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OOD NEWS..GOOD NEWS..GOOD NEWS..GOOD NEWS..GOOD NEWS..GOOD NEWS..GOOD NEWS..GOOD

MANY READERS HAVE ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE STRANGE STORY OF CHURCH HOUSE AND THE RENT OF
OF A PAIR OF GLOVES, WHICH WE TOLD IN OUR LAST ISSUE.
SO HERE IS THE LATEST IN THE CHURCH HOUSE STORY...

You will remember that for 303 years without a break since June 16, 1536, when the then Rector of Thurlestone gave a pice of Church land to enable Church House to be built in the village, a pair of gloves appeared on the high altar of Thurlestone Church on All Saint's Day each November 1 as rent for the land. At the same time special prayers were said for the soul of the Rector who had given the land and for the souls of all the Rectors who had followed after him.

This practice appeared to have died out in 1839, for the simple reason that no one then told the new Rector, the Rev. Peregrine Arthur Ilbert about it. The tradition was retived in 1897 and continued until the retirement of the Rev. Frank Egerton Coope. We had no record of it continuing after that date in 1922.

But we have now! For Vivian Marshall of Leaside in Ilbert Road telephoned to say that he remembers the ceremony of the gloves yery well - he ought to for his mother used to make the ones used in the ceremony in the Church and that was in the early 30's. He remembers the kind of gloves too. His mother made them out of wash-leather or "shammy" leather, for wash-leather ghoves were what the smart man-about-town wore in those days to complement his bowler and brolly.

Our present Rector Peter Stephens has been following the Village Voice disclosures with more than usual interest for he plans to revive this old Thurlestone tradition in November this year. All he needs now, he tells us, is for someone to make a suitable pair of gloves. It sounds like a project for the W.I. to us...

AND MORE GOOD NEWS:

Michael W.Hurrell of West Buckland has won the Stanley Casley Silver Cup for first year marine craft. Michael, who is 17, won the cup for his effort and endeavour. He was top of his year at Falmouth Marine Centre. At present he is working as an apprentice to boatbuilder Hugh Cater of Bantham.

: Cmy

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Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

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

Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of BURWOOD GALLERY, Thurlestone

Seventh year of publication. Number 39.

JULY-AUGUST, 1989.

NEVER WAS SO MUCH MONEY RAISED for so many by so few. That is a fair summing up of the charitable work which goes on in and around this village throughout the year. We have in the past drawn attention to these efforts and praised the organisers of raffles, fetes, shows and

jumbles galore.

Now, since charity truly begins at home, we would like to draw particular attention to a splendid piece of self-help in the village. The Church, as everyone must surely know, is desperately in need of a new organ. So do we sit down and wail like many of the almost expiring notes in the old organ now do and wait for something to turn up. Well, some do, but some don't. Those not content to sit and wait for manna from Heaven have come up with a splendid idea to raise money - a Thurlestone pictured tea-cloth no less!

We hear that the idea was Bruce Mackay's, the photography is Keith Millman's (except for the picture of Thurlestone in 1913!), and the production in the hands of Geoff Wilkinson.

It looks a sure-fire winner to us and what a splendid present for anyone with any connection with Thurlestone. Can't you see them drying up and wishing they were here? You can buy them on Thursdays with your cream tea at the Rectory Barn, at Broads, at the Village Stores and at the Hotel. Hurry while stocks last!

Thank you to those who have already responded to the Parish Church Organ Appeal.

When I wrote on the subject two editions back I talked of the hope to renevate and improve our existing instrument, but that was already with the knowledge that one firm of organ builders' advice was "get a skip for it". Now, following further investigation and advice the unanimous decision of the Parochial Church Council has been to replace the present worn instrument with one of the remarkable modern pipeless instruments.

Mr. John Sloggie, our organist, writes:

"There is a great deal of rumour and misinformation around about the future of the Church Organ. In particular some people have expressed concern over the decision made recently by the PCC to

apply for a faculty to install a pipeless organ.

The current organ was installed shortly after the first World War and since then has received several major renovations and modifications. Four reputable organ builders have now made detailed inspections of the organ and three have prepared reports on the work required to be done to bring the organ up to an acceptable standard to see us into the 21st century. The fourth builder is of the opinion that the instrument is in such poor order that it is not worth refurbishing. The other three builders have agreed that the condition is very poor and that the internal workings need to be replaced completely. In addition considerable work has to be done to eradicate woodworm. The cost for completing this work will be between £13,000 and £15,000.

The only alternative to spending this money is to invest in a new organ. The cost of a new organ is prohibitive, but we are

able to purchase a new pipeless organ for up to £10,000.

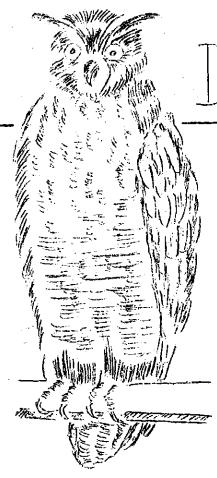
The biggest concerns are the tonal quality and the appearance of a pipeless organ. Let me first assure you that the quality of sound is, at least, equal to that of our existing organ. Each organ is customised to the building in which it is installed and all the tones are tuned to reflect the acoustic conditions present. The appearance of the instrument is similar to a traditional organ and the case is custom made to blend with the wood colours already in the church. Obviously there is no requirement for pipes, but it is proposed that some of the old pipe work is retained for aesthetic reasons.

In answer to some other questions: Should the church ever find itself without an organist it is easier for a "non organist" to play a pipeless organ. The pipeless organ is guaranteed for twenty years, the only maintenance being an annual inspection to check for dust, damp, vermin etc. All the electrical components used are standard ones with many other electrical applications so there will not be a problem with spare parts should they be

needed.

Space here is limited but I will be delighted to answer any further questions or supply information. Please feel free to ask.

JOHN A.SLOGGIE. Organist.



Drabblemania

I was born on a Saturday !!

Monday's child is fair of face.
Tuesday's child is full of grace.
Wednesday's child is full of woe
Thursday's child has far to go.
Saturday's child works hard for a living,
And a child that's born on Christmas day
is fair and wise and good and gay.

(A.E.Bray (Traditions of Devon) 1838.

At the age of 65 it occurred to me: if there were 15 months in every year. I'd be onlyb 52. That's the trouble, we number everything. I think women deserve to have more than 12 years between the age of 28 and 40.

James Thurber

Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it nought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson he learns thoroughly.

Our pets can prove just a little bit of a problem when we go on holiday I thought it might be helpful if, like us you have a faithful pussy cat - ours is turned 16 years - who needs to be well cared for. Our Pussy cat can recommend Janet Lemmy's Country Hill Cat Kennels just outside Kingsbridge - Tel 3650.

