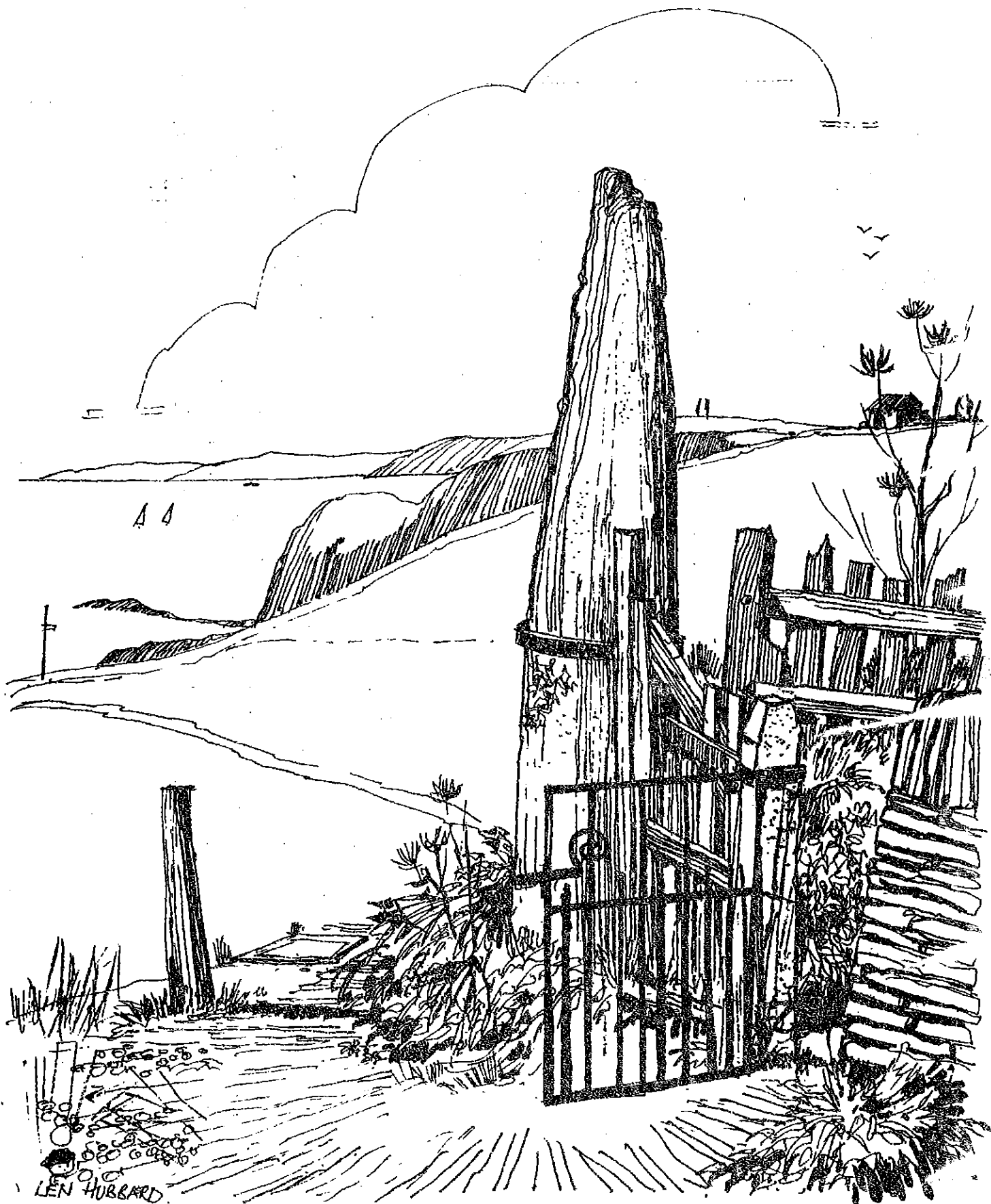


VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY — MARCH

1990



PARISH NOTICES.

New Church Electoral Roll - A reminder from the Rector.

Every home in both parishes should have received a note telling of the requirement to produce a New Church Electoral Roll this year. Forms may be had from the Churchwardens or Electoral Roll Officers: Miss Snowden 560523 for South Milton and Mrs. MacMillan 560062 for Thurlestone. Last date for return of forms is February 21st.

The Memorial Garden, Thurlestone Churchyard.

We hope you will have noticed that the Memorial Garden has now been completed with the planting of many shrubs, bulbs etc., and by the Spring we hope you will be able to see some of the results of the hard work.

We would like to thank the Women's Institute for their generous contribution towards the costs - if anyone who may have a personal interest in the garden would like to give a donation towards the considerable cost we would be most grateful.

May we take this opportunity to thank the band of helpers who have volunteered to keep the Garden tidy.

The Churchwardens.

Founded by Dudley
DRABBLE
1982.



PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.
EDITED AND PRODUCED BY

KENDALL McDONALD
& PENNY McDONALD

AT
Cradles Cottage
Thurlestone.

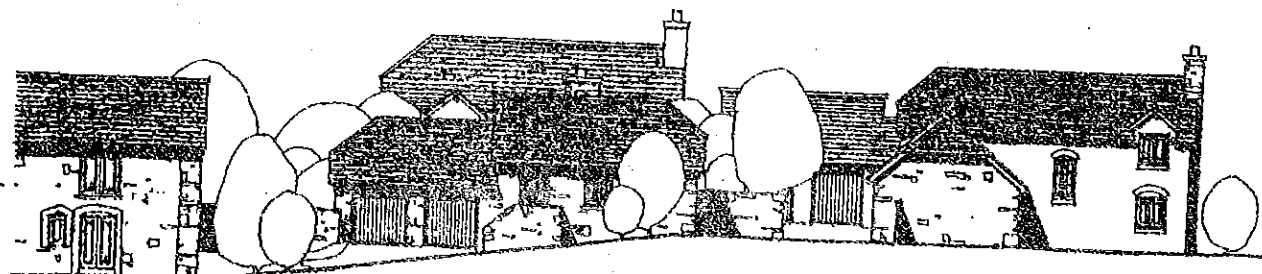
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Cover pictures
by
LEN HUBBARD.

NUMBER 42. EIGHTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION. FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1990.

Village Voice needs no crystal ball to forecast the top discussion point of the Nineties as far as Thurlestone is concerned. It is bound to be the development of Homefield Farm.

All sorts of side issues have already clouded that discussion. But given that a farm on the site next to the Church is no longer viable, and given that Mr. Gordon Bromfield is well compensated for the loss of income, the argument should really be about the kind of development which will occupy this sensitive site.

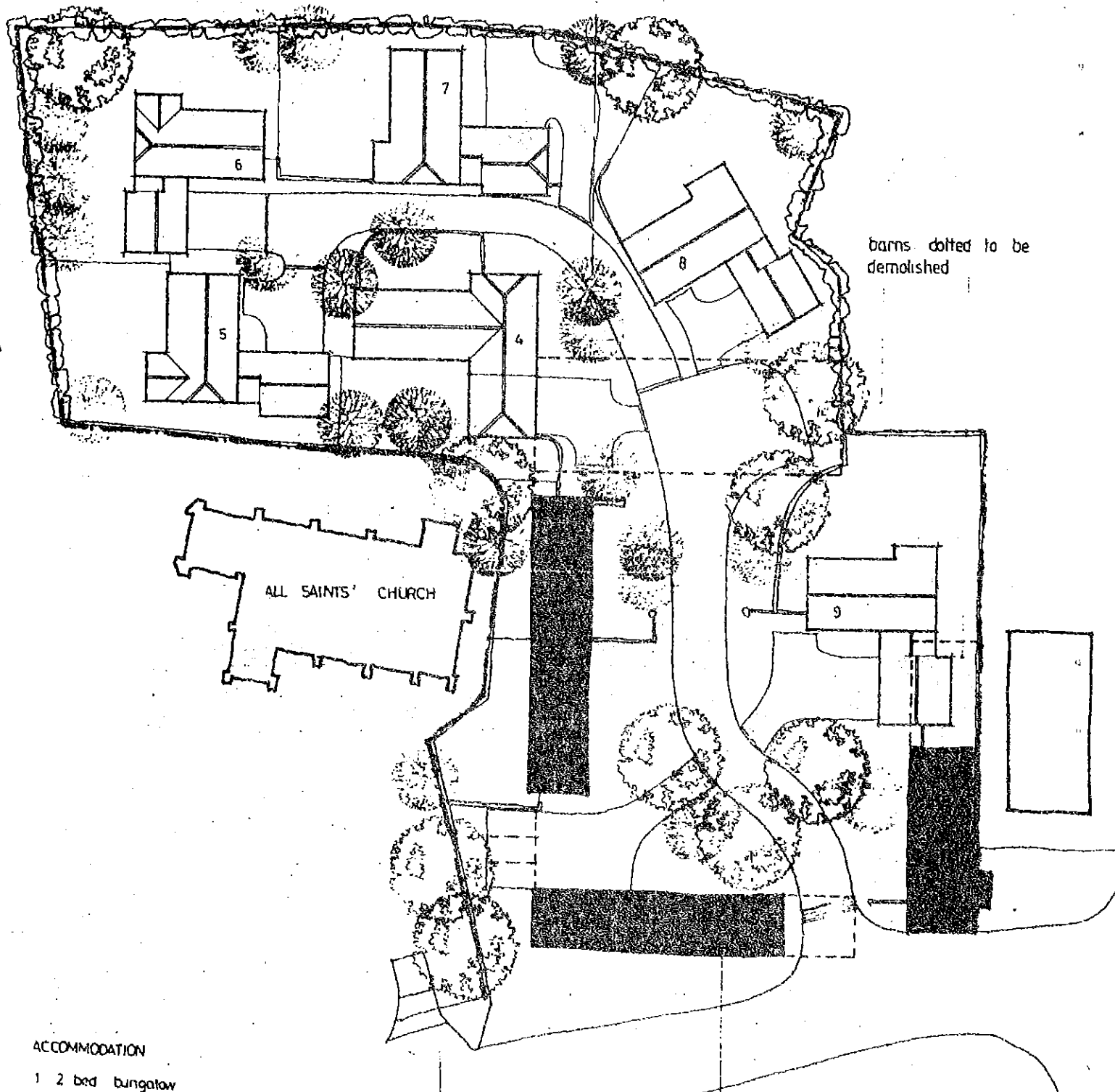


The drawing which is shown here is taken from the first plans of the Dartmouth architects acting for Michelmore Hughes, who in turn are acting for Evans Estates. More of these first plans are shown on a following page. These are only preliminary drawings, but if the final development were to look something like that, few in Thurlestone would object. But can we be sure that the new houses would remain looking like that? Evans Estates have a fine record of conservation, but what will happen when matters are passed over to the final developer? Will blocks of flats tower over the Church?

