JUNE - JULY VILLAGE 1990

VOICE



The views and opinions expressed in the pages of Village Voice should not be taken to be the views or opinions of any member of Thurlestone Parish Council and should be ascribed only to the authors concerned.

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EDITED AND PRODUCED BY

KENDALL McDONALD & PENNY McDONALD

AT Cradles Cottage Thurlestone.

Tel: Kingsbridge 560239

LEN HUBBARD.

NUMBER 44. EIGHTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION. JUNE-JULY, 1990.

THE PARISH COUNCIL meeting of May 8 got off to a gentle start as parish council meetings usually do. Apart from the usual business we were there to hear the plans of South West Water for cleaning up Thurlestone's sewage problems, particularly of course those of Leas Foot beach. We were to hear the results of marine tests of tides and currents on our pollution, and we knew that the answer would probably be a long sea outfall.

But we were unprepared for what really happened. It is fair to say that we emerged into the night horrified by what we had heard. For it gradually became clear, as the water company spokesmen talked to us that Thurlestone's little local difficulty had been hijacked into a vast scheme to solve the sewage problems of Kingsbridge, and Calcombe and Hope!

Such a scheme is going to need a huge primary sewage treatment works being built on our doorstep with the settlement tanks covering an area of six acres! And the works itself, pumping station and all that goes with it will need even more acres. And then you have got to have the long sea pipe running out some 2 kilometres off shore because even after treatment the residue is full of bacteria.

No wonder the company spokesman at the meeting told us that there would be a "cost" to the environment as well as the big financial one. No figure was given of the costs of all this but informed guesses put it as over £10,000,000.

Where is such a huge sewage works going to be built? All we could glean from the SWW men was that they would prefer somewhere high to ease the pumping needed to get the sewage to sea. But commonsense tells you that it would have to be somewhere near to the problem. The only place for a sewage works covering ten acres would have to be out in the countryside.

Now do you see why we were horrified? You will no doubt have noticed that where we all live we are surrounded by suitable places for treatment. Add to that the fact that the pipe will have to be buried six feet under the seabed and commonsense again tells you that you are looking for a sandy bay. So forget the poll tax, the big question is - where's that sewage works going to go?

A NEW LIST OF LISTED BUILDINGS in the parish has come from the Department of the Environment. All the buildings, with one exception, are Grade Two, which means they are "buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort being made to preserve them".

The exception is Thurlestone Church which goes one better and is Grade Two Star, which makes it a "particularly important building of more than special interest".

The buildings listed are: Clanacombe; Dovecote at Clanacombe;
North Upton farmhouse; Worthy farmhouse; Bantham Nos.1-10; Bantham
boathouse at SX664439; Sloop Inn; East Buckland Myrtle Cottage and
Cob Cottage; West Buckland: Buckland Cottage; Old Farm and Old Farm
Cottage; May Cottage; Clematis Cottage and Court Cottage; Peep o'
Day and Rock Cottage; Pear Tree Cottage; and Thurlestone: Chest
Tomb, 7m. South of Church; The Cottage; The Old Rectory; Thatchways;
Nos 1,2 and 3 Church Cottages; Bay Tree Cottage and the Nook; Vine
Cottage and Village Stores; Snowdens (formerly Old P.O.); Just-aCottage and Trethurle; Home Cottage.

As far as the Department of the Environment is concerned this new "Resurvey" list represents all that is "listable" in the parish, and they don't expect to add more for a number of years, though some with interior features not obvious from outside might be added. Anyone with problems about listing can ring Alan Cheetham, SHDC's Conservation Officer on Totnes (0803) 864499 extension 288.

Eagle Developments report that R.A.Reece of the Mead won their Thurlestone photographic competition and the prize of £50. Due to the low entry they will not be staging the planned exhibition of photographs.

CONGRATULATIONS to PETER HURRELL AND DERRICK YEOMAN on their unanimous re-election to the Parish Council posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Peter Hurrell has been Chairman for ten years and Derrick Yeoman Vice-Chairman for 14.

A date for your diary which arrived too late to be put into our list of dates for 1990 (which you'll find further on in this issue: On October 18, the Harbour Bookshops of Kingsbridge and Dartmouth will be holding a "Meet the Authors" lunch at the Thurlestone Hotel. The lunch will be chaired by Tony Soper and best-seller names have already agreed to attend.

Another important anniversary comes along this month! On June 14, 1980, Mr.Neil Girling put down the 10% deposit of £8,900 and bought the Sloop at Bantham. Mind you, he didn't actually take over until July 15. Local historians should note that on that day beer at the Sloop cost 50p per pint!



VILLAGER

WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE ARCHERS are launching a magazine called Village Voice. Though my second thought was that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, I still think that the BBC's longest-running radio soap shouldn't have stolen our title. Beware then of cheap imitations - there is only one Village Voice and that is the one you are holding now.

I was slightly mollified however to find that the Archers cast are to write the contents of their Village Voice which means it will be dreadful - actors are unable to talk about anything but themselves and often begin to believe, like trendy clerics, that they can improve on the words they are given to speak, such as those in the Bible or the works of William Shakespeare.

A am intrigued though about the Archers' choice of "Village Voice" Which brings another dreadful thought - you don't think that any of those ghastly Archers live round here, do you?

WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THE AMOUNT of money raised by Joan Mackenzie and her team by the auction at the Parish Hall for the roof of same. £2,103.40! Surely that's a record for the amount raised from any single event ever held in Thurlestone. Correct me if I'm wrong. Will it ever be beaten?

WAS SORRY TO BE PROVED RIGHT about South West Water. Did not Village Voice advise you to buy SWW shares and use the votes they gave you to throw the bosses out? Have you forgotten the reason why we said so? Remember what those same water bosses promised in 1976 - that after that drought water for the South-West would never be a problem again. Remember what they said when the rains finally came in 1989 - that their new plans meant that water in the South-West would never be a problem again. That Roadford Reservoir was to wife the words "standpipe" and "hosepipe ban" from South Hams residents memories. But what's this? After only four days of sunshine, our local newspapers inform us that South West Water are saying "we can't rule out the possibility of restrictions on the use of water in the months ahead". Sack 'em - that's the only real way to make sure that water will never be a problem again.

I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR those dreadful chairs in the Church, more suitable for a tea service than the religious kind, are on their way out and we are going to have proper church pews once again.

I say "once again" because the Church originally had super pews, though I don't suppose we'll be allowed to have them in the original style. You see until some time around 1850, when the Reverend Peregrine Arthur Ilbert was Rector, the pews were really great boxes with downs and so tall were most of them that when the sermon began and everyone settled themselves down only the heads of the really tall men could be seen over the tops. And when it was cold the bare heads of the men were sheltered under big pocket handkerchiefs!

It seems the ideal setting for listening to a sermon, but the Reverend Peregrine decided otherwise.

A written record of what went on then still exists today. It says: "There was a terrible tempest in the village when the Rector held a parish meeting to arrange about reseating the church, the farmers rising as one man to protest against their comfortable boxes and corners being removed for open seats. This was the first parish in the neighbourhood to suggest such an inovation, and they did not at all appreciate the honour of being pioneers! The meeting dissolved in uproar, and the people thought the matter had dropped, but that was not the case.

"The rector was a determined man, and, having made up his mind as to what was the right thing to do, intended to carry it through, regardless of consequences, though it had to be done entirely at his own expense. So all through the winter months he and his devoted carpenter (a deaf man who knew how to keep a silent tongue in his head when 'Maister' desired it) worked away in the big barn, carving and planing and fitting, no one knowing what work was in progress till all was ready.

"Then one fine Monday morning in the spring, a band of workmen arrived at the church with axes and hammers, and almost before the news got about that 'summat was doin' up to chairch' the old high pews were all demolished and carted away and the new well-made open seats put in their places! It was all finished within the week, but when the congregation arrived the next Sunday morning and found their boxes had disappeared then It was like disturbing a hornets' nest. there was a hubbub! Many of the men marched straight out of church again and held an indignation meeting in the churchyard, one farmer saying that he hoped old Nick would fly away with him if he ever set foot in the church again'. 'Cri-massy!' said the old mason, overhearing the remark, 'I hope he won't make no mistake then, for my pew's next to his'n! . Another man was heard to say: These new sates is clean against Scripter; why, don't the Bible tell us 'to go into thy closet and shut to the door', and how is us to do that if there bean't no door to shut?!"

In time, of course the new seats which were more like the modern pew than anything else were accepted. And then even those were replaced with chairs some time around the turn of the century, certainly before 1908. And now we are to have pews back again; certainly the hunt for pews has started and it is hoped that a "redundant church", if you can have such a thing, will provide Thurlestone with suitable seating.

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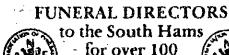
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Talking About

THE DREADFUL AFFAIR
AT BANTHAM

THE GALE CAME OUT OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST and drove all before it. Huge waves rushed up Bolt Tail, Burgh Island disappeared in great curtains of spray, and as night came on the sea scooped sand in savage bites out of the dunes of Bantham Ham as it rose to the top of the tide. And not far out in Bigbury Bay a barque was losing her battle to stay off shore. It was October 27, 1880.

That sailing ship was the Lady Young, 589 tons, registered at Liverpool, and bound from Hamburg to Cardiff. Captain John Watkins and his 13 man crew were not the only ones in trouble. All round the southern half of Britain ships were in danger from that same gale, which was officially reported as "very heavy", which means that the winds were near hurricane force.

At 1 a.m. the Lady Young lost her struggle and drove on to the rocks between West Down Point and the Longstone. The seas began smashing her bottom out, but she remained more or less upright and fired distress signals. She had been in ballast and as a result had been thrown well in towards the shore as she was riding very high.

In 1880, Challaborough was an important Coastguard Station with five men stationed there under a Captain Ommaney. But it wasn't until 4 a.m. that they were able to get to the cliffs and fire a rocket line down to the ship some 50 feet below. But even with the help of people from Bantham such as Mr. John Hoskins and Mr. Philip Mann, it wasn't until 6 a.m. that they had the bosun's chair rigged and ready to bring the first man ashore.

What happened them is not entirely clear. Most of the crew of the Lady Young were foreigners, the Captain and the steward were said to be the only Englishmen aboard. All except one were brought safely to shore. The steward was to be the exception. One version of what happened says that he put all his clothing into the chair or basket of the rocket escape apparatus and sat on top and, then, when being hauled ashore, he slipped off the top and fell to his death on the rocks below. Another version says that the steward was brought safely ashore and was then allowed back to get his belongings and fell off on his return trip.

The Illustrated London News drawing (see over the page) does show the bosun's chair full of some packages, but their written repart, based on a sketch made at the time by a Mr.Frederick Elton, R.N. and sent to them, makes no mention of a return trip. Their version reads: "One of the crew of the barque that got aground at Bantham, while he was being passed along the rope stretched across from the stranded vessel to the summit of the cliff, where the Coast Guard men were hauling him in, lost his hold of the rope and fell headlong into the sea, where he instantly perished".