And, whilst on this subject of a pet if, like us, you also happen to have a dog that needs a periodical 'haircut' my wife and I have found Jayne Price at Warren Farm, Halwell does a very satisfactory job. Her

telephone is Blackawton (938 21) 382. Look for her advert. in this issue for 'how to find her' - quite easy when you read her directions.

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Did you realise that even bedrooms have special omens belonging to them. Many housewives believe that it is decidedly unlucky to turn over mattresses on a Friday since this will also turn one's luck awry. In addition, if one examines newly-spread sheets on a bed then certain creases will inevitably be found in them; if a diamond shaped crease is apparent then this signifies that the occupant of the bed will som be undertaking a long journey - while small square shapes signify that the occupant of the bed will enjoy a period of good fortune in the near future!



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DRABBIEMANIA - Part II

"CLOUTED CREAM" - The manner of producing clouted cream is as follows:
The milk is strained into shallow pans, each containing about half-apint of water to prevent the milk from adhering to the sides. In these it is allowed to remain undisturbed for twelve to twenty-four hours, according to the weather. It is then scalded, and often in Devonshire farmhouses by a wood fine (which gives the butter made from it the smoky taste that some like and some dislike), or better, according to modern useage, bybwarm water. In the former case it is moved slowly towards the fire so as to become gradually heated, and in about forty or fifty minutes the cream is formed. This is indicated by bubbles, and takes place at a temperature of 180° Fahrenheit. The milk is then removed from the fire, and skimmed from twelve to thirtysix hours afterwards.

As described by J.M.Hawker - 1881.

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Ode to a Real Estate Agent

In my father's house, he said,
Are many mansions - all to let.
A small deposit will secure,
I could accept your soul (if pure),
Or some such trifling amount.
No need to pay just yet I'll send you the account,
When you are dead.

St. Peter's clerk was at the gate,
Filing all the forms and prayers He said 'Please join the queue and wait Or else apply again, downstairs'!
My name was entered on the roll,
Where shelf on shelf of labelled rows,
Had neat accounts for every soul Showing the amount each owes.

A mortgage, easy to acquire Can be arranged this very day,
Providing you're a first time die-er,
With all eternity to pay!
Gazumping's strictly not allowed Even if you've special needs.
Just find yourself a passing cloud
And God will keep your title deeds.

JOHN EVE

+ + + + + +

When it comes to Water Privatisation are the Government being just a little conservative with the truth? Just asking

Releasing Kenneth Mwale, an executive officer at Luanshya Technical College, Zambia, Judge David Lewanika said: "You have pleaded guilty to killing your wife in the course of a family quarrel. However, I am taking into consideration the fact that you have been awaiting trial for several months and that you will probably lose your job. Furthermore, you are a first offender."

Western Morning News - 1987.

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your right. Sounds more complicated than it is!

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YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

Woodlands, West Buckland, Kingsbridge



On the 2nd of May a friend saw an adult male Montagu's Harrier at Bolt Head. They used to breed sparsely in Devon but none has been recorded as doing so for over 20 years and it is now a very rare bird indeed: In ten years in Thurlestone we have seen a might-have-been once.

But the species has a very special connection with Kingsbridge.

Before we come to that, a note on harriers generally: there are three kinds which you might, just might, see in this area, Marsh, Hen and Montagu's All are long winged, long tailed birds of prey, Buzzard sized or a little smaller and much less heavy. Why they were called harriers I do no know, for none is powerful enough to take a hare - any more than Buzzards take babies as once they were said to do! Harriers catch mostly small birds and mammals, by drifting along a few feet above the ground, and dropping on them.

All are now pretty rare: as raptors they were killed relentlessly ny gamekeepers and as ground nesters they have suffered disturbance through intensified land use by man.

Marsh Harrier breeds in fingers-of-one-hand numbers in East Anglian reed beds, appears here now and then on migration, and concerns this narrative no further.

Hen Harrier is the least rare of the three: its population probably totals a few hundred pairs, nesting in Scotland, Wales and northern England. It favours moorlands, and afforestation with conifers has helped it, for the young plantations, when the trees are small, provide good hunting OVERPAGE:::::

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

grounds and nesting sites. Once the trees have grown big, of course, they are of use to neither bird nor beast except Wogan who with his ilk has benefitted we are told at the taxpayers' expense. The species is migratory to some extent, though in winter most just move south within the British Isles: we see one sometimes around here, and there are always a few on Dartmoor, but most take to the coastal marshes of eastern England.

the first was displayed support to the

Montagu's Harrier is a more southern bird. Its stronghold, such as itis (it is a declining species) is in southern and eastern Europe, and it winters in Africa south of the Sahara. There is probably no regular British breeding population, but the odd pair may nest sporadically in locations kept secret if possible.

Hen and Montagu's Harriers are what birders call confusion species, so alike that they are difficult to tell apart in the field. Chiff Chaff and Willow Warbler, Marsh and Willow Tit are others. The males are less of a problem than are the females: in both he is grey, with black primary feathers - these are the outermost flight feathers, about ten in each wing. Hen Harrier's grey is pale and silvery - it is not difficult to mistake the bird for a gull. Montagu's is somewhat darker and grey, there is a black line along the inner wing, towards the trailing edge, and its wings are a little narrower than those of Hen, which is of little help because you have not a snowball in hell's chance of seeing both species together. Both have a very noticeable white rump.

Females and immature males of both harriers are almost identical and so different from their respective males that until about 200 years ago people thought they were a separate species and called them Ringtailed Harriers. Both are lightish brown with white rumps and three or four dark bars across their tails hence 'ringtails' which is what birders usually call them even now, it being virtually impossible to be sure whether a bird seen is female or immature male, and whether Hen or Montagu's.

Which brings us back to Kingsbridge.

If you look on the wall outside the St. John's Ambulance Hall, just above the Police Station, you will see a little notice: "Col. G. Montagu, ornithologist, lived here 1798-1815. Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society 1956." The emblem, or logo as they call it now, of the Society is a Montagu's Harrier.

