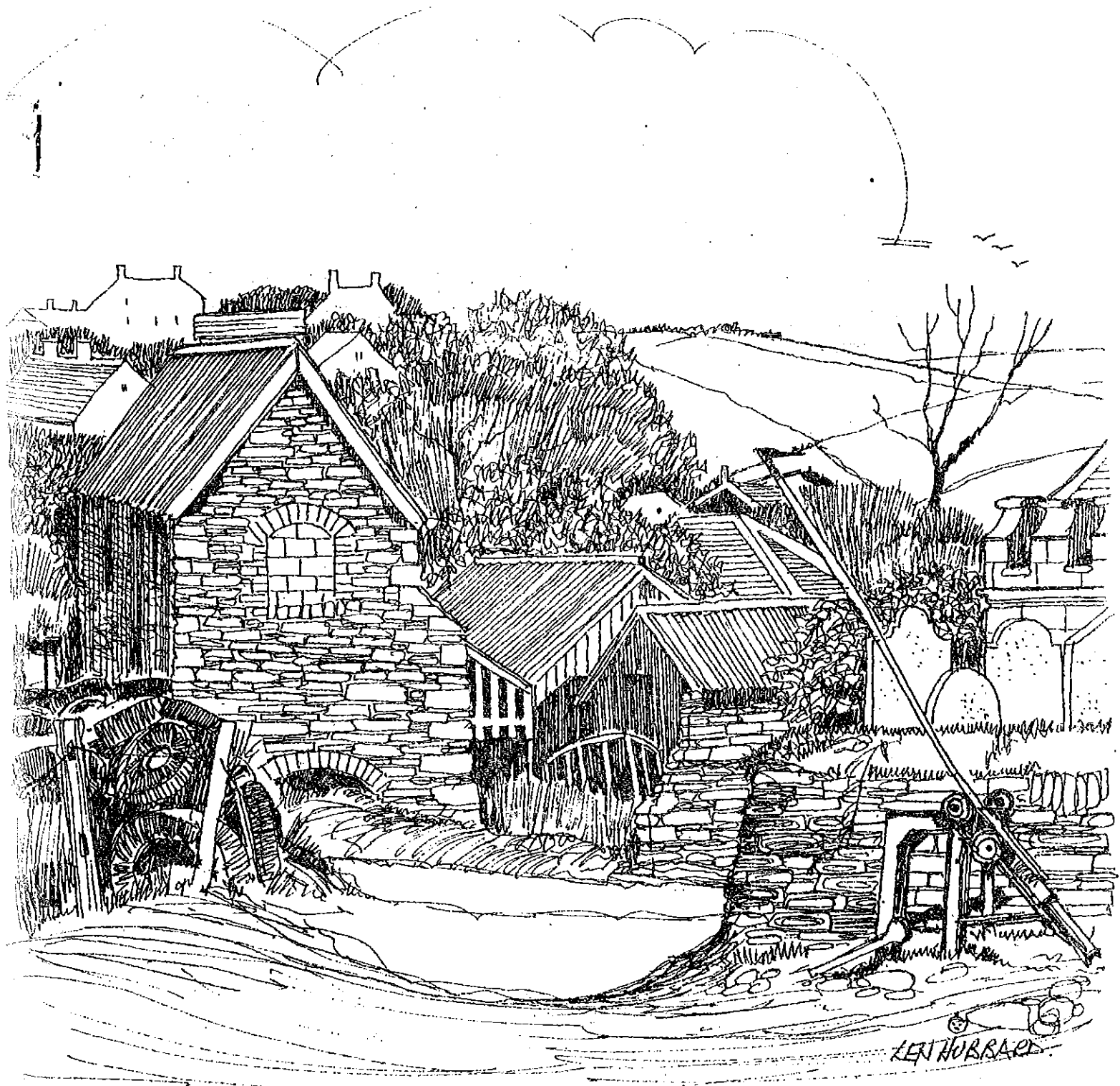


AUG-SEPT **VILLAGE** 1990
VOICE



STOP PRESS

There are 579 homes in the parish of Thurlestone, Bantam and Buckland - and no less than 153 of them are holiday homes.

This was revealed at the Parish Council meeting of July 24.

It was also disclosed the number of houses occupied by personal charge payers was 416 and that there were 10 which were derelict or void owing to being sold or unoccupied for other reasons. There are 692 personal charge payers in the parish.