Impossible? Surely the District Council will protect us from that sort of horror? But that is where we come to the nub of the whole affair. If we could be confident that the planners would protect our village, then there would be no more to be said. Unfortunately their record as far as Thurlestone is concerned is appalling. We have been warned.

THE FARM

the first plan



ACCOMMODATION

- 1 2 bed bungalow
- 2 3 bed house conversion of existing building
- 3 3 bed house
- 4 3 bed bungalow 95^m
- 5-9 (inclusive) 4 bed houses 135^m

existing building converted to
form shop and 3no garages

VILLAGER



HOW OLD IS THURLESTONE FARM? Perhaps it is a bit late to ask such a question when for all we know the farm is about to disappear from our midsts, but we should be sure whether historic buildings are involved in any future development.

Well, I can tell you right from the start that anyone who tries to date the farm has a real problem on their hands. True there is a kind of reference to a farm in Thurlestone in the Exeter Domesday Book of 1068. Describing the "Manor called Torlestan" the Book says:

"Juhel has a manor called Torlestan which John held in King Edward's time and it paid geld for two hides. These six teams can till. Thereof Juhel has one hide and two teams in the lordship and the villagers one hide and six teams.

"There Juhel has fifteen villagers, six bordars (craftsmen), four cottagers, five serfs, one packhorse, sixteen pigs, one hundred and fifty sheep, two acres of meadow and two acres of pasture..."

The word "lordship" meant "home farm". A hide was usually 120 acres, and the "teams" were ploughmen using oxen to pull the plough. So six teams could plough 240 acres and one way of translating this into land would be to say that the home farm had 80 acres of arable land and another 40 acres of rough. On the other hand Juhel might make his two teams work harder and cope with the whole lot of ploughable land of 120 acres. Either way it is a fair guess that the villagers, who were tenant farmers, always got the worst of the land, which would explain why they needed six teams to plough 120 acres!

All this is interesting and proves there was a farm in Thurlestone in 1068, but it doesn't tell us where that farm was. And it seems that we shall never know the actual site of Juhel's Farm, but the next time we find something written about a farm in Thurlestone we are luckier. In the survey of his possessions done for Sir William Courtenay in 1777 we do know where the farm was - because there it is on the map which went with the details of all the buildings in and around the village. The farm, or at least some of the farm buildings are shown near the Church, but not as close as the present buildings, though there is a big building possibly a barn right behind the Church. The farm buildings shown on that side of the road (or something more like a track) are more or less where the Hotel car-park is today and are T-shaped with the top of the T lying North and South.

The actual farmhouse was on the other side of the roadway and sounds rather nice with "courts, gardens, and a green" listed as part of it. Incidentally, the green seems to have completely encircled the Church and includes the small patch with the War Memorial on it today.

The farmer in 1777 was a gentleman called Mr. Thomas Square and

he controlled 251 acres, three rods and 19 perches. His land stretched in all directions.

It included all today's golf course, even the clubhouse field, and went right down to "Leys Foot Sands". The land on which the Mead now stands - Meadow Park (Meadow..Mead..) - was his too as were the fields stretching right over to the Sloop. He must have been a man of some considerable wealth for, in addition to all that his territory included other land right out to Bantham beach and way over to Court Park. He was also the landlord of Hington's Cottage (The Cottage today).

Nearby was Mr. William Adams's Home Tenement (now Broads Dairy and Homefield). That Homefield is so called because of Home Tenement is scarcely open to doubt, though calling Thurlstone Farm "Homefield Farm" is probably of much more recent date. It comes about, thinks Frances Bromfield, because all letters for the farm have been addressed to Homefield. She has seen much older documents which call it simply Thurlestone Farm.

But little remains of the buildings which once reflected Mr. Square's glory, for the farm was completely rebuilt in 1882 - or at least that is the date cut into stones of the building - and even those buildings have gone. They were badly damaged by the great fire which swept the farm on January 31, 1979 and were rebuilt shortly afterwards.

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

HONESTLY, I had no idea that people would get so excited about the Thurlestone By-Pass. Now a gentleman who signs himself only "Wayfarer" has sent me detailed plans of such a by-pass. I would have ignored them except that he has included the fascinating idea of reprivng the Mead by high-level bridge from Kerse Cross across to the Sea Mark holiday flats. I was much impressed by this until an informant told me that "Wayfarer" is the same man who recently campaigned for a suspension bridge to be slung across the Avon from Bantham to Bigbury. Such a man can have no conception of the trouble his ideas might cause. A suspension bridge of the kind he suggests would put the Bantham ferryman out of business for a start.. and we don't want that kind of trouble now do we!

Incidentally, those who might worry about our by-pass will take heart from the knowledge that the Aveton Gifford By-Pass now taking shape and spreading mud in all directions was first suggested in 1929. If that sort of timetable is the norm we should be starting work on the Thurlestone By-Pass in 2049, which though I hesitate to say so won't bother many of us all that much!

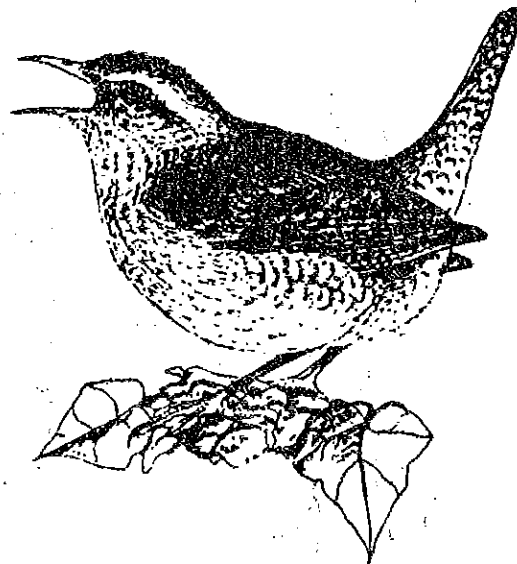
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LOOKING through the Womens' Institute reports in the Gazette, which many of the older locals refer to as "The Old Astonisher", I was surprised to see one meeting report headed "FROGSHERS".

Some long reflection on my part finally suggested to me that this was the report from the meeting of a joint Frogmore-Sherford W.I. Now what about Thurlestone W.I.? Do they draw on Bantham and Buckland for their members? They do. So what should we call such a joint affair?

Best suggestions so far are BATHURS, BUCKSTONES, and THURUCKS. Some other suggestions were too risqué for this column. Over to you.

HARRY HUGGINS



IN THE LAST issue this column had something to say about organised birdwatching holidays.

I must warn that these things are far from holidays in the accepted sense and if your requirements run in terms of sun, sex and sangria, please turn over the page because I cannot help you. (I wrote originally "sun, sin and sangria", because it sounds better, only to realise that I am no longer sure what sin is - what I was brought up to consider sinful is now standard practice!)

But if you want to see something of places where the lager louts do not roam then book on a birding trip; all you need are binoculars, stamina and an upholstered bank account. You will be shown birds which in Britain you might see once in a lifetime or not at all: species such as Glossy Ibis, Great White Egret and Red Footed Falcon, which here are a twitcher's dream, are commonplace in eastern Europe - provided you go to the right place, and friends who went with a party to India last year saw well over 300 species, more in humbers than you will see in your life in Britain.

Beware the word "tour". For want of a better word the organisers call most birding vacations tours. Often, for a change of habitat they use hotels in two or three different places; with that you can cope. But sometimes the tours are just that, birding from a coach all day, a fresh stopping place every night, and off again before dawn the next morning. When do you wash your socks?

To choose a company you look in "Birds", the RSPB magazine, where they all advertise, and ask for the brochures, which are very informative. We have usually given Ornitholidays our custom: that was the one June selected when she shanghaied me from sailing, and, well, you stick with the one you know. In those far off days Laurence Holloway, the proprietor, used to go to Heathrow to see every group safely on its way - once he was about to come with us, city suit, winklepicker shoes and all, because the leader hadn't turned up, a necessity averted at the twelfth hour.

The companies vary. Ornitholidays are a middle of the road sort of lot - they will give a day off for you to do your own thing (and for the leader to do his) and you go out for a nine to five day, or thereabouts, plus the evening log call after dinner, when you discuss the day's events, write down what has been seen and generally have a get together - we have always found all this enjoyable.

We went to Hungary with Cygnus Wildlife Holidays, an offshoot of Southwest Travel here in Kingsbridge. They are considered to be for the more dedicated birder - we set off each day at 7.30 am (which does not feel early in eastern Europe) for a day which was never less than 13 hours, although we always stopped for an excellent lunch at a czardas. I always thought a czardas was some sort of gypsy, but it turned out to be the local equivalent of the Sloop. After dinner in the evening, and

log call, there was no time for washing smalls, nor for the ladies to wash their hair (there was only one other beside June) and I swear one of the leaders wore the same shirt for six days. June said he must have washed it overnight. But he couldn't have done, he didn't have time. The other leader has a beard, and what went on behind that we never knew. But all the arrangements were excellent, there was a Hungarian guide who found us a fine lot of birds, there was a driver with his coach all the time, we were joined on four days out of the eight by local birding experts and on the last afternoon we were escorted around Budapest by a mini-skirted young lady who looked as though she was expert in matters about which I did not like to enquire.

You need to read the brochures with care. For example, the firm called Sunbird believes, correctly, that little birds get up at dawn. Sunbird leaders reckon to be bringing their parties back from the first foray of the day before any others have even started out. There is a saying that early risers are conceited in the morning and stupid in the afternoon! If you subscribe to that sentiment, beware Sunbird!

Other participants? With the common interest of birding, almost all are likeminded. Though on a Majorca trip, at Christmas, there was a religious lady. She was most impressed by one of the other members, who had, she felt, a great physical resemblance to the Holy Father, but she was less than impressed when he used unpapal language. And when we went to the mountains we left her all day in the monastery at Lluch. She said she prayed for our immortal souls. I do not yet know the efficacy of that but we saw over 100 species of birds, far more than even the leader had dared to expect.