In her delightful book "Kingsbridge Estuary", first published in 1864 and republished in facsimile by Cookworthy Museum in 1982, Miss S.P.Fox tells us: "on the highest summit of the hill called Knowle...stands Knowle House...from the year 1799 to the middle of 1815 it was occupied by the late George Montagu. Colonel Montagu (as he was generally called) was the author of the Ornithological Dictionary...and other works. His various discoveries

OVERPAGE:::::

VILLAGE VOICE

HARRY HUGGINS - - continued from previous page

in this neighbourhood, particularly of birds and nondescript marine animals, were detailed in the papers of learned societies. He was the younger son of a gentleman of good family and fortune and was born at Lackham, in Wiltshire, the seat of his ancestors. He entered early into the army and served as a captain in the 15th Regiment of Foot in the American War, till the year 1778, when the death of his elder brother recalled him to Europe to take possession of the paternal estates. He then accepted a company in the militia of his native county...in which he obtained the rank of lieutenant colonel and was esteemed an excellent officer. In consequence of some disagreements however he quitted the service in 1799 and retired to this spot, wholly devoting himself to those scientific pursuits which rendered him so distinguished ...

The gentle author has told the truth about Montagu, but not I think the whole truth, which doubtless she knew but as a polite Victorian lady was not prepared to recount.

Though there are still some gaps, I have gleaned more from a recently published book: Biographies for Birdwatchers, by Barbara and Richard Mearns. For much of his life Montagu seems to have been abrasive, if not downright quarrelsome.

At the age of 20 he married a young lady named Ann Courtenay - it rather seems that they eloped, at all events we are told the marriage was contrary to the wishes of both families. My source describes her as niece of the Earl of Bute, sometime Prime Minister to George the Third, but I take it she was a Devon Courtenay. After four sons and two daughters they parted; he lost the family estates on account of his refusal to comply with a term of his brother's will that he should live on them with his wife, and he was engaged in protracted litigation over the matter with his own eldest son.

The "disagreements" referred to by Miss Fox were in fact Court Martial proceedings which he faced at Plymouth Dock. The charges appear mostly to have been ones of squabbling with other officers: he was found guilty on nearly all counts and was sentenced to be 'displaced', that is to say he was turned out of the Wiltshire Militia, but was free to join any other force which would have him, and we are told that in the face of invasion threats in 1803 he took command of the South Devon Corps of Guides. My military adviser cannot enlighten me on this unit, maybe it was the then equivalent Dad's Army.

Nor does the delicate Miss Fox tell us that when he lived at Knowle House it was with one Eliza Dorville, wife of a London merchant. I have been told he described her as his companion in science, which undoubtedly she was, but it seems that as she bore him three children the companionship extended to more than science.

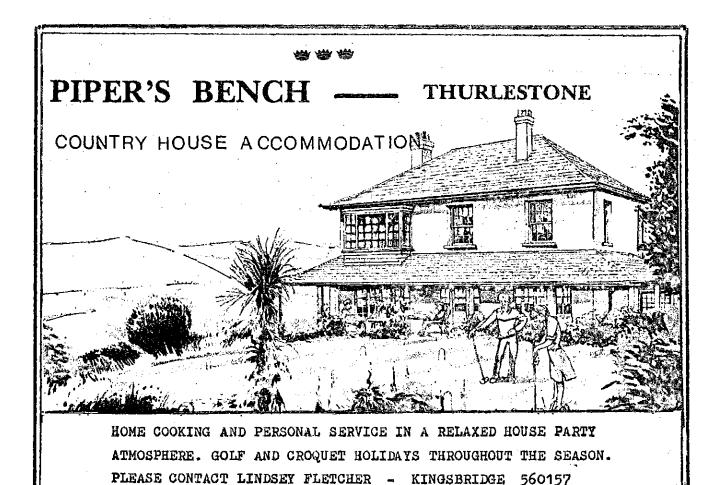
Montagu lived at a time when a tremendous interest was being awakened in studies of natural history, and many species of birds, animals, plants, etc. were being identified and described for the first time.

He produced in 1803 a History of British Marine, Land and Freshwater Shells, illustrated by Eliza; this described 470 species, 100 of them new to the British List and over 70 of them hitherto undescribed at all. (hence Miss Fox's term "nondescript").

In the same year was published the Ornithological Dictionary, largely illustrated by Eliza, and unsurpassed for its purpose for three quarters of a century.

Montagu was obviously well known at least nationally because one reads of birds being sent to him from all over the British Isles.

By rearing one he proved that a ringtailed harrier and the grey male Hem Harrier were the same species. CONCLUDED OVERPAGE::::



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Beech wood fires burn bright and Hornbeam blazes too, clear If the logs are kept a year To season through and through.

Oak logs will warm you well If they're old and dry. Larch logs of pinewood smell, But the sparks will fly.

Pine is good, and so is Yew For warmth through winter days, But poplar, and willow too Take long to dry or blaze. Birch logs will burn too fast, Alder scarce at all. Chestnut logs are good to last If cut in the fall.

Holly logs will burn like wax -You should burn them green. Elm logs like smouldering flax, No flame is seen.

Pear logs and apple logs They will scent your room, Cherry logs across the dogs. Smell like flowers in bloom.

But ash logs, all smooth and grey, Burn them green or old, Buy up all that come your way, They're worth their weight in gold!

PAULINE EATON

WILL THEY HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT LEAS FOOT ? Government scientists want to find out why people become ill on their holidays and propose to visit the

Westcountry beaches for the answer!
They want to discover whether swimming in sewage polluted seas is the cause of the problem. "Certainly, it seems to be true that people do suffer mild stomach disorders while on holiday, but there could be a number of reasons for this," a spokesman for the Department of the Environment is reported as saying. "People change their life-style on holiday. They eat foods they don't normally, they drink more (!!), they stay up later. Any of these could affect their health, but it could also be pollution in the sea and we would like to know if it is."

CONCLUDING - THE HARRY HUGGINS COLUMN....

He did not discover Montagu's Harrier - it had already been found and given the scientific name of Falco pygargus, later changed to Circus pygargus, in Europe, but the first British specimen, shot near Kingsbridge, was described by him, and named the Ash Coloured Falcon, and he showed clearly the difference between this species and Hen Harrier. C. pygargus was named Montagu's Harrier in his honour by another writer in 1836.

He made many other discoveries, for example showing the difference hitherto unnoticed in Britain, between Yellowhammer and Cirl Bunting.

He produced the first British records of Cattle Egret (shot on the Kingsbridge Estuary), Little Cull (shot on the Thames and sent to him), and Gull Billed Term, still a real twitchers' bird in the UK. None of these was new to science, already having been described by European writers, but his was the first description of Roseate Term, sent to him by a Dr. Macdougall after being shot on the Firth of Clyde - he named it Sterna dougallii.

He died in 1815 after stepping on a rusty nail. He was usually portrayed as a brusque, arrogant, punctilious military man, but one who knew him in his 50s described him as very genial, with a good word for everybody. One cannot help thinking how much he, and we, owed to Eliza. He made a major contribution to natural history.

