the District would have imposed had they consented, so such possible loss of control must not be lightly ignored.

Mr. R. Sharman referred to the private sewage treatment proposed to service the new blocks of flats at Merchants Garden. He drew attention to the fact that such plant would probably involve noisy equipment producing noxious gases such as methane and hydrogen sulphide which had to be burned off with liquid petroleum gas. That was costly so the plant might sometimes be turned off, or the supply might run out or a fault develop, when explosive and stinking gases would cover the neighbourhood. It was important therefore to find out exactly what type of plant was to be installed, and how its efficient operation was to be permanently ensured.

With the consent of the Chairman, Mr. Cooper asked Mr. JOHN EATON, the district Development Control Officer, to explain to the meeting some of the basic factors influencing planning decisions and in particular, those applying to the applications for the blocks of flats at Merchants Garden. Mr. Eaton responded with his usual efficiency and illustrated how site conditions had varied since that original application was refused by the District Council in 1981 but then granted on appeal, which now gave the District Planning Authority little if any option but to approve the new application. Objections on landscaping and highways were not now sustainable, density and elevations had been settled at the outset and adequate space existed within the site for car parking. What environmentalists and Parishes should be concerned about was the need to persuade the Government to follow its green conservationist policy in practice as well as in speech. Until then the planners at all levels were handicapped and had to follow official policy even though they themselves may disagree with the decisions being reached.

Prosperity of the tourist areas depended on their beauty being maintained, but other considerations had to be taken into account, not the least the need to have facilities for employment in the district, which included industrial estates being sited where residents might object. Fortunately no industrial site was included in the local plan for Thurlestone, but that was unhappily affected by the large housing development on the Mead Estate authorised some **thirty** years ago and which still envisaged another 100 dwellings being erected at the overall agreed density of four dwellings per acre.

At the conclusion of this debate, a proposal by Miss R. Stocken, seconded by Mr. L. Hubbard, was carried nem. con. and it was resolved "that this Meeting requests the District Council to ensure that its new Environment Committee plays an active and effective part in the consideration of all further planning applications".

A further resolution recording lack of confidence in the District Planning Committee and its Chairman was proposed and seconded, but not carried, with the abstention of some 90 per cent

Concluding the Parish Meeting 5.

of the electors present. The Chairman thanks Mr. Cooper and Mr. Eaton for their attendance and they both withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. Yeoman explained that the Chief Fire Officer for Kingsbridge had been prevented from joining the meeting and it was agreed to defer to another occasion the address on Emergency Situation Arrangements in the Parish.

The Chairman then stated that several parishioners had asked him whether the festive arrangements for the Armada 400 Centenary in 1988 might be repeated for other reasons in future and asked Mr. Len Hubbard, as one of the Armada Committee of last year to comment.

Mr. Hubbard explained that it seemed a good idea to have an annual activity in support of a local charity or a worthwhile project such as the Thurlestone Parish Playing Field. Such an event would be enjoyed by both residents and visitors and would help to weld the three villages together. One such idea was to have an event with an Edwardian theme this time with dancing, bazaar, barbecue etc, rotating around Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone. When substantial support was indicated from more than half those present, he asked all interested participants to contact Mr. Derrick Yeoman or himself, and said that they would arrange for further details to be printed in future issues of Village Voice. The Chairman supported these proposals voicing the appreciation of the Parish for the hard work done so well by the Armada Committee last year.

Mr. Len Hubbard also drew attention to the excellent work done by the Parish Hall Committee to bring the Hall to such a high standard, with new suspended ceiling, redecoration, newly sanded floor, new curtains etc, and all present applauded Mr. Derek Yeoman and his Committee for their achievement.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 10.05 p.m with the Chairman thanking all present for their support.

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The Magazine is now entirely self-supporting and is not a charge against the Parish Rate - but it was founded on behalf of the Parish Council and happily remains under the Sponsorship of the Council.

Additional copies may be purchased from the local Newsagents - Mr and Mrs Morley at the Village Stores, and we have a SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE for an annual cost of £4.50 including postage. Cheques to 'Village Voice Magazine' 10 Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3JH. Tel. 0548-560533.

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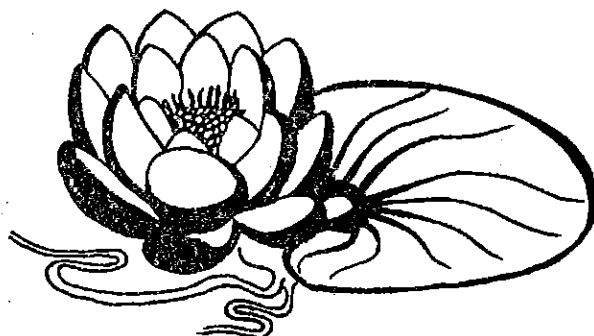
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KATE'S
KITCHEN

presents

Medallions of Pork
with Orange and Ginger.

KATE SAYS: My mother used to say "you only eat pork when there is an 'R' in the month". Then came refrigeration...and now we can enjoy pork all year-round.

Beef and lamb continue to rise in price, but Pork is still inexpensive and versatile. This little recipe combines the flavours of orange with ginger and is a great favourite of our family. So take...

2 Pork tenderloin
2 Oranges
2 oz Butter
4 oz Soft Brown Sugar
1 tabbsp. Ginger Marmalade or syrup from preserved ginger.
1 tabbsp Cornflour
4 tabbsp Wine Vinegar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ pint Chicken Stock, Salt, freshly-ground Black Pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teasp. Coriander

Then..cut the tenderloins into one-inch thick slices and lay them between two sheets of greaseproof paper. Beat them with a rolling pin until $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick.

Using a potato peeler, remove the rind from half an orange and cut into very thin strips. Squeeze the juice from both the oranges and set aside.

Melt the butter in a frying pan, add the pork slices and fry on both sides until lightly browned. Remove from pan and arrange on a serving dish.

Mix together the orange juice, brown sugar, ginger marmalade (or syrup) cornflour, vinegar, stock and salt and pepper and pour into the pan.

Bring the mixture to the boil, add the coriander, then cover and simmer for 5-6 minutes. Stir in the orange rind strips and simmer for a further 2-3 minutes. Pour the sauce over the meat and decorate with a few slices of orange and chopped chives.

ANOTHER LETTER TO THE EDITORS:

Dear Sirs and Madam,

We, the undersigned, would like the record our gratitude for the food hampers kindly received from Mr. Ben Horn on the occasion of our leaving the Thurlestone/South Milton postal delivery. It has been our pleasure to deliver mail to such a magnanimous gentleman.

S. BAKER and J. PARTRIDGE.

Postmen Kingsbridge.

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..1A

RISING HIGH - THE RISING GENERATION.

OFF TO A FLYING START is the Rising Generation, the art and drama group for young people from Thurlestone and roundabout. Idea is to teach stagecraft and art to local youngsters.

AT THE ART SECTION'S first meeting 25 youngsters between 9 and 16 signed on for the art classes and the organisers were told of more planning to join who couldn't make that first meeting.

LOCAL ARTIST LEN HUBBARD is running the Rising Generation group and is being helped with the art classes by Dick Bruff and Janet Wilson.

NEXT SECTION WAS for drama and over 25 names have gone down for that. This section is to be run by playwright Val Brown and Elaine Treleavan.

THE RISING GENERATION is too good a chance for any local youngster to miss. Anyone who wants to join the group or anyone who would help with the instruction should contact Len Hubbard at Burwood Gallery on 560731.

AND WHILE VICTORIA IS IN MIND...

You'll have seen on another page that the village is to go all Victorian in August. Have you thought about your costume yet? Well, here's a chance to see how the locals of this parish and that of South Milton dressed in Victorian times. At Thurlestone School on July 13 at 7.30 p.m. there'll be another showing of those slides made from old photographs of the area now in the Dartington Rural Archive. Most of the pictures date back to the 1890's and Victorian times. The Parish Council own a set of the pictures ~~which will be shown~~

Some of the pictures are quite extraordinary; all are fascinating. They say that the last time these were shown in the village that the arguments about who was whose grandfather raged on for weeks! Well so they say...anyway...

DON'T MISS IT...IT'S THE SHOW OF THE YEAR!

VILLAGE VOICE SPECIAL FEATURE

BOOKS CURRENTLY IN DEMAND IN THE SOUTH HAMS

HARDBACKS:

1. THE FORGOTTEN DEAD by Ken Small. The story of one man and his obsession to honour the memory of those Americans who died in one of the great fiascos of World War Two (Bloomsbury at £12.95.)
2. CHANNEL FIRING by Nigel Lewis. Another account of the tragedy off Portland in 1944. (Viking at £12.95)
3. DEVON (Second Edition). by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevener. At last the new edition of this long out of print volume from the Buildings of England series. (Penguin at £20.00)
4. THE SATANIC VERSES by Salman Rushdie. The novel that all the fuss is about. (Viking at £12.95)
5. WALKING TALL by Simon Weston. The autobiography of the Welsh Guardsman who suffered terrible burns during the Falklands War. (Bloomsbury £13.95)
6. THE TEMPLE AND THE LODGE by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh. A new investigation of the evolution of Freemasonry by the authors of the best selling THE HOLY BLOOD and THE HOLY GRAIL (Cape at £13.95.)

PAPERBACKS

1. DEVON GARDEN GUIDE. A guide to the gardens, nurseries and garden centres open in Devon in 1989. (£1.00)
2. GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES. Over 2000 private gardens open in 1989 Sold in aid of the National Garden Scheme. (£1.50)
3. AROUND KINGSBRIDGE IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS by Kathy Tanner. A charming account of the district in old photographs from the Cookworthy Museum collection. (Alan Sutton at £6.50)
4. RIVALS by Jilly Cooper. The latest bestseller from the author of 'Riders', etc. (Corgi at £4.99)
5. MOONWALK by Michael Jackson. The autobiography of the pop superstar. (Mandarin at £3.99)
6. TANAMERA by Noel Barber. Recently on TV. (Coronet at £3.99)
7. BECKY by E.V. Thompson. The latest novel, set in 19th-century Bristol by the well known author of CHASE THE WIND and others. (Pan at £3.99)
8. THE BBC DIET by Dr. Barry Lynch. Said to be the easiest, healthiest diet ever with gourmet slimming recipes from Anton Mosimann. (BBC at £2.95)
9. STARK by Ben Elton. First novel by the TV comedian. (Sphere at £3.50)
10. THE ICARUS AGENDA by Robert Ludlum. The latest bestseller from this prolific novelist. (Grafton at £4.50)

(All obtainable from THE HARBOUR BOOKSHOP, Mill St, Kingsbridge)

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OLD and BOLD ! From the Daily Telegraph we read:

Devon's public libraries have conducted a survey to find which of their large print books for the elderly is borrowed most frequently. The winners, announced yesterday (13.4.89) is: Dr. Ruth's Guide to Good Sex !

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IT'S GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL SUMMER...

...Regardless of the weather that is..because we hear that plans for the Parish "Whoopee Weekend" are well advanced. They're calling it a Victorian Weekend and Victorian times and styles will set the scene.

For example, there's to be an Old Tyme Music Hall, bands and processions all in Victorian gear. There'll be Maypole Dancing and barbecues (did the Victorians have such things?) and, well, the ideas for fun and games are flowing fast.

One thing that is certain is the weekend when everything is going to happen so the dates for your summer diary are:

AUGUST 11, AUGUST 12 and AUGUST 13.

Visitors should bring their costumes with them; Residents turn out their attics! Look out for the full programme in your next issue of Village Voice.

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