But despite this "dreadful affair " having made the London headlines, the Lady Young is of great interest locally apart from

simply that she was wrecked so close to Bantham. For today her figurehead and a good deal of the ornate carving in her is to be found decorating the interior of the cottage called "Peep o' Day" in West Buckland. And a magnificent sight it is. The Lady Young was built of wood in Quebec in 1870 and from the look of all that carving today it is clear that top craftsmen did the work.

How did the wood of the Lady Young come to be inside that Buckland cottage? To find that out we must look at the memoirs of Mrs.Ratcliffe, nee Jenkins. She wrote that Peep o' Day" was at that time two cottages called "Sleepy Hollow" when they were bought by the Rector of Thurlestone, the Reverend Peregrine Ilbert. Now Mr. Ilbert was what we should call today a dedicated D.I.Y.man. He liked building and darpentry (see Villager in this issue for what he did to the Church pews!) and so he converted the two old cottages into one. While he was doing it the Lady Young was wrecked. Mrs. Ratcliffe recalls: "The wreck of the Lady Young at Bantham helped him a lot. He was always excited and pleased when a ship came ashore. He bought some bunks and ship's timber for Sleepy Hollow." And later when the seas finally broke her up, the salvage from her was sold... "Old Mr.Ilbert got a fine haul, including the figure head".

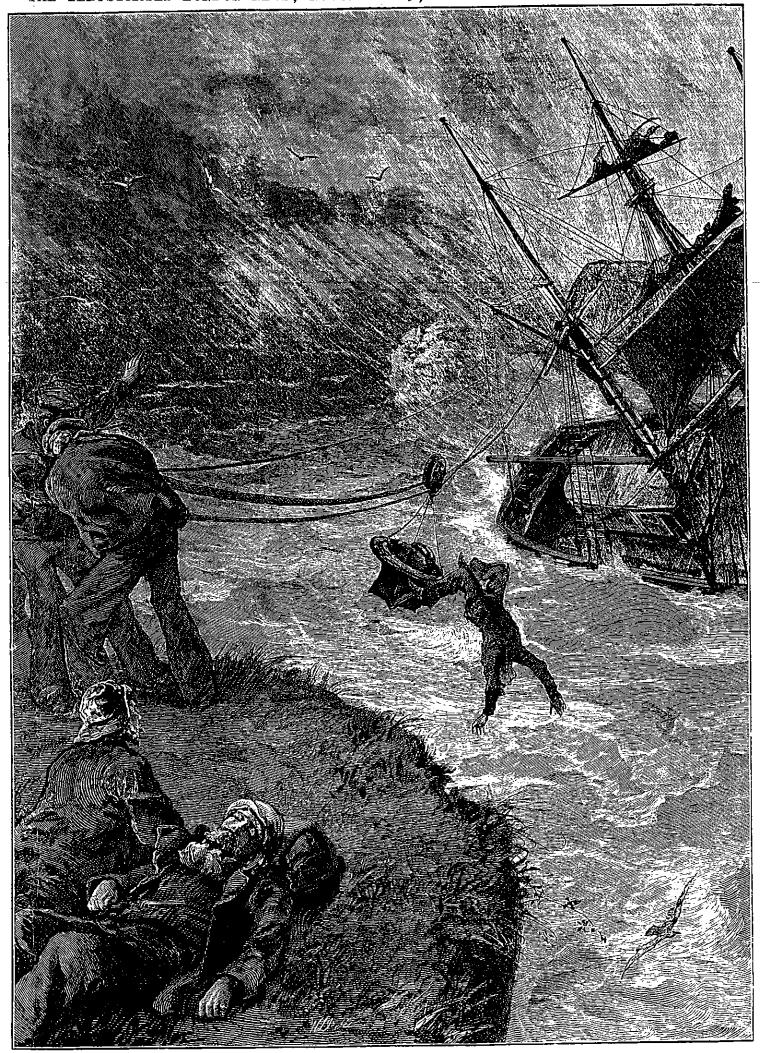
Now when the Rector had installed the figurehead - it is of a dark-haired woman, but whother a real likeness of a real person called Lady Young no one seems to know - he decided to let it. The first tenant turned out to be a crook - he borrowed £100 off Miss Ilbert at the Rectory and then disappeared. Later the Rector understandably preferred his tenants to be men of the cloth. One of them disappointed him too. This was his curate called Ozanne. When Ilbert was absent, he apparently preached rather well, but he didn't last long. He took to drink. And one never-to-be-forgotter. Sunday evening in the pulpit of Thurlestone Church in the middle of a pretty inchherent sermon, he took his watch out of his pocket and stuck it in his eye instead of his eyeglass! He had gone too far and was dismissed!

However, after such disappointments his next tenant of "Sleepy Hollow", though he had a lame leg and was known locally as "Dot-and-Carry-One", was the perfect tenant and remined there for the rest of Mr.Ilbert's life without any trouble.

The Reverend Peregrine Ilbert was apparently aways trotting about the Parish visiting the sick, whom he would present with items to eat which he brought out of his pockets wrapped in old newspapers!

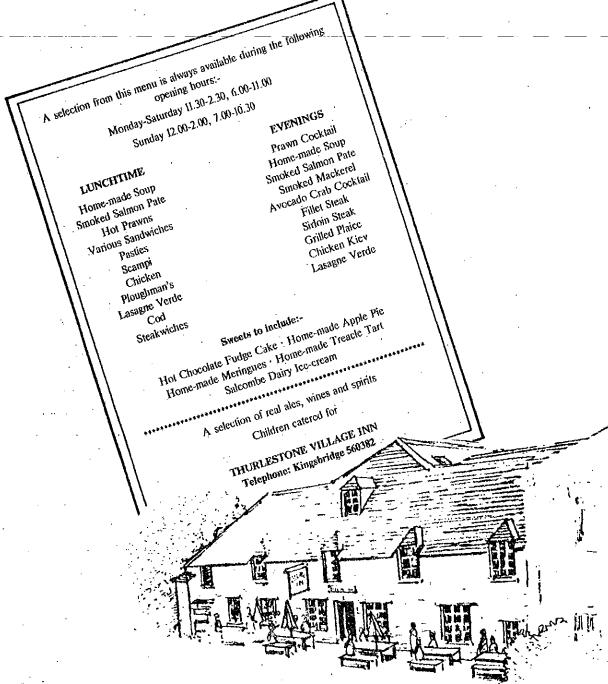
But building was his "off-duty" passion. If you want to see other examples of his work, you should look at the Coastguard Quarters in Bantham and at Rockhill in Thurlestone which Mr. Ilbert converted into a house for himself from a barn. The round stained glass windows which you can see from the road are two of the Reverend Peregrine Arthur Ilbert's wedding carriage wheels. Now there's real romantic touch, the sort of thing you might expect from any great do-it-yourself man! But probably his greatest memorial is the Old Rectory, which he rebuilt in 1836 from a 16th century near-ruin. Incidentally, if you are desperate to see the Lady Young figurehead and all the carvings from her in "Peep o' Day", well, you could buy the cottage! Mr.C.O.C.Allen of Rock Cott next door tells me that "Peep o' Day" is for sale - it is either being rethatched now or is just about to be - and is on the market for £168,000 or near offer.

KENDALL McDONALD.



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Here is a real motorist's companion. Here is a book which should live in the glove compartment of your car. And you may be surprised to know that it comes not from the AA or the RAC, but the women of Devon's WI's.

The book is called "The Devon Village Book" (Countryside Books; £7.95) and is exactly that, pen portraits of Devon's

villages written by the women who live in them.

Thurlestone's in there of course and so is Bantham and Buckland, but this pook has another claim to fame apart from that. Woman who co-ordinated this collection of the stories of over 200 Devon villages is Thurlestone's Pat Macdonald. She started it by asking each WI to produce a profile or pen portrait of their village. In five months it was all in - and here's the book. Each contribution about each village is anonymous and though each villager can probably guess who did the piece about their own particular village, it's best to leave it that way as a joint effort by the Devon Federation of Women's Institutes.

You'll be surprised what you can learn from this easy-toread book about not only your own village, but those right on
our doorstep. Did you know that Malborough has the largest
village hall in the whole of the South Hams? That Loddiswell
had its own"Dick Whittington", who walked to London and became
the city's Sheriff? That South Milton has 18 parishioners living
in the village now who were born there? That Bigbury was planned
as "a garden village by the sea"? And that in Hope 'tis said
that the rocks at the tip of Bolt Tail are the remains of a jetty
built by the Danes?

"The Devon Village Book" is available from bookshops at the price shown above, but if you're a member of the WI you get a pound off if you buy it through them. And buy it you should. It's the ideal book to browse in or for your passenger to whip off the dash and to tell you the innermost secrets of the village you are just about to drive through.

P.S:all the drawings in the book were done by WI members, and so was the photograph on the front cover.

K.M.

THAT OIL ... DISASTER AT THURLESTONE ...

"Thurlestone swallowed up in black tide!" "Tourists to fight to save the coast they love" "Thurlestone, Hope and Bantham wiped out by huge oil slick".

Those sort of headlines proved once again that our national Press can, unlike that insurance company, make a disaster out of a crisis. In fact the real problem was to find the oil at

It was nice to read too a quote from one conservationist: "If it had to come ashore, it couldn't have gone in a better place". He was talking about Thurlestone:

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

SIXTY MEMBERS of the Bantham Sailing Club attended the AGM at the Sloop Inn on April 13, 1990. The Officers elected were: Commodore: Edward Ridgway; Vice-Commodore: Hugh Cater; Secretary: Marilyn Cater; Treasurer: Patrick Price; committee members: Penny Kain, Celia Toll, Myles McNulty and David Lynch.

The Secretary reported a successful 1989 season with racing taking place most weekends, tide permitting, throughout July and August with over 40 boats taking part in a very successful regatta over the August Bank Holiday weekend. A beach barbecue held in August raised £500 and this will enable six or seven youngsters from the South West to have a week's sponsored cruise with the Ocean Y Youth Club on their 70ft yacht Falmouth Packet during the coming season.

In 1989 the Club sponsored six young people ages ranging from 12-17 years, and with last summer's good weather most cruises were able to get to the Channel Islands or Brittany. Each youngster has to work as a member of the crew taking responsibility for watches, navigation and generally learning to work as a member of a team, including taking a turn in the galley! A typical comment from the returned sponsorship forms was "Thank you wery much for paying for my trip as I have learnt a lot about myself and how to work with other people"- that came from a 15-year-old! The Club will be organising another event this coming August in aid of the O.Y.C and we would very much welcome support for this event. For details watch our noticeboard outside "The Whiddons". In addition if any youngster would like to be sponsored to sail with the O.Y.C. this coming summer please get in though on 560593.

The RNLI also benefitted from our efforts with the sum of £380 being raised from the sale of souvenirs. You see it's not all "Hooray Henries" and "Yellow Wellies" and we would be delighted to see more local members taking part. Why not come and join us?

MARILYN CATER. Hon. Sedretary.