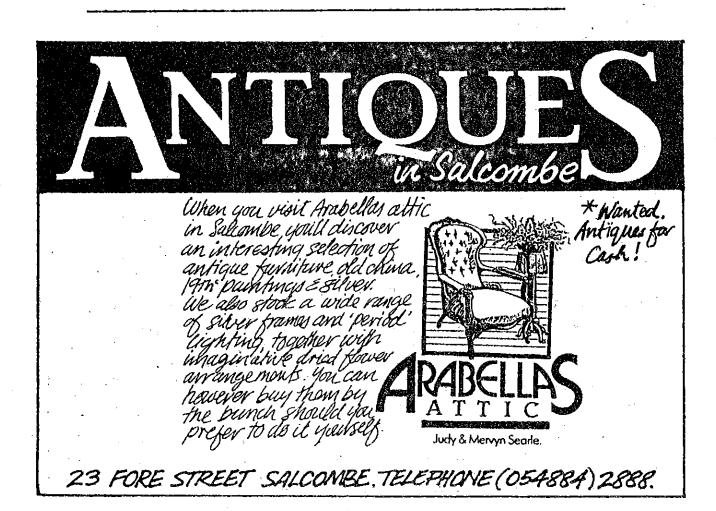
HARRY HUGGINS 1989

A SUPERB effort! That's the verdict on the Thurlestone Church fete, which raised £1,485 - and that's not including a wonderful cheque for another £1,000 from the Hotel. At this rate we'll get that organ before Christmas!

SATURDAY JULY 29. That's the date for the South Milton Church Fete to be held in the garden at St. Judes (by kind permission). The fete starts at 2.30 pm with all the usual stalls and raffle. Admission: 25p. Children free.

MIKE AND ELAINE Treleaven are pleased to announce that they have taken over the HOUSE OF CRAFTS, which they will be running in addition to THE CARD SHOP. HOUSE OF CRAFTS - 24, Fore Street, Kingsbridge. CARD SHOP is at No.20.

WENDY DAWS of Thatchways writes to us to say: "If anyone needs to transport any small animals, particularly cats or rabbits, to kennel, cattery or even the vet, I have some cat baskets to make the journey safer and a little less traumatic for all. On loan. Just phone 560721. Anytime."



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Toll Booths or Turnstiles? asks Walter Dee

SOME FEW YEARS AGO I recall a semi-humourous piece about controlling the entry of the tourist into Devon by a series of toll-booths. Now I note that our M.P. Mr Anthony Steen calls for "turnstiles to halt the summer invasion." "South Devon is very much at risk," he is reported as saying, "and we need turnstiles, like at football matches to limit numbers because of the hordes of people who could end up destroying what they come to see."

The growing amount of traffic on our roads and lanes, the over-crowded car parks, the masses of cars, people and dogs at every beauty spot, every 'commercial' leisure 'park', every town, large and small, the increased size of cars with the increased affluence of townspeople will, I believe, create its own control on tourism with tourists becoming increasingly fed up and dissolutioned with their inability to enjoy the countryside in (nose-to-tail' motoring and the lack of car-parking when they get to whereever it was they hoped to!

My personal conclusion is that the sktuation will adjust itself in due course and there will be no need for toll booths or tunrstiles for surely a great many will think twice about coming again in such numbers after sampling the chaos and frustration of getting anywhere worth going to!

However, there is little harm in Mr Steen's turnstile idea if the need arises, but whomsoever controls such a point is probably going to need a good deal of protection!

I read that the Government scientists want to find out why people become ill on their holidays, and are considering visiting Westcountry beaches for the answer. They must have heard about Leas Foot!!

They want to find out whether swimming in sewage-polluted seas is the cause of the problem. "Certainly, it seems to be true that people do suffer mild stomach disorders while on holiday, but there could be any number of reasons for this," said a spokesman for the Department of the Environment . "People change their life-styles on holiday. They eat foods they don't normally, they drink more, they stay up later. Any of these could affect their health, but it could also be pollution in the sea and we would like to know if it is. So we are planning to commission a study to test the validity of claims that there is a connection between swimming in the sea and contracting disease."

One might well ask why it has taken them so long.

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Opticians are 'seeing red' it is reported, over the fact that we are now able to buy ready-made reading glasses 'over the counter' without consulting them. Yet, it appears they freely admit that these spectacles cannot harm the eyes of adults.

I can still remember when you could visit Woolworth 'Nothing over sixpense' store and try on spectacles until you found a pair which enabled you reading more clearly! A scheme eventually made illegal. Strange, isn't it?

We might at least find the qualified Optometrists a little more reasonable in their charges.

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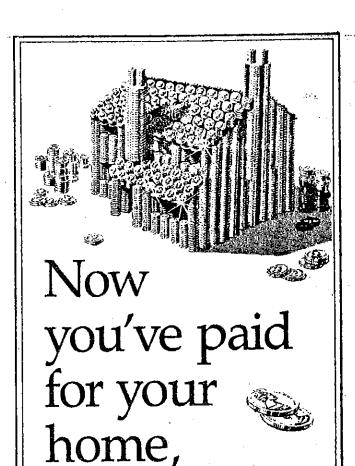
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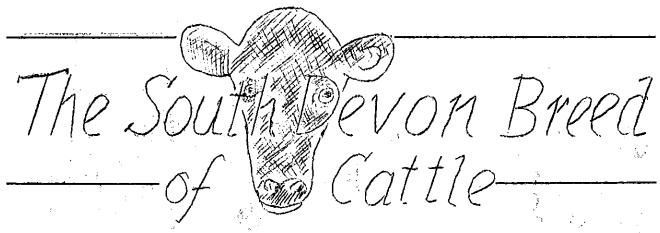
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NEVILLE C. OSWALD

PART TWO

During the 1800s more and more farmers took pride in raising their own herds of pedigree South Devon cattle, that is, they carefully selected their best young bulls and heifers to improve their stock and fattened the remainder for commercial sales. They inevitably worked in isolation to some extent and so half a dozen of them met one evening at the Wrangaton Hotel, South Brent, and decided to form a society in order to agree and maintain istandards for the herd. They formed committees and the first volume of the South Devon Herdbook Society appeared in 1891 recording data upon 143 bulls and 972 females from the herds of 96 farmers, almost all from the South Hams.

The annual is now a substantial publication and has formed and continues to form an important, indeed essential, link in the development of the breed.

The early editions called for cattle with a long and relatively narrow head with short horns that had a forward and downward sweep and a level topline over a well balanced, deep bodied and evenly fleshed whole. These standards were adopted by farmers elsewhere in the country who, aided by the South Devon Breeders Clubs in Truro and the Midlands, helped to develop herds throughout Britain. Indeed, the largest herd now thrives on the Pennine slopes above Huddersfield and numbers 700 head, deriving from the purchase of 20 heifers from small farms around Newton Abbot in 1930. During the past thirty years, thriving South Devon cattle societies with their herd books have been established in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, North America and South Africa.