Parishioners present at the meeting were also told that the parish gets not one penny from the double community charges levied on each holiday home. It is all swallowed up in the higher echelons of government!

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.

Founded by Dudley
DRABBLE
1982.



Cover pictures
by
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DO THEY HAVE SECURITY GUARDS in Paradise? One hopes not, but it seems our own little piece of paradise here on earth may soon get to the stage of needing them if recent events are anything to go by.

You may think it an exception which merely proves the rule of how peaceful we usually are, but the double robbery at Bantham from a yacht belonging to Hugh Cater, the Bantham harbourmaster, does give cause for concern.

Not content with stealing valuable safety equipment from the yacht moored in the middle of the river in March, the thieves came back again to the same yacht in mid-July. Now this is not just casual theft. Those thieves had to get to the yacht by boat as she is moored where it never dries out. They could have, should have, been seen at work.

Further into this issue, you will find details of some of the stolen items which could well identify the thieves, but it is important that we should all learn a lesson from this robbery on our home ground. If the thefts do nothing else they should highlight the importance of our local Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and the duty we all have to watch over our neighbour's property.

P.C. Shepherd, our local policeman, was warning recently of bogus antique dealers calling at houses to spy out the contents, and, of course, thievery can take many forms. So let's be careful that we know who's who. And who's next door.

-Being neighbours is more than watching an Australian soap opera on your television screen.



VILLAGER

THOUGH IT IS DOUBTFUL IF THE NEW SIGNS sprouting around Leas Foot and in the sea just off it will do much for the tourist trade, they are an example to other councils who try to conceal such problems. They also show how seriously the Parish Council take the risk to health of those who would sample the waters around Leas Foot and how they are more likely to act on our behalf than are the bigger units of Government.

Would-be vandals should note that these are now official signs (with planning permission) and tampering with them will result in heavy fines. Which should ensure that they don't disappear this time!

Not all parish councils and certainly not district councils are prepared to press on against considerable opposition as are our current parish councillors. But at least they should take heart from a letter to them from the Marine Conservation Society which says: "It is very reassuring to see a local council taking such a responsible attitude towards the problem of sewage pollution - all too often we get letters from irate councillors who chastise us for even mentioning that a problem exists!"

SORRY TO KEEP RABBITING ON about sewage, but sadly it is not one of those things that if you ignore it just goes away. Everyone in the villages must be concerned about the proposals for Thurlestone's problem being merged into a vast scheme covering Kingsbridge, Salcombe, Hope, Bantham and God-knows-where. This massive scheme is going to need a huge treatment works on shore to treat the muck before it is pumped out through one of the proposed outfalls.

Yes, I know that South West Water keep assuring us that all this won't affect the Thurlestone clean-up and that we can still look forward to a sparkling and pristine Leas Foot by 1993. But commonsense must tell us that just like their last promise that we would never have another hosepipe ban such assurances are made to be broken.

Commonsense tells us that they aren't going to build a great long sea outfall for Thurlestone by 1993 if a little later on they have to scrap it or change it to cope with the major plans for the rest of the area. In my humble opinion you can forget 1993, and 1994, and 1995 for that matter.

I MUST SAY I have never trusted scientists of any kind - ever since I realised that all their Domsday predictions are only an attempt to get more funding for their pet projects. Into that category fall "The Greenhouse Effect", the ozone layer, and every dangerous food scare. Behind every one is a loopy scientist trying to raise funds to keep himself employed doing what he wants to do. Every now and then, of course, they give themselves

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VILLAGER concludes:

away. Not that they apologise and say "we got it wrong", oh no. You have to search very hard to find any evidence that their predictions might be just a little exaggerated. Like this little statement from the American National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: "Weather changes caused by Pacific ocean currents may have led scientists to overestimate how much the earth has warmed recently". That's it. Goodbye Greenhouse Effect and on to the next fund-raising disaster forecast!

TALKING OF SCIENTISTS, my spies tell me (though no one has dared to tell the hoteliers concerned) that tide and current tests for a proposed long sea outfall over the Bar at Salcombe upset the water scientists more than somewhat. It seems that it was more than likely that all the muck would come straight back into the Estuary and end up right underneath the windows of those lovely waterside hotels. Can this really be true? Mind you, it seems from what we were told at a recent Parish meeting that those same tide-and-current men couldn't find any you-know-what in Bigbury Bay off Leas Foot...

