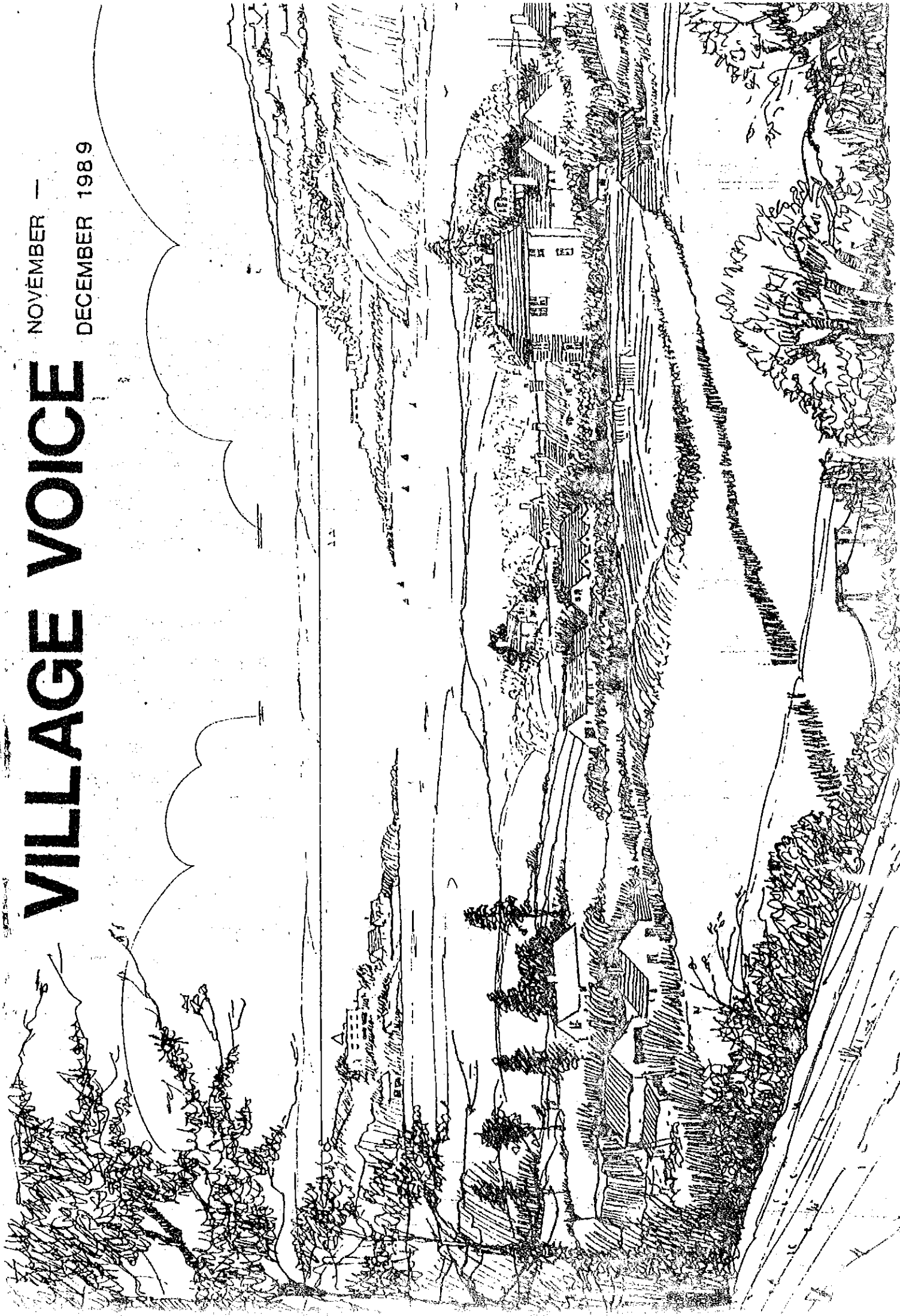


VILLAGE VOICE

NOVEMBER —
DECEMBER 1989



KATE'S KITCHEN

DEALS

With Green tomatoes
and suggests
A Different Stuffing
or Two.

Says Kate: No trouble ripening tomatoes this year, but there are always a few top trusses which stay green. This recipe has a slightly Eastern flavour.

GREEN TOMATO CHUTNEY.

2lb green tomatoes, 1lb onions, 6 bananas, 8oz raisins, 1 rounded tablesp.finely chopped stem ginger, 2½ pints malt vinegar, 1 level tablesp. salt, ½-1 level teasp.cayenne pepper, 1½lb brown sugar.

Skin the tomatoes by dipping them into boiling water. Prepare and chop the onions coarsely. Peel and slice the bananas. Place the tomatoes, onions, bananas, raisins and ginger in a large saucepan, cover and simmer gently for about 50 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the vinegar and simmer uncovered for about 30 minutes. Add salt, cayenne pepper and sugar. Stir until sugar has dissolved, then simmer gently for a further 30 minutes until liquid is absorbed. Allow to cool a little before bottling. Makes around 4 lbs.

STUFFINGS.

Says Kate: Last Christmas I experimented with one or two different stuffings for the Turkey and Pork and the family enjoyed the change.

MUSHROOM AND BACON STUFFING (For Turkey, Chicken and Game).

1 oz butter, 4 oz streaky bacon (rind removed and diced), 6 oz mushrooms finely chopped, 4 oz fresh brown breadcrumbs, 1 tablesp. finely chopped fresh parsley, 2 tablesp.soured cream, pinch of dried basil, 4 juniper berries (optional), salt and freshly ground black pepper

Melt the butter in a pan and gently fry the bacon for 4 minutes. Stir in the mushrooms and cook for a further 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the breadcrumbs, parsley, soured cream, basil, berries crushed, salt and pepper.

APPLE AND RAISIN STUFFING (For Pork or Duck)

2 oz butter, 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped, 8 fresh sage leaves or 2 teasp.dried sage, 8 oz dessert apples, peeled, cored and diced, 1½ oz long-grain rice, cooked and drained, 2 oz raisins salt, freshly-ground black pepper, 1 egg yolk, lightly beaten.

Melt the butter in a pan and gently fry the onion for 4 minutes until soft and transparent. Increase the heat, add the sage and apple and toss over the heat for 6-7 minutes until the apples soften but not entirely lose their shape. Add the rice, raisins, salt and pepper, stirring well. Remove from the heat and cool slightly. Beat in the egg yolk to bind all the ingredients together.

AND, SAYS KATE: HAPPY CHRISTMAS - BON APPETIT!

LATE, LATE NEWS OF A VERY SPECIAL SHOW: ON DECEMBER 13 FROM 7 TO 9 p.m.

THE RISING GENERATION PROUDLY PRESENTS...AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AND DRAMA from this terms work. DON'T MISS IT!

AT THE PARISH HALL THURLESTONE.

Village Voice Stop press

*Is Traffic Ruining our Lives?
Can it be Stopped?
Should we have Double
Yellow lines in the
Village Street?*

HAVE YOUR SAY AT THE

EXTRAORDINARY

PARISH

MEETING

*at Thurlestone Parish Hall
on Tuesday 7th November
at 7.30 p.m.*

When Decisions will be made!

By Direction of Thurlestone Parish Council

IS TRAFFIC RUINING OUR LIVES ? CAN IT BE STOPPED ? SHOULD WE
HAVE DOUBLE YELLOW LINES IN THE VILLAGE STREET ?

TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 1989
in the Parish Hall at 7. 30 p.m.....

The EXTRAORDINARY PARISH MEETING notified overleaf
will be under the Chairmanship of Mr. P.W.J.HURRELL
(Chairman of Thurlestone Parish Council)

SPEAKERS

who have accepted invitations to attend:

County Councillor Mr SIMON J. DAY

County Councillor Mr. L.G.J.PIKE - Chairman of the
Teignbridge & South Hams Highways
Committee

Devon County Council AREA HIGHWAYS ENGINEER
(South)

Inspector ALLEN of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
(Kingsbridge Police Area)

District Councillor Mr J.V.THOMAS

If the matter to be discussed is of interest or concern
to you do make every effort to be at this meeting.



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Kendall McDonald
& Penny McDonald

at

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Kingsbridge

Tel: Kingsbridge
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of Thurlestone
Parish Council)

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

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Cover Picture by LEN HUBBARD of Burwood Gallery Thurlestone

NUMBER 41. SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION. NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1989.

VILLAGE VOICE is not a political magazine. So what, dear reader, do you make of the fact that in this editorial we strongly advise you to buy shares in South-West Water?

Please don't all yell at once. Be patient. There is method in our madness. You see, already, as the wind turns cold, we hear you recalling "the wonderful summer of '89". And in your yearnings for those not-so-far-off sun-drenched days, it seems you have already forgotten that it was not only the sun which should have made the summer of '89 so memorable.

Forgotten is the so-called water crisis. Are our memories so short that we have no recollection of the bullying and the threats of South-West Water when no rains came? Do we not recall the pleasure they took in punishing their customers for actually daring to use the water for which they had already paid? The way they covered their blame by blaming us?

Have we forgotten already the 13 years of South-West Water's misrule? Was it only in 1976 that they promised water would never be a problem again? Are our memories of 1989 to be wiped clean like some computer's floppy disc?

Are we going to let the guilty run our water supply after privatisation just as though nothing had happened? Because they will, you know, unless the new shareholders throw them out,

So that's why we say buy South-West Water. And kick the blighters out!

FROM THE RECTOR.

I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS a copy of Father Forrest's humorous book of poems about the church. Here is one of them:-

The Church Clairvoyant.