..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PR

AT THE PARISH HALL AGM the following were elected:

Chairman: Mrs.J.Mackenzie. Secretary: Mrs.D.Tyler. Treasurer: Mrs.E.Spear.

Hall Committee: Mr.D. Yeoman (Building and Car Park); Mrs.J. Drummond (Legal); Mr.A.Chapman (Financial Adviser).

Representatives: Parish Council: Mr. P. Hurrell. Keep Fit: Mrs.M.Oswald, WI: Mrs.A.Grose. P.C.C.: Mrs.T.Woodrow. Bowls: Mr.J. Dayment. Horticultural Show: Mrs.P. Macdonald. Bridge: Mr.P.Machin. Football: Mr.S.J.Sullivan. Junior/Art/Drama: Mr.L.Hubbard.

Trustees: Mr.D.Grose: Mr.D.Yeoman; Miss J.Yeo.

It was reported at the same meeting that the final wost of the repair to the roof was £2,066.14. The collapsed ceiling over the toilet has still to be repaired and is not included in that cost.

The following lines were written by Edward Capern - at one time the postman poet of North Devon - who certainly knew

ABOUT DEVON CLOUTED CREAM

Sweeter than the odours borne on southern gales Comes the clotted nectar of my native vales - Crimp'd and golden crusted, rich beyond compare, Food on which a goddess evermore would fare. Burns may praise his haggis, Horace sing of wine, Hunt his Hybla-honey, which he deem'd divine, But in the Elysiums of the poet's dream Where is the delicious without Devon's Cream?

Talk of peach or melon, quince or jargonel,
White-water, black Hamburg, or the Muscatel,
Pippin or Pomegranate, apricot, or pine,
Green-gages, or strawberries, or alder wine!
Take them all, and welcome, yes the whole, say I,
Ay! and even junket, squab, and mazzard pie,
Only let our lasses, like the morning gleam,
Joyous with their skimmers full of clouted cream;

What a host of pictures crowd upon my sight,
As I view the luscious feast of my delight!
Meadows fram'd in hawthorn, coppices in green,
Village fanes on hilltops, crowning every scene;
Buttercups, and cattle clad in coats of red,
Flocks in daisy pastures, couples newly wed,
Happy in their homesteads, by a flashing stream:
But what is this golden, crimp'd, and bonny cream?
Quintessence of sunshine, gorse, and broomy lea,
Privet and carnation, violet and pea,
Meadowsweet and primrose, honeysuckle, briar,
Lily, mint, jasmine, stock, and gilly spire,
Woodruff, rose, and clover, clematis, and lime,
Myrtle and magnolia, daffodil and thyme,
Is our pearl of dainties - and, to end my theme,
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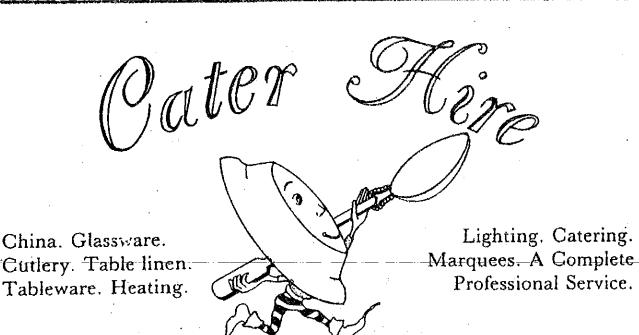
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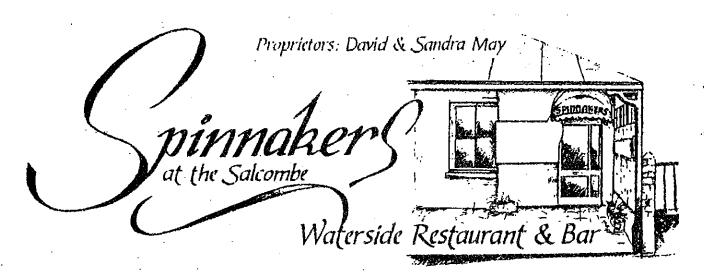
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POSTBAG LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITORS,

While I am sure that Village Voice in its last issue was merely indulging in its provocative habit and promoting the alleged long-time rivalry between South Milton and Thurlestone, I must point out that Thurlestone Sands are really and truly shared between the parishes of South Milton and South Huish.

Should we not therefore in future refer to Thurlestone Rock in huished tones as the Milstone?

Yours very sincerely,

W.G. Ladd, Thorntons, South Milton.

DEAR SIR AND MADAM.

I really don't think you should take such an agressive line about those forced to live in South Milton. I will have you know that some of my best friends are Old Miltonians.

Yours faithfully,

Thurlestone Resident (name and address supplied).

DEAR EDITORS,

I saw this in another magazine and thought your readers might like to see it too:

"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 ones break down and rust -The older type models are best!"

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Eaton, Glebe Field, Thurlestone.

More letters on next page.

DEAR EDITORS,

I had a young family here for the holiday weekend. They took the children to Buckfast Abbey.

The monks were walking about and little Nicholas, 4 years old, said "Is that the Track Suit God wears Daddy?". I thought I must send it to you.

Yours sincerely,

DOROTHY M.M.COLE, BARN HOUSE, WEST BUCKLAND.

THE AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

AT THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL general meeting of the Aune Conservation Association, Dr. Susan Openshaw was elected Chairman. A special vote of thanks was given to Miss Anne Jenkins, who retired after 11 years as the Association's Secretary. Her place as secretary was taken by Mrs. Pauline Gardner.

At the meeting, which was held in the Memorial Hall in Aveton Gifford, members were asked to report any boats breaking the Avon River speed limit to the new Harbourmaster at Salcombe, Mr. A.P. Hodges (telephone Balcombe (0548) 84-3791).

Members also expressed concern at the use of "jet skis" in the river and there were reports of these machines being deliberately driven at seabirds.

RADON GAS - THE LATEST.

South Hams District Council have just put out a Press release about Radon gas. Here it is:

"There has recently been increasing soncern about the health risks associated with radon gas. Certain areas of the South West, including parts of the South Hams, are affected by particularly high levels of radon. The Council, therefore, considers it would be prudent for householders in the South Hams to be aware of the concentration of the gas in their homes, in order that they can decide whether action should be taken to reduce the levels. This action could be comparatively cheap and simple.

"There is a monitoring device available free, for any member of the public to place in their own house, to measure radon levels. As well as being free, the result is completely confidential. Anyone wishing to arrange for such a survey should contact the ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION which will advise on those areas at highest risk. Telephone Totnes (0803) 864499.

Councillor J.D.Kelly, Chairman, Health and Safety Committee."

Editor's Note: Anyone worried should read letter on next page.

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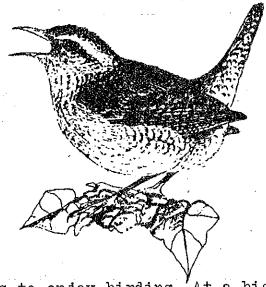
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HARRY HUGGINS



PUTS IT ALL ON THE RECORD

You don't have to keep records to enjoy birding. At a big twitch there are usually some taking copious notes and making little drawings, and at bird society field outings a few people keep a list of what they have seen. But not many. Perhaps however they do like we do and wait until they are back in the car before making a list: if you are seen with one you run the risk of being asked to write something for the society magazine.

But it does add to the interest if you keep some sort of note of what you see, even if it is only sketchy: the first Cuckoo, Swift, Swallow, House Martin. You can also record the last bird of each year. This is more difficult: there can be only one first, but you do not know which of several sightings is going to be the last. Swift is easy. In the last week of August there are twenty of them screaming up and down over the main street; by the first week of September all have gone, until the following first of May or thereabouts. But Swallows make more last appearances than Nellie Melba. We start to not down when we see them sometime in October, continue well into November and have found one in the wind shadow of Thurlestone Hotel on 3rd December. Our earliest date is 11th of March, so there are only two months when we have not seen them in Devon.

Some birders want to do more, and if you want to submit the record of a sighting to go forward to the Rarities Committee (disrespectfully known as "the ten rare men") you have to put in a written report, written moreover either then and there, in the field, or if at home before any book is consulted: it is astounding how you can write down not what you saw but what you think you saw. There was a vituperative argument about thirty years ago when the first Cetti's Warbler was found in this country (they are still not two a penny, but you can hear one any time you go to Slapton Ley). The finders decided the bird seen was a Moustached Warbler; all sorts of very eminent birders watched it (it was in a reed bed and gave only brief views) and described its dark cap, big creamy stripe over its eye, and striped back- all characters of Moustached Warblers which they had seen in the book. After about a week someone managed to catch it, when it was found to have none of those fieldmarks; it was just plain brown above, with the ghost of a stripe over its eye and some of the most eminent were proved wrong; which they didn't like. So as soon as you can after the sighting you write down what you have seen, and you shun like the plague anything which might mislead you.

We men all know how the ladies can go to a wedding or a party and return with total recall of what every other lady was wearing, down to shoes and handbag. My wife has this peculiarly female talent which is of inestimable value for birding; if we find a rarity, while I am leaping about, usually futilely, with a camera,

She concentrates on making a mental picture of the bird. Then, together, we record what we have seen. Unless a bird is very complacent and just stands still, which normally they don't, especially if rare, it is impossible to write a description while you watch - you look down to write the first word and when you look up again it has gone. So you do it afterwards, but soon afterwards.

We keep a diary. To save the chore of churning through pages and pages of diary to refer back to a particular sighting, we keep also a card index of birds. It would be nice to have a card index of places too, but what we do is hard work enough. An increasing number of people are starting to use computers, which no doubt are very useful - I am going to take their word for it.

We cannot make a note of everything we see - if we did we would spend more time writing than watching, so we record what we think is interesting. And there arises the difficulty. Rare species, or anything we have been asked to look out for, currently cirl Buntings, Mute Swan and Herons. They are easy. But we try also to record what we think will be interesting in the future, species which are common now but will become rare and vice-versa.

Who would have thought fifty years ago that the Grey Partridge, which teemed on farmland, would be almost extinct by now. But it is. We heard one on Thurlestone in 1989. There was a pair around the Mead in 1987. That is all. They say the disappearance has been caused by improved farming methods — the use of herbicides and insecticides which have killed the insects on which the chicks and insecticides who has benefitted from the said herbicides and feed (You wonder who has benefitted from the said herbicides and insecticides: the companies which make and sell them, I presume, not the farmers, I have yet to count many Jaguars in the yards in this parish!).

It is not all bad. The Collared Dove, the little pink pigeon which lurks around the villages saying "cuk-COO-cuk" has spread from eastern Europe in the last 40 years, and the Canada Goose, first introduced from North America 300 years ago to decorate gentlemen's ornamental waters, is spreading. There was even a pair prospecting Farmer Stidston's ornamental water in the valley last winter, but they went when the flood did.

Then at the end of each year we extract from our cards the records we think will be of interest and send them to the county recorder, who is an official of Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society.