AND TALKING OF THAT HOSEPIPE BAN. Don't think it's off because of all that rain. I am reliably informed that just as you were told it was on by letter, you'll be told when it's off by letter too.

And if you worry about car-washes etc going on while your hosepipes are off, I gather the restrictions can only be applied in three stages. Hosepipes are first, second are car-washes and watering parks, and third come the stand-pipes. South West Water say that the amount used by car-washes is "miniscule" compared with the amount swallowed by domestic use. Well, that's what they say.

I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT ANYONE in Thurlestone has refused to pay their poll tax - we are a law-abiding lot today. But it was not always so. I have been rummaging around in the old transactions of the Devonshire Association and in the volume for July 1913 found some excellent research into Thurlestone's murky past. (By the way, those transactions are all in Kingsbridge Library, which is blessed with the most helpful set of lady librarians in the whole country!).

It seems that in May or early June of 1328, Thurlestone Church was bolted up and shut because it had been desecrated by some "shedding of blood" inside it. Now we don't know why, how or exactly when that blood was shed. It may have been a murder, a stabbing, or some other form of mayhem, but there is no doubt it was serious. No written record exists of what took place, possibly because the Rector, who would have been able to write it down, was a man called Robert de Pynho and from 1322 until 1330 he was away on a pilgrimage!

But what happened afterwards is written down in the records of Buckfast Abbey. So we know that on June 14th, 1328 Bishop Grandisson of Buckfast commissioned the Archdeacon of Totnes to go to Thurlestone and reconcile the Church, but for some reason the Archdeacon couldn't go and the Bishop then turned to Stephen, the Abbot of Buckfast and sent him along to perform the ceremony in Thurlestone Church. The Abbot carried out the purification ceremony, but, unlike the law-abiding citizens of Thurlestone today, the villagers very reluctant to pay the usual charge for the service. Whereupon the Bishop, having had no money by July 25, told the Archdeacon to tell the villagers they had eight days to pay up or else. They didn't. But after being threatened with excommunication, they finally paid and the church was reopened on October 20th.

SAVE OUR CIDER..SAVE OUR ZIDER..SAVE OUR CIDER..SAVE OUR ZIDER..

SPOT THE ORCHARD

AND SEE THE CIDER MADE

NOT LONG AGO there were big cider apple orchards in Buckland, and earlier there was another called "Toye's Orchard" across the road in Thurlestone from the house called "Thatchways", which in those days was called "Toye's Cott". And even earlier there was, in 1680 to be precise, a little further up the road where the Old Rectory wall gets really high, a "brewhouse", which implies more orchards round about.

The Buckland apple orchards can be seen on old photographs, but no such thing exists for Toye and his orchard. But we do know a bit about him. His name was William and he was born in South Milton in 1786. On the 16th of October, 1809 when he was 23 he married into a powerful Thurlestone family, the Shepherds. His bride was the 20-year-old daughter of Nicholas and Sarah Shepherd and was called Elizabeth Margaretta. They had a son William three years later, who died when he was 42. You'll find William and his father and mother buried somewhere in Thurlestone Churchyard. Apples every day must have been good for the other Toyes - William and Elizabeth didn't die until he was 76 and she was 80.

The "Brewhouse" was part of the original Rectory house complex and consisted of "sixty perches of land" and had an outer and inner court with mud walls and thatched roofs and most of the floors were of earth though some of the upstairs rooms were "plancht with deal". There was a kitchen and a parlour and a study, cellars and dairy, and a poultry court, kitchen gardens and parlour gardens and part of those great walls you can see today opposite Thatchways were part of a "large Barn and Stable". We are told too that all the inner houses of the court were walled with stone and "covered with slate except for the parlour which was covered with thatch".

The Brewhouse was on the "north west side of ye inner court" and was "floored with earth walled partly with stone and partly with mud and covered with thatch". The apples for the brew came from "an orchard about forty perches well treed bound round with ye hedges all belonging to ye Rectour". This may well of course be the same orchard which later came into the possession of William Toye.

This interest in cider comes not from my grand-father who was well known in Thurlestone for his after-morning-service cider parties on a Sunday, but from an appeal from the South Hams Environment Service to our Parish Council for help with their campaign to save the traditional cider orchards of the South Hams.