Once only, out of many, have we had a really disappointing hotel, and even then the food was wonderful, the people were up to greet us when we arrived at 3 am (French air traffic controllers) and the baker across the street got up to make fresh croissants for our breakfast at 4 am when we left. But the rooms, and the beds! And it sounded like Nigel Mansell and Ayrton Senna practising up and down the street all night. This was in Perpignan. I read once that the worst prison in Europe was in Perpignan. If this was a hotel I would not want to see a prison. The leader chose it, he had stayed there for over 20 years: he can, and does, call the birds down off the trees; he speaks five European languages, and the word for "comfort" is not in any of them. He is a master at a British public school - 'nuff said!

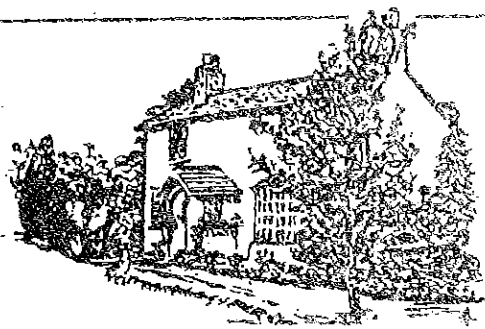
But there is a flip side to this organised birding - what it costs. You are paying for a leader, maybe more than one, and for other services which can be quite extensive, as we found in Hungary. In the early days the leader got no more than a free holiday - now all the worthwhile ones are paid and leading tours is their way of making a living. Above all you pay for their knowledge, of the birds and where to find them.

This coming Spring you can go with Ornitholidays to Petrovac in Yugoslavia. It will cost you for a fortnight in a twin-bedded room, just under £700 a head and you will pay as well nearly £100 each for transport. With Yugotours you can have a fortnight in the same hotel (beginning a week later) for £224. You have then of course to get yourself to the birding places, some quite distant. I do not know if you can rent a car in Petrovac now: you could not when we were there fifteen years ago, and having seen all those roadside memorials to accident victims I do not think I would want to drive there even if you can. (There are some people who book their own hotel and then cross a party leader's palm with silver for a seat in his coach: they are bolder than I would dare to be!)

It must be said that the Yugoslavia trip is a cheap one. The 1990 tour of the Seychelles is priced at £2,200 a head for the 16 days - you can buy a new car for what a couple would pay to go. And my friends in the trade tell me the dearer tours sell better than the cheaper ones!

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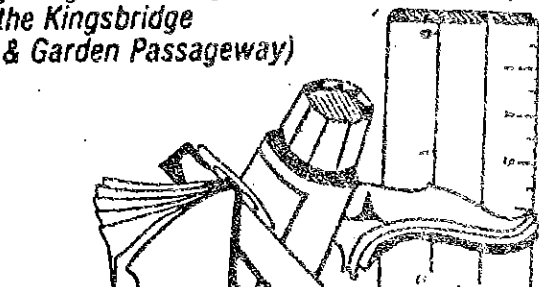
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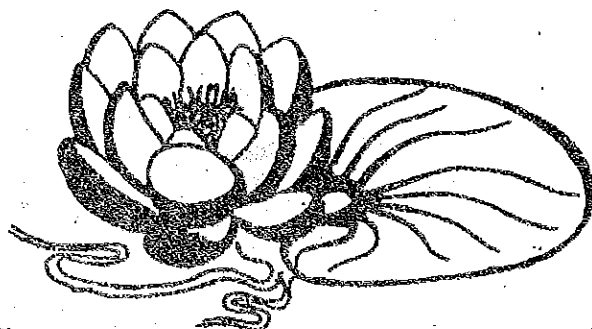
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you can go your own pace and if you want to take photographs there are not half a dozen other people trying to photograph the same bird. There are books to tell you where to go - Ornitholidays do a series and the late, sorely missed Eddie Watkinson wrote a marvellous little book about birding in Majorca. However, language can be a problem: not if you are on the regular tourist beat, and if you show a local an illustration in the field guide it will often help quite a lot. But away from where the Brits go, as we were in eastern Hungary, you would have problems on your own. What they speak is not even an Indo-European language. Not that it would matter to your humble servant if it were, since his only words in any foreign tongue are "gintonica, per favor".

It is unlikely that any book can help you to a scarce and elusive species. One has to look only at the twitchers who come every year searching for Gull Buntings, which are now reduced in Britain to a few pairs with no more than a toehold along the South Devon coast. Many of these searchers are unlucky, because you have to know almost in which bush to look. None of them would know, because we didn't tell anyone, that we watched a pair all through the summer of 1989. They raised two broods within 50 yards of Thurlestone Golf Club. And it is not worth telling your twitcher relations, because I will lay any money they will not be there in 1990.

However we do sometimes do our own thing. We had a very successful week in Corfu one spring - Red Footed Falcons, Whodchat Shrikes, Black Headed Buntings, and many more goodies. I did not take photographs then - we must go back!

Usually though we have just taken our binoculars for whatever highlights might appear in the course of a non-birding holiday. In Tenerife, for example, you don't expect to see much in the middle of Puerto de la Cruz. But we did find real genuine wild Canaries, and a warbler we have not identified from that day to this (like Darwin's finches they become different on islands), and there was a Monarch butterfly, the sort which migrates back and forth between North America and Mexico.

And when we went to Tahiti we did not see much, but what there was was interesting. A bus tour round the island took us to Point Venus. Now you would be forgiven for thinking this was named for the display of feminine pulchritude on the beach. In fact it was where Captain Cook set up his instruments to try, unsuccessfully I believe, to observe the transit of the star Venus in front of the Sun.

In trees just off the beach were Fairy Terns, delightful little fellows, pure white with a dark eye. They lay their one egg, without any nest, just on the branch of a tree; there they incubate it and when the young one hatches it clings on until it is old enough to fly.

My wife said I did not know where to look - in the trees or on the beach! That showed that for once her judgement was at fault: there are plenty of topless dolly birds around Thurlestone - bottomless too for that matter - but never a Fairy Tern. I looked in the trees!

THE LAST WORD

Speaking to an acquaintance in our village last week, I asked about her son, who is a promising footballer and regularly goes to Plymouth to play in trials.

"How did he get on last Saturday?" I asked her.

"He must have played a blinder," she replied. "He was injured three times and still managed to win the award as Man of the Match!"

Her son is aged ten.

N.C.O.

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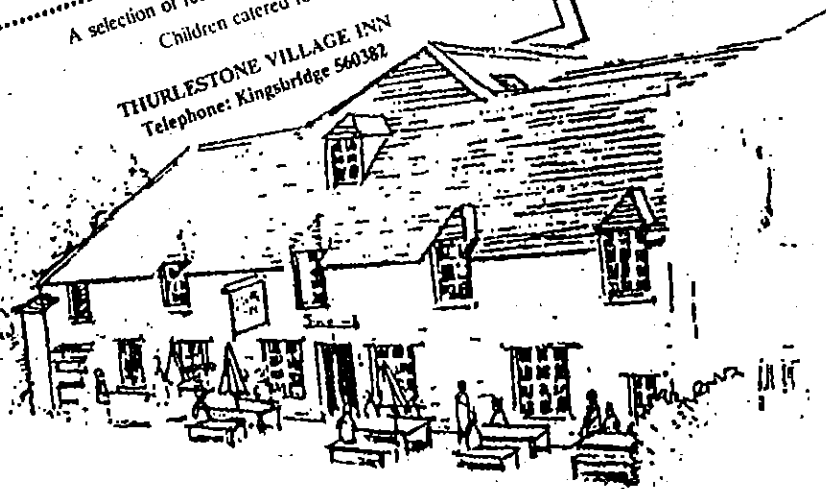
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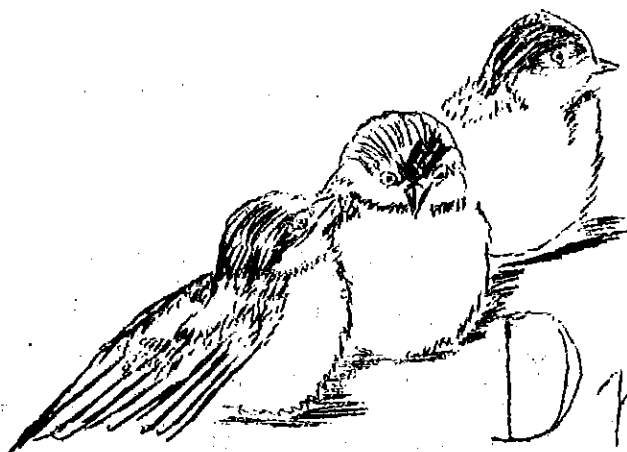
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A. MISCELLANY of THIS
and THAT and THINGS
GONE BY...

Drabblemania

Our memory is a treasury
The years have stored with care
And pictures that are dear to us
Lie unforgotten there.
A word, a look, an action
Will call them up once more
Time may not take them from us
But adds unto their store.

N. Irene Willerton

LANCELOT 'CAPABILITY' BROWN (1716-83) is one of England's most famous landscape gardeners, the grounds of many great country houses like Blenheim and Harewood House bearing witness to his immense skill and creative energy. His nickname stemmed from his custom of assessing the 'capabilities' of a landscape

In time honoured fashion, Christopher Haynes, an eight year old threw a bottle into the waves at Sheringham, Norfolk, with a message inside asking for a penfriend. A few weeks later he received a reply from a Dutchman who found the bottle on the beach at Zandvoort - telling him never to throw rubbish into the sea again !

Peterborough in the Daily Telegraph.

When we buy a car do we choose a colour to reflect our taste and, maybe, our personalities - macho sports car driver naturally going for red but a dear little old lady preferring a soft pastel shade. The thing that should bother you is the potential resale value of the colour you choose and white is, surprisingly, a drag on the second-hand market.

Inread that the odd thing is that white cars are one of the top colours when new, and whilst nothing looks better than a white car it is not the same thing later on. All paints are said to lose their charm in the end but white apparently ages the quickest - and if you ever have a 'bump' you will quickly learn just how many shades of white there are !

JANUARY may bring the snow to make our feet and fingers glow. Hopefully February will bring rain to thaw the frozen pipes again, and then March will bring the breezes loud and shrill to stir the dancing daffodils.

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR MORE:

Drabblemania + Part II

A poster outside a Salvation Army Hall reads: "Jesus the carpenter needs joiners - apply here any Sunday."