There are about sixty of these county recorders in England and Wales, and some more in Scotland. On occasion in the past a county has had two, each declaring the other an imposter like mediaeval popes and later Roman emperors. Cornwall has two legitimately, one for the mainland and the other for the Isles of Scilly: the birds are so different there that a separate recorder is needed - if you leaf therough the Isles of Scilly Bird Report you will find Red Eyed Vireos from America, Woodchat Shrikes from you will find Red Eyed Vireos from America, woodchat Shrikes from the Mediterranean, Yellow Browed Warblers from Russta; but never a Magpie, there are none and if any observer reports one he must substantiate his claim with a full description.

To be a county bird recorder is like being a member of the Royal Pamily - you cannot imagine why anyone would want to do it. He has to produce an annual report, usually 100/150 pages, and he has to vet reports of rarities before passing them on the the Rarities Committee. For doing this he is not paid; nor is he

thanked much either. The Devon Bird Report is in fact excellent but we always moan at the recorder that he omits our records and he moans at us observers that we tell him only about rare things, not the common ones and how can he produce a balanced report about the birds of the county if we do not tell him about House Sparrows and Tom Tits and Robins?

To produce the report is a mammoth undertaking: over 200 observers send in, some give only one or two records; ours run usually to a dozen foolscap pages. I expect the people with computers just send a print-out of everything they have seen. But the production is the easy bit, that is merely plain hard work. Above everything else a bird report must be accurate, for one suspect record will render the whole thing untrustworthy.

So first the recorder must know his birds. It is all too easy for an observer to mistake a Green Woodpecker for a female Golden Oriole, and likewise to mistake a Mistle Thursh for a Green Woodpecker. There are other species likely to be confused, and the recorder must know them. And he must know his birders. Most can be relied on not to submit a record unless they are 110% certain it is correct. But others...

Identification of common species presents no problem, it is with the unusual ones that his life gets difficult. I do not know when they stopped shooting birds to identify them - if they have! As recently as the mid-1960's the secretary of the Rarities Committee wrote of the necessity in some cases of being able to compare a bird with museum skins, for which process it had to be dead, of course,

Definitely at one time the rule was no corpse, no record. Which should have made a recorder's task easy - provided he knew where the corpse came from, But he had always to remember the awful case of the "Hastings Rarities": from about 1896 to 1930 an immense number of birds was "obtained", i.e. shot, in the Hastings area. A very few were taken by ornithologists of repute. But nearly all were shot by anonymous gunners who to supplement meagre incomes were shooting for the pot. If they got something common they ate it. If it was rare, or pretty, they sold it for a pittance to one local taxidermist who stuffed it and sold it, likewise for a pittance, to a nuseur, a collector or the general public. Birds in glass cases were popular ornaments: I grew up surrounded by the faded moth-eaten things.

Many of these birds were accepted as anew species to the British list. I do not know what the criteria for this were in those days: to get a new species on the list today is nearly as complicated as getting someone made a saint, except you don't have to prove miracles. All along some folks were suspicious, because there were no many. But nothing was done until the early 1960's, by which time all the principal participants were comfortably dead. Then all the records, some 700 of them, were rejected, including six species not otherwise known to the British List (in fact many of the things which were so rare in the early part of the century have become relatively commonplace.

The argument for rejection was on statistical grounds - there could not have been so many. But there the speciments were, and to account for their presence it was said that the birds must have been brought in from abroad, dead, in refrigeration, or alive in cages, and shot in the cages! It is not possible now to know what to think, Much of the argument against acceptance sounds futile. But unless the birds were shot by an ornithologist of repute, why

were the records ever accepted as valid at all? It is no longer legal nor fashioneble to shoot rare birds; recorders and the Rarities Committee now accept sight records. It is all easier than it was: there are good binoculars, telescopes, books and plenty of experts to ask for help.

You can always ask the recorder to come to see what you have found. But he is a very busy man; don't call for him unless there is something really special, not like the man at South Milton who wanted him to identify this wonderful bird, all scarlet and black, not in any book, and obviously new to the British list. We saw it. We told him it could have flown from South Africa - it was an African weaver finch - but it was more likely to have flown from the nearest pet shop and that sort doesn't count!

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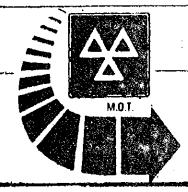
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We thank all who supported us and gave their help in so many ways.

Joy and Gerry Tompkins, assisted by Veronica and Chalky White ensured that the Auction was both enjoyable and well managed.

The Management Committee have now been relieved of the anxiety of how to pay for the repair to the roof and the underlying ceiling in one of the rooms.

AN ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION will be held on Saturday/Sunday lith and 12th August. Local work from the residents of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland will be required in order to show visitors our hobbies. There will be no restriction on when the work was completed.

will you please let our Secretary - Mrs.Doris Tyler, 6, Glebefield, Thurlestone (560662) OR any Committee Member know of the items you will be able to lend us for the two days of the Exhibition.

JOAN MACKENZIE CHAIRMAN.

STOP PRESS:

SERIOUS PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN IN THE REPAIR OF THE ROOF DUE TO TWO LONG-TERM BEES NESTS BEING FOUND THERE. THE DAMAGE FOUND GIVES RISE TO AN INCREASE IN THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE REPAIR.

DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE? HERE'S YOUR ANSWER TO THAT PROBLEM - THE SUPERGUIDE TO WHAT'S ON....

VILLAGE VOICE'S DATES FOR 1990

Wed 6th June Moors Walk. Thurlestone Ramblers Sat 9th June Thurlestone Church Fete. Rectory 2.00 p.m. Tues 12th June Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m. Wed 20th June Thurlestone Ramblers Walk, Noss Mayo Summer Fair, Thurlestone School 2,30 p.m. Sat 30th June Moors Walk. Thurlestone Ramblers Wed 4th July Thurlestone Conservatives Coffee Morning, Thurlestone Sat 7th July Hotel 10.30 a.m. Thurlestone Ramblers walk. Tuckenhay Wed 18th July Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m. Tues 24th July Parish Art and Crafts Exhibition, Parish Hall Sat 11th Aug Parish Art and Crafts Exhibition, Parish Hall Sun 12th Aug Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m. Tues 28th Aug Sun 9th Sept Guide Dogs Family Fun Day, Thurlestone Hotel 2 p.m. Thurlestone Conservatives Wine and Cheese Sat 15th Sept Party, Parish Hall 6.30 p.m. 18th Sept Boutique 144 Fashion Show for S. Hams Hospital League of Friends, Thurlestone Hotel Thurlestone Ramblers Walk, Batson. Wed 19th Sept Sat 29th Sept Annual Fair Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30 p.m. Tues 2nd Oct Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m. British Heart Coffee Morning at Clock Cottage, Tues 16th Oct Bantham 10.30 a.m. Wed 17th Oct Thurlestone Ramblers Walk, Loddiswell Tues 6th Nov Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m. Autumn Bazaar Thurlestone School 2.00 p.m. Sat 10th Nov Wed 21st Nov Thurlestone Ramblers. East Allington. Christmas Bazaar NSPCC Parish Hall (amended date) Sat 24th Nov Thurlestone Conservatives Bazaar, Parish Hall 10,30 Sat 1st Dec Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m. Tues 11th Dec Thurlestone Ramblers Christmas Pub Lunch and Wed 12th Dec Walk. Normandy Arms.

PLEASE HELP to keep this list up to date. Give dates to Mrs. Joan Mackenzie, 7, Old Rectory Gardens (in writing) by 1st July for next edition.

Parish Hall.

"Rising Generation"

Mon 17th Dec

THURLESTONE 8 SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

At the Annual General Mesting held in the South Milton Village Hall on 2nd October 1989 Mr R D White was re-elected President.

The Committee accepted with regret Mrs P Macdonald's resignation as Secretary and in recognition of her support and hard work over the past eleven years she was elected a Vice President. She remains on the Committee.

Mr B Horn was re-elected Chairman and Mr A Adams was reelected Treasurer. Mrs V P White was elected Secretary and Mr E G White was elected onto the Committee.

The ANNUAL PLANT SALE will be held in South Milton Village Hall at 2.30 pm on Saturday 2nd June. This is always a very popular event and the proceeds go towards the running of the Horticultural Show.

This year it is South Milton's turn to host the HORTICULTURAL SHOW on Saturday 4th August in South Milton Village Hall at 2.30 pm. The Prizegiving will take place at 4.30 pm.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to point out that ALL residents of Thurlestone, Bantham, West Buckland and South Milton are AUTOMATICALLY members of the Show and are therefore elegible to enter. Enclosed with this issue of Village Voice is the Schedule, together with an Entry Form, for the Show on 4th August.

PLEASE look at it and see if there are any Classes which you could enter. Hopefully everybody who participates enjoys the Show, has some fun and perhaps even benefits from the event.

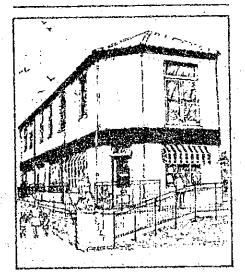
The Show is non profit making and the Committee are vary pleased to announce that the support from both Parishes over the years has enabled us to present a table to the Thurlestone Parish Hall. This is in addition to the table given, through the Show, by Rear Admiral Bickford.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank everybody who helps and supports the Show, and asks them to encourage neighbours and friends not already doing so to join in and have a go.

If the Schedule and an Entry Form are not enclosed with your Village Voice they are available at the Post Offices in Thurlestone and South Milton, and if you have any queries or comments please contact the Secretary, Veronica White, 7 Crosslands Thurlestone (560236).

The Committee

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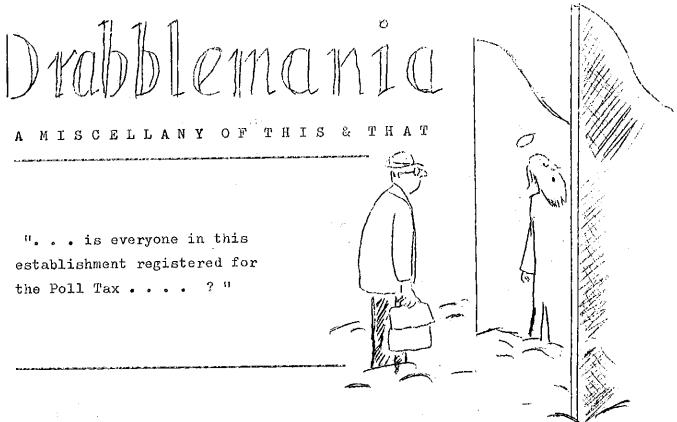
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The various media make a variety of observations nowadays regarding the potential hazards to health one might suffer from swimming, sail boarding and surfing in raw sewage polluted waters, and nothing has yet happened to take Leas Foot out of the classification of being the least inviting in the South Hams. I am told you should never be surprised to have a close encounter of the 'turd' kind!

+++++

Ever been a little fed up trailing along behind a slow moving agricultural vehicle. This might interest you - recorded in a recent issue of Farming Weekly:

Going slow has cost a Digger driver £110 in fines and costs. Mr Pooley of Thornham, Norfolk, was prosecuted under Section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, for inconsiderate driving. Magistrates heard that a queue of 11 cars had built up behind him on a main road. He passed several points at which he could have pulled out of the way to let them pass, but did not do so. It was local police policy to prosecute in such cases and fines could range up to £1000. !