The Service reckon that this area has lost over 90 per cent of its traditional orchards since the Second World War. They plan to help replant some of those orchards with local cider apple varieties. But first they need to know where the orchards are, or where they were, who are the local cider-makers, where were the pound houses in fact any information about cider orchards, past or present. Students are being asked to help the campaign this summer, but information is wanted from anyone. If you can help either contact one of your local parish councillors or direct to the Environment Manager, Ken Carter, on Totnes (0803) 864499.

On another page you'll find a special cider-making walk. K.McD.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association



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SAVE OUR CIDER..SAVE OUR ZIDER..SAVE OUR CIDER..SAVE OUR ZIDER..

HERE 'TIS - A SPECIAL CIDER WALK.

TUESDAY, 7th AUGUST

As part of the South Hams Environment Service's campaign to save the traditional cider orchards of the South Hams, they have included a special visit to a cider-making farm in their 1990 walks programme. Everyone is welcome. There is a charge of £1 for an adult and children are 25p.

The walk is called "From the Tree to the Cask" and is led by John Levy, the owner of Stancombe Farm. The idea is that on this visit to Stancombe visitors will be shown the whole cider-making process. At Stancombe the cider is made in the traditional way from local varieties of apples on a 300-year-old press.

The tour includes the orchards and the pound house and includes - for adults - the chance to round off their visit by sampling the final result!

The Meet is at Stancombe Farm (SX782.451) at 11 a.m.

To get there take the A379 from Kingsbridge heading for Dartmouth, turn left before Bowcombe Creek, keep bearing right to Stancombe Cross. The walk will finish at 12.30 p.m. and it is suggested, dependent on the weather, that you bring a packed lunch to eat in the farm's walled garden.

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

The coffee morning for the Guide Dogs for the Blind held at Warren House, Warren Road, Thurlestone on May 26 raised £263. Thanks to one and all.

AND BEFORE YOU PUSH THE BOAT OUT...

All those who enjoy fishing for bass in their boats on the River Avon at Bantham should note that it is now against the law to do so. Well, it is for most of the year.

In fact the Avon is now one of the 34 nursery areas in England and Wales for juvenile bass where fishing from boats is not allowed at certain times of the year. Fishing for bass that is.

Those times as far as the River Avon is concerned are from May 1 to December 31. The same prohibition period applies to the Dart, Salcombe Harbour, and the River Yealm. Some areas get shorter times, some longer - the Plymouth rivers for example get a year round ban.

There are no restrictions on fishing from the shore, but the minimum landing size has been increased from 32 to 36 cm, about 14 and a quarter inches.

At the same time there are new controls on the size of the mesh of gill and similar nets.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN...BUT ONLY IF YOU GET THE DATE RIGHT. CHECK IT IN THE ONLY REAL GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON...

VILLAGE VOICE'S DATES FOR 1990.

Sun 12th August	Parish Art and Crafts Exhibition, Parish Hall 10a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tues 28th Aug	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Sat 8th Sept	"Cream Teas" Coffee Morning, Rectory Barn 10.30.
Sun 9th Sept	Guide Dogs Family Fun Day, Thurlestone Hotel 2 p.m.
Sat 15th Sept	Thurlestone Conservatives Wine and Cheese Party, Parish Hall 6.30 p.m.
Tues 18th Sept	Boutique 144 Fashion Show for S.Hams Hospital League of Friends, Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 19th Sept	Thurlestone Ramblers Walk, Batson
Sat 29th Sept	Annual Fair Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30 p.m.
<hr/>	
Tues 2nd Oct	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Tues 16th Oct	British Heart Coffee Morning at Clock Cottage, Bantham 10.30 a.m.
Wed 17th Oct	Thurlestone Ramblers Walk, Loddiswell.
<hr/>	
Tues 6th Nov	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Sat 10th Nov	Autumn Bazaar Thurlestone School 2.00 p.m.
Sat 17th Nov	Wartime Memories, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Wed 21st Nov	Thurlestone Ramblers, East Allington.
Sat 24th Nov	Christmas Bazaar NSPCC Parish Hall (amended date)
<hr/>	
Sat 1st Dec	Thurlestone Conservatives Bazaar, Parish Hall 10.30 a.m.
Tues 11th Dec	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Wed 12th Dec	Thurlestone Ramblers Christmas Pub Lunch and Walk, Normandy Arms.
Mon 17th Dec	"Rising Generation" Parish Hall.