I read that the molten core of the planet Earth is as hot as the surface of the sun. Its temperature is estimated at 5000° C (9000° F). The temperature at the core of the Sun, however, is a little higher at some 15,000,000° C (estimated!). This leads me to wonder why long lived nuclear waste could not be dumped in an area such as the Marianas Trench which is said to be over 35,000 feet below sea level, where such waste would eventually be swallowed up and its radio active elements returned to the melting pot from where they originally came, for at such a depth it is said molten rock constantly wells up on a fairly constant basis. Naturally you would need World agreement - particularly in the case of Japan, for the main Trench runs a little close to that country in the Pacific Ocean. Well, just a thought.

Try reciting this little gem from part of a poem written by Charles Follen Adams (1842-1918) in "Scrapple" English:

I haf von funny leedle poy,
Vot gomes schust to mine knee;
Der queerest schaff, der greatest
As efer you dit see. (rogue,
He runs, und schumps, and
(schmashes dings
In all barts of der house;
But vot off dat? He vas mine son,
Mine Leedle Yawcob Strauss.

I sometimes dink I shall go wild
Mit sooch a grazy poy,
Und vish vonce more I Gould haf
Und peaceful dimes enshoy; rest,
But ven he vash asleep in ped,
So quiet as a mouse,
I prays der Lord, "Dake anyting,
But leaf dot Yawcob Strauss.

Mark Twain once said: To eat is human - to digest is divine.

Gloria, gloria, Europhoria! Common faith and common goal!
Meat and milk and wine and butter, make a smashing casserole!
Let the end of all our striving be the peace that love promotes,
With our hands in perfect friendship - firmly round each other's throats!

Roger Woddis - Spectator - 1984

Gone sadly, in the minds of some, are the quiet idyllic days of rural summers before the trains first ran and cars first coughed their way at daring speeds about the country lanes. The pace of change has accelerated and once isolated spots like Thurlestone and its neighbouring villages have been discovered and developed as sanctuaries for the holiday maker and the retired. This has meant, to some, the despoilation and scarring of the land; whilst to others a livelihood established; and yet others try to maintain the rhythm of the past as they pursue the old established rural occupations, pastimes and pleasures. To many, the passing of the older established houses is exceeded in sorrow only by the scale and fashion of the building of newer ones. Those with family connections traceable back over the centuries, the advent of the newer households, the holiday home owner, emphasises the irrevocability of the change which continues to challenge us all.

Para 15 - Thurlestone Parish Appraisal Report - 1980.

Some years ago Thurlestone had its very own resident police constable as, of course, did most parishes. Within recent living memory we all knew and greatly valued Police constables John Barrett and John Casson as our Community Policemen. They paid regular visits to our villages and actually got out of their Patrol cars, took a walk around and found time to converse with we lesser mortals, no doubt learning and noting. Now we have Neighbourhood Watch so that we can watch our neighbours to see what they are getting up to !

- Y - - - - Y - - - Y - -

A birthday card sent to a neighbour celebrating his 80th year:

Young is a way of meeting each day as a beautiful
surprise.

Young is a way of seeing the world of blue and
sunny skies.

Young is a treasure of pleasure and dreams that
passing time endears.

Young is a matter of mind and heart and has little
to do with years.

- - - - -

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser person than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

You may find application for these philosophical thoughts from "Desiderata" written by Max Ehrmann of Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1927.

- - - - -

HERE WE ARE - the first issue of 1990 - the first issue entirely under the Editing and production of Kendall and Penny McDonald. I would just say how very happy I am to see Village Voice in such first class hands. I am sure the magazine will continue to go from strength to strength - and I hope that I may continue to write 'Drabblemania' for just as long as you all find it sufficiently interesting and entertaining. And at the beginning of a New Year I would like to wish everyone a very HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1990 and say Thank you for all the support from contributors to the pages of the publication over the past eight years.

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Look what we
found in...

The Good Pub Guide 1990

"Sifting through the more than 25,000 reports from readers which have gone into this edition, and going through hundreds of the editorial inspection records made by the Editor and Deputy Editor, we've come up with some clear winners. On the food side, standards have been rising so markedly that this year we've remodelled the food award, raising the standard pubs must meet. Pubs qualifying for the new award are truly exceptional. Among this elite, the top rank includes some places that are very special indeed.

"Fish is becoming a prize bargain in many pubs. Fish Pub of the Year is the Sloop at Bantham(Devon), run very close by the Morefield Motel in Ullapool(Scottish Highlands)..."

And here is what the Guide says about the Sloop:

BANTHAM SX6643 Map 1

Sloop

There's near-universal praise from readers for the fresh fish that's served in this sixteenth-century village inn; it includes crab claws (£2.60), skate or whole plaice (£4.80) and giant cod (£4.85); there are also pasties (80p), home-made turkey soup (£1), granary-bread sandwiches (from £1.15, fresh crab £2.10), basket meals (from £1.80), ploughman's (£2.10), a good range of salads (from £3.80, seafood £5.25) and good steaks (£5.85); puddings like hot chocolate fudge cake (£1.40) or raspberry Pavlova (£1.60); hearty breakfasts for residents. The beamed and flagstoned bar is lively and atmospheric, with stripped stone walls, country chairs around wooden tables, and easy chairs in a quieter side area - this part has quite a nautical atmosphere, with lots of varnished marine ply. The Bass, Flowers IPA and Ushers Best are well kept on handpump, as is Churchward's cider from Paignton; decent range of malts. Darts, dominoes, cribbage, table skittles, fruit machine, space game, piped music. The sandy beach - one of the best for surfing on the South Coast - is only a few hundred yards over the dunes; the Coast Path runs past here. There are seats around a wishing-well in the yard behind. The inn has long associations with local smuggling, and indeed was once owned by John Widdon, one of the more notorious smugglers and wreckers of the South Hams; these days the licensees are more respectable, however. (Recommended by W C M Jones, Paul and Janet Waring, JS, BS, John Tyzack, Col G D Stafford, David Barnes, John Barker, Amanda Dauncey, Ann and David Stranack, D P Barby, Ian and Daphne Brownlie, F A and J W Sherwood, W C M Jones, Brian and Anna Marsden)

Free house Licensee Neil Girling Real ale Meals and snacks (until 10 evenings)
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On the front page of Plymouth Extra recently was this story which will interest everyone who lives in Thurlestone and particularly the friends of the late Mrs. Rene Bonell:

"A new member has joined the therapeutic staff at St. Luke's Hospice - a collie dog called Ted.

"Ted first came to the Hospice in Turnchapel to pay a last visit to his owner before she died. Since then he has stayed on, a gift from the patient's son.

"St Luke's housekeeper Betty Hitchcock, who welcomed the job of feeding Ted, said the dog was a very important new member of the Hospice team. "Our chief here, Dr. Sheila Cassidy, has always been a great advocate of having animals around in Hospices because it creates a homely atmosphere and is very therapeutic for patients," she said. "We'd been thinking of having a dog for some time and when Ted arrived he was absolutely perfect. He seemed to want to settle here and he's incredibly intelligent and gentle with everyone."

Betty said six year old Ted seemed to understand when to be quiet and when to play. "He's never boisterous indoors, but he loves to fetch sticks or balls thrown for him in the garden," she said. "That's good for the patients and also for the children who visit. They can play with Ted and forget their worries about Mum or Dad in the Hospice for a while." Betty added that one cold evening a patient remarked how the dog added to the homely atmosphere. "She said to me 'we had a beautiful fire and Ted lying there - it was just like being at home'".

Research has proved that pets provide enormous comfort and positive therapy for sick people, and the Hospice has had a "home cat" for a number of years. "Luckily Bernadette, the cat, and Ted seem to get on well and everyone loves them both," said Betty.

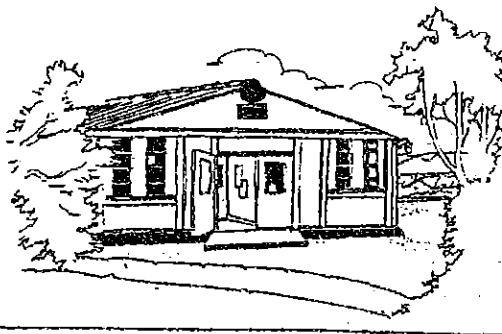
THE RISING GENERATION.

I begin by mentioning the great success of the concert and exhibition of art. The concert was directed by Val Brown, in which carols were sung and readings performed by the Drama Club. The Art Exhibition was planned by Len Hubbard, a wonderful show of drawings and paintings were mounted on boards donated by Neil Girling of the Sloop, Bantham. Mr. Hubbard created some beautiful paper models of the Three Kings.

Overall it was an extremely successful evening and thank you to all involved, backstage, serving coffee, making biscuits and organising the raffle.

The next project the Art Club is planning is a mural highlighting important and picturesque aspects of this area, welcoming visitors to Thurlestone.

The new term began on the 8th of January with some new members - it's never too late to join us! SARAH MARSTON.



THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

GETS A BRIGHT NEW LOOK...

THE Stapleshire cupboards for the kitchen and the new electrical fittings from David Frost should all have been fitted by the time this issue of Village Voice reaches you.

OUR thanks too to Derek Yeoman and Len Hubbard for putting the finishing touches by painting the kitchen. Now we need to follow up with new china in keeping with the Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS to our "Rising Generation" for the excellent performance on stage and for their paintings on display in the Hall. Under the tuition of Val Brown and Len Hubbard and their band of helpers, the village has a great future. Everyone there on that day hoped it will be repeated for us next December.

IN THE middle of August we will follow up with an exhibition of Arts and Crafts in the Hall, of work done by yourselves, so that the visitors can see what is being done in the Parish. Now we are into winter there is no better time to plan your entry of craft for August - photography, sculpture, knitting stitch craft, the arts, book binding, and a host of other hobbies. This will be your answer to visitors when they say: "What on earth do they do in Thurlestone?". Exhibits will be open to any item completed within the past two years.

YOU WILL now be able to spot us by our new logo - see the top of the page - kindly drawn by Len Hubbard.

JOAN F. MACKENZIE, CHAIRMAN.