The offence comes into the same scategory as careless driving under the Act and is in Band 4 of the fining advice to magistrates, second only to the most serious matters such as drunken driving.

+ + + + + + +

A business acquaintance had been invited to dinner, and as they sat down to enjoy the evening meal, the five-year-old son said delightedly, "Why, Mother - this is roast beef !"

"Yes," arswered his mother. "What did you think it was going to be?" "Fish -", said junior, "Pop said he was going to bring a Big Fish home to dinner tonight."

+ + + + + + +

Doctor: "I don't like the look of your husband."

Wife: "Neither do I, but he's good to the children." 1



"DON'T LET EUROPE RULE BRITANNIA"

This is a very brief summary of an Editorial article in the Winter 1990 issue of 'THIS ENGLAND' magazine:

Fifteen years ago a National Referendum was held to determine whether or not Britain should remain a member of the European Common Market. The outcome was, as you know, two to one for remaining in the ECC - but almost half the electorate did not vote anyway - so that referendum was hardly a fair test of opinion. What would be the real opinion of the British people today, now that we know the real aims of these early pro-Europeans?

Now that we know they want us to surrender our sovereignty forever, give up our national independence, turn our Parliament into the equivalent of a County Council, with Brussels and Strasbourg charting and imposing all our main laws and future prosperity.

History testifies as to just how many European nations can base their survival on the sacrifice and example of British men and women. Sir Winston Churchill told us: "We are with Europe, but not of it. We are linked, but not combined. We have our own dream and our own task. We are interested and associated, but not absorbed."

(With permission from the Editor of 'This England' Magazine

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He had been kicked on the head when young and believed everything the politicians told him \boldsymbol{l}

+ + + + + + +

+++++++

You may well be slightly surprised to know there are few people - probably around twenty - who make their living in this country solely from bee keeping. You need 300 colonies or more, and that will cost you around £45,000 for the hives and stock. In winter a healthy hive with a strong colony will have about 10,000 bees, growing to 50,000 or 60,000 in the summer. "You may need that many to have the gathering capacity," says Michael Solley, general secretary of the British Bee-Keepers Association "A well managed, healthy colony should average 40lbs of honey a year over five years. In good years yields can total 100lbs. Although margins may be £1.20 to £1.50 a lb. you must know what you're doing and it takes a long time to learn the ropes," says Mr Solley
Bees are also kept for the wax they produce - for Royal jelly - a lucrative sounding market. Unfortunately most supplies are apparently imported from China.

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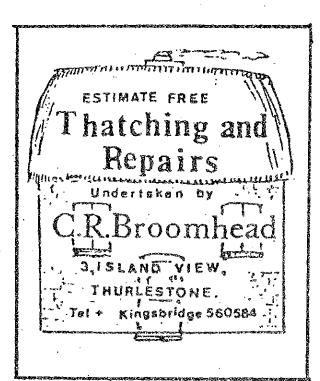
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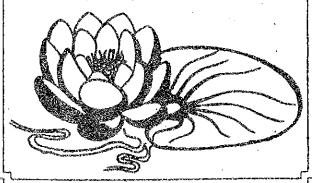
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ON THE FOOTPATH

Public footpaths must be properly maintained and this job is normally down to the local authority. In fact in the past councils have been successfully sued by people injured by hidden hazards such as holes in the

It is a different story if the hazard is on the side of the path - these can also be 'illegal' but this time they are likely to be the landowner's responsibility, but it is still the council you contact so officials can

put pressure on the owner,

While it is not theft as such to take anything growing wild from private land, the owner can still take court action to restrain you from 'removing' anything belonging to him ... and strictly speaking this even applies to something like mushrooms.

Because certain species of wildflowers are now seriously threatened some have protection orders on them, so if you were caught picking your-

-self a bouquet you could be fined.

When it comes to country produce growing wild you should be OK picking blackberries and elderberries - but if you run an elderberry wine business, for instance, you could be accused of stealing, because picking wild plants is regarded as theft if you take them for 'reward, sale or for commercial business.

Wild species have a lot of rights - except foxes, You aren't allowed to collect certain birds' eggs for instance. The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 makes it illegal for anyone without a special licence to intentionally kill, injure or handle certain wild animals. You may recall a recent report, where a timber treatment firm was fined over 21000 for 'intentionally disturbing a roosting bat' in a stable block. These particular creatures have even more protection than most wild animals - and the Nature Conservancy Council must be told of any opera--tion that could disturb them.

Where notices say, trespassers will be prosecuted - they can't ! But you can be taken to court. Trespass isn't a crime but a civil wrong. The landowner can ask you to leave and has the right to sue for any damage which may have been done.

+++++

I must confess to amazement at what I would call the 'self-deception' of people who extol the superior qualities of the 'free-range' egg, whereas the 'factory processed' egg has been fed on clean food and clean water. I used to keep around a 1000 head on deep litter, so I do have a slight idea of what I'm talking about !!

Using their own wing power, many species of butterflies have been known to travel 600 miles without a 'refuelling' stop. Some have even been known to cross the Atlantic Ocean from North America to Europe, backed by the driving force of the prevailing westerly wind.

By all means, let us breath-test pedestrains involved in road accidents - if they're still breathing. Bishop of £ly 1967

My father once told me - "You will know when you meet an honest man he will have hair growing in the palms of his hands ! "

I remember...

JACK ADAMS continues our series with his memories of fishing at Bantham...

I FIRST CAME TO BANTHAM on holiday as a schoolboy in 1935 and, except for the war years, have returned every year since. I am still fascinated by the view of the estuary from my flat at Whiddons, with all the memories of 50 years fashing that it brings back.

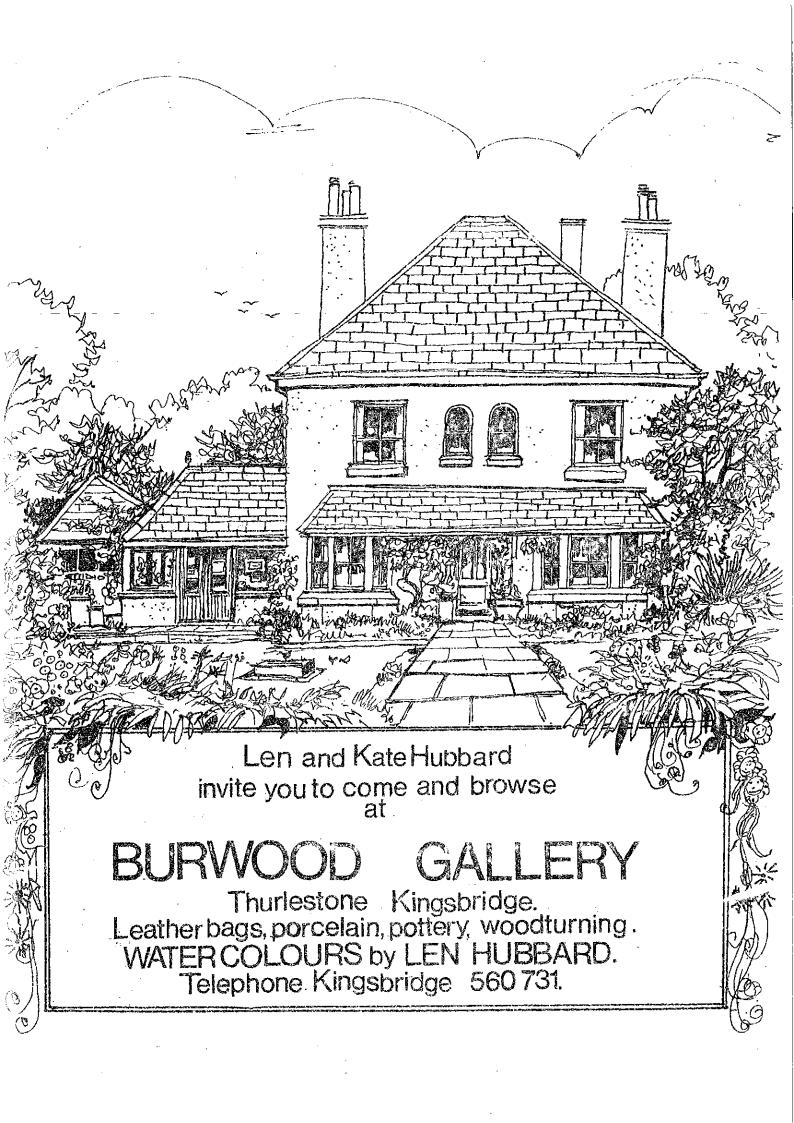
There were few motor-boats at Bantham in the mid-1930's, mainly because there was nowhere to store them. Fortunately, Herbert Jackson, father of a school friend on mine, had his own and we went to sea most days when the tide was right, trolling our lines back and forth in the area between Burgh Island, the Longstone, and Bolt Tail; indeed this is still the usual pitch for anybody fishing out of Bantham as it is not a place for deep-sea or wreck fishing. In rough weather we stayed in and around the estuary.

Fishing at that time was doninated by four professional fishermen, three of them members of the Elliot family. Each had his own motor-boat and worked independently in "friendly" competition with the others. I remember one November day going out with Jim Elliot into the estuary and catching 27 bass in an hour. The Elliots and Jim Steer continued to dominate the fishing after World War Two. Jim Elliot remained a formidable figure into the 1970(s.

For bait we used live eels, but catching them was always a bit of a problem. We used to go down to the river bed at low water holding a biscuit tin, perforated with holes at the bottom, between our legs and then draw a blunt knife across the sand. When we felt an eel in the sand we manoeuvred it into the time. This method is still used occasionally by a few, but it is back-breaking work and I can no longer go down on my haunches for as much as an hour. Nowadays eeks are either netted or dug.

There has been no shortage of mackerel and bollack for as long as I can remember, although they tend to come and go; we now rarely see the large shoals of mackerel that caused so much excitement in small boats when there were several lines over the side. Seasoned fishermen are after bass which have been plentiful until these last few years: overall, fewer have probably been caught out at sea than in the river, where they may be also fished from the shore. Just recently when bass cost more to buy than salmon, they have become scarce mainly through overfishing by netting at sea and in the estuaries with small meshes trapping the young stock that die before they are thrown back.

The building of the boathouse in 1937, to celebrate the Jubilee, has transformed the Avon estuary. More and more boats have appeared, especially small yachts, motor-boats and dinghies and many people now try their luck fishing, perhaps for the first time. Surely there are few pleasanter ways of spending a while than gently cruising along the shore on a hot summer's day and landing the fish. Happy memories!



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FIND THE MISSING LINK

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

The idea behind the puzzle this time is to find the missing link between each pair of words by filling the space in the bracket. Each link is a four-letter word.