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP THIS LIST UP TO DATE. Give your dates, or any others you know about, to Mrs. Joan Mackenzie, 7, Old Rectory Gardens, Thurlestone (in writing) by September 1st for our next edition.

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

WORD PAIRS.

From the list of words take out two which go with each clue. This will remove 32 words leaving just one. What is it?

CLUES:

- (a). Two connected with "ward"
- (b) Two with "match"
- (c) Two linked with "grand"
- (d) Two with "Thurlestone"
- (e) Two linked with "stock"
- (f) "Margaret Thatcher"
- (g) Two with a Devon town
- (h) A soap opera
- (i) Two with "out"
- (j) Two joined with "storm"
- (k) Two synonyms
- (l) Two anagrams
- (m) Two games
- (n) Two connected with "Plate"
- (o) Two wines
- (p) Two birds

WORDS:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1.Box | 18.Petrel |
| 2.For | 19.Silent |
| 3.Rot | 20.Staple |
| 4.Barn | 21.Street |
| 5.Golf | 22.Curling |
| 6.Hail | 23.Estuary |
| 7.Hock | 24.Patient |
| 8.Pile | 25.Selling |
| 9.Robe | 26.Building |
| 10.Rock | 27.Exchange |
| 11.Hotel. | 28.Minister |
| 12.Piano. | 29.National |
| 13.Prime | 30.Champagne |
| 14.Stick | 31.Decompose |
| 15.Dunlin | 32.Coronation |
| 16.Listen | 33.Capercaillie |
| 17.Number. | |

ANSWERS ARE ON ANOTHER PAGE IN THIS ISSUE.

LOCAL NEWS, LOCAL NEWS...

From a letter from just one grateful charity: "Once more Thurlestone has done wonders...the generosity of the Thurlestonians is fantastic!"

And so of course it is. And here: just for the record is the amount raised by the recent coffee morning in aid of the St.Luke's Hospice in Plymouth - £861-95.

Fantastic...

VILLAGE VOICE CRIMEWATCH

Have you seen

Or been offered

any of this STOLEN gear?

DOUBLE

ROBBERY FROM THE YACHT

"PEGASUS OF AUNE"

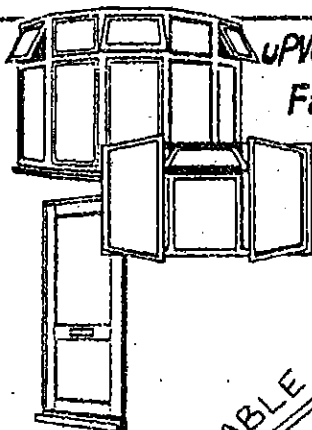
at Bantham.

When Hugh Cater's yacht, moored in the middle of the river at Bantham was robbed the first time in March, the following items were stolen: A Husun 65 VHF radio, two pairs of Zeiss binoculars, two Crewsaver lifejackets, a transistor radio and two brand-new frying pans.

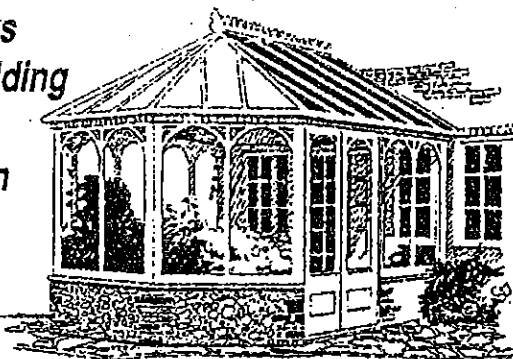
When Hugh Cater's yacht was robbed for the second time on 12/13 July, the following items were stolen: two new Crewsaver orange lifejackets, a clock and barometer set in brass of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, a big lantern yellow torch, and new blue-and-white shirts and a holdall. The shirts and the holdall are easily spotted - they are all marked "Whitbread Round-the-World Race - Rothmans".

Did you see a boat alongside the yacht? Can you help? If so call the Police. Or tell Hugh Cater (560593).

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POSTBAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mrs.D.Aness of Higher Sutton Farm, South Milton, who was the W.I. Delegate for South Milton and Thurlestone at the W.I's 68th AGM in the Albert Hall, London, writes:

"Six thousand W.I. members filled the Albert Hall and looking down from my place in the gallery it was like a glorious garden, such colourful dresses and hats.