They grumbled at the anthems and the chants they couldn't sing.
They moaned about the settings that the festivals would bring,
But they left the poor old organist to find out everything.
By instinct, or possibly, by radar.

They groused about the particles of dust upon the pew.
They shivered in the icy draughts which from the windows blew,
But they never told the verger, or perhaps they thought he knew.
By instinct, or possibly, by radar.

They fetched the doctor fast enough when father had the gout,
They called the district nurse when tonsillitis was about,
But they never told the Rector for they thought he'd know
without.

By instinct, or possibly, by radar.

The moral of these verses isn't difficult to show,
That, if you think a man is wrong, politely tell him so.
Don't leave the chap to ascertain the things he doesn't know
By instinct, or possibly, by radar.

WHICH LEADS ME ON to say that there is NO RADAR AT THE RECTORY. Despite efforts to keep the Church abreast of modern developments, there are as yet no proposals to fit Rectories with Radar Scanners. All of which means that I am entirely reliant upon the co-operation of parishioners to let me know of cases of sickness in the Parish, especially so when folk are in hospital. Please bear this in mind and help me, on your behalf, to visit those who are laid aside with sickness, whether or not they are churchfolk.

Many of you are already very good about this, and it is very helpful if you can give me Name, Address and Telephone Number, or Hospital and Ward "in writing", as some verbal messages passed on casually are not very precise and are easily forgotten. Also if you know of any who would value Holy Communion at home, or just a visit, please let me know.

NOVEMBER 1st is All Saints Day, the Patronal Festival of both our Churches in the United Benefice. The Festival will be marked by a joint celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m. and this year the service will be at Thurlestone and we shall revive at it the simple and ancient ceremony of "The Gloves".

NOVEMBER 12th is Remembrance Sunday and we shall have our special Remembrance Service at 11.10 at the Parish Church, as in previous years, keeping our silence at the appropriate place in the service and immediately after the service proceeding to the War Memorial for the wreath-laying ceremony.

The price nature pays for advice

My cousin, Naturalist PHIL DRABBLE draws on experience of £1000-a-day offers to discuss the pitfalls facing environmental consultants.

and his article reproduced here published in the Weekend Telegraph on 30.9.89 makes exceedingly interesting reading...

= = = = =

Dudley Drabble

BORN into a household of moderate means, I grew up to count the pennies. So, when earlier this year a developer offered me consultancy fees which took my breath away, I encouraged him to elaborate.

The developer in question is involved with "leisure villages" (which is newspeak for holiday camps), and he invited me to become his environmental consultant, to advise on the impact of six multi-million pound "leisure villages" in this country and, possibly, some on the Continent. One was to be built near the site of my own nature reserve.

The fee he offered was £1,000-a-day plus VAT and expenses, and he asked me to "confirm the way in which I would wish to approach the assignment and the fee arrangements required."

My instincts were against accepting the offer, but I encouraged him to discuss it, if only to discover for myself what makes such ventures tick.

I came to the conclusion that my prospective client was totally honest and sincere in his wish to minimise the damage to the environment of the holiday camps. He would not have committed such proposals to cold print if he had anything to hide, but he was shrewd enough to calculate that such an approach would give him the edge over less reputable competitors.

In theory, the policy of seeking specialist advice from reputable environmentalists before allowing potentially intrusive rural developments such as holiday camps is wholly admirable. Increasing wealth and leisure have combined with easy transport to impose intolerable pressure on the shrinking countryside.

Big business, which always wants value for money, rates £1000 a day as peanuts in a budget of many millions of pounds. It is a good investment if it purchases the services of the most distinguished consultant whose reputation will carry the greatest weight with planners, with elected representatives or at public inquiries, so there is keen competition to "buy" big names.

One snag for the developer is that distinction, in such highly specialised fields, does not necessarily guarantee common sense or practical knowledge of countryfolk and places. A scientist may be brilliant enough to computerise the articulation of a gnat's knee in his laboratory, but he may be unable to find its ankle in the field. Indeed, the acquisition of such "big" names may only heighten opposition.

David Bellamy is widely acclaimed for his ardour in charging into the fray to the rescue of any green maiden in peril. He, of all people, is surely above suspicion! Yet he tells me that he has recently spent sleepless nights because Environmental Consultancy has become a dirty word.

Bellamy says that if, when he is asked for advice, he comes down on the side of developers whom he considers will do no harm, he is accused by conservationists of selling out.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE:

THE PRICE NATURE PAYS FOR ADVICE - Phil Drabble - continued

If, on the other hand, he blackballs the proposal, he is then likely to be pestered for the name of his client, who in turn would then be persecuted for trying it on.

His experience confirmed my decision to decline my own big-money offer and, with commendable candour, the man who had approached me said that he respected my view that, as a champion of conservation interests, I felt it important to preserve my independence.

When I recounted the incident to my MP he "wondered how many of his constituents would have been able to resist the temptation."

I think he underrates his constituents. Certainly none of my friends would risk the loss of independence for a fistful of dollars.

But while environmentalists must, like all of us, earn a living, such consultancy work is inevitable. Then there is always the danger that the exceptional bad apple will appear in the barrel and taint the rest. With fees so much in excess of the income of ordinary folk, there must be a temptation to "edit" the facts to suit a client's cause, if only subconsciously.

If there is the remotest possibility of having fees "assigned" anonymously to foreign banks or otherwise lining back pockets with untraceable lolly, it could explain a whole lot of surprising planning consents or public inquiry findings. Elected representatives and their planning officers, or even MP's themselves, might measure probity by elastic yardsticks.

Newspaper files are stuffed with sad tales of parish pump politicians who broke the 11th commandment. Inflated fees for consultants may be an irresistible temptation to potentially "bendable" scientists, thus destroying the credibility of all those honest ones who will be unfairly associated with them.

The instant such sums are misapplied, they change from fees to bribes, and it is in the interest of all who care about the countryside to cut such payments down to size.

While temptation remains, vulnerable planners could give consent for cash, consultants could give weighted advice, and honourable men will be tarred with the same brush.

Diligent investigators from the Inland Revenue should make the risks of such practices prohibitive and the media should do all they can to expose them.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of genuine country-lovers with the guts to stand up and be counted. They will give constructive advice for nothing - simply because they value respect more highly than riches.

=====

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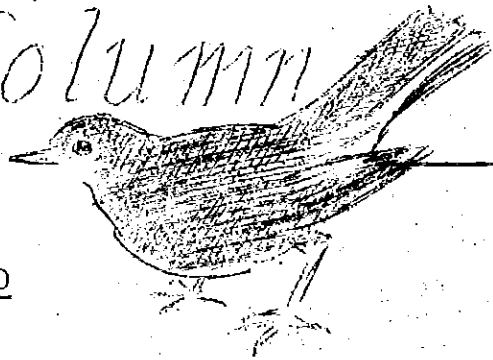
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Harry Huggins Column

TELLS THE STORY OF

TWO INNOCENTS AMONG THE BIRDS ABROAD



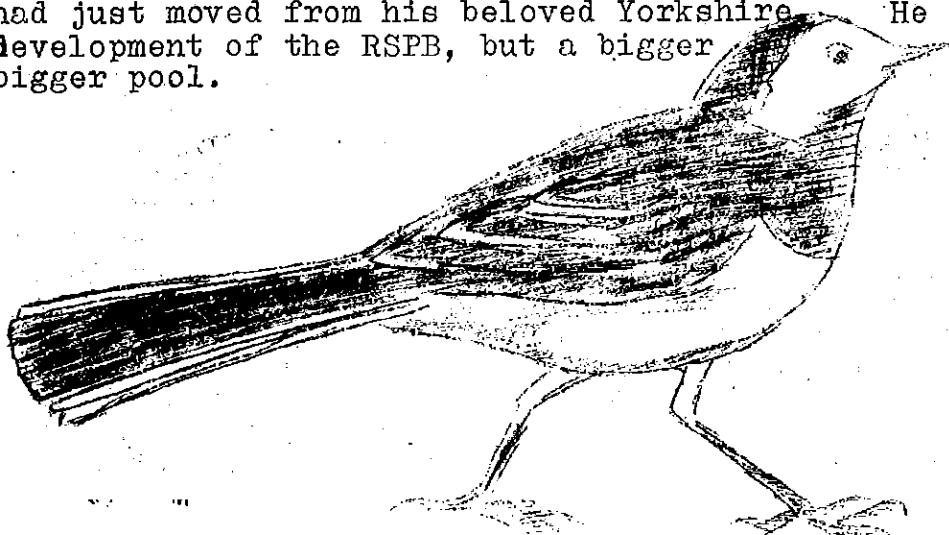
TO CELEBRATE OUR SILVER WEDDING, June did a dreadful thing. She bounced me into an organised birdwatching holiday in Majorca. For years we had spent our holidays bumbling around the Thames Estuary in a sailing boat. Wisely, and successfully of course, she wanted to wean me off that.

It should be explained that at some previous date a crafty entrepreneur in the travel business had realised that there was little future in sending people on packages to Benidorm and there was more loot to be obtained in despatching a party of people with a reasonably knowledgeable guide to a hotel in some place where there were a fair number of birds.

The punters got all the arrangements made for them and were shown a lot of birds. The leader got a free holiday - I don't think any of them were paid in the early days - provided he was prepared to put up with the punters: we met one later who could not abide them! The organiser had to pay dearly to sell his holidays, in advertising and brochures. But he was not trying to fill a chartered aircraft - he sent the party on a scheduled flight - and at the hotel he could book when he knew how many participants he had. Above all he could charge more than for the usual package. In fact all he had to do was to put the thing together and stand by to ring up the till.