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THE VILLAGE VOICE DIARY OF DATES FOR 1990

Thurs 15 February: NSPCC Bridge Drive. Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 21 February: Thurlestone Ramblers (see notices in
Broads and Village Stores).
Wed 21 March: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Loddiswell area.
Wed 18 April: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. South Pool.
Mon 30 April: Auction by Mr. G. M. Tomkins for Parish Hall.
Wed 2 May: Dartmoor walk of Thurlestone Ramblers.
Wed 16 May: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Frogmore area.
Wed 16 May: Parish Hall A.G.M. 7.30 pm.
Wed 6 June: Moor walk of Thurlestone Ramblers
Wed 20 June: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Noss Mayo.
Wed 4 July: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Dartmoor.
Wed 18 July: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Tuckenhay.
• • Aug: Thurlestone Arts and Crafts Exhibition.
Wed 19 Sept: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Batson.
Sat 29 Sept: Parish Hall Annual Fair, Parish Hall.
Wed 17 Oct: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Loddiswell.
Wed 21 Nov: Thurlestone Ramblers walk. East Allington.
Mon 17 Dec: Rising Generation Presents. Parish Hall.

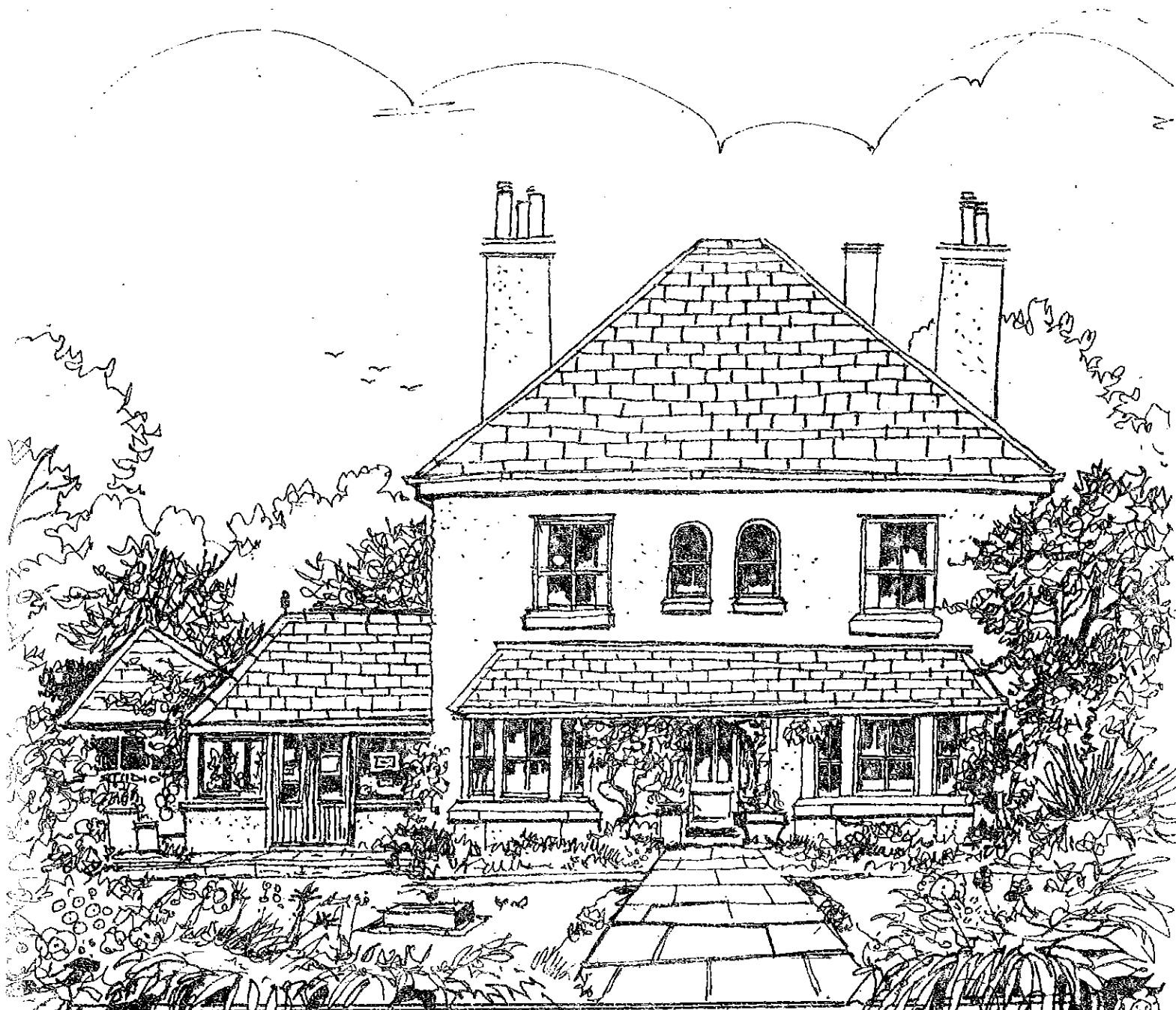
Your entries for DIARY DATES 1990 should reach
MRS. JOAN MACKENZIE, 7, OLD RECTORY GARDENS (in writing)
by MARCH 1st next.

Mrs. Mackenzie is collecting and collating the dates for
a Village Voice list of dates in each issue. The register
came about to stop charity events clashing. Charity event
organisers should let Mrs. Mackenzie have their dates now.

WILL ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO VILLAGE VOICE PLEASE
NOTE THAT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
SHOULD BE IN THE EDITORS' HANDS BY MARCH 1st.

The Answers to PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER are:

- A. I, IT, TIN, TIME, INERT, RETAIN, PAINTER, TAPERING,
REPEATING.
B. N, IN, NIP, PINS, SNIPE, SPINET, SAPIENT, PAINTERS,
TRANSPIRE.



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Extra copies may be bought from the local newsagents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morley, at the Village Stores. There is also a subscription service, which already sends copies to readers all over the country at an annual cost of £4.50, which includes postage.

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I Remember...

says Len Jeffery, who found cars became his life.

WHEN MY FATHER gave me a bicycle so that I could ride to school in Kingsbridge, I took pride in looking after it and soon became fascinated by anything on wheels.

Up till then over at Buckland, where I was born and bred, we rarely saw a motor car and there were few tractors in the fields, but by the time I left school I was determined to be a motor mechanic. I trained for two years in the garage on the Quay at Kingsbridge and then, in 1927 and aged 17, started working in the garage at the Thurlestone Hotel. I remained there, apart from the war years, until I retired and have lived happily with my wife, Caroline, in the same cottage in the village street in Thurlestone since we were married 56 years ago.

The fine Thurlestone Hotel was opened in 1920 and completed with 74 rooms and a ballroom in 1928. It was very busy in the summer season when many of the same families came down for a month year after year. Very few of them had cars at first, so we collected them from Kingsbridge Station and often drove those who did not play golf or tennis on day trips to Dartmoor or Plymouth or Dartmouth or somewhere along the coast.

There were several of us in the garage, including my good friend Charlie Bevill, who has just died, and we had to keep the cars in running order - which took a lot of our time - and act as chauffeurs. As a matter of fact, the hotel garage was the main source of transport for the neighbourhood between the wars. The Rector, the popular Canon Majendi, relied on it and the villagers used to club together for a day's shopping in Kingsbridge or Plymouth. On important occasions, such as weddings, we were able to supply an impressive, if rather elderly, Daimler car.

Thurlestone recovered quickly from the upheaval of World War II and the hotel garage resumed much as before, but with cars of much better quality. Then gradually as more and more of the visitors came in their own cars, the repair and maintenance side of the garage disappeared, leaving only the petrol pumps.

Meanwhile, the closure of the branch railway line from South Brent to Kingsbridge put an end to the trips to the station and all available parking space was required by guests to the hotel.

Charlie and I were not as young as we were by then and so, with a mixture of sadness and relief, we saw the garage close.

NCO.

THE TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers) PROGRAMME FOR 1990.

Walk Leaders: Fergus Mackenzie (FM) Tel: 560671; Stuart Reynolds (SR) 560643; Chalky White (CW) 560236; Derek Yeoman (DY) 560300.

All walks will start (unless otherwise stated) from the rendezvous (RV) at 10.30 on the third Wednesday of each month except August when no walk will take place. A picnic lunch should be brought but where the alternative of a pub lunch exists this will be stated on the walk reminder notices posted up in both the Post Office and the Village Stores a week before each walk takes place.

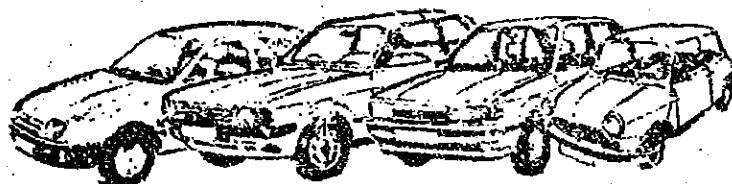
This year, in addition to the monthly walks, it is planned to have three walks on the Southern - nearest - hills of Dartmoor. These will be on the first Wednesdays of May, June and July. These walks will be somewhat longer and more strenuous than those in our current programme. Circular walks on the Moor invariably involve crossing rough ground on a compass bearing for formal paths are the exception. Full details will be given in the "reminder notices" of the sort of country to be covered.

Walks:

- February 21. RV - Thurlestone Parish Hall. Local history "walk-talk" in the South Milton area. To Kerse, then Upton, Horswell House, Milton Mill, and Whitlocksworthy. Shorter than usual, but does involve a few steep hills. Hope to visit historic farms, so no dogs in farm areas. Leader: FM.
- March 21. RV - Loddiswell Car Park. To Yantson, Idestone, Alleron Bridge, Chantry, Coombe, Aveton Gifford, Hatch Bridge, return Loddiswell. Distance 8½ miles. Not strenuous, but a little climbing involved. Leader: DY.
- April 18. RV - Shadycombe Lane Car Park, Salcombe. Ferry to East Portlemouth. Path to East Prawle. Pub lunch at Pig's Nose or Providence. South Pool, return along creek bank. Distance 10 miles. A few hundred feet of climbing on coast path. Leader: SR.
- May 2. MOORS. RV - Harford Moor Gate Car Park 646597. To Spurrells Cross. Old tramway track to Red Lake. Return Erne valley. Distance 11 miles, but could be shortened. Moderately strenuous. Leader: SR.
- May 16. RV - Bowcombe Creek 746434. To Bowcombe old bridge. Green lane to Frogmore. North bank Frogmore Creek. Charleton Grange. Distance 10 miles. Not strenuous. Leader: SR.
- June 6. MOORS. RV - Cadover Bridge 557646. Plym Valley. Details to come. Leader: SR.
- June 20. RV - Warren NT Car park 542466. Due South of Noss Mayo. To Gara Point. Left bank of Yealm to Noss Mayo. Pub lunch at Ship. Two routes back to car park. Distance 9/11 miles. Not strenuous. Leader: FM.
- July 4. MOORS. RV - Cornwood. Explore Yealm Valley. Details to come. Leader: SR.