The meeting started with the singing of Jerusalem and after the usual adoption of standing orders and appointment of auditors, the Chairman, Mrs. Jean Varnam, J.P., addressed the meeting. She said that the W.I. needed to face change, challenge and responsibility. She asked for tolerance to move into the 1990's in a new legal framework.

The National Federation offices in Chester Square had been sold and with the money a large detached house had been purchased in Fulham. The first resolution on the Revision of the Constitution was debated and the results for the change was voted 81.04 % for and 18.96% against.

The second resolution urging H.M. Government to ban the use of Bovine Somatotropin was debated and the resolution carried completely. Obviously members felt strongly against the use of BST in this country.

Mrs. Claire Raynor, the guest speaker, looked a very confident and vivid lady in a bold red, grey and white dress under a red duster coat. She was a terrific, clear and forceful speaker. She said we were a sleeping giant and have not used our power to its full potential. W.I. is not just a social club, it is the ears and eyes of conscience. We are modern women in a modern world and must lobby Parliament on important issues, let our voice be heard and make more impact... She sat down amid tremendous applause.

Can you imagine the scene at lunch break when all those women surged out of the Albert Hall - stopped the traffic - and made for the park across the road to eat lunch in Kensington Gardens. And back across the road again for the afternoon session.

At her special request we were asked to sing Jerusalem as the Queen entered the Hall. I don't think there was a dry eye in the place as we sang and the tiny figure of the Queen, dressed in turquoise carrying a posy of yellow flowers, walked up the aisle to the platform.

Mrs. Jean Varnam welcomed the Queen and West Sussex presented a pageant of W.I. events since 1915. The third resolution was then debated. The resolution urged the Government to insist that Antarctica be declared a wilderness park and was passed by an overwhelming majority.

The Queen then addressed the meeting and said she was happy to join in the 75th Birthday Celebrations as she and her Mother were long standing W.I. members. We were encouraged to make 1990 a year of rededication. We had a history to be proud of and we should continue to improve the quality of rural life. Denman College was unique and she had enjoyed her visit there. We should nurture and maintain the W.I.'s high standards and keep up our commitment to and concern for the countryside.

Members then all sang "Land of My Fathers" and the National Anthem and the Queen left smiling on us all. A lovely day indeed and one I shall cherish."

more letters overleaf.

DAVID MAYO ASSOCIATES

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DEAR EDITORS,

I do hope they won't be back this Christmastime. I refer to the men with dogs who stood in the corner of the field next to the bird sanctuary. Did they really enjoy their so-called sport of shooting wild ducks as they were winging their way to one of the few places they should have been safe? Some sport!

Shirley Chapman,
Warren Road.

DEAR EDITORS,

Did you see this gem in the Sunday Correspondent:

"Renault has recently been researching the auto market in Ireland in an effort to win more sales. The researchers stopped one man in the street and asked him what he thought about the Renault 5. "They're innocent," he replied."

Veronica White, Crosslands.

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Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE: No sane person wants to be in the kitchen on hot days in the summer. So simplicity is the keynote..to turn lush summer fruits into impressive desserts...

THERE ARE AROUND 150 different varieties of pears. Conference is the most widely grown in Britain and the most reliable to use for cooking. This recipe serves 4-6 people.

Pears in Ginger Syrup

- 1 Cinnamon Stick
- $\frac{1}{4}$ pint dry White Wine
- $\frac{1}{4}$ pint Water
- 4 tablespoons Ginger Wine
- 4 ozs granulated Sugar
- 4-6 cooking Pears
- 4 tablesp. blanched Almonds (toasted)