So off we went, a couple of innocents. We did have a good book illustrating what we might see. We had one battered old pair of binoculars between us - such things were never favoured in my family, my father always said: "Why do you want binoculars, you've got a shotgun!". It was swapped long since for binoculars.

The leader was Trevor Gunton, Head of Development of the RSPB. He must have been appointed only recently then, because he was still complaining about the small of cabbages in Bedfordshire whither he had just moved from his beloved Yorkshire. He is still Head of Development of the RSPB, but a bigger fish in a much bigger pool.



We stayed at Puerto Pollensa, in the north of Majorca. Let no one decry that island as a birding place. It is not all booze and bimbo. There is still a lot of wildlife and some very interesting resident birds, ranging from a Fantailed Warbler and Firecrest, both very tiny, to a Black Vulture, enormous and very, very rare.

It is an important staging post between Europe and Africa for migrants; and the northern cliffs are one of the few breeding sites in the world of the rare and beautiful Eleonora's Falcon, like a smaller and more elegant Peregrine. She is named for Queen Eleonora, a mediaeval Margaret Thatcher who ruled with a rod of iron over one of the larger Mediterranean islands. The falcons time their breeding to have large young in the nests just when the autumn migration brings as food a plentiful supply of travel-weary Swallows, House Martins and the like.

We saw a lot of birds, learned more in a fortnight than we had in our lives, came home and bought two new pairs of binoculars.

After mainland Spain, and Yugoslavia, and two more pairs of binoculars, we went to Romania, mainly to visit the Danube Delta, reckoned to be the best wetland in Europe. It was all quite cheap, they were so anxious to get western currency (even sterling!). We were led by an English bird man, Roger Norman, with a Romanian courier, Tudor (who spent his time with scant success trying to convince us of the virtues of the Romanian Communist Party - we taught him much more about birds than he taught us about communists!) and there was a Romanian driver with his coach.

The birding was excellent, the country, well, interesting. When you go on one of these wildlife excursions, you are not stuck around a hotel. You do not see another Brit, still less football supporters, but you see the country people and their agriculture as it really is. Now rightly or wrongly I was reared to regard the great Bolshevik leaders as anarchists, murderers and generally unspeakable. But in one village we visited, Roger, our English birder, was received with such acclamation that we nearly lost him: the people were Russians, their ancestors refugees from some religious persecution of a century earlier. And Roger, a neat little man with a beard, looked exactly like their great national hero, Lenin!

Romania, more Stalinist than Russia even then, long before any thought of glasnost and perestroika, has been the only country in which I have felt frightened.

We started in the high Carpathians, near Peles Castle, where, for those with very long memories, King Carol used to do what he did with Madame Lupescu. The village, Sinaia, is closed now, they tell me. The Party Leader (Tudor always called him "King") decided he wanted the castle for himself and threw everyone else out of the area.

Then we drove right across Romania, past wires with Red Backed Shrikes and trees with Golden Orioles. Once we met a funeral procession - first someone with a cross, then two people carrying a large portrait of the deceased, followed by a lot of folks carrying wreaths. Then the deceased himself in an open coffin (for centuries the Turks ruled this area; they did not permit coffins to be closed, lest weapons be smuggled in them) and finally an oompah band playing tumpy-tump on battered old instruments.

When we reached the Delta there were no roads, only the arms of Danube; to reach a hotel downstream we rode on the river boat with all the locals. There was a man with a lamb in a sack, with its head sticking out; next to him was one with a sack with nothing sticking out - this contained a piglet; they were joined by a third man carrying a net filled with hemispherical loaves of bread.

Continued overleaf.

All were dumped on deck together: the animals did, well, what animals do, with what we regarded as disastrous results to the bread. The gentleman concerned seemed quite unperturbed, and we hoped the bread was not going to our hotel.

When we left to fly home, Tudor shook hands all round: except with June. He kissed her hand, for he had coveted and she had given him the chain she used to hang her spectacles round her neck. He wanted it because he took skiing parties and was always losing his glasses in the snow. You just could not buy such a thing in his ghastly country. I believe it is worse now.

The Harry Huggins Column will complete the story in our next issue. Don't miss it.

Important Announcement

JOAN GALLOWAY will be making her

MARVELLOUS MARMALADE

again this year in aid of the Church.

Take your pick from

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Prices are not definite at present, but are likely to be little more than in the past three years when they have been held at 50p per pound for the Orange.

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DON'T WAIT, DON'T HESITATE! ORDERS TO:

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Christmas Past:

The WI collects old Christmas Cards and all used stamps for the Cheshire Homes. Any contributions would be gratefully received by either:

Anne Grose at Byeways, Warren Road

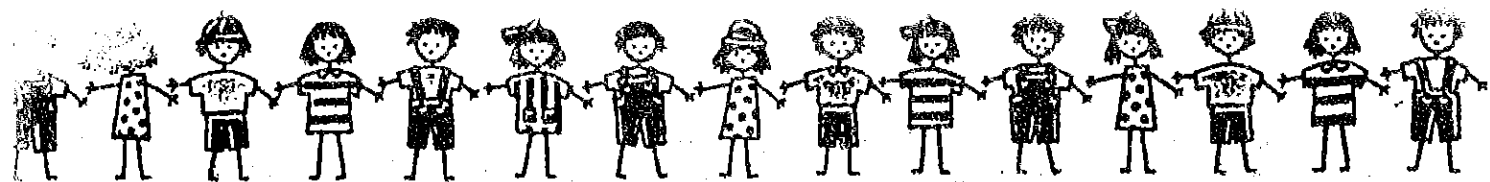
or

Veronica White at 7, Crosslands, The Mead.

who say..

PLEASE can the stamps be cut off envelopes leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch margin.

This delightful duo also collect bottle tops, ring pulls, kitchen foil and tin foil food containers. To them please as above.



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National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

I Remember...

says BILL ROBINS, who has been a gardener in Thurlestone for most of his adult life.

WHEN I WAS A BOY in the 1920's, there were rabbits everywhere. They were in the hedgerows, on the golf course, along the cliffs and on any waste ground. Some of them were born in the cornfields where they grew up and remained until harvest time. When the corn was reaped, from the edges inwards, we boys surrounded the centre and waited for the rabbits to dash out, grabbing as many of them as we could with our hands. A hundred or more might be caught in a big field and they made a very useful supply of meat, especially for families where there were many mouths to feed.

The rabbiting season lasted from about September to March, allowing the young ones to grow during the summer months; ferreting took place on Saturdays and Sundays. Many of the village boys had their own ferrets - my father gave me one when I was 8 or 9 - and they went out on most days during school holidays, often being allowed on to the farms where their fathers worked. Indeed, ferreting was our main interest in the winter months as we rarely went far from Thurlestone and a trip into Kingsbridge was a bit of a luxury for many of us. Also, after we had taken home as many rabbits as were needed, we might be able to sell the remainder to friends for a few pence.

Many villagers had a dog for rabbiting, either a whippet which was ideal for hedgerows or a lurcher which was hardier and able to penetrate prickly undergrowth. They went out with their dogs, ferrets and netting at weekends and thought nothing of catching a couple of dozen rabbits, some of which they sold to neighbours, the going rate being about fivepence each. I was often asked for a couple at short notice. I went out to a hedgerow in the evening, shone a powerful torch which transfixed the rabbits and my whippet did the rest.

Continued overleaf.

BOXING DAY was the big occasion for rabbiting, when small groups when small groups of villagers went out laden with cider; towards the end of the day they were likely to miss as many rabbits as they caught!

Farmers occasionally organised hunts in which many people took part, but mostly they employed a trapper, who paid for the right to trap the farmer's rabbits.

Most villages had such a man, ours was Mr. Bartlett, who relied on trapping for his livelihood. He used to bundle his catch into crates that were collected in a van from Kingsbridge and sent off by rail, mainly to the Midlands.

Rabbits continued to flourish until the 1950's when myxomatosis virtually eliminated them, leaving many hundreds dead with swollen and bloodstained faces in the hedges and fields. Only a few were seen for many years afterwards, but now they show signs of returning.

N.C.O.

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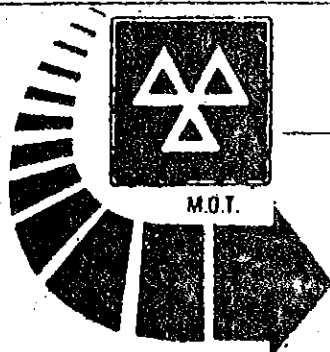
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Warren Farm signboard at a little lane on
your right. Sounds more complicated than it is!

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PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

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The entries, should reflect in some way the beauty of the South Hams, the unique character of Thurlestone, and the way of life in the locality, which could in some way help promote the village. Entries will be divided into the following categories :-

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1) Children under 13 years	£15.00	£10.00	£5.00
2) Young people 13 years to under 18 years	£30.00	£20.00	£10.00
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Telephone: Plymouth 220400

or can be collected from the Thurlestone Hotel or Eagle Developments site office on the Mead Estate, Thurlestone.

Closing date for entries:- 31st December, 1989.

VILLAGER REPORTS



ON A FINAL SOLUTION TO THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM...ON TWO GOOD IDEAS... ON A VERY STRANGE DRAWING...AND ON A SAD RETIREMENT IN THE PUBLISHING WORLD...