In the early 1900s in country districts, farmers employed one half or more of the male working population who strove in all weathers with few mechanical aids, as they had done for centuries. The situation altered little until World War II when, as part of Government policy, tractors and other machinery were manufactured and distributed in quantity, transforming life down on the farm. Further developments, especially in transport and

OVERPAGE:::::

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

Continuing THE SOUTH DEVON BREED OF CATTLE

distribution have since led to improvements. In order to gain an insight into the lives of these friendly and hard-working Devonians, I have visited several representative farmers in the South Hams, some of whose memories go back to the early years of the century and have been able to assemble a composite view of their trials and triumphs.

By 1900, after a decade of guidance from the herdbook society, farmers were able to maintain a greater degree of uniformity than had been possible previously. They knew they had stock that yielded fine milk and beef and, from their remarkable docility, deserved their title of "gentle giants"; they made a substantial contribution to the national larder in World War F. After the war, farmers enjoyed a few years of prosperity when they had money to spend and businessmen and others wanted to buy land. There followed the depression from about 1925 to 1933 when many farmers failed and South Deyons, struggling in a reduced market, were promoted as the poor man's breed.

Conditions were less difficult in the later 1930s and then, during World War II, with repeated exhortations to increase production, the pro-vision of tractors and the replacement of absent farm workers in the Forces by members of the Women's Land Army and prisoners of war, cattle continued to be raised although their total numbers remained unchanged. When the war ended, many farms were sold through changes in the fortunes of their owners or to pay death duties. Land was often taken over by former tenants, who maintained the herds or started to raise sheep or crops.

The collection of large quantities of milk from outlying farms had always been a problem until the 1930s when Cow & Gate (later Unigate) opened its factory alongside Totnes railway station and went round collecting it in churns placed on little platforms by the roadside, later to be replaced by bulk carriers. Thus, in the name of efficiency, our own milk now goes all the way to Totnes and comes back in a bottle. All this progress did not interfere with Mr Lidstone over at South Milton who had his own churn on a handcart and went round the village collecting part of the yield from small—holders and selling it by way of a tap at the bottom of the churn. He continued to make his rounds throughout World War II and well into the 1950s. The wives of smallholders retained some of the milk and made it into cheese and cream which they took down to the pannier market in Kingsbridge, as their forebears had done for centuries.

The years 1945 to 1970 were important for the South Devon in that they reached their peak as a dual purpose breed. Their milk production was increased by selective breeding, somewhat to the detriment of the meat; even so, by the later 1960s they achieved the unique distinction of meriting a milk premium and a calf subsidy simultaneously. Young bulls were ordinarily castrated, during the first week of life as required by law, by crushing with a clamp the leaders to the testes, which soon shrivelled. The resulting steers together with heifers not required to replenish stock were fattened for market. Calves were polled or dehorned by cautery and the enucleation of the bud under local anaesthetic before they were three weeks old.

Horns present one of the biggest current problems in the development of South Devons. Up to the 1940s, they were accepted as enhancing their appearance. Then, with intensive farming and crowding in barns and yards, they became a serious liability. A general dehorning was introduced, especially in females at first, and has now spread even to pedigree bulls. The operation is not popular with many farmers but it raises few difficulties for cattle in enclosed grazing; it is a major undertaking for those running in open country. Hence from every point of view, the introduction of polled strains is desirable.

South Devons are fortunate in occasionally dropping naturally polled

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63 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, South Devon, TQ7 1PG Tel. (0548) 2064 & 10 Clifton Place, Salcombe, South Devon, TQ8 8BX Tel. (054 884) 3003 calves, but strenuous efforts over the past 20 years to produce continuous lines of polled offspring have failed so far. Much determination and patience will be needed to develop a method successfully, yet the stakes are high. Other beef breeders are trying to produce polled strains, some with far greater resources than the owners of South Devons possess, and the first to do so will gain rich rewards.

Artificial insemination (AI) has been available since 1944, but farmers were reluctant to accept it at first because they were worried lest they would lose their bulls and the fees they obtained from letting them to others. However, stimulated by cajoling from the new Dartington Hall Cattle Breeding Cantre, many of them adopted it, finding it to be a cheap way of fertilising their stock. The Centre was started in 1944 when Mr.L.K.Elmhirst financed its building and maintenance until it became self supporting. He obtained a licence from the Ministry of Agriculture to practice AI throughout South Devon and West Cornwall and at first limited his service to South Devon. About 250 bulls were examined at the outset of which nine were purchased for the Centre.

The rate of growth of the unit was remarkable, rising quickly to a sustained annual average of about 45,000 inseminations for all breeds, although this has fallen somewhat since 1984 with the introduction of the milk quota and the appearance of more bulls with the herds. The way semen is prepared for AI has developed rapidly since the 1940s, so that now plastic 'straws' may be deep frozen at 1950c. in liquid nitrogen and stored for years if necessary.

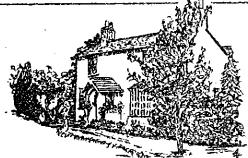
Over the years, small herds of cattle had been imported into Devon from the Channel Islands. They did not disturb the native stock unduly and enhanced the quality of the milk. When Cow & Gate (Unigate) opened its factory it was glad to take all the milk it could obtain. With the arrival of the Friesians with their prolific milk supply around 1960, South Devons were gradually squeezed from the market. This intrusion completely disrupted the economics of cattle breeding, leading farmers to abandon their dual purpose cattle and to concentrate on the production of beef. Some had already started to do so in the 1960s, but the selection and proving of well muscled and rapidly growing bulls and heifers was a laborious process and one which was not fully achieved until the 1980s. Meanwhile, a change was taking place in world markets which abandoned their preference for small joints in favour of portions of large joints, such as are provided in supermarkets. suited the owners of big well-fleshed South Devons in the 1970s so that each year they sold some 5,000 head for fattening elsewhere in Britain and exported hundreds more to English speaking countries overseas, thus enabling them to ride the recession in the mid-1970s that overtook much of the livestock industry and then to enjoy the spectacular renascence of the South Devon in the 1980s. Neville C.Oswald.

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER : : : : : ADD-A-GRAM : : CAN YOU DO IT ?

Starting with one letter, add a letter and re-arrange if necessary, to solve the clues given. Numbers in brackets show the number of letters in each answer. The first puzzle is started as an example: Solution on another page.