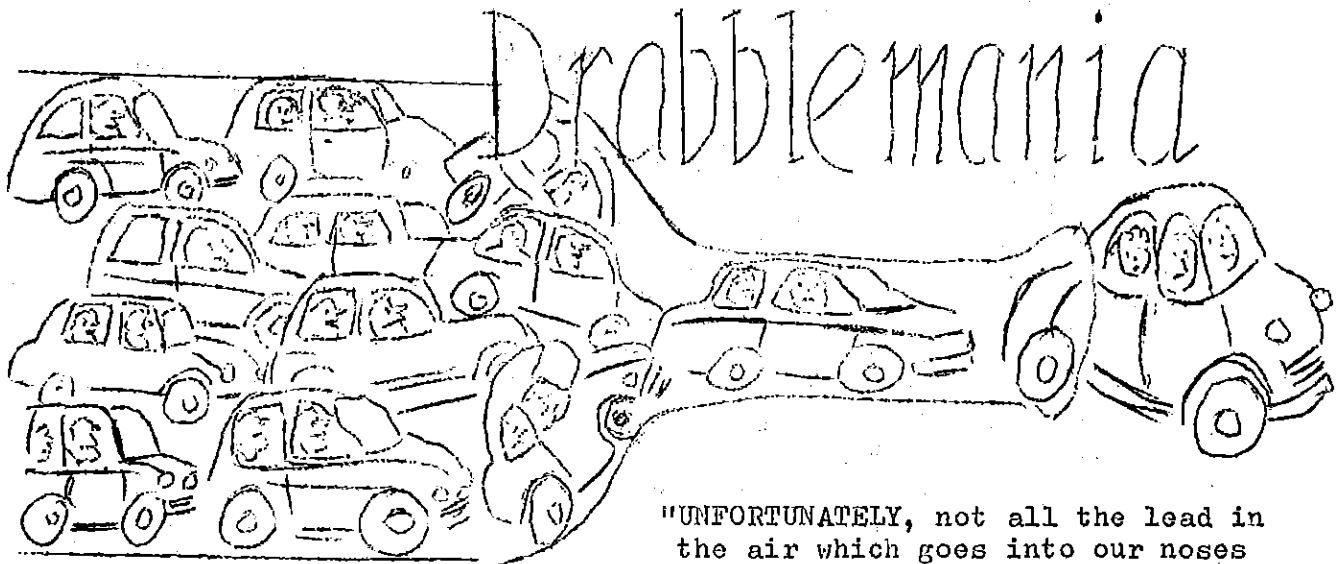
Put the wine, water and the ginger wine in a pan with the sugar and cinnamon stick, then heat gently until the sugar has dissolved. Meanwhile peel the pears and cut the bottoms level so that they will stand upright. Do not remove the stalks. Stand the pears in the liquid in the pan and cook gently for about 20 minutes or until the pears are tender. Transfer the pears to a shallow serving dish, then increase the heat and boil the liquid in the pan for about 3 minutes or until syrupy. Discard the cinnamon stick, then pour the sauce over the pears. Leave to cool, then chill in the fridge for at least eight hours, spooning the sauce over the pears from time to time. Sprinkle with the almonds just before serving. Serve chilled with cream.

Pears as a Starter

This unusual combination of sweet and sour makes it ideal for summer dinner parties. Serves 4.

- 4 Ripe Pears (peeled and halved with pips etc scooped out)
- 1 Egg
- 2 tablsps Castor Sugar
- 3 tablsps Tarragon Vinegar
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ fl.ozs Double Cream
- 2 ozs Cream Cheese
- 2 ozs Walnuts.

Put Cream Cheese into a bowl, chop about half of the walnuts and add to the cheese and mix together. Fill the hollows of the pears with this mixture and place cheese-side down on to 4 plates (two halves to a plate). Beat egg and sugar together in a bowl over a pan of boiling water until thick, beat in the vinegar and cool. When cold add the double cream. Pour over the pear halves and decorate with the remaining walnuts. Note: You can use tinned pears as well for this recipe.



As lead is a poisonous substance, it kills our brain cells. In other words it makes us stupid Every year, over 3000 tonnes of lead has been pumped from our exhausts into the air we breathe. There is a solution. It's readily available. It's cheap. It's called unleaded petrol. We'd be stupid not to use it."

(From Saint Thomas's Hospital Campaign for Clean Air)

+ + + + +

He said: "I used to think I was poor. Then they told me I wasn't poor, I was needy. Then they told me it was self defeating to think of myself as needy. I was deprived. Then they told me that underprivileged was overused. I was disadvantaged. I still don't have a dime. But I have a great vocabulary."

(From a cartoon in the American 'Village Voice !')

+ + + + +

Perhaps this Government should give a thought to it: "Political ability is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen."

Winston Churchill.