For example: EAR (RING) LET. Now try these:

- 1. SIGN () CODE. 2. TIME () SHELL. 3. CHAIN () BAG.
- 4. WIND () POOL. 5. ROE () SHOT. 6. DUMB () TENT
- 7. STOP () ROACH. 8. THREAD () FOOT. 9. UNION () ASS.
- 10. PIG () PRECE. 11. FARE () BEING. 12. BREAK () LACE.
- 13. OVER () AWAY. 14. HORN () HOOK. 15. BACK () ROBE.
- 16. WITH () BACK, 17. RAM () RIDGE, 18. FREE () FAST
- 19. SEA () END 20. KETTLE () STICK.

Answers are at the foot of another page in this issue.

ADVANCE NOTICE

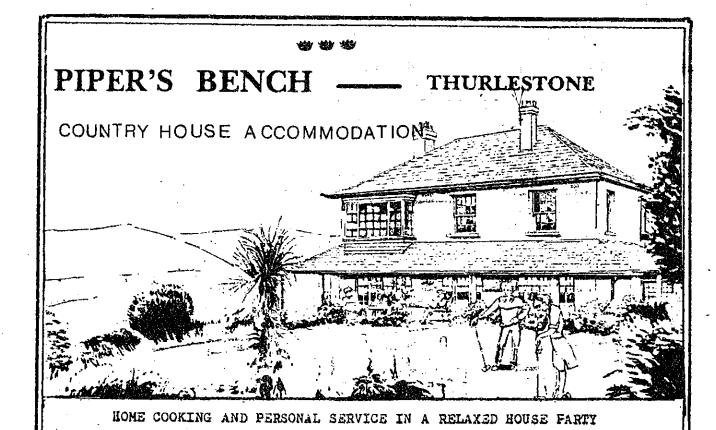
A special date for your diary is Sunday September 9. For that's the day when the South Hams Branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association hold a Family Fun Day at the Thurlestone Hotel, starting at 2 p.m.

It's on rain or shine and the fun consists of live music, golf competition, grand tombola, side shows, putting competition, Morris dancers, raffle, cake stalls, and the admission is free.

The organisers need books, records, tapes and plants. If you can help please contact Dr. Joan Howes, 10, Eddystone Road, Thurlestone.

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SAYS KATE: Pizza is not a new fast food idea. In the 19th century, it was popular enough for special pizza makers to open businesses. So what's new!

This recipe is quick and cuts out the kneading. etc., when using a bread dough. This one uses a scone base.

SCONE PIZZA

4 ozs Self-raising flour

1 oz Margarine

2 ozs Hard Cheese (Cheddar or similar)

teasp Salt teasp Dried Mixed Herbs.

2 tablesp Milk and 2 taplesp Water mixed

3 Mushrooms, thinly sliced.

2 Tomatoes from a tin , drained and mashed with 1 teasp temate puree b Onion, very finely chopped Freshly milled black pepper.

Preheat oven to 425F, 2200 or Circotherm 1800 Well grease a large baking sheet. Sieve all the flour into a bowl, add the salt, then rub in the margarine. Gradually add the milk and water to mix to a soft dough, you may not need all the liquid. Rell out into a circle ½" thick and place on the baking sheet. Spread with the tomato, sprinkle with grated cheese and chopped onion and decorate with the sliced mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper and the mixed herbs. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden and bubbling on the top.

FRAGIPAN FLAN

Had a special request from May Luddington and friends for my Fragipan Flan recipe. Don't blame me, ladies, for those extra pounds!

8 ozs Puff Pastry (you can use the frozen packs)

3 tablesp Apricot Jam

4 ozs butter, softened 4 ezs Castor Suggr

2 Eggs, lightly beaten

4 ozs ground almonds

Roll out the pastry to line a lightly buttered flan tin. Reserve the pastry trimmings. Spread the jam over the pastry. Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time, beating well, then beat in the almonds. Spread the mixture over the jam. Roll out the trimmings into thin strips long enough to go across the flan, then arrange them over the top sealing the ends with water. Bake in a pre-heated oven for 40-45 minutes or until filling is set. 375F or 1900, slightly lower in a circotherm oven, 1700. Meanwhile beat the icing sugar and water together to make a smooth glace icing. Remove the flan when cooked and brush with the icing, then return to the oven for a further 5 minutes. Serve either warm or cold.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

It's cream tea time. And so cream teas will be served in the Rectory Barn every Thursday from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm starting on June 7th. The last one will be on September 5th.

But there will be a "Cream teas" Coffee Morning in the Rectory Barn on September 8th at 10.30 am.



ANYBODY DRIVING UP TO THE MOTORWAY past Exeter and looking left may see small boats that appear to be traversing the open fields. They are, of course, on the Exter ship canal of fond memory. In my childhood I fished there for tiddlers. Those were the days when taking home a couple of tadpoles in an old jam jar was rated a successful outing, but chiefly I remember the hard winter of 1917-18 when the canal and the whole of the Exe froze over.

For several days, maybe it was weeks, half the population of Exeter seemed to be down there on the broad stretch of river below the cathedral. A few lucky ones had skates, but there was a war on and we were not among them. Yet we had a splendid time slithering about and being sustained by hot drinks. It was then that I first heard of the wicked countess who tried to ruin the tradesmen of Exeter by blocking their river, but I did not know the full story. Even now I have some difficulty in sorting fact from fiction.

It all started a long time ago. Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Devon, was apparently a formidable woman in her own right and owned most of the land around the estuary of the Exe. She reputedly built Powderham Castle, which, through her marriage, came into the possession of the Earls of Devon and has been their home eversince. She was in constant conflict with the merchants of Exeter over dues payable on any ships passing through her property on the way to and from their busy little port.

When they refused to pay she built, in 1284, a weir across the river at Topsham, four miles downstream from Exeter, so that all ghods had tobe unloaded there and transferred to a ship or overland transport. The merhants appealed to the King who ordered the removal of the obstruction but, such was the power of the Devon family, she took no notice and got away with it.

In 1312, Hugh Courtenay, the third Earl and first member of the Courtenay family to hold the title, added a further weir to show the displeasure he felt towards the Mayor and people of Exeter over a consignment of file, so the story goes.

The Earl had sent his steward to Exeter to buy some fish just at the time when the Bishop of Exeter sent his steward for the same purpose. They met in the fish market and found there were only three "kettles" of fish for sale altogether. Each wanted the whole lot and, after quarreling, agreed to send for the Mayor to settle the issue. The Mayor ordered that each could purchase one "kettle", the remaining one to be retained for sale to the citizenry. When the Earl heard the decision, he went hot-fott to Exeter and sent for the Mayor. The Mayor, who was employed by the Earl anyway, feared

trouble and collected a group of people to accompany him to the Earl's house. Closeted in a room with the Earl, the Mayor did his best to explain his side of the argument, but the Earl stormed at him and then, pulling on his Earl's livery to strengthen his authority "fell into a greater passion". The mob outside the room, hearing the raised voices, were increasingly anxious about the Mayor's safety and tried to break down the door. Then the Earl became fearful and, after asking the Mayor to restore order, opened the door and there was no further trouble, but he "could never afterwards show a Good Countenance in the city".

To round off his displeasure, the Earl built a quay at Topsham, compelling all cargoes to be unloaded there and to pay harbour dues to him; he also deprived anglers of the right to fish in the river. Later his nephew built two further weirs between Exeter and Topsham, on the pretext of erecting some mills, thus irrevocably closing the river to traffic. Many complaints were made to the King and various writs were issued against the Earls, but no one dared to enforce them. Thus the feud continued for the next four hundred years, much to the advantage of the people of Topsham and the Earls themselves.

In 1560 Queen Elizabeth granted the trades of Exeter a charger of privileges and latters patent, thus inaugurating their Society of Merchant Adventurers. The city had by then become an important port with a considerable export trade in cloth, first kerseys then serges, and the merchants decided to build a canal to avoid the obstruction at Topsham. Work was begun in 1564, but was not completed until 1697, 130 years later; even so it is one of the earliest examples of canal navigation in the country.

The canal restored some trade to the city, but for various reasons it was not entirely satisfactory. Topsham was by then a fully established port and continued to handle the greater part of the vast Exeter trade in woollens throughout the 16th to the 18th century; hence the fine merchants! houses and courtyards on the Strand and elsewhere which adorn this little town to this day,

The ship canal is still the only navigable waterway between Exeter and the sea. It inevitably lost much of its usefulness in the 19th century when ships became too large for it, yet a saunter along its towpath remains one of the pleasanter ways of spending a summer afternoon.

P.S. Some readers may wish to know how many fish there are in a kettle. The term probably derives from Kiddle, a basket which used to be hung at a weir to catch fish, especially salmon. Hence in the above context it probably refers to a basketful - hardly enough fish, one would have thought, to provoke and sustain a feud that lasted for 400 years.

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Here are the missing links: 1, Post; 2 Bomb; 3 Mail; 4 Mill; 5 Buck; 6 Bell; 7 Cock; 8 Bare; 9 Jack; 10 Tail; 11 Well; 12 Neck; 13 Cast; 14 Bill; 15 Ward; 16 Draw; 17 Part; 18 Hold; 19 Port; 20 Drum.



The Rector Writes

A YEAR AGO we were writing about the need to renovate or replace the Church Organ. Now the job has been completed and everyone who has heard it is much impressed (so far as I have heard!!)

A young recitalist, who recently wonderfully demonstrated its versatility, described it as "a magnificent instrument" and he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Many thanks to all who have supported its installation. There is still a considerable amount of consequential work to be done arising from the removal of the old console etc. and the proceeds of the June Fair and Garden Party will be to that end. We look forward to your kind support...

at 2 p.m. on SATURDAY, JUNE 9th.

Many of you will know that my wife and I recently became grandparents. This caused two different friends to lend us the same book entitled "Grandmas and Grandpas" with comments on the subject matter extracted from the writings of hundreds of grandchildren. In the knowledge that a good many residents of Thurlestone and Bantham and Buckland are themselves grandparents, I couldn't resist sharing just a half-dozen choice quotes from the book. Those I have chosen are, I think you will agree, very funny.

Those in the book are not all funny. Some moved me much the other way. It occurs to me that perhaps the role of grandparents is becoming even more important in our society in giving some stability to the lives of those very many children now deprived of a normal home of Mum and Dad and brothers and sisters. The statistics in Britain are alarming. More than one in four babies are born outside marriage, with no sign of the trend decreasing, and with 14% of children now living in one parent families. Those statistics are to make you think. These quotes are to make you laugh...

"My Grandpa is tough outside, but soft hearted inside".