It seems to me that all this traffic business is being overdone. And though I wouldn't want to influence our special meeting - don't forget it's on Tuesday, 7th November - the only real solution to the whole thing is to turn the village into a pedestrian precinct. This would mean banning cars from top to bottom and if that put a lot of people out of business, well it would at least allow the elderly to wander at will up and down the village street without any risk of being knocked down by a car - though why they would want to do that with no shops to visit, it is difficult to imagine.

My alternative plan is to erect notices "Danger Geriatric Village Ahead" at both ends and clamp on a 5 m.p.h. speed limit. This limit would be enforced by sleeping policemen of a particularly vicious nature - more mountains than molehills. Mind you they might stop the elderly walking down the street as well, but at least it would drive away all those dreadful cars!

However, aren't even these solutions merely cosmetic and temporary? Surely now is the time to press ahead with the final solution - the construction of the Thurlestone By-Pass. This wonderfully sensible plan has been discussed so often, but so far nothing has been done. We are even still waiting for the District Council's approval of the final route.

While the Clannacombe-Bantham route with its scenic sweep along the cliffs and across the present golf course, finally linking Hope with the outside world before joining the A381 just before Malborough, has met with many objections, the alternative route sweeping through the Mead to a big roundabout by the old Links Hotel has met with similar protests.

But surely now is the time for a firm decision. Everyone realises the Thurlestone By-Pass will cause some minor property blight, but we are sure that those residents affected - who must receive adequate compensation - will put the interests of the village first.

+ + + + + + + + + +

Villager goes on overleaf

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

Not all of Village Voice's ideas meet with universal acclaim. About that we must be honest. But we are delighted that two of our recent suggestions have been acted upon.

The first idea was that the village needed some sort of central co-ordinator for local charity events. The idea was that there should be a system to stop fund-raising events clashing with each other - and even to spread such events more evenly throughout the year.

So I am delighted to tell you that the system is now in operation, or will be as soon as you read this. Heroine in this case is Joan Mackenzie, who has offered to act as the village charity co-ordinator. She is well-placed to offer this service for she chairs the Thurlestone Parish Hall Committee and their work and the Parish Hall is, of course, the venue for much of the village fund-raising.

Mrs. Mackenzie has started work on the "charities register" of dates and will be supplying Village Voice with a basic list of events, which we will carry in each edition. This listing is not meant to take the place of material about each individual event which we will also print if the organisers supply it.

One thing on which Mrs. Mackenzie has insisted is that details and dates of events are given to her in writing - just one line is enough - to avoid misunderstandings. Charity event organisers should give her their dates either through the letterbox of 7, Old Rectory Gardens, or into her hand as she goes about her many interests in the village.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

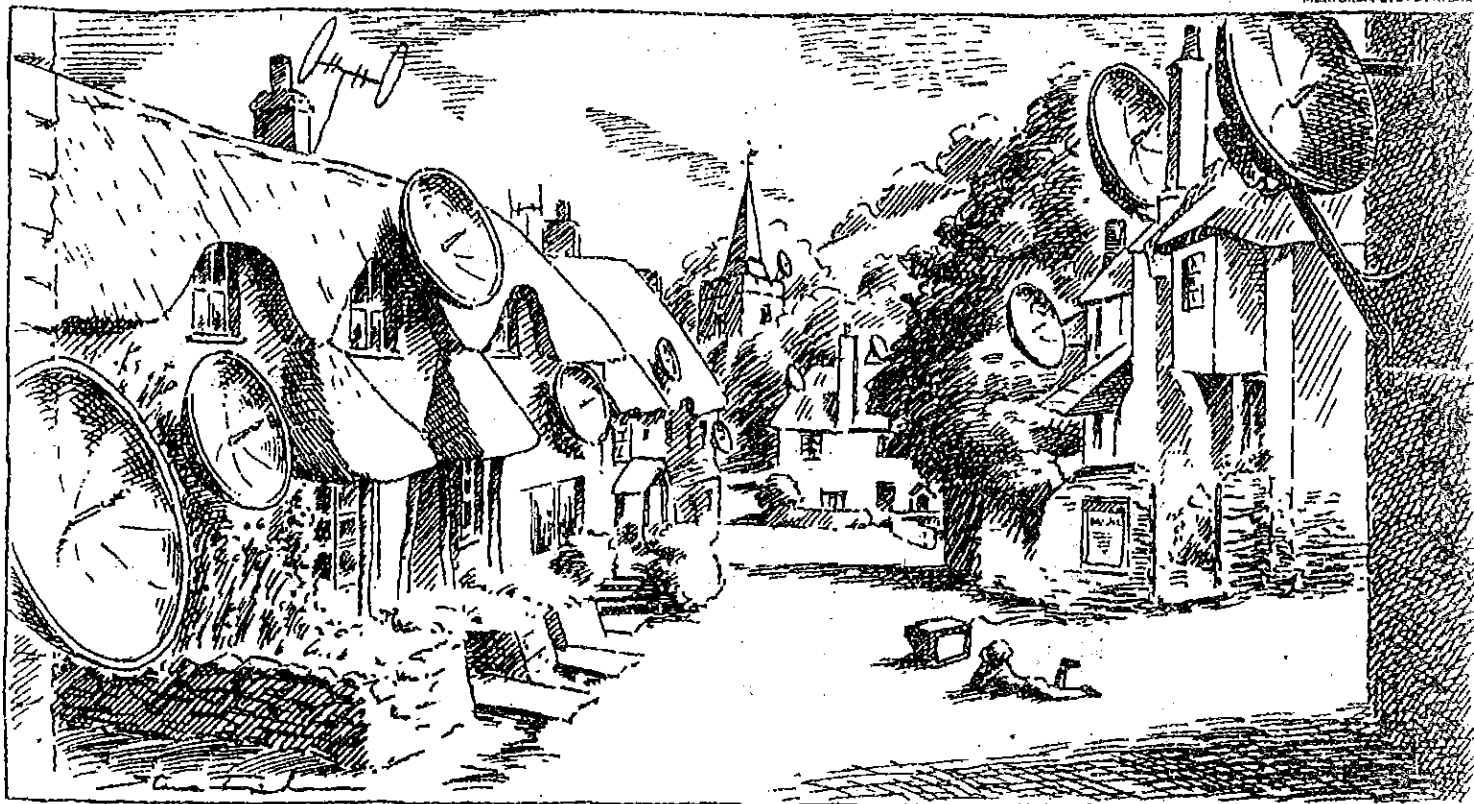
As Village Voice goes to press, our second idea has come to fruition. Following the articles we ran about the Church House, the Rector, who is a great one for tradition, revived a really ancient one, which dates back to 1536. And that revival took place on All Saints Day (November 1) when a pair of gloves were placed on the altar of Thurlestone Church. A pair of gloves were always placed on the altar of the Church as a token of payment for the Church land on which Church House in Thurlestone's village street was built. We say always, but in fact the gloves were handed over on All Saints Day for 303 years without a break until 1839. The tradition was resumed in 1897 but seems to have died out around the start of World War Two. Now it's back and long may it last!

+ + + + + + + + + + + + +

WHAT A STRANGE DRAWING..

THE ILLUSTRATION opposite appeared in the Daily Telegraph one Saturday morning not all that long ago. At first glance it was just a drawing to illustrate an article which as you can see from the headline was all about the ugliness the satellite dishes of television might bring to places of great loveliness. But look again! Now what do you see? Yes, that's old Thurlestone that is!

Of course, artist Steve Fricker has made one or two changes



The blight of the satellite dish

to the old photograph on which he based his drawing. That photo was probably around 1912, as you can see the old Western Morning News board on the wall of Snowdens. Mr. Fricker has also moved Thatchways out into the main street to get more satellite dishes on display and must be a recent visitor to Thurlestone as you see the Church after the trees have been cut down. What the Rector will say about that dish up on the tower, goodness knows! And I fear for that boy lying at the junction of the Bantham-Buckland turn, I really do! Is this the peace of Thurlestone, traffic free some time in the future? Has the Thurlestone By-Pass finally been built?

I don't know about you, but that drawing had tremendous impact as I knew where it was. Will satellite tv really bring this sort of blight to Thurlestone? It makes you shudder, doesn't it! Perhaps Mr. Fricker - does he come to Thurlestone often? - will let us know if he has some insider knowledge...

+ + ++ ++ + + + + +

And now it's time to pay tribute to a man without whom there would be nothing in your hands today. Dudley Drabble is retiring from the editorial team of Village Voice after this issue.

For 41 issues and seven long years he has brought out your village magazine. He started Village Voice way back in 1982 and

VILLAGER CONCLUDES:

until very recently carried out the editing, printing and stapling together of the many pages of 500 copies every two months. In addition to that he was advertising manager, producing many of advertisements and laying them out on the pages as all part of the service. All of which cost the community nothing.

He had, of course, the considerable help - and patience - of wife Lillian to rely on, but even so producing Village Voice was an immense effort. Strange to relate, despite his way with words he is not a journalist, but there is no doubt that if he had chosen such a career, today he would be Editor of the Times!

The villagers of the parish owe him a vast debt. They will be delighted to hear that he plans to continue to contribute to the magazine, in particular his much-applauded column "Drabblemania".

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER.

Try your hand at word squares. The first line across is the same as the first line down, second across same as second down and so on. Here are two examples:

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| P E S T | C O V E T |
| E V E R | O P E R A |
| S E M I | V E N A L |
| T R I P | E R A S E |
| | T A L E S |

Here are some words to start with: OPEN, SHOP, LANE, LAPEL and PETAL.

No answers given as many possibilities, When you're confident try six letter words!

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

Two resignations have been received since the last edition of Village Voice was published, both Henry Crowe and John Wilson having moved from the district. May we wish them all the best in their new surroundings.

At the September meeting Keith Oates gave a talk on his visit to Oberammergau, which proved very interesting indeed and assisted a number of members in their plans to visit Oberammergau next year.

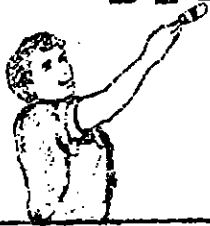
To correct a secretarial error in the last edition..Keith Oates will not be discussing the effect of separate tax assessments for wives until early next year.

At the November meeting we will be welcoming Dr.Nick Atkinson, Dartmoor National Park Officer, and in December Chris Hayward, Commercial Manager Exeter Airport, will be joining us.

A tentative date, subject to confirmation by members, for the Ladies Evening at the Cottage Hotel has been arranged for Tuesday, February 6, 1990.

D.M. YEOMAN, Hon.Secretary.560300.

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BY 1999

DO YOU THINK ?



+ + + + +

Over the past 15 years there have been erected in the South Hams more and more houses = more and more factories and workshops = and we have seen more and more tourists. The total lack of foresight by South West Water AND the South Hams planners is beyond comprehension.

+ + + + +

Something that also bothers me is the difference between putting raw untreated sewage straight down the lavatory pipe into the sea - as at Thurlestone - or putting it through a form of elementary 'treatment' which reduces the product to a minced condition.

Is this end product any less polluting of our sea, and if, unfortunately, you swallow just a little when swimming or surfing or sail boating, is this 'mixed grill' any less harmful than the untreated product? I suppose you can say that the 'mince' is less obvious to the eye and therefore not so aesthetically distasteful - to the eye - but it is not the eye I am concerned about, but the stomach. Is the bacteriological contamination so very different minced or natural? I don't fancy either, myself.

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I understand Newton Poppleford, Exminster, Lapford, Cheriton Bishop and even Blackawton have all managed to establish a local doctor's surgery, with the help of the Community Council of Devon and with the consent of the Family Practitioners Committee. In each case a proper surgery was built, either separately or attached to a village hall, which ensures privacy for both doctor and patient.

Naturally you need a consenting doctor to get such a project off the ground.

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Married in veils of NOVEMBER mist,
Fortune your wedding day has kissed.

+ + + + +

Married in midst of DECEMBER cheer,
Love's star shines brighter from year to year

+ + + + +

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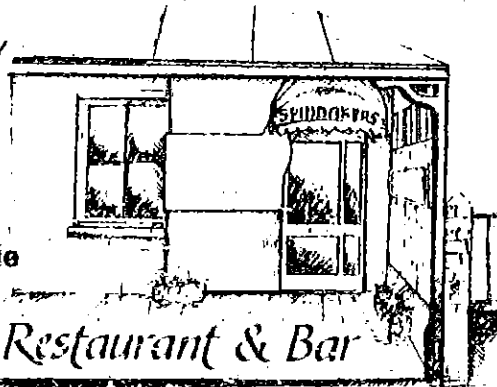
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VILLAGE VOICE

D R A B B L E M A N I A - Part II

A custom introduced to England by the Normans has left us with some of the country's most interesting relics. They are the dovecotes, which recall the harshness of life after the Norman Conquest, when only the rich were allowed fresh meat during the winter.

Dovecotes provided squabs, or unfledged birds, and eggs for the wealthiest landowners. By law, only the Lord of the Manor and members of the clergy could build dovecotes, and anyone caught stealing pigeons was hanged on the third conviction.

There is a remarkable dovecote at Dunster, in Somerset, which has a 400 year old revolving ladder, or potence, to provide human access. This dovecote is 20ft. high and had nesting boxes for 500 birds - providing meat for the Dunster priors.

+ + + + +

They tell me, that as we get older,
We become more and more like a car,
And depending on how we look and perform,
People judge what vintage we are.
We chug a little bit slower
And puff a little bit more,
And when we recount the miles we've done
We risk being labelled a bore;
But there are one or two compensations,
It's surprising, when put to the test,
How often the newer makes break down and rust -
The older-type models are best.

Bill Brewer.

+ + + + +

When Kingsbridge, Modbury, Chillington and Aveton Gifford were created boroughs in the twelfth century and held regular markets and fairs, the opportunity for villagers to seek alternative medical opinions arose. There they found barber-surgeons who had a manual dexterity with cutting and dental instruments, but who did not pretend to be other than craftsmen. In the fourteenth century they started to form themselves into Guilds. Some of them, as they established their reputations, tried to dissociate themselves from their functions as barbers. There were also pedlars of medicinal herbs, but they were unlikely to have found many customers before 1500.

This rather shaky skeleton of medical services was overwhelmed at times. Droughts, frosts and excessive rainfall led to famines. A few people may sometimes have died from starvation, which is difficult to prove, many more succumbed to famine fevers. Summer droughts usually led to epidemic dysentery and sore throats sooner or later and severe winters were often complicated by typhus (spotted-fever) when villagers huddled together for warmth, thus encouraging cross-infection by their ubiquitous body-lice. Even more devastating was the sudden arrival of bubonic plague in 1349.

(Extract: "Medical Care in the South Hams over the Centuries."
Neville C. Oswald, T.D., M.D., FRCP.)

+ + + + +

Let's find out what everyone is doing, And then stop everyone from doing it.

A.P.Herbert (1890-1971) "Let's Stop Somebody"

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

COFFEE MORNING FOR NATIONAL CHILDRENS HOMES

THE DATE: SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER, 10.30 - 12.00

THE PLACE: THE RECTORY BARN, THURLESTONE.

My annual coffee morning for the NCH is on Saturday 11th November in the Rectory Barn when everyone, friends old and new, will be most welcome. Come and have a happy morning and enjoy helping me to raise some money for this worthwhile cause. There will be Bring and Buy, Cakes and Produce, Odds and Ends, Raffle etc. If anyone would like any special sort of cake(s) made, please let me know and I will do my best to supply it. P.S. Pickling onions as usual.

PAT TOWNSEND

4, Parkfield 560430

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE PUBLISHERS:

Will readers of Village Voice please note that the next edition will appear on or around FEBRUARY 1.

So items for inclusion in the next edition must be received by JANUARY 1.

Until then..we wish all our readers..

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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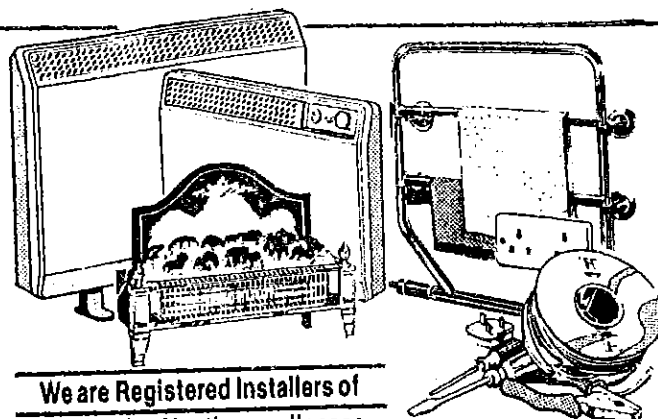
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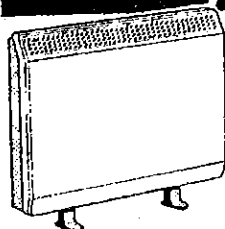
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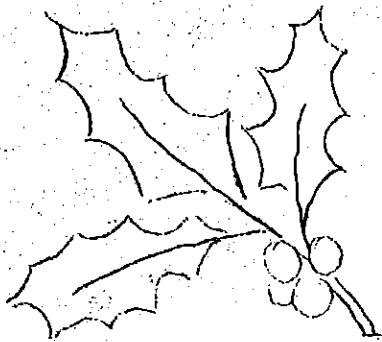
THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

THANK YOU - THANK YOU

To the organisations who had stalls (Bridge, Bowls, Keep Fit, W.I. and Horticultural Society) and the many other supporters of the Parish Hall, for their contributions and attendance, which made it a very happy and successful Annual Fair. Also thank you to those who gave us the essential manpower needed to set up the day.

The splendid sum of over £700 was raised. This money stays in the village and in due course you will see the results of your generosity with improvements in the kitchen, including the long awaited hot water. We shall attend the annual Devon Village Hall Conference at Kingsnympton, where 271 villagers raised £30,000 in three years for their new hall.

Joan F. Mackenzie, Chairmah.



Thurlestone
Parish Hall

The Chairman and Committee
invite you to a

Christmas Coffee Morning

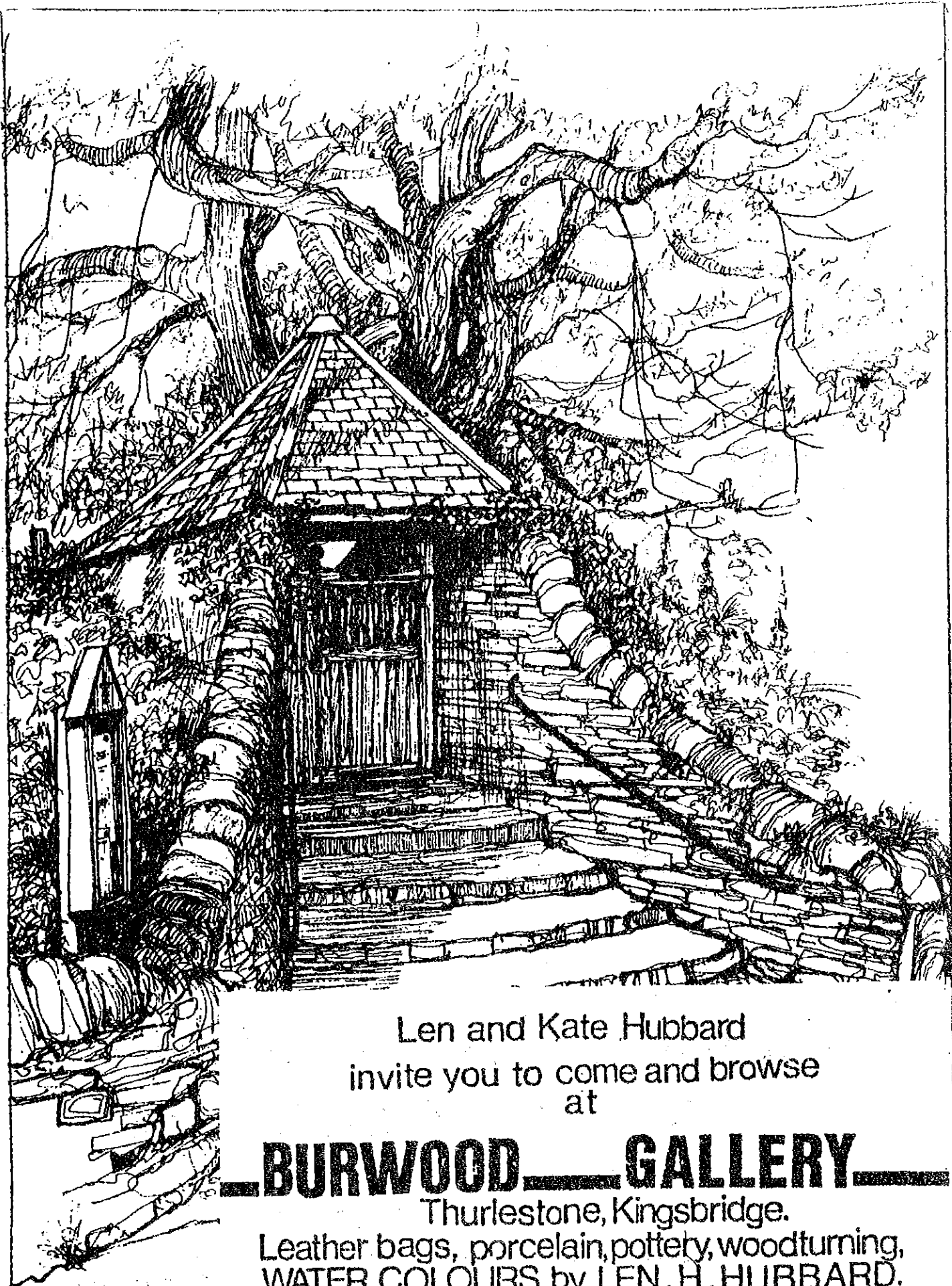
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ANYONE WHO DOES NOT ordinarily give a thought to such matters may be surprised to learn that we are a nation of sheep breeders. At the latest count we had 43 million sheep swarming over the hillsides and meadows. We eat the meat and export two-thirds of the 50 million kilos of wool that are clipped each year and sent to places like Japan and Italy and, of course, to the makers of smart suits everywhere. How did all this come about?

When the Romans came to Britain 2,000 years ago, they thought our sheep were a pretty scraggy lot, as indeed they were - they looked more like goats than sheep as we know them - so they brought over some of their own to bulk ours up a bit. Then, with the introduction of new breeds by the Saxons and Normans, sheep farming expanded rapidly.

Peasants set up their own little holdings field by field, with the permission of their Lords of the Manor to whom they paid their rent, put their sheep out to graze on common land during the day and brought them in at night. In time, the successful ones became the yeomanry or yeoman farmers who formed the mainstay of rural economy.

Many poor village people, in places like Thurlestone for instance, kept one or two ewes behind their cottages - the so-called backyarders - which supplied them with dairy products and meat.

Then, after the annual shearing, they had their own supply of wool which housewives quickly learnt to pull out and twist into strands with a staple that, in its simplest form, consisted of no more than half a potato pierced with a knitting needle. When spinning wheels came in during the 1300's, yarns could be produced much more quickly and might be sold for a few pence each week and knitted into a rough cloth.

By the 1500's sheep had become stronger, whiter and more woolly with domestication and far more numerous. Flocks of several hundred were quite common. The cloth trade had fully developed and fortunes were made from the export of kersey, a rather coarse cloth fit for suits and blankets.

In the 1600's, clothmakers switched to a very durable twilled serge from which more fortunes were made, part of which were given over to charities such as almshouses, the found of schools including Blundells and the embellishment of churches. Subsequently, the trade in cloths gradually diminished, principally because of incessant overseas wars, but it has not yet disappeared, the best known factory being at Axminster where carpets are made.

Curiously, the decline in the markets for wool has been offset by the demand for meat to feed the rising population, especially since the Industrial Revolution, so that now a sheep farmer who obtains nine-tenths of his income from meat and barely one-tenth from fleeces looks to the butcher rather than to the wool merchant for his profits.

During the past 100 years more than 50 breeds of sheep have been formally recognised in Britain, each having its own breed society and flock book in which pedigree herds are carefully

Neville Oswald concludes:

recorded. Of these, five are native to Devon. Their ancestors grazed the moors and pastures for many centuries and latterly, especially in the last 50 years, their quality has been vastly improved by promoting their good points and eliminating their weaknesses.

Three of them are the Dartmoor, the Whitefaced Dartmoor with their curled horns, and the Exmoor Horn, whose horns are straight. They are hardy and rather wild and thrive on poor moorland pasture which is their natural home. They all provide excellent meat. The wool of the Dartmoor and Whitefaced Dartmoor is long and coarse and ideal for carpets; that of the Exmoor Horn is of fine quality and much sought after for knitting yarns.

The Devon and Cornwall Longwools, the most numerous of the five breeds, are docile and prosper on grasslands; they produce more wool per sheep than any other British breed, which is coarse and suitable for carpets, and have good lean meat. Economically, they are the breed of choice. Finally the Devon Closewool, a very hardy grassland sheep, produces a splendid fleece of wool which is used for fabrics and tweeds.

It is virtually impossible for anybody other than an expert, glancing at a flock of sheep in or around Thurlestone, to tell what kind they are. Most of them are commercial stock, many of them being half-breeds. Yet there may be a few native bred among them, but they are much more easily picked out at one or other of the many agricultural shows and sales that are held regularly and advertised in the local press. I find an occasional visit to such places to be a most agreeable and instructive exercise.

NEVILLE C. OSWALD.

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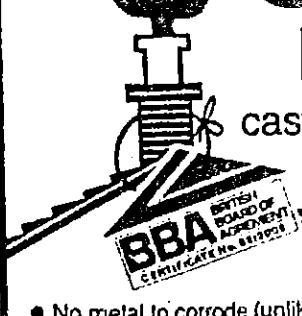
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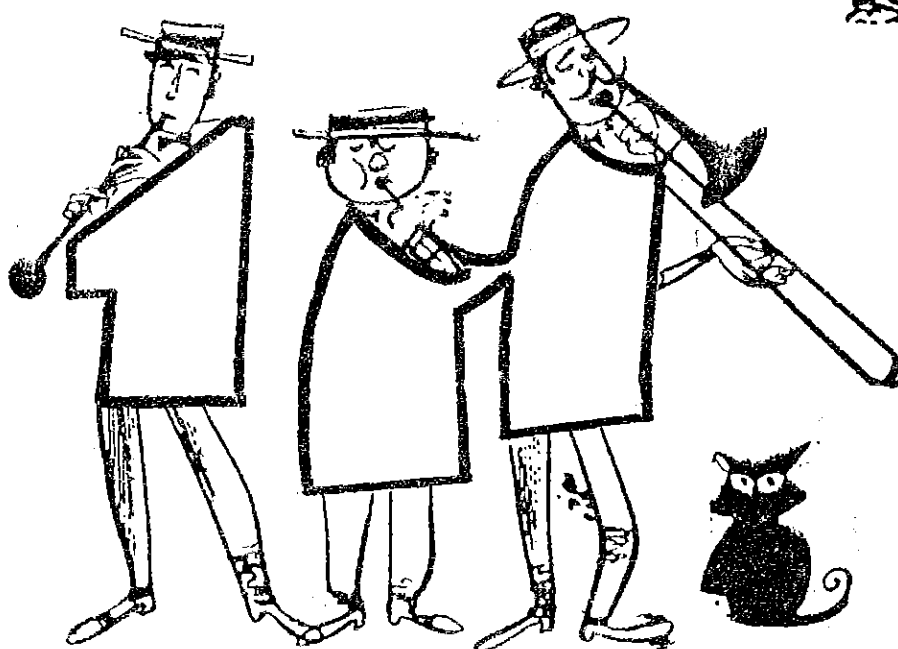
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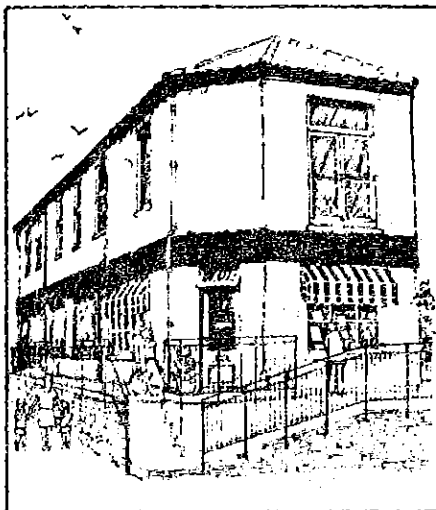
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When the Lady was Wakened

by her maid who pulled back the curtains of the bed, her clothes would be warmed by the fire in her bedroom before she put them on, linen smock serving for underclothes. She would then have her hair dressed, perhaps with an ivory comb and silver-handled brush, and then attend to her face. In the early sixteenth century cosmetics were not nearly so widely used as they were to be later, and hairstyles were much simpler than they were to become in the days of Queen Elizabeth I whose wigs were clustered with pearls and jewels. Scents, however, were liberally used by both men and women and far more valued than soap. Soap was imported from Spain and Italy, the products of Castile and Venice being particularly prized. It was also made in England at Bristol, and at about 4d a pound it was not too expensive. Baths, however, were rarely taken regularly except for medicinal purposes, and much reliance was, therefore, placed upon pomanders and scent bottles. One popular scent, said to have been invented by Henry VIII, contained rose water, musk, ambergris and civet. Nutmegs, aloes and storax were used in other recipes. Queen Elizabeth was especially fond of the smell of majoram. All these ingredients were placed in pomanders which were attached to the sash end of a girdle.

Renaissance ideals of beauty required a white skin and fair hair, a high smooth forehead, thin eyebrows, red lips, and small feet; and those whom nature had not endowed with these qualities did all they could to acquire them. Women bleached their hair sitting in the sun, protecting their faces from its rays by wearing masks which they kept in position by a button held in the teeth. They applied white powder made of ground alabaster to their skin, and a variety of lotions and ointments containing lemon juice, milk of almonds, white wine, white of egg and oil of tartar, honey, beeswax, rose petals, herbs, asses' milk and the ground jawbones of hogs.

As the sixteenth century progressed, efforts to simulate the ideal seem to have grown more ruthless. Hairs were plucked out and dyed as well as bleached; more drastic measures were taken to whiten hands and face, neck and breasts; lips were painted red; cheeks glazed with white of egg, lines representing thin veins were drawn upon the bosom which unmarried women left largely exposed; the waist was pressed in with pieces of metal or wood sewn into the bodice; hips were padded; kohl was used to outline the eyes and belladonna to enlarge the pupils. The face under its artificial glaze frequently resembled polished marble, particularly if attempts had to be made to disguise the effects of smallpox.

Some of the cosmetics used were harmless enough. A lip colouring made of cochineal, white of hard-boiled egg, green figs, alum and gum arabic would have done no damage to the skin. But other preparations were highly dangerous. A white skin was sometimes obtained, for instance, by the application of white lead mixed with vinegar or with borax and sulphur., and lips by madder or red ochre or by red crystalline mercuric sulphide. As a treatment for spots and freckles birch tree sap was innocuous and often effective; but other remedies containing ground brimstone, oil of turpentine and soliman, which were made of sublimate of mercury, eventually led to a skin ravaged as white lead left it mummified. Teeth also were ruined by efforts to keep them clean, either by vigorous rubbing with a mixture of powdered pumice stone, brick and coral, which took off the enamel as well as the stain, or by rinsing with solutions of honey and burned salt, or sugar and honey.

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Our Changing Footpaths

BRYAN LINFOOT, Footpaths Secretary for Devon Area of The Ramblers' Association
writing in 'Village Green'

DEVON has over 3000 miles of public paths - footpaths, bridleways and byways - and anybody can walk on any one of them. As public highways they are all maintainable at public expense, and over the past 40 years Devon County Council, the Highways Authority, has compiled and kept Definitive Maps to show where each one begins and ends, and the route it follows.

You can see where the footpaths run on the Ordnance Survey maps - they are marked in red on the Landranger series and in green on the Outdoor Leisure and Pathfinder maps. Inevitably, changes take a long time to find their way into print and in the Ordnance Survey maps. The most accurate and up-to-date information is in the Definitive Map for each area - if you know where to look for it. Most Parish Councils are in possession of a copy for their own parish. The District Councils hold a copy for their whole area and a complete set for the entire County is held by both the Solicitor's Department and the Engineering and Planning Department of Devon County Council.

After 40 years, the County Council has decided that the time is ripe for a review of the Definitive Map - and this time it will include as byways some unclassified county roads. This is welcome news for User Groups - among them the Ramblers' Association - whose campaigning in the 1940s led to the Definitive Maps being compiled under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. We are always concerned that green lanes will be ploughed over when farmers are taking out hedges - defining them as byways will ensure they survive as historic routes, a habitat for wildlife and as rights of way. So all power and all speed to the County Council's arm.

Because of a judgement in the High Court in 1987 - known as the Rubinstein case - the Review can only consider proposals to add new paths to the Map or upgrade the status of existing ones, eg: a footpath upgraded to a bridleway. An attempt to introduce a Private Members' Bill in the last Parliament to reverse the effect of the Rubinstein ruling and allow the downgrading or deletion of routes was talked out. However, the Government has indicated its intention to introduce its own amending legislation when Parliamentary time permits.

It has been said that the User Groups are against all change. This is not true, but we do try and conserve our path network. We tend to oppose closures of paths when the closure is just a matter of convenience. Diversions are often accepted, providing the new route does not extend the path too much and is not over a poor surface. Taking paths out of farmyards is always a good idea wherever possible.

With the best will in the world, errors in the Definitive Map were bound to occur and, as time went on, other changes were needed. In this County, a consultative procedure has been adopted. That is, an individual or Council may say that a diversion or closure is desirable, and the proposal is put for consultation to various bodies for their opinions. Included in this list are the District and local Parish Councils, the Gas, Water and Electricity Boards, the landowners whose land is affected and the User Groups. If all agree then the proposal goes forward to the next stage where an Order is prepared. If this is not the case, then the proposer has the option of changing his ideas to include the recommendations from the people consulted or go to Public Inquiry. In this case a qualified and independent arbiter decides the matter on hearing all the facts and evidence.

CONCLUDED OVERPAGE:

OUR CHANGING FOOTPATHS = concluded from previous page:

ADVICE TO WALKERS. Who has the right to use a public Right of Way? Many of our paths are connecting routes for farmers to go about their daily business, so don't be surprised to find a tractor coming towards you even on what you believe is a Footpath. But this is a special case.

A FOOTPATH. is for pedestrians only. Taking a pram or pushchair is not normally stopped but they can be difficult to get over a stile or through a kissing gate. Dogs must be under close control. Do not allow them to roam freely. Sheep and cattle do not know that your dog will never chase them. A farmer can shoot a dog not properly under control.

A BRIDLEWAY is for horseriders, cyclists and pedestrians. However, cyclists may find it too rough. The Highway Code applies: Cyclists give way to animals, horseriders give way to pedestrians. Horseriders, please remember you may find someone round the next corner - a bridleway is not a Motorway for Horses and someone may panic if suddenly confronted by a galloping horse. Nor is it a place to put practice jumps.

A BYWAY is sometimes called a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) but again the Highway Code applies - vehicles have to give way to cyclists and horses. The problem with four wheeled drive vehicles using paths is not new but is increasing. Many of the byways, however, are not wide enough to take 4WD cars and those that are could be for 'Access Only' or have gates on them which soon discourages the 4WD people.

When land changes hands, Public Rights of Way do not have to be renegotiated. A path does continue to exist even if it has not been used for years. So blocking it serves no useful purpose. If you find your path blocked you are allowed, in law, to move the blockage aside, doing the minimum amount of damage or take the shortest convenient route round it.

If a route is obstructed by a crop or is ploughed you should make your way across, in single file, as near as you can judge, to the correct line. Walking round the head may be much longer, cause more damage and is trespassing. The law states ploughing or cropping a path is an obstruction and the path must be made good within 14 days. This is seldom done, especially with little used paths and is a problem in many areas. No one has a right to divert temporarily or close a path apart from the Highways Authority, who can do so for a period of three months after due notice or for two weeks in an emergency.

May I wish you many happy hours walking or riding our paths and enjoying our heritage. We Ramblers will do our best to make and keep it possible.

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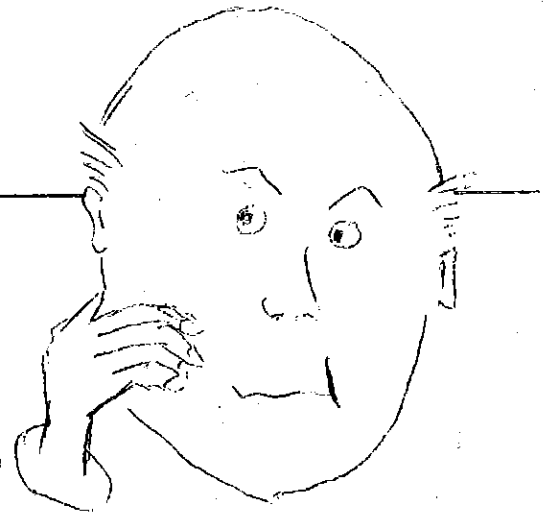
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Walter Dee



WHO MAY SEE THE MINUTES ?

Who may have access to the minutes of council meetings. The Local Government Act 1972 requires councils to arrange for minutes to be open for inspection by the public free of charge at reasonable hours. These must have been approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. There is no legal obligation to make available unconfirmed minutes.

The purpose of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 was to give members of the public greater rights of access to meetings and documents of county and district councils. It does not apply to parish or town councils.

+ + + + +

REGISTER OF ELECTORS - 1990

The qualifying date for you to be on the Register which will be current from the 16th February 1990 until 15th February 1991 was 10th October 1989. You have an opportunity to check if your name is correctly recorded when the Draft Register is published on 28th November until 16th December 1989. A copy may be inspected between those dates at the village sub post office and also the Draft should be available in the Church Porch. If you have any query contact the Electoral Registration Officer, South Hams District Council at Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE.

+ + + + +

IRRADIATED FOODSTUFFS

What is your point of view with regard to this controversial subject which will concern you from 1990. The British Medical Association say that no one knows the long term effect of eating irradiated food, whilst those who support irradiation say it will actually make food safer and keep it 'fresher' longer. Could there perhaps be some danger that some people might irradiate food which is already past its best. All the facts should be made public, I consider.

+ + + + +

STRAW INTO PAPER

The vexed question of straw burning may well be resolved by British Sugar who have asked the EEC to help fund a feasibility study for the U.K's first plant to turn straw into paper.

Three years ago the company announced plans to diversify into straw processing to utilise some of the 2.5 million tonnes that are either ploughed in or burned every year.

The first of these ventures, a plant to turn 750,000 tonnes of East Anglian straw into 300,000 tonnes of paper pulp, is now on the drawing board.

According to new ventures director Bob Bass, paper made from straw is of sufficient quality to be used for fine printing and writing papers.

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Janet Lemmy

The "What do you Think" Page!

In a letter to the Western Morning News (15.9.89) Lord Clifford of Ugbrooke Park, Chaddleigh raised a matter that has concerned most taxpayers and rate-payers. He estimates "that the 400 strong contingent at Great Haldon receive approximately £7,000 a week from the dole (or Social Security payments ?) which he puts at £364,000 a year.

Apart from the comments of Lord Clifford - one would ask where all these people who term themselves 'Travellers' get the funds to travel the country to 'Pop' and other gatherings. What about the great number of vehicles they use. Are they all bearing road tax dices? Are they all covered by insurance? Have they all been through their MOT? And if not do they benefit from some special law which does not apply to the rest of us?

Perhaps there is a 'soft answer to these questions - but a great many would undoubtedly like some hard facts on the 'why's' and 'Wherefores.'

The Poll Tax (or Community Charge if you prefer) is very possibly an acceptable alternative to a Customs and Excise revaluation of properties which would result in a pretty substantial re-assessment of rateable valuations. But it does seem absolutely outrageous to impose a surcharge of around £25 on every Poll Tax applied by so called 'low spending' local authorities in order to lower the charge to people in the areas of the high spending authorities. These latter people have enjoyed all the added benefits of 'overspending' - and should not expect to be subsidised by, in the main, rural areas who enjoy very few amenities.

Absolutely outrageous it is, indeed. ??

There are a great many firms jumping too readily on the 'geeen' bandwagon. Listen to the Advertising Standards Authority, no less, who have successfully challenged Austin-Rover's claim 'that the Metro Surf could run on unleaded petrol making it ozone-friendly.' Untrue say the ASA because 'no petrol contributes to the decay of the ozone layer' (which is nice to learn). Citroen had a sales pitch for the BX Diesel - "Whilst your looking after the pennies, you're also looking after the planet; diesel is lead free." The ASA agreed that diesel was lead free but added that the statement should not have implied that diesel has such great pollution control benefits when it contains many other proven pollutants. B.P.'s claim that its new 'Supergreen' petrol caused 'no pollution of the environment' was also successfully challenged as being untrue.

Obviously you shouldnt believe all you read - especially in adverts !

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There are about 10,000 species of roundworm which have learnt to make their homes almost anywhere in the earth, in fresh water, in the sea, even in the bodies of other animals and plants. They are so abundant that a mere handful of garden soil will contain about a 1000. Many roundworms are small or microscopic, and some are phenomenal breeders. Females of one species, the intestinal parasite known as *Ascaris lumbricoides* can lay 200,000 eggs a day - and a full grown one is about 14 inches long.

Reader's contributions invited !

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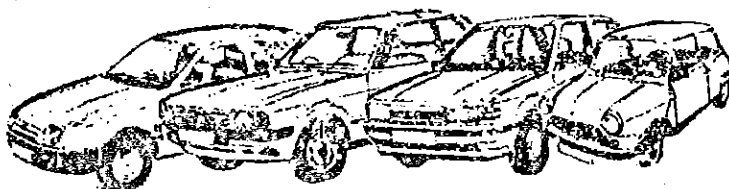
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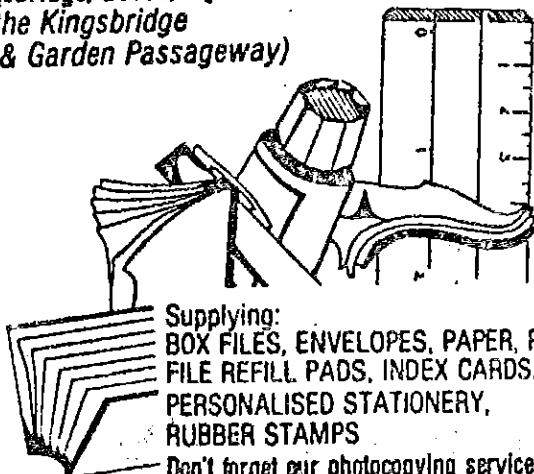
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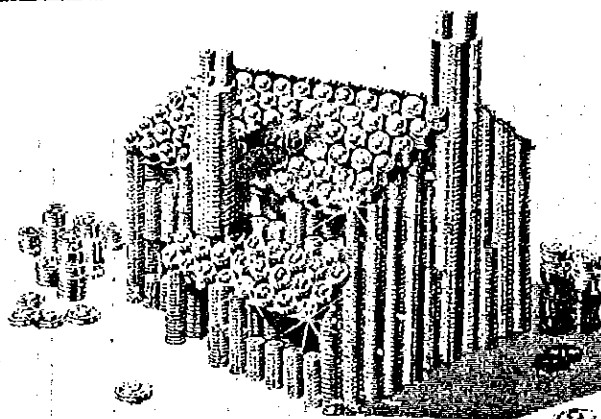
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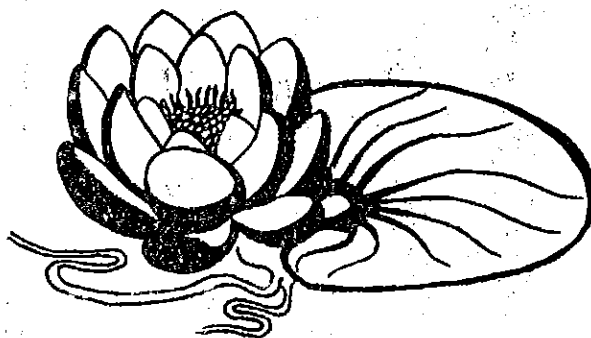
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Spreading branches Everywhere!

OVER many years, woods and hedgerows have been disappearing from our landscape at an alarming rate. Since the 1930s we have lost almost half our ancient semi-natural woods (pre 1600 AD), and 125,000 miles of hedgerow. Britain is now the least wooded country in Europe, with the exception of Ireland and the Netherlands, and has only 10 percent tree cover, compared to, for example, 27 per cent in France and 31 percent in Spain.

The causes of these dramatic losses are many and often complex, and include agriculture, disease and urban sprawl. The great storm of October 1987 in the south-east blew down 15 million trees in one night, and Dutch elm disease has killed 21 million trees. But there is another cause: the failure of our imaginations to grasp the essential fact that trees have a finite life span, and that unless we have a continuing programme of planting trees as future replacements for our existing stock, and of organised natural regeneration, the landscape we now cherish will inevitably deteriorate.

We need to take action now if future generations are to enjoy the beauty and variety of our landscapes. To be most effective, this action must be taken by people on the spot: the people who know their own locations intimately, and who have most to gain from the protection and enhancement of their immediate environment.

This is the philosophy behind the Parish Tree Warden Scheme, a new initiative being promoted by the Tree Council. The value of Parish Tree Wardens has already been proved by schemes that have been running for some years in Leicestershire and East Sussex; the Tree Council will be campaigning for similar schemes to be set up throughout the country.

Parish Tree Wardens are volunteers appointed by their Parish Councils to gather information, give advice and encourage practical projects to do with trees in the parish. Some parishes may decide to appoint a team of tree wardens, or a warden with a small supporting group. Wardens need only be tree enthusiasts, not tree experts, as the Tree Council will help them to acquire the necessary basic knowledge. A detailed information pack will be published in spring 1990, and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers plans to organise regular series of optional weekend training courses in all the participating counties.

Wardens will maintain close contact with their Parish Council, so that they can understand the Council's plans and priorities for trees in the parish, and can seek advice when necessary. In turn, Parish Councils may be able to look to the District and County Councils for help in matters which are beyond their resources. County Councils may also take on the job of co-ordinating Parish Tree Warden Schemes throughout the county, and ensuring that Wardens receive adequate support. Practical advice on tree matters is also available from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Groups and county wildlife trusts.

The Tree Council's NATIONAL TREE WEEK, which starts on the last Saturday of each November (25th NOVEMBER - 3rd DECEMBER this year) should greatly help stimulate public and media enthusiasm and interest. The possibilities of a Parish Tree Warden's role are endless, and are limited only by the imagination and energy of the person concerned.

TREE NEWS The Tree Council's magazine, carries a wide range of news, information and features about trees and woods, and is sent free of charge for one year to interested organisations and individuals. Contact the Tree Council, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8WQN. Tree Wardens are spreading their branches everywhere - why not in Thurlestone?

FIONA ANDERSON of the Tree Council writing in the Community Council of Devon publication 'Village Green'.

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