+ + + + +

Access to Rum Doodle 1956 (W.E.Bowman): The equipment for this camp had to be carried from the railhead at Chaikhosi, a distance of 500 miles. Five porters would be needed for this. Two porters would be needed to carry the food for this five, and another would carry the food for these two. His food would be carried by a boy. The boy would carry his own food. The first supporting party would be established at 38,000 feet, also with a fortnight's supplies which necessitated another eight porters and a boy. In all, to transport tents and equipment, food, radio, scientific and photographic gear, personal effects and so on, 3000 porters and 375 boys would be required .

+ + + + +

In Brighton she was Brenda. She was Patsy up in Perth. In Cambridge she was Candida, The sweetest girl on earth. In Stafford she was Stella. The pick of all the bunch. But down on his expenses, she was petrol oil and lunch.

More overpage:-

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

Scattered survivors of the vanished coaching-age, toll-houses still linger by many a roadside. Tolls were levied where one 'Turnpike' trust ceased and responsibility for the next stretch of main road was taken over by another. The position of these toll-gates was not marked by any change in the landscape and most of the toll keepers' cottages have long since disappeared. A second and more lasting class of toll-house was established where a minor road met a major one. They were often of irregular or octagonal shape so that windows could be angled towards all necessary directions at once.

One has to wonder if any future privatisation of certain roadways which we are told will be paid for by a toll on all users will be a case of history repeating itself.

The word 'turnpike' was a result of local Acts of Parliament first passed in the late 17th century, empowering Justices of the Peace to place at different points along the roads, barriers of pikes mounted on frames which turned on pivots. Between 1706 and 1714, when 'Turnpike Trusts' came in, proper toll houses replaced these old pike barriers.

There was much hostility in many parts of the country towards the payment of tolls because of the number of successive 'trusts' along a main highway, each levying payment at the beginning of every new section entered by traffic, so making travel expensive. Many were the reports of rioting and destruction of toll-gates and toll-bars. Drivers of cattle were charged so much per score of beast, and other regulations were imposed, for example: "Pigs or swine shall not be suffered to root up and damage the road." Who can blame the toll keeper for that! Some drivers managed to evade payment by taking an outer route through fields or along country lanes, but everything and everybody passing through the toll-gates was subject to scrutiny by the toll-keeper and charged according to the class of traffic - though military traffic and local pedestrians were exempt.

The improved turnpike-roads developed into a national network from the 18th century to the 1840s, when the arrival of the railways brought a steep decline in the number of coaches and in the use of the inns which had for so long been the travel centres. At this time a movement began to dissolve the trusts, remove the toll-bars and make the toll houses redundant - though it took over 40 years!

+ + + + +

By the year 1993 it is said that all new cars must be fitted with a catalytic converter to control the emission standards from car exhausts. There seems to be something wrong to my mind, for a catalytic converter does nothing for the emission of carbon dioxide gases - the one that helps the creation of the so called 'greenhouse' effect.

Back to the drawing board ??

+ + + + +

Aunt Clara was pointing out the advantages of marital bliss to her nephew. "You really should find some nice girl and settle down," she said. "Doctors say that married men live longer than bachelors." "Well, I've heard that, too," her nephew said, "but Pop claims it only seems longer."

+ + + + +

A birthday is the one time that every woman wishes her past forgotten and her present remembered.!

OVER TO Part III

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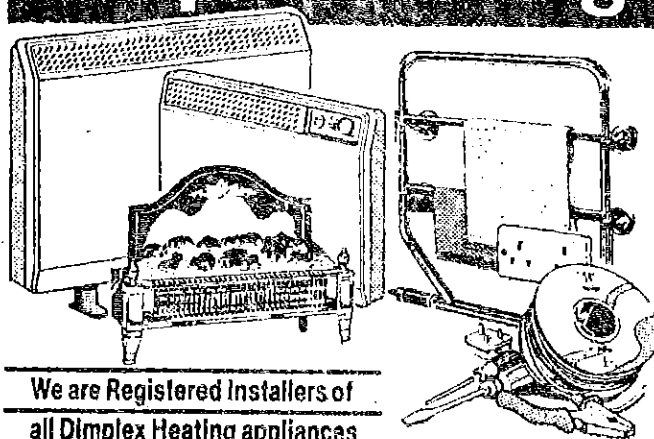
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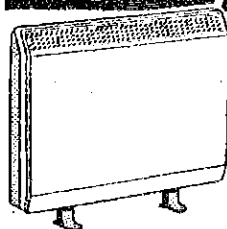
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D R A B B L E M A N I A P a r t I I I

Just remember - he