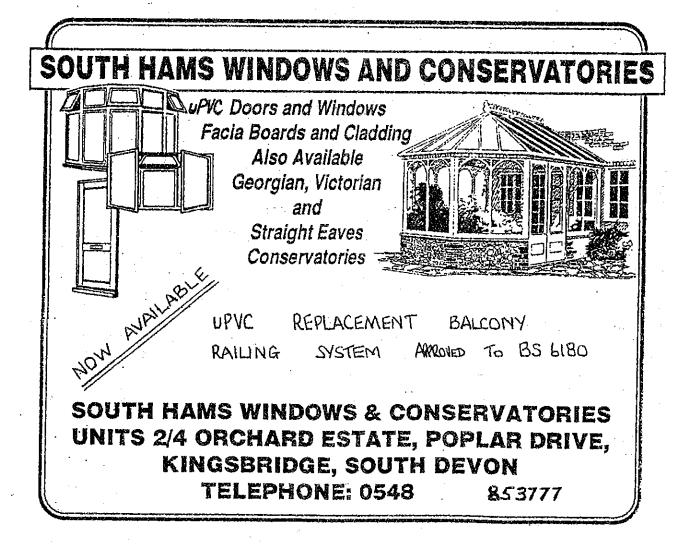
"Grandmothers sometimes lock the door when they come out and when they get to the garden gate they go back to make sure they have".

Continued on next page.

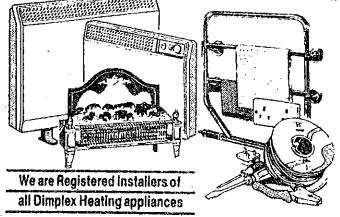
- "Grandpa is over 40 and under 90".
- "The grandmother is usually a great source of the children's income as she nearly always gives them perhaps 50p after a happy but exhausting visit. The money is usually for all her grand-children (*little angels*). They usually stick their hands out suggestively or start snivelling that they can't afford a teddy bear or a skiing trip to Aviemore."
- " I thought Dad was rather old until I met grandpa".
- "One of a grandmother's most prized privileges is to spoil her grandchildren. She arrivew armed with pockets full of sweets, and special pocket-money to buy the child the things denied it by its parents for numerous good reasons no cream cakes because they are too rich, for example. Granny stuffs the child full of sweets and cakes, and then leaves before it is sick".

Very sincerely Yours,

PETER S. STEPHENS.



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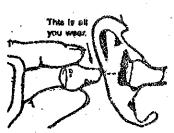
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF THURLESTONE
IN THE PARISH HALL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 27,1990 at 7.30 p.m.
Chairman: Mr.P.W.J.Hurrell (Chairman of the Parish Council).

Speakers in attendance : County Councillor Simon J.Day; Police Sergeant Raymont (Acting Inspector Devon and Cornwall); Mr.Trevor J.Smale (Asst Director SHDC Planning Dept); District Councillor Jack V.Thomas.

Clerk to Meeting:

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

Present: 49 Parishioners.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman welcomed the speakers and the parishioners and summarised the main events of the year:

- a) The Community Charge was now known to amount to £332.58 of which £4.65 related to the parish council precept set at £3,224 being exactly the same as last year. Of that sum only approximately £1200 could this year be added to the Recreation Area Reserve Fund instead of the £1600 in each of the last years because of the effects of inflation and loss of interest resulting from the new method of the Precept being funded half yearly. The Reserve Fund now standing at around £3,500 will thus become £4,700 and later in the meeting a vote would be taken to see whether that fund should be further increased in future years.
- b) The Water Authority had now completed their environmental studies to determine the sewerage system they had promised to instal. The Marine Manager would be attending the May 8 Council Meeting to advise on the conclusions but it seemed probable that it would involve a long sea outfall becoming operative in 1993. It was now recognised that in due course further work would become necessary to meet the latest EEC directive requiring all swwage to be treated before discharge into the sea.
- c) Leas Foot Beach had again been eroded by recent storms. The Parish Council's warnings of ten years ago having been ignored by the Golf Club and District Council. So far as was known all property for which the Parish Council was responsible had survived the storms without damage.
- d) Marine Litter being deposited on our beaches warranted more litter bins being provided by the District Council but they were reluctant to comply and the needs for more effective marine controls were being pressed with the authorities. Parishioners who kept the beaches clean were thanked.
- e) The valiant efforts of Road Sweeper Mr.Leslie Dyer were appreaciated.
- f) Some 39 planning applications had been considered of which 8 were opposed by the Parish Council. Of those the District Council had refused 3, granted 2, and 3 were still pending.
- g) Our campagen to secure for parish councils the right of appeal against planning consents considered contrary to the interests of the community had received good support for other parishes in the South Hams and then from many other Devon parishes following our joining the Devon Association of Parish Councils. That Association was now

Pressing the National Association to progress the case for Government action. The Chairman thanked Mr. and Mrs.Darby for their subscription of £50 to assist the DAPC subscription and congratulated Mr.David Grose on his election to the County Committee of the DAPC, from which position he planned to pursue the Right of Appeal Campaign.

- h) There was the possibility of a Parish Recreation Area and Car Park becoming available behind the Church, if the planned development of Homefield Farm was approved and progressed, in which event the goodwill of Evans Estates Ltd would be appreciated by all parishioners.
- Negotiations continued for the creation by the District Council of some 14 low-cost dwellings for local young families, and a feasability study regarding the proposed site adjacent to Seaview Road should be completed within six months, one possibility being for the access road to join the main road near the Garage to ease congestion around the junction near Rockhill.
- k) The Parish Hall Committee was progressing the necessary work to repair the roof over the Football Club changing rooms and seemed likely to •btain grants from the District Gouncil and Community Council •f Devon. Thus the £600 loan from the Parish Council might not be needed. The Parish Hall was a charity which should be supported by everyone.
- The Parish Emergency Officer, Mr.Derrick Yeoman, had organised a group of parishioners able and willing to assist others if last summer's water shortage had meant the installation of stand pipes. He and other volunteers, including Mr.Rodney Stidston who had offered the use of essential equipment, were thanked.
- m) The Special Parish Meeting last November had requested double yellow lines being created near the junction of Parkfield, but had opposed the proposal for the present single yellow lines to be converted to double lines between Ham Gate and the Post Office in Bantham. Neverthe less the County Highways Committee had decided to create such restriction on vehicles waiting in that section of Bantham main street at any time and throughout the year. The views of parishioners would be sought later in the meeting.
- n) Mr.Kendall and Mrs.Penny McRonald were thanked for taking over as Editors of Village Voice in succession to Mr. Dudley Drabble, whose much apprechated work over the past eight years had been marked by a donation of £25 by the Parish Council with which he had purchased a bird table.
- o) The Parish Clerk had been provided with an electronic typewriter to replace the one he had worn out writing another 400 letters last year, one third of which related to the right of appeal campaign. His efforts were appreciated.

The Chairman then asked the parishioners to vote on three proposals currently concerning the Parish Council on which a community view would be welcome. They were:

- 1. The desirability of notices being erected at Leas Foot Beach to warn of the proximity of the sewage outfall and pollution dangers.
 - Result: Nearly all electors present supported the need for such notices to be erected by S.H.D.C.
- 2. The Recreation Area Reserve Fund to be restricted to about £4,700 estimated to have been accrued by the end of 1990/91 as such a decision would assist the Parish Council to reduce its precept for later years and thus the Thurlestone chargepayers. Result: All present approved.
- Jouble Yellow Lines at Bantham. This proposal prompted considerable debate and the Chairman explained that although the County's Area Highways Sub-Committee had decided to create such restrictions, the Parish Council had interceded to stall their implementation until the subject had again been considered at this meeting. The Highways Sub-Committee Chairman had suggested that two votes be taken one by the electors of the entire parish and a second vote by the electors resident in Bantham and West Buckland.

Overwhelming opposition to the proposed Order was voiced, as was criticism of the undeporatic manner by which the Order was made without regard to the known objections of the Parish Council and the majority of interested perishioners including many who had directly petitioned against the Order. The Sub-Committee's decision ignored even the views expressed at the Special Meeting in November by County Councillors Day and Pike as well as Police Inspector Allen and Erea Engineer (South) Mr. Lavery, who had recommended that the existing single lines be supplemented merely by "courtesy lines" to indicate where access to doorways was essential for the residents.

Mr.Neil Girling was particularly eloquent in reporting his investigations into the background to the case from which he had reason to believe that as the Order had not yet been implemented, it could be revoked as had happened in similar circumstances several years ago in Bantham.

Mr.Jack Thomas emphasized that he was no longer interested in any Bantham property and considered that the Ham Car Park offered easy alternative parking space.

Mr.David Grose contended that on such matters the County should heed the views of the Parish Council and of the Special Parish meeting.

Mr.Simon Day confirmed that the Area Engineer and the Police had advised the Committee of their preference for an alternative remedy, but the Committee had nevertheless adopted Mr. Moysey's proposal for the all day every day waiting prohibition. He undertook to discuss the matter further with the Chairmen of the Highways Sub-Committee and of the major Planning Committee.

Acting Inspector Raymont confirmed that the Police view continued to disfavour double yellow lines in Bantham because their resources were insufficient to enforce the regulations properly; that a clear road would cause vehicles to travel too quickly; and that the problem would be pushed back towards Aune Cross or Buckland and Thurlestone.

The following proposal was then put to the vote: "Double yellow lines are not wanted in Bantham, but it is acknowledge that a traffic problem exists, so further investigation to find another solution would be welcome.

- Result: The resolution was carried by 44 of all parishioners with three electors desiring the double yellow lines.
- Result: The same resolution was then put to the vote of the 15 persons present who reside within the Bantham Polling District of the Thurlestone Electoral Register, and was carried by 12 votes against the votes of the same three electors who desire double yellow lines.

County Councillor Smmon Day wondered whether the Poll Tax might evoke even more controversy than double yellow lines, but the old rating system was not working properly. Unfortunately the Government had wrongly assessed inflation and the needs of County Councils. Devon had been especially penalised, receiving less than halfof the Government's Revenue Support Grant obtained by the Home Counties.

Mr.David Grose observed that rates had gone up by 34%, but he was most concerned that Parish costs received no benefit from holiday homes - of which Thurlestone had probably a hundred - although the owners had to pay double the standard charge including the Parish content. Mr.Day agreed to ensure that the Secretary of State when he met him tomorrow appreciated this totally wrong anomaly.

Mr.Geoff Wilkinson suggested that the Minister should also be asked to simplify the rebate documentation and also pointed out the falseness of the assurances that no one would be more than £3 per week worse off under the Community Charge system.

Acting Inspector Raymont Explained police action in the case of obstruction when Mr.Derrick Yeoman cited cases occurring around Parkfield which had been ignored by a police patrol car. Insp. Raymont said that the main problem was lack of manpower - the Kingsbridge station sometimes being reduced to only one effective officer while the others were on external duties.

Mr. Hugh Cater deplored the lack of community policemen and the inadequacy of the resources provided by the Police Authority.

Mr.Neil Girling suggested that the community would happily pay more to obtain more effective security. Mr.Day replied that as Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, he was aware of the need to increase police resources, but considered that the force was now very mobile and highly professional with the officers being more highly paid and better equipped than ever before and the security cover was still effective.

Mr.Trevor Smale said that the "Devon in 2001" proposals had been abandoned and the county was now more amenable to restraining migration into Devon. A revised County plan was projected for public discussion in the late summer of this year and SHDC was aiming to lead the County along the route locally desired. The draft Kingsbridge Local Plan Review would be published in December 1990 for public comment. The key issue would be housing for local needs, but development boundaries would be chagged only fractionally, some even being reduced. More attention would be given to the preservation of character and evironment.