Personal pronoun (1)	Article (1)
Not Out (2)	Child's 'Thank you'.(2) Turn it on for water (3)
Penalty (4)FINE	Narrow cotton strip (4)
Imply (5)	Talk too much (5)
Pal (6)	Sea-robbers (7)
Touched with digits (8) Pulling Off (9)	Plant living on another (8) Essentially different (9)

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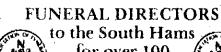
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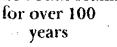
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Villager

I WAS sat in front of my typewriter and inserted a wax stencil to start work on an article with a rather a long title = "DON'T YOU CONSIDER OUR VILLAGES ARE SUFFERING A SLOW DEATH FROM EXCESSIVE TOURISM" WHEN TO MY AMAZEMENT they were saying on Spotlight TV (June 5th) that in future all Guide Books for our South Devon area would 'not be naming a number of noted beauty spots - mentioning Widdicombe-in-the-Moor as an example of the problems from the huge numbers of tourists causing heavy erosion - the village green had been restored on a number of occasions - and the overwhelming situation of car and coach parking.

ODDLY enough it will be termed 'Negative Marketing'! It certainly has taken them a very long time to realise what their present 'Positive Marketing' is doing to every place of interest, every beauty spot. I had reached the conclusion this year the West Country Tourist Board were doing their utmost to actually drive people away by the mass of folk they were encouraging to visit the area which, after all, is just too small to cope. Tourists have spoken to from Bolberry Down to Castle Drogo all said the same — its all very beautiful but the roads and car parking facilities prevent enjoyment with so many people about and the coaches — a subject on which most people should be termed 'speechless'. Our main roads are bad enough — take the A381 from Totnes to Kingsbridge as an example, but our maze of unclassified roadways are really quite impossible for the mostly larger cars of the more affluent society of today and should be termed 'impossible', nay, impassablemfor coaches.

APART from excessive tourism, is there not an excess of holiday and second homes which rampant housing development has done much to encourage from people looking for a profitable home for money gained from the property boom? In Thurlestone there must now be in excess of 150 such and it surely does little to benefit the village community - most of the money going out of the parish. What it does ensure is ever greater sewage pollution at Leas Foot beach where untreated sewage is discharged into the sea - a beach already classified as among the worst polluted in the South Hams - and inevitablymore and more cars - another kind of pollution.

PERHAPS another example can be seen at week-ends in particular on a beach that used to considered a kiddies paradise (when it was tar free!) - seems to be becoming heavily used by the sailboard fraternity. I was told that on a recent Sunday something like a 1000 square yards in all was taken over by sailboards and sails spread on the sand, and motorised sea scooters were making kiddies paddling potentially dangerous. This on a beach which is in the care of the National Trust.

This page is open to anyone and everyone - whether they agree or disagree - but let me say you cannot disagree with known facts. Or can you?

The next issue of this magazine will be September October, distributed around the end of August. Village Voice is a forum your views as well as of those like myself who write in each issue. Come on, let's hear from YOU.

Villager

APOLOGY APOLOGY APOLOGY APOLOGY APOLOGY APOLOGY

Re: DRABBLEMANIA: (see this issue)

An apology is due to all those who were born on a Friday

for 'FRIDAY'S CHILD IS LOVING AND GIVING' which is just

about the nicest of all, is!nt it?

Dudley Drabble the 'Maniaman' !

All local members are reminded that there is now regular Club play on Tuesday evenings from 1730 and again on Sundays from 1430 to 1730 throughout the year. Please come along. We have a regular nucleus, but need more.

Junior tennis is run on a regular basis on Thursday evenings 1700 to 1930. This is primarily under the eye of the Tennis Professional James Isaacs, but we also need members of the club or parents to assist. Volunteers required urgently - contact Norman Bradley 560582.

During the summer we will again be running a series of tournaments starting on July 29 for a period of six weeks. Of particular interest to the local juniors will be the Tuesday and Thursday morning tournaments for ages 10-13 and 14-16. In previous years local youngsters seem to have been reluctant to take part - this year come along and try them:

WHY NOT GO TO PIECES AND VISIT THE JIGSAW LIBRARY?

Just a reminder that the jigsaw library is open and available at Charnwood each afternoon from 2pm to 4pm.

And our thanks to all who have generously donated jigsaws to get the library under way. Penny McDonald. 560239.

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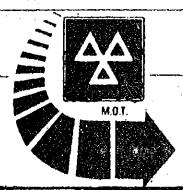
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And don't forget to make the most of your Milkman too he also can deliver a wide range of dairy foods - Clotted cream - Double cream - Devon butter - Cheese - various Yogurts and Fruit drinks . . Lemonades - Orangeade - Potatoes and yes, pure Highland Drinking water - all at truly competitive prices . . on your doorstep! Oh, and by the way . .

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2 is R, 3 is A and 12 is N - SO BEGIN BY REPEATING THESE LETTERS WHERE

THESE NUMBERS OCCUR. IDENTIFY OTHER NUMBER/LETTERS AND WHEN FINISHED THE

DIAGRAM WILL RESEMBLE A NORMAL CROSSWORD GRID. EACH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET
IS USED.

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Use this reference grid to identify your letters
REFERENCE GRID

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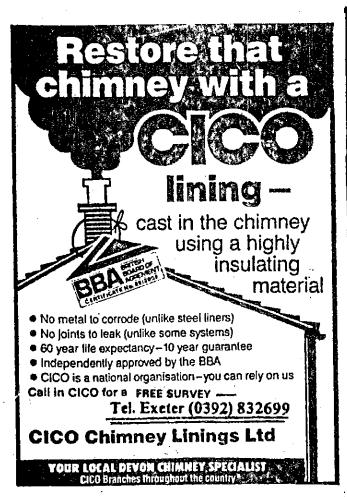
AT A WELL-ATTENDED May meeting the members enjoyed a talk about the National Trust by Anthony Adam. Regretfully I was unable to attend and therefore unable to report fully, but all the members I have spoken to found it full of interest.

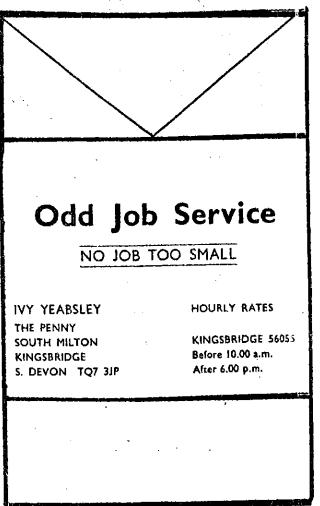
At our June meeting we had a complete change with Roy Oakshott, that well-known jazz musician and enthusiast entertaining us with words and music. A splendid and very different event which was much enjoyed by all.