Continued overleaf.

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THURLESTONE RAMBLERS PROGRAMME CONTINUED:

- July 18. RV - Tuckenhay Bridge 819560. Bow Creek to Cornworthy. Southill, Broadridge Farm, Barberry, Capton Wood, Woolcombe, Tideford, Coomery, Tuckenhay. Distance: 7½ miles. Not strenuous. Leader: SR.
- September 19. RV - Malborough Car Park. Collaton, Batson, Snapes Point, Blanksmill Bridge, Ilton Castle Farm, Batson, Maryknowle Farm. Distance: 10 miles. Moderately strenuous. Leader: CW.
- October 17. RV - Loddiswell Car Park. Reads Farm, Topsham Bridge, Left bank of Avon to Hatch Bridge and Loddiswell. Distance: 8 miles. Not strenuous. Leader: CW.
- November 21. RV - East Allington Church. Weir Bridge, Rimpston, Maltston Mill, Buckland TS, The Mounts, Fallapit. Distance: 8 miles. Not strenuous. Leader: SR.
- December 12. RV - Blackawton Church 805509. Figure of eight walk. Xmas pub lunch at Normandy. 10 miles. Leader: SR.

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SAYS KATE: You won't find mycophagists - mushroom eaters - in the fields collecting ordinary mushrooms and horse mushrooms - they'll be out in the woods searching for specialities like Ceps, Chanterelles and Black Trumpets. But here's a recipe that should please any mushroom eater and it uses ordinary mushrooms too.

Sarah's Stuffed Mushrooms. Serves 6 as a starter or 3 for supper.

6 oz lean smoked bacon, finely chopped.

1 small onion, finely chopped.

4 oz breadcrumbs.

6 largest mushrooms.

3 oz butter.

Dash of Tabasco.

1 egg (beaten).

4 oz Gruyere cheese

Salt and black pepper.

1. Peel the mushrooms, reserving the stalks, spread 2 oz of the butter over the gills. Put into an ovenproof dish, butter side up.
2. Chop up finely the mushroom stalks. Put the 1 oz of butter into a pan and fry bacon till cooked but not brown. Add the onions and cook until soft, then add the stalks and cook till tender.
3. Put breadcrumbs into a bowl, add the bacon, onion and stalks, a dash of Tabasco and bind together with beaten egg, salt and pepper to taste.
4. Divide the mixture between the mushrooms. Press down with a fork. Cover dish with foil and bake in a medium oven 325F (160C) for about 25-30 minutes.
5. Cut cheese into 6 slices. Remove mushrooms from the oven. Put a slice of cheese on top of each.
6. Pre-heat grill and put mushrooms under till cheese melts.

Serve either with a little salad garnish for a starter or for supper with one or two lightly steamed vegetables and thin triangles of toast.

AND, SAYS KATE - A Happy, Good Eating, New Year!

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

THIRTY-EIGHT members and guests attended the Christmas lunch to hear a very interesting talk by Chris Hayward, Commercial Manager of Exeter Airport. Unfortunately I was unable to attend myself as I was struck down by the dreaded flu', but all reports have indicated that Peter Cousins finished his year as "Fixture Secretary" on a very high note indeed, providing us with a great variety of quality speakers throughout the whole of 1989. The one low note of the talk was when Chris Hayward indicated that his Duty Free Shop paid very little more for a litre of vodka than the bar at the Hotel charges for a single nip.

The Ladies Evening on February 6th has received excellent support, assuming that all those who have applied are able to attend (nearly 70 members and wives). Our next meeting is on Friday, February 9th, when we have our AGM.

Our speaker in March will be "Chalky" White, who will give us some humorous experiences from his time in the Diplomatic Service. In April Keith Oates will be pointing out some of the ways we can legally deprive the Taxman of money by putting some of our hard-earned money into our wife's name. Please note that this meeting will take place on April 6th, as our normal second Friday of the month is Good Friday this year.

May I take this opportunity of wishing members and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

D.M.YEOMAN. Hon.Sec.(560300).

PAT MACHIN'S

PUZZLE CORNER.....WITH AN "ADD-A-GRAM"

Starting with one letter, add a letter and rearrange 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.

A.

Personal pronoun (1).....I.....
Short for Italian as IT
in vermouth (2).....
Metal (3).....TIN.....
Point or prong(4).....
Passive (5).....
Keep possession of(6).....
Rope attached to
boat(7).....
Growing thinner(8).....
Saying again (9).....

B.

14th letter of alphabet (1).....
Not out (2).....
Pinch (3).....
Pointed fasteners (4).....
Wading bird (5).....
Old-fashioned musical instrument(6).....
Wise (7).....
Artists (8).....
Happen or emerge (9).....

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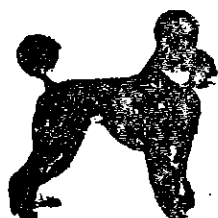
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FROM THE RECTOR:

"I think it was Churchill who said: "There never was by wit of man anything so well devised, but that other men would find fault with it". It is certainly true, and anyone who operates at all in the public eye may as well get used to the idea.

It is particularly true over any proposed 'change' in the established order of things. By and large none of us like changes - unless of course it is a change proposed by us! This is true in all manner of things, although I am thinking especially about language, and in particular the language of worship, which has recently attracted comment from a princely source.

In the introduction to a current standard work on "English Usage" (which I note is printed in Yugoslavia!) the writer speaks of the difficulties the compilers have had to face: One of the chief difficulties confronting them is that usage is constantly changing. What may have been unacceptable twenty years ago is now standard English. There is nothing particularly surprising in this: the English language, like everything else in this world, is constantly evolving and twenty years is quite long enough for some slang terms and colloquialisms to achieve the status of respectability, and for others to alter their meaning or to fade away altogether.

What is true of language in general is true, though perhaps less markedly so, when we turn to the language of worship. Whilst I agree that a conservative revision of the Book of Common Prayer would have been welcomed by many rather than the more radical Alternative Services Book, that some revision was essential, (contrary to the view of some), is self evident if we consider but one example - In the great Intercession in the Communion Service the Prayer Book makes us pray that justice may be administered "indifferently" when what we really mean is "impartially". An example of a word which has changed its meaning, not too surprisingly, in 450 years!

Worship is a living thing and for that reason it must also be a changing thing - everything that lives is in a constant state of change, albeit sometimes so slow as to be imperceptible.

When I was a boy if somebody was told to read from the Bible no one would dream of reading from anything but the Authorised Version (so called because it was the only version authorised to be read in churches of the Church of England for several centuries). Now there are literally dozens of versions!

Similarly our services were conducted from the Book of Common Prayer, which from 1662 until 1966 was the only legal form of worship in the C of E, although some variation had crept in from the proposed, though never authorised, Prayer Book of 1928.

In those parishes for which I have had a responsibility I have tried to maintain a balance of old and new so that we were not left in isolation whilst the rest of the church moved on, and so that we did not on the other hand sever links with our rich heritage of the past, believing as I do that for the most part the traditional language of worship is valued.

Continued..

THE RECTOR CONTINUES:

It is for that reason that even where we do use the pattern of ASB worship for our Eucharist, it is the "Rite B" traditional language version that has been retained by the PCC of South Milton, and Thurlestone PCC has just elected to revert to that usage throughout the winter months with the modern language "Rite A" version being used occasionally during the summer months as a gesture to those of our visitors who are familiar with "Rite A". Most visitors, however, express themselves delighted to find us using the old language services and many are particularly grateful to find Mattins of which they are deprived in their home parishes!

This does all pose problems. It is important that when we read scripture we do understand what in plain English the original writer said and meant. Nevertheless, plain modern English is not necessarily the language of the soul and the value of scripture is not necessarily exhausted by having discovered its original and literal meaning. By way of example, let me give you a quotation which I made in church just before Christmas:

"Every rut shall be filled and every bump flattened out" - Yes, if you think it sounds like a direction for repairing the road you would be quite correct, that is exactly what it originally was.

But can you imagine Handel setting it to music? He did, of course, but with the much more familiar ancient language of the Authorised Version: "Every Valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" - which as well as being more poetic and more capable of being set to music, much more importantly, it is more capable of speaking to the soul about God's ability to enable us to overcome life's obstacles. And that is the principal task of the Bible to enable us to hear God speaking to us not to instruct us how to tarmacadam the highway.

All language in worship has in one sense an impossible task to perform, for it seeks, by means of the finite, to put us in touch with the Infinite. The language which best does this is that which we must mostly use. One of the perversities of life, however, is that for some this will be special "worship language" (be it Elizabethan English or even Latin), whilst for others only "current English usage" will suffice.

The task for the priest is to walk that tightrope which is now secured across the great and widening chasm between the two.

PETER S. STEPHENS. RECTOR.

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In order to facilitate the work required in installing the new organ at Thurlestone Parish Church, it will be necessary to be without organ music there for two Sundays. With the kind co-operation of the Standing Committee at South Milton, it has been decided to have joint main morning services at South Milton at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday February 11th and Sunday February 18th.



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POSTBAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Voice,

I was delighted with the result of the Coffee Morning held in the Rectory Barn in November in aid of the National Childrens' Homes. The final amount raised was £293. Thanks are due to all the willing helpers and all who supported the event so generously. Come again this year!!

Sincerely,

PAT TOWNSEND, 4, Parkfield, Thurlestone.

Dear Village Voice,

Rather belatedly I am writing to thank you for putting that very interesting article in the magazine about Yarde. We had just over 1,000 visitors in 1989 - quite a few of them from Thurlestone. So I thought you might be interested in a progress report from us.

Just over a year ago we wrote letters to Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (better known today as English Heritage) to try and get help to save the three buildings which make up Yarde Farmhouse.

Since then there has been much activity with architects, officials and photographers surveying the house from cellars to attics. It all culminated in a hole being cut in a ceiling in the 16th century part of the house to inspect the timbers there. Finally the architects even persuaded John and me to go up in the roof to admire the very old and shaky timbers there!