Regretably there was no quick answer to meeting local housing needs, a seven year delay being not unusual as in the case of

Thurlestone and Salcombe. However the Seaview Road feasability study should be completed within a few months. The problem would then be lack of finance because total allocation nationally was very limited and talks with the Housing Associations would then commence. The District already had 15 or more schemes which could not yet proceed. Implementation could be held up for two or three years by lack of national funding for rural areas.

Appeal inspectors had now been instructed to have particular regard for local plans. SHDC was anxious to promote its already good rapport with all Parish Councils in local plan preparation and would be aiming to achieve what the communities wanted.

Responding to a question from Mr.Wilkinson, Mr.Smale advised that discussions with South West Water did involve existing sewage embargos.

Mr.David Grose stressed the need for planners to be more concerned with the views of the residents in development areas and with what the buildings would look like after completion. He pleaded for more attention to design details and the materials used; in Britain unlike France, most new constructions looked awful (Applause). Mr.Smale said that the Secretary of State had just issued a new guidance note for policy planning dissuading the local planning authorities from seeking to impose their tastes on developers simply because they believe them to be superior and agreed to send the Parish Clerk further details of that note. However, more use of local materials was favoured in sensitive areas and the SHDC was preparing design guides to encourage developers to meet community views.

Mr.Jack Thomas drew attention to the fact that unlike the County Council, the SHDC had met the Government target on the Community Charge and had done so without loss of services.

The meeting closed at 9.33 p.m. with votes of thanks to all concerned.

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

perfect, if a little exhausting, day out on May 2 when they went by coach to Totnes, down the river to Dartmouth, and then spent the afternoon at the Britannia Royal Naval College. The three young midshipmen who acted as our guides obviously knew their subject well and any shortcomings they may have had were more than compensated for by their very obvious enthusiasm for the College and their chosen career.

In April, a talk by Keith Oates on independent taxation was extremely interesting and all present felt they had benefitted as a result, hopefully at the Taxman's expense!

Our next two meetings are oh June 9 and July 13 when Frank Clarkson will talk about Military Customs and Dolly Gardner on her wartime experiences in the S.O.E.

D.M. Yeoman 560300.

DO REMEMBER TO PUT 85 IN FRONT OF ANY FOUR-FIGURE KINGSBRIDGE TELEPHONE NUMBER.

Mr.W.G.Ladd, Clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council, knowing that some people in the parish would worry about radon gas, wrote to Mr.M.F.Johnson, Director of Technical Services of the South Hams District Council, asking about the risk in Thurlestone Parish. Here is Mr.Johnson's reply:

"Dear Mr. Ladd,

20th April 1990

RADON GAS

Further to your letter of the 4th April 1990, the situation in relation to radon gas has changed in that information is gradually increasing as a result of research and experience.

In January 1990 the Government annoused a halving of the action level from 400 to 200 Bequerels/m². This has changed the position in that it is now believed that some 4,500 dwellings in the South Hams District may exceed the new action level (formerly 1,400 dwellings above 400 Bq/m²).

It is still believed that the majority will be found on or on the edge of Dartmoor and others will be dwellings which are built on or close to igneous rocks such as granite. I am not in a position to state that no property in the Thurlestone are may be subject to levels above 200 Bq/m but evidence would suggest it is unlikely. Results so far obtained in TQ7 3 — are very limited but show that of 3 premises tested all were less that 100 Bq/m and the average was 49 Bq/m³.

It is, however, suggested that your parishioners be advised that anyone having concern should write direct to The National Radiological Protection Board at Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 ORQ, so that they may obtain a free test of their home.

It has been found that levels vary considerably between properties even in very close proximity depending often on how they are occupied and particularly the level and means of ventilation.

Anyone wishing to discuss this issue should be asked to contact Mr. Luckett, Divisional EHO who will be pleased to speak to them."

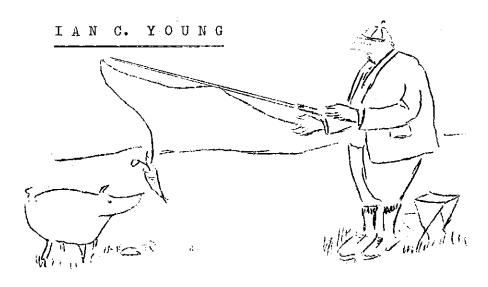
Editor's Note: This letter was received by the Parish Council before the Press release on the preceding page.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Jack Thomas

South Hams District Council has just announced that Councillor Jack Thomas of South Milton has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the coming year. Councillor Michael Beaumont is to be Chairman,

Jack Thomas was educated at Chifton College, Bristol, and served in the RAOC during World War Two, reaching the rank of Major. Afterwards he was sales director of the Frederick Braby engineering group.

He retired to the South Hams in 1965, having owned a holiday cottage at Bantham for over 40 years. He was elected to the District Council in 1979 and has been a member of the Planning Committee ever since, being its vice chairman for seven years.



GENUINE SCOTTISH HAGGIS

Last week, in an effort to restrict the spread of 'Mad Cow Disease', the Government prohibited the use of animal intestines in the processing of Haggis.

Very obviously the Government have been misinformed by the members of the EEC who are trying to undermine the independence of the British People, because every genuine Scotsman knows that the delightful little creature, 'Haggaria Scotus', or 'Haggis', is bred in special reservations situated on the higher slopes of the Cullin and Grampian mountain ranges, and watched over by the members of the Guild of Breeders of Haggis - or G.B.H - as they are known locally.

The live Haggis are invisible to the normal human eye. This is because the pure, pollution free air they breathe combines with an as yet unknown chemical in their blood stream to form an inpenetrable haze around the Huddle of Haggis. Members of the G.B.H. can see through this haze because they all possess the heraditary feature of a third eye in the middle of their foreheads.

Under normal circumstances any factual information regarding the Haggis and their life cycle, is classified information exclusive to members of the G.B.H.. However, in view of the misleading statements coming from the EEC, I have been instructed by hamish MacFuddle, of that Ilk, life president of the G.B.H., to issue the following facts in the hope that those persons, of both sexes, who through an unfortunate accident of birth are not Scots, will learn something of the life of the Haggis.

The Haggis is a small furry little animal, light brown in volour, with a short tail, a retrousse nose, and gentle dark eyes. The male has a distinguishing black line stretching from nose to tail, and the white rings on their tails indicate the animals' age, one ring for every two years of life.

Another interesting feature of the adult Haggis, and an indication of how nature adapts to the environment is that the left legs of the fully grown Haggis are considerably shorter than the right legs. This is because the Haggis live on the steeply sloping sides of Scottish mountains, and always browse from left to right across the face of the mountains, their left legs being shorter in order that they can at all times retain a comfortable position.

The Haggis breed during the winter months, starting on 30th November, St. Andrew's Day, reaching their climax by December 31st, Hogmanay, and finishing on 25th January, Burns Night. The young, never more than two in number, and invariably one of each sex, are born during August to September, TURN OVERPAGE FOR THE EXCITING CONCLUSION.....

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Concluding GENUINE SCOTTISH HAGGIS by Ian C. Young

..and it is only during the mating season that the Haggis utter their soul stirring call.. Hock Aye - 'Hock Aye!...

The hunting season lasts from February to May and is conducted in the .

following manner. Members of the G.B.H. carrying dust bin lids, old alumin-imum pans, and rolling pins, climb mountains and station themselves to the
rear of a Huddle of Haggis, and at a given signal - a tune on the bagpipes begin to belabour their pans and dust-bin lids, creating considerable noise.
The Haggis are frightened and immediately take flight anti-clockwise round
the mountain. The Hunters about turn, hide behind rocks and clumps of
heather, and await the arrival of the Haggis, who have by this time completed
the circuit of the mountain. As soon as the Haggis appear the Nunters leap
to their feet and repeat the noise creation. The Haggis halt in their
tracks, take fright, turn tail, and reverse theirflight. Unfortunately,
because of their short left legs flight in a clockwise direction is impossible
for them, and so losing their balance the animals roll down the mountain
where they are easily captured by the wives and families of the G.B.H., and
after some preparation appear on the counters of shops throughout the
country as 'Genuine Scottish Haggis.'

CONVERSATION PIECE

I talk to my plants. I always say 'Good-morning' to my cactus And 'Night-night, Busy Lizzie - time for bed.' Others use Baby Bio, which can act as A stimulant. I chat 'em up instead. I read my begonias Betjeman's rhymes Or bits of obits which appear in 'The Times'; When my cyclamen's sickly, it perks up no end To be told who's Antonia Fraser's new friend; And my primula burgeons in various hues When I give the gist of the Nine O'clock News. But one night last week I was rudely rebuffed: My plants answered back, saying loudly 'Get stuffed' ! 'Stop yakkity-yakking!' they cried in chorus And an African violet added 'You bore us!' My coleus threatened to call the police If I didn't turn Trappist and leave it in peace; 'For God's sake, belt up!' said the ferns in my flat, Just pass round the drink, dear, and less blooming chat.' So now when I water, not one word is said. I give them their Bio, and cut them stone dead.

Alan Melville 'Games & Gardens.'

ASTOUNDING REPORT! None of Devon County Council's schools and other buildings are insured against storm damage! Because the D.C.C considers it cheaper to pay for emergency repairs when they arise!!! You can bet you will get the bill in your Community Charge. Further comment? Village Voice is not political!

DEAR EDITORS,

A few years ago you published an article about the Iron Age Settlement on Bantham Ham. I think the time has now come when the existance of a vast pre-historic "temple", built at that time, can be revealed.

You all know Stonehenge, which selebrated sunrise on Midsummer's Day, well our local monument celebrates sunset at Midsummer. Have you ever wondered about the hole in the Thurlestone Rock? And what about the Longstone? Next Midsummer's evening, walk down towards Hope Cove, line them up, and see where the sun sets!

It was quite a job excavating the hole in Thurlestone Rock between tides, and, as for the Longstone, many years were spent demolishing the headland in order to carve out a granite pinnacle (Unfortunately the original Longstone, some hundred cubits to seaward, was washed away in a storm after only a hundred or so years).

I'll see you on the beach on Midsummer's evening - but don't tell the Hippies: Charles Barber, Mayflower Cottage, Bantham.

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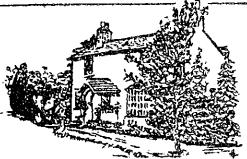
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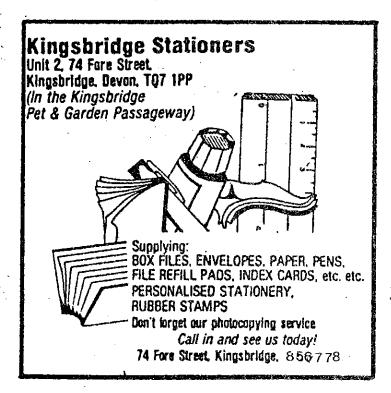
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