Our July meeting represents another complete change with Merchant Navy Captain J.A.M.Taylor talking of his experiences during the Falklands War, illustrated, we hope, by a film taken by himself.

August as usual will pass without a meeting, the next one being in September.

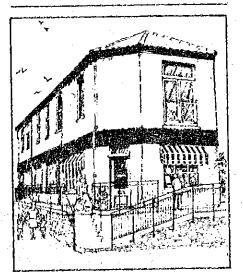
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IN the country it is said that summer has not arrived until the elder is fully in flower.

IN Victorian times elder flowers were always added to the christening posset to bless and protect the new born child. These sweet scented flowers are often used in recipes, and our own favourite for a summer sweet is -

GOOSEBERRY SOUFFLE

Using a 6/7" souffle dish, tie a band of greaseproof paper around the outside, to stand about 2" above the rim to support the mixture as it sets.

1 lb gooseberries

1 carton low-fat yoghurt

4-5 heads of elderflowers

3 teasp. powdered gelatine

1 teasp. honey

water

3 eggs, separated.

Top and tail the gooseberries. Tie the elderflowers in a piece of muslin and put them in a saucepan with the gooseberries, honey and a little water. Cook on a low heat until soft. Remove the elderflowers and pass the fruit through a seive to make a puree. Place the bowl over a saucepan half filled with water and continue heating until the mixture starts to thicken, remove from the heat and whip the yoghurt until smooth; dissolve the gelatine in a little hot water and add both to the puree. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold carefully into the fruit with a metal spoon. Pour into prepared dish and leave to set.

To remove the paper easily, dip a palette knife into hot water and run it between the edge of the souffle and the paper. It will then peel off easily.

AND A QUICKIE: You can use apples, plums or gooseberries, but the first tender rhubarb is delicious:

BROWN BETTY

1 lb Rhubarb

4 ozs caster sugar

4 ozs fresh white breadcrumbs

Finely grated rind and Juice of one orange.

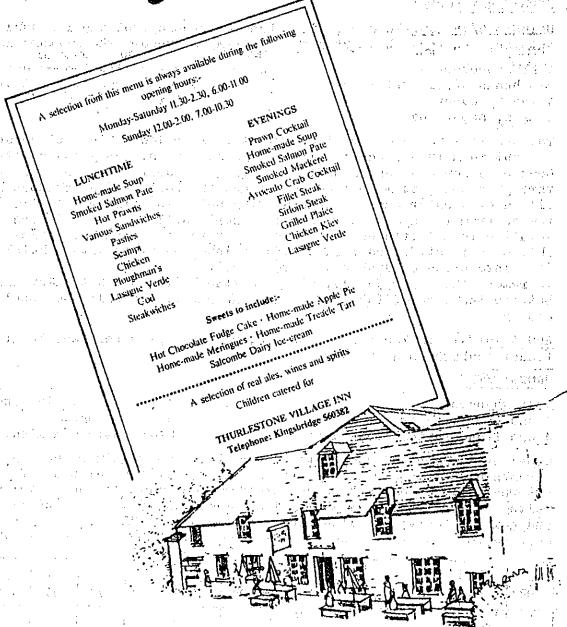
3 ozs butter, melted.

Wipe the rhubarb and chop into 1" lengths. Mix together the sugar, bread -crumbs and orange rind. Butter a 2 pint ovenproof dish and fill with alternate layers of rhubarb and breadcrumbs; sprinkle each layer with melted butter. Bake for 45 minutes approx. at 1900 - 375f until crisp and golden. Serve hot with cream or custard.

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Derek Yeoman writes:

"Four years ago, ignoring my father's advice, I accepted hospitality from a stranger and awoke to find myself Chairman of the Hall Committee. Strangely, my threatened "fate worse than death" turned out to be the exact opposite. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past four years, mainly due to the support received from the Committee, friends and others too numerous to mention - my sincere and grateful thanks go to them all.

"After four years in any job one's initial enthusiasm dies and one's thinking becomes stereotyped, so in the interest of our 'Customers' I felt the time had come for a change and in this respect we were lucky that Joan Mackenzie agreed to accept the nomination. I am certain that her past experience and flair for getting things done will bring new impetus to the running of the Hall."

"During the past four years I hope our successes have outnumbered our less successful ventures - dare I mention the Car Park surface ladies! Ideally it should have been covered with tarmac, but apart from the cost, it would have been torn up by those using the car park for turning, particularly heavy lorries.

"Much work still remains to be done if the Hall is to continue its successful run and I am pleased to have been included in the new Committee so that when required I can help the new Chairman whose proposal was accepted unanimously at this year's AGM. May I wish Joan every success during her term of office and in particular may it be as rewarding as mine."

Thurlestone Parish Hall AGM.

Elections: Secretary: Mrs Doris Tyler. Treasurer: Mrs. Evelyn Spear. Building and Car Park: Mr. Derek Yeoman. Representatives from: P.C.C., Parish Council, W.I., Keep, Fit, Football, Bowls, Bantham Surf L.S. Club, Horticultural Show, Bridge, Junior Art.

"I have been fortunate enough to have known this Hall since 1959, and there have been great improvements over the past ten years, which in turn has been shown in the increase in bookings. As in all village halls there are on-going costs for maintenance, so each year we ask for your support to fund our excellent hall.

"This year's AUTUMN HAPPENING will be on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30 at 2.30 pm to raise funds to improve the kitchen and toilets. Please note this date and see details in the next issum of Village

Voice.

"We would like to thank Derek Yeoman for the hard work he has undertaken on your behalf during his term of office as Chairman, and I will make every effort to keep up the high standard already set. Derek's sense of humour has resulted in a very harpy working committee and his last project for the improvement of the corridors to the stage has now been completed."

Joan F. Mackenzie, Chairman.

Note: A sum of money was found in the hall on May 16. Please ring 560671 with any claim.

THE RISING GENERATION

A Report from Sarah Marston, Press Officer, Rising Generation.

On a Monday evening from 6.30 until 8.00, 25 local children meet at Thurlestom Parish Hall for alternate Art and Drama lessons.

The Art class is run by the artist from Burwood Gallery Len Hubbard, with help from Dick Bruff and Janet Wilson. They wish to coach the group as a club. We are shown drawing techniques and styles which will develop as time goes on.

Although the tuition is free we are asked to provide our own A3 sketch pad and pencils. As the group's ages range from 9 to 16, Mr.Hubbard tries to split up the group and show the more advanced more difficult work. On warmer evenings we will go out on walks armed with pad and pencils to capture some of the area's scenery. Using the pad as a camera, we will be asked to sketch landscapes and scenes using the techniques we have learnt.

The atmosphere inside the hall is wonderful, we are all totally absorbed in our own work with lots of help and encouragement from the Artists.

The Drama section has been running for two weeks. It is organised by Val Brown and Elaine Treleaven who make the evenings fun. We begin with a warm-up and then act out scenes from plays, scenes from our own imaginations, and also tell the rest of the group about ourselves.

Everyone enjoys these meetings and are eager to carry on and learn more. We would all like to thank Len Hubbard for organising it all. We look forward to each week.

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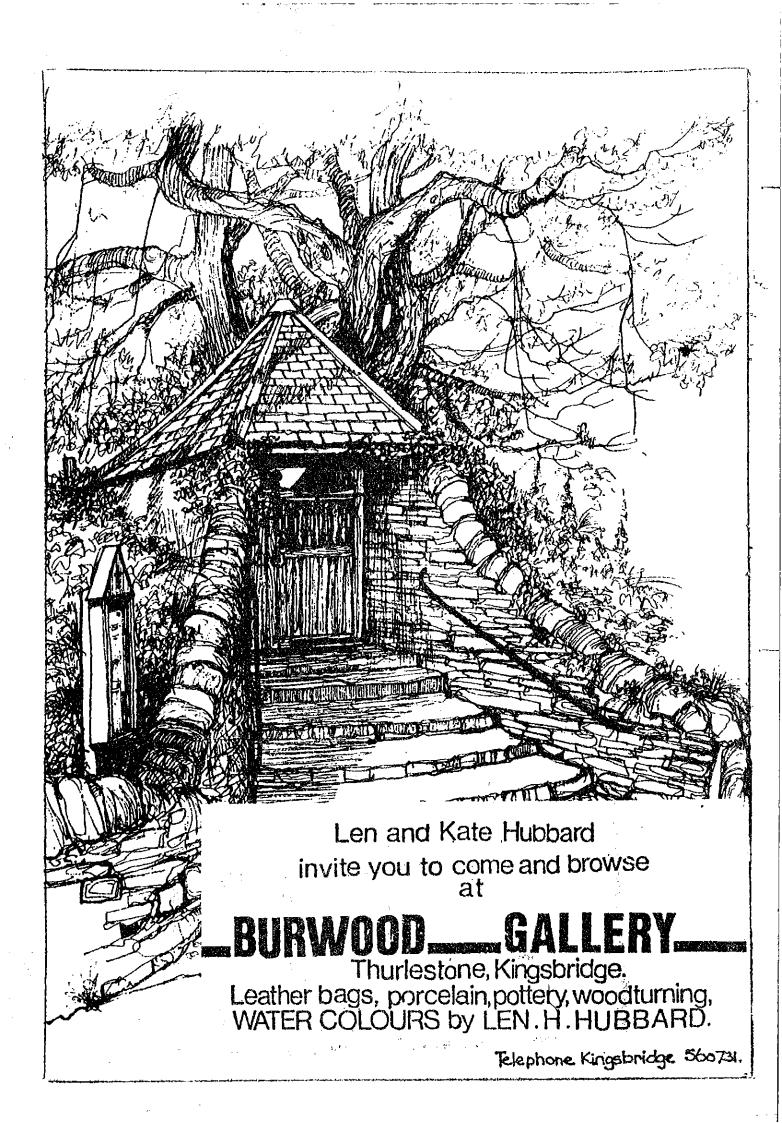
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... is back in vogue Here we go again, it seems. No sooner has the nation revised its attitude to fatty foods and full-fat milk, but a learned medical survey comes up with warning the public that there may be a risk of higher cancer rates from low-fat diets.

Of course, like any research, the results pose as many questions as they answer. But it does appear that earlier advice that low cholesterol is best, may be over-stating the position. And certainly anyone who has low to average cholesterol levels in their blood can eat more easily in future.

It has always seemed a nonsense that the medical world went so strong on low-=fat milk. The dairy trade quite rightly turned it to advantage with vast sales of stripey-top milk but longer term the thing was bound to be seen as a delusion.

And with all the current outcry about tampering with 'natural' milk, whether it be green top or BST produced milks, it is surprising that some producers ever allowed skimmed milk to be offered to the public.

The conclusion of this saga must be that a sensible and varied diet is the thing to aim for. A'little of what you fancy in back in vogue. That's good news at least.

Source: Farming News 'Opinion' - 14.4.89

THERE WAS A TIME ...

When a delightful sandy beach with its fascinating rock pools and quiet sheltered areas could be termed a children's paradise, but it might seem that commercialisation with sailboard and surf board hire and instruction with a possible addition this summer of motorised 'wave hoppers' - a scooter that rides the sea is not going to add to the pleasure of the very young. One supposes there is more money in hiring out sailboards, etc. than in screaming yelling kids having a great time. Sailboards, in particular, when they are brought ashore and left there with sail spread out certainly curtail young children's activities. South Milton Beach is in the parishes of South Milton & South Huish and is not a Thurlestone problem! Of course, times change. Today it is not unusual for 6 and 7 year olds to go trial riding small motorbikes on private ground. Such youngsters might well welcome the wave hoppers!

What do you think? Write to Village Voice. Should such beaches be for young children in safety or should a commercial element be permitted Your name need not be printed so long as you tell us in confidence.

Because of limited product--ion facilities VILLAGE VOICE can only be distribu--ted FREE to the RESIDENTS of the villages of the Parish.

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 pur--chased from the local News--agents - 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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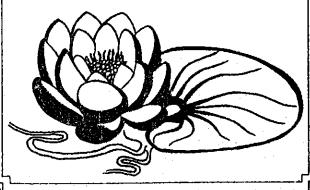
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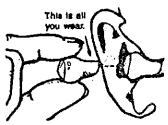
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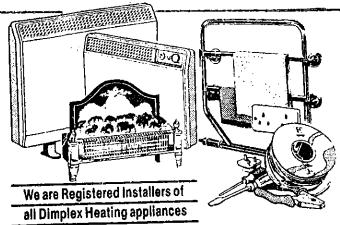
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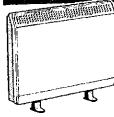


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Written some years ago by the late Major G.W. Davis, who lived at 'Webbers' South Milton for very many years and died in 1983 aged 91 years.

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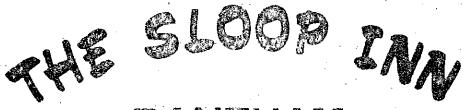
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I used to dread growing older because I thought I would not be able to do all the things I wanted to do, but now I am older I find I don't want to do them.

Nancy Astor on her eightleth birthday 1959

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.

Mark Twain.



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