The restoration of the houses has been planned in five stages and will take many years. Phase One is the "urgent work" designed to stabilise the building, keep it dry and prevent further collapse. This is now well under way. Tons of ivy have been stripped off, revealing parts of the house I had never seen before, including a window and a handsome chimney stack. The dovecot and brewhouse behind the stack have now been roofed in. The rest of the roof over this range is to be braced to stop it pushing the walls out, and the west wall shored up. The 14-foot fireplace is also in line for some very technical shoring to make it safe.

This work is being 50% grant-aided by English Heritage, the other 50% we have to find ourselves. We opened the house to the public all summer to raise funds and we will open this year from Easter to October 31st - and so on for ever!

Yarde Farmhouse has now been promoted to Grade One listing and the Barn, Stable, Linhay and Cider Pound House have been added to the List as Grade Two, reflecting the great historic and architectural interest in the whole farm. Please come and support us when we open.

Sincerely, JOHN AND MARILYN AYRE, Yarde Farm, Malborough.

Dear V.V. Readers,

Wool is wanted for knitting squares for St. Luke's Hospice. New or old, any ply. Please contact me on 560475.

Sincerely, STELLIA TURNBULL, Clock Cottage, Bantham.

OUR CLUB IS affiliated to the English Bridge Union (E.B.U.) and plays under the E.B.U. Rules. We meet each Friday in the Parish Hall at 6.30 pm and start playing Duplicate Bridge at 7 pm until around 10.30pm.

Duplicate Bridge is for those people who like to play bridge on a more formal and competitive basis. The pairs in Duplicate play the same hands and compare results. They meet on a random basis so that each club night is a bridge match, leading to winners and losers. E.B.U. Master Points are awarded for each session, and those members who are individual members of the E.B.U. can accumulate points to become Club Masters and eventually attain Grand Master level. These rankings are registered by the E.B.U. and are internationally recognised. However, you do not have to become a Club Master to play duplicate bridge, though obviously the more high-ranking players there are in a club the higher the overall standard of play becomes.

Our club runs its own competitions. There is the annual championship for the best pair for which the "Phillips" Cup is awarded. There is also the "Improvers" Cup, awarded to the pair who make the most progress over the year. The club has also devised a quarterly handicap competition for which a prize is given to the winning pair. This gives more average players a chance to win something.

The Club does not at present organise formal rubber bridge sessions, as so far there has been insufficient interest to justify it. We do believe however that there are a number of contract bridge players who would like to play duplicate bridge. We do not know exactly how many of these people there are, so, if you are one of them, please contact Joan Mackenzie on 560671.

The Club has also identified a need for tuition for Beginner's Bridge, and has arranged a course for this, to be tutored by Bill Phillips, assisted by his wife Betty. Bill and Betty are honorary life members of the Club and already well known by most of us as they lived in Thurlestone for several years before moving to Totnes. The Club's principal trophy, the Phillips Cup, is so designated as an appreciation by the Club members of Bill and Betty's contribution to its success, and to bridge in general. Without their help and support, many who now play bridge - including myself - would never have started.

The course for beginners is for 24 people and commenced in the Parish Hall on January 10th, running for twelve weeks until March 28th. Sessions begin at 7 pm ending between 10 and 10.30pm.

So history is repeating itself! However, the outcome of this could pose a small problem. Our playing membership is limited to 60, because of space in the Hall and there is a waiting list. So with the beginners completing their course at the end of March, and with possibly some existing bridge players coming forward for tuition in duplicate together with those on the waiting list, the question is posed - "how do all these people get to play bridge on Club Night?" One solution would be for the Club to run a second night on Wednesday evenings, following on after the end of the beginners' course, commencing in April, 1990. To do this the Club would have to be fairly sure of averaging 12 pairs per night for 12 months, to make the evening financially viable. However, we should know by the end of March whether or not there is a sufficient interest.

And so to sum up - Thurlestone Bridge Club is soundly based, active and thriving. We look forward to a likely influx of new players and a further widening of our activities in the coming years. Who knows? We may even produce some very good County players for the future!

Club Officers: Chairman: Ray Sharman (560007); Secretary: Sheila

Tootill (Kingsbridge 2404); Treasurer: Michael Bolland (Kingsbridge 2566),

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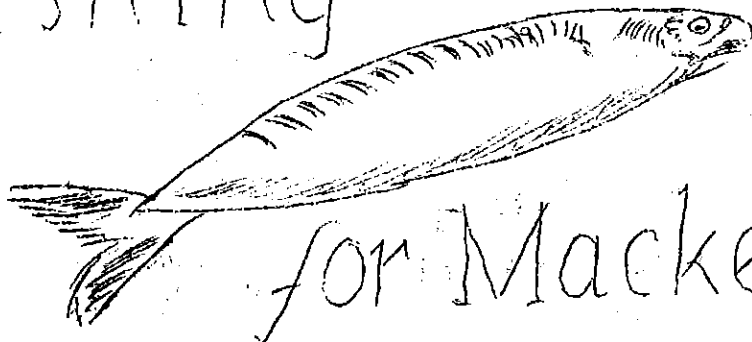
Malcolm Goddard

Roger Hind

at the above address



Fishing



for Mackerel

Elderly fishermen's cottages lie scattered all along the south coast of Devon. We have ours at Bantham, drawn up in a terrace. There are others at Hope Cove rather haphazardly arranged in a square. Further east at Torcross and Beesands they overlook steep shingly beaches. The remains of a small fishing community at Hallsands sit precariously on a shelf, following a disastrous storm in 1917. Lannacombe has a couple of cottages romantically set at the end of a long country lane. Each of these places has a story to tell of exploits at sea. They may all be visited with enjoyment on a single summer's day.

Stephen Reynolds (1881-1919) lived for some years with fisherfolk and describes in his book 'A Poor man's House' (published in 1908) a trip for mackerel out of Sidmouth with his friend Tony; It could have happened anywhere along the Devon coast. There follows a shortened version of his tale:

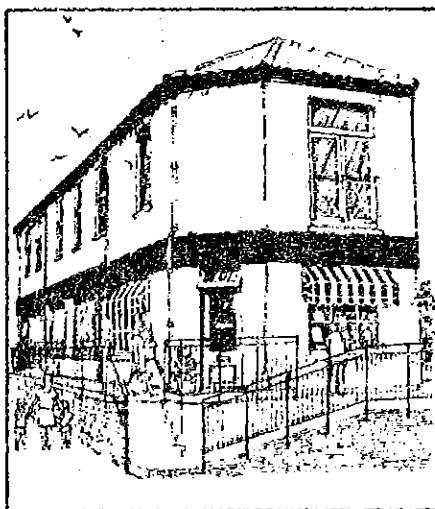
Waking before dawn, I could tell that the wind was blowing off the sea by the saltiness of the air that blew across the room and the grind of shingle outside. The sea itself was almost invisible - a swaying quietness through which white horses rose, as if to say 'come and share our frolic'! Summoned downstairs, I found Tony pattering about the kitchen in his stockings and pants and light check shirt. Soon, a gush of comfortable steam made the lid of the kettle dance. The big, blue tin teapot was washed, filled and put on the hob. Some cake lay on the table.

After dressing and putting out the lamp we went out, collected the mast, sails and oars that were lying on the beach and dragged the 'Cock Robin', which was little larger than a dinghy, down to the water's edge. After filling the ballast bags with shingle, we pushed off and rowed, shipping no more than a couple of buckets of water over the stern. Tony hung the rudder and loosened the mizzen while I stepped the mast, hoisted the jib and lug and made fast the halyards and sheets. The wind's life entered into the craft and she bowed gracefully to the waves.

Tony produced lines of a kind that have hooked mackerel for generations. They are designed to catch the greatest possible number of fish in a shoal and quite unlike the refined rods and lines that superior anglers use in their robust ignorance which 'likewise the fish ignore'. They comprise first 2 - 3 fathoms of conger line, to take the friction over the gunwale, then 5 - 6 fathoms of finer line reaching to a conical lead weight. Beyond that a swivel, or better still an eyelet cut from an old boot, is tied to the 'sid' (2 - 3 fathoms of fine 'snooding'). Finally there is a length of gut onto which half an inch of clay pipe-stem is threaded, with a rather large hook at the far end. As an alternative, a round lead may be cast in the eggshell of a gull, which runs sweeter through the water but the fish's bite is difficult to feel because the jerk is transmitted through the bulky lead weight. The bait is a 'lask' or three cornered piece of skin from a mackerel's tail.

Concluded overpage....

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In trying to put out three lines over the stern, Tony tangled two of them, got into a tear (temper) and snapped the sid, bit off a rusty hook and spat out a shred of old bait. He cursed when a flapping sail got in his way while grubbing in his pocket for a new hook, which he eventually secured on the line with his teeth and clumsy fingers.

By the time the lines were out, the dun sou'westerly clouds all round had raised themselves like a vast down-hanging fringe, ragged with inconceivable delicacy at the foot, between which and the water the peep o'day stared blankly. 'Twas all a wonder and a wild delight !

'Look to your lea'ard line' cried Tony 'they'm up for it'. He hauled a mackerel aboard and cut fresh lask from its tail. The mackerel bit hotly on the new bait and soon the bottom of the boat was a glistening mass of fish. Suddenly, they stopped biting, perhaps because the rising sun was shining down on the water; the wind dropped. 'We'on done' said Tony 'lets get out in time for the early market, these yer ought to fetch 'lempence a dozen.'

While I rowed ashore, Tony struck sail and threw the ballast overboard. Willing hands hauled the Cock Robin up the beach and were given fish for their help. The mackerel were offered to Jamina Caley, the old squat fisherwoman with a decayed sailor hat, for elevenpence a dozen. 'Yu dun mean yu've catched all they lovely fish', she exclaimed, offering tenpence. 'Lempence a dozen Jemina' he replied, 'Aw well then you must let I pay ee when I sold 'em. Ain't got it now. Could ha' given ee tenpence down'. In the end, she paid in full. I collected ten mackerel, stuck them by the gulls on each finger and thumb and returned to Tony's cottage.

N.C.O.

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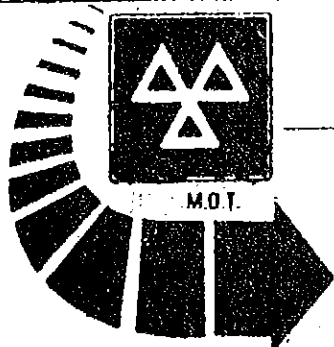
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PAPER!

The first part of a two-parter

BY KENNETH WEEDY.

I DOUBT IF ANYONE has ever said to you "Eat less bread, because flour manufacture involves the destruction of the wheat crop", and yet how often do we hear the ill-informed allegation that paper-making is based on the destruction of trees and forest areas. The beauty of single trees and of woodlands in the mass obscures recognition of the fact that trees used for woodpulp production are a crop, planted, tended and, in due course, harvested at their maturity. People refuse to accept that silviculture is merely agriculture using trees as the predestined crop.

Woodpulp mills where timber is transformed into the raw material of papermaking are enormous and extremely costly investments. A moment's rational thought should make it abundantly clear that no one in his right mind would make such an outlay and then proceed to destroy the very raw material on which the continued existence and profitability of his enterprise depended.

Up to the middle of the last century papermakers relied largely on supplies of linen and cotton rags as their raw material, but ever increasing demand was steadily outstripping supply. A Swedish chemist, Ekman, found a way of cooking softwood chips in a sodium sulphite liquor, which achieved the aim of dissolving the lignin which cements the cellulose fibres in wood, so that the unwanted material could be strained away, leaving a pure mass of minute cellulose fibres which could be used as a new source of raw material in inexhaustible supply.

It should be a sufficient answer to those that cry "Destruction" to say that UNESCO surveys have shown that, despite the huge worldwide demand for paper and allied products, in the temperate world there is a greater acreage of timber products suitable for woodpulp manufacture standing today than there was in 1910 and, furthermore, the trees themselves are taller, straighter and of better quality than they were seventy years ago.

Much of the credit for this state of affairs is due to the work done by plant geneticists working in the laboratories of the major woodpulp companies. Men known as "Timber Cruisers" travel the forests on foot, carrying a .22 rifle. When they find a king-size tree which has noticeably outperformed its neighbours in both girth and height, they shoot cones from the far out of reach branches. These are taken back to the labs and there the seeds extracted for use in the plant breeding programmes for the forest nurseries. Large companies, such as the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, in America and Canada, may have anything up to fifty million tree seedlings in their plant nurseries at any one time. Clear felling is the normal procedure of harvesting and today, worldwide in the Northern hemisphere where pulpwood is grown, government laws lay down that five trees be planted for every three felled.

On the more accessible areas seedlings are planted by the laborious use of a short mattock, which is backbreaking work if you are not used to it, for the only time you straighten up is when your satchel of seedlings is empty and is replaced by a full one. For areas harder to reach an ingenious method is

KENNETH WEEDY CONTINUES:

used. The young trees are grown in paper cones, the tip of which has been hardened by being dipped in resin. When an area is to be replanted and the ground has been softened by rain, the seedlings are loaded into special aircraft, to be dropped through chutes from about 1,000 feet.

With the baby tree acting like the flight feathers of a dart, the cones come whistling down and a high proportion of them embed themselves in the ground, where, in due course, the paper rots away and the roots push out into the soil. Needless to say this is a method which can only be used in uninhabited areas!

Sooner rather than later when papermaking is being discussed the subject of the reclamation of waste and its incorporation in the manufacturing process is bound to crop up in these increasingly ecology conscious times. The Company for which I worked consumed many thousands of tons of wastepaper each year. We appreciated its value but we were fully aware of its limitations, some of which were inherent in the material itself and some were economic.

For reasons too complex to set out here the papermaking industry has always been cyclical in its activity, with boom and bust following each other with the monotony of a roller coaster. As a result when business started to pick up you would approach your suppliers for an increased tonnage. They in turn would step up their collection efforts, often reaching a peak just at the moment when the demand for paper started to fall off. It was always extremely difficult to get supply and demand into any sort of synchronisation.

"Ah," you may say "why didn't you store the surplus against the next upturn in demand?" Unfortunately, waste paper has the characteristic of being a major fire hazard. Some grades, such as the appropriately named 'Grade 13' which is the unsorted domestic waste, have a penchant for spontaneous combustion caused by the heat generated by fermentation of moist material, frequently in the heart of a large bale.

But not all combustion is spontaneous. One large mill in the centre of Bristol used to suffer from the activities of small boys who, like Indians in a Western film, used home-made bows to shoot flaming arrows over the perimeter wall into the stacked wastepaper for the fun of seeing the fire engines turn out.

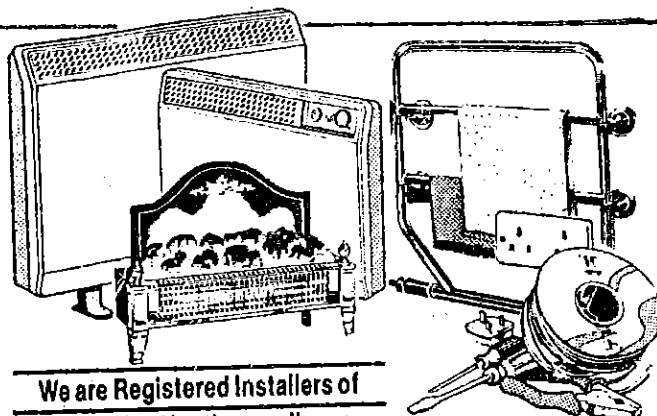
To be continued in our next issue.

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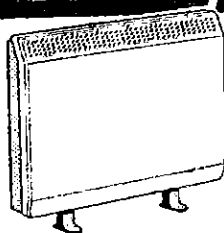
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Minutes of the Special Parish Meeting held in the Parish

Hall on Tuesday, 7th November, 1989, at 7.30 p.m.

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

Speakers in

Attendance: County Councillor S. J. Day.

County Councillor L. G. J. Pike.

Inspector G. Allen (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)

Mr. S. D. Lavery (County Area Engineer, South)

Mr. G. Downes (County Highways Engineer)

Present: Approximately 115 Parishioners and several members of the public.

Clerk to the Meeting: Mr. W. G. Ladd (Clerk to the Parish Council).

The Chairman welcomed the invited speakers and the Parishioners attending to determine the actions favoured by the majority of Parishioners to remedy the frequent problems of traffic congestion occurring in Thurlestone and Bantham, and asked Inspector Allen to outline the police view on that subject.

Inspector Allen explained that with the narrow roads and villages not built for traffic, congestion was a long standing problem throughout the County to which there was no absolute solution. Yellow lines were only effective when self-enforcing and alternative parking facilities existed; police resources were too limited to enable frequent patrolling, but Traffic Wardens toured the district when other commitments permitted. The priority of each incident had to be related to its importance in the public interest, but the Police service did its utmost to deal with each case as speedily as possible. There were no official records of emergency vehicles being obstructed during the last year in Thurlestone or Bantham (but Mr. D. J. Yeoman quoted the case of a Parishioner drowned off Yarmen Beach on 5th August last). The Inspector introduced the Community Constable for the Thurlestone area, PC Paul Shepherd, and explained that he and other patrolling officers endeavoured to enforce the law, but did not have time to deal with every minor breach of the Highway Code. However, they would always deal as soon as possible with every case notified to them or to their Station.

The Inspector answered many questions and matters discussed included:

- More off-street parking spaces;
- Traffic lights in Thurlestone;
- A one-way traffic system such as via the Mead;
- Double yellow lines between the War Memorial and the Rectory;
- Restricting car parking to one side of the road in that section around the Village Inn;
- Danger to cars emerging from Eddystone Road and turning right with a limited view of Warren Hill because of parked vehicles;
- Danger caused by cars parking near the junction of Parkfield with pedestrians being forced into the highway by cars parked on the pavement;

and The further danger of speeding vehicles on clear roads, being one example where double yellow lines did not solve all problems in village streets even when enforced.

Councillor Simon Day stressed the importance of highways being unobstructed so that emergency vehicles were not impeded;

alternative parking spaces might be essential if yellow lines were to be created and enforced, even though that might entail parking zones being acquired by compulsory purchase. Mr. Day said that in his capacity as Chairman of the Police Committee for Devon and Cornwall, he was only too well aware that the Constabulary was currently 48 Officers below strength and that another 116 were really needed. He introduced the Chairman of the Teignbridge and South Hams Highways Committee, Councillor Pike and also Mr. Lavery, the newly-appointed Area Engineer (South) for the County.

Mr. Lavery explained that having only been in South Devon for three weeks, he had not yet identified the full problem, but would listen and respond at the end of the meeting.

Mr. David Grose stated that he and many other residents were opposed to yellow lines and traffic lights. The changes over the last 40 years demonstrated that a new problem arose as soon as another was solved; proposals were already under consideration for improving off-street parking and a new farm development might help solve the current problems, which were particularly difficult only during the ten peak weeks of the holiday season. Speeding vehicles and accidents would result if yellow lines were created and enforced in the centre of Thurlestone.

District Councillor Jack Thomas pointed out that similar conditions existed in places such as West Alvington where yellow lines were not wanted because they would cause speeding and accidents. Thurlestone's current development proposals warranted action to remedy traffic problems being deferred for 12 months.

Mr. Gordon Bromfield confirmed that re-development of his farm was now being considered which might include land becoming available for a small village car park, as well as playing field, which could help the main street problems.

County Councillor Pike explained that his highways sub-committee did not advocate yellow lines, except as a last resort. Most problems were solveable if people liaised, often without yellow lines which were costly to introduce and regulate.

Reference was then made to an application from certain residents of Bantham to extend the yellow line system in that village, but many present opposed that proposal which had not even been reported to or considered by the Parish Council. Mr. Pike then confirmed that his Committee would not take action over the petition until the subject had been advertised and objections considered, the support of the local Parish Council was essential.

Mr. Lavery observed that so many yellow lines already existed that their enforcement was difficult and the system was brought into disrepute if the lines were not effective. He had normally to resist the creation of new yellow lined areas unless involving either public safety, or a public highway was regularly obstructed.

Mr. David Grose suggested problems at the Parkfield junction might be better solved by the provision of a safety barrier or raised pavements, which would prevent vehicles parking on the pavement. The idea was discussed, but not favoured by the Highway engineers present.

Two main proposals were then put to the meeting:

1. That the main street between the war memorial and the Post Office be created a yellow line area with parking prohibited at certain times. Motion NOT CARRIED with only 17 votes in favour.
2. That double yellow lines be put on both sides of Parkfield at its entrance from the main street. Motion CARRIED by large majority.

The Special Parish Meeting was then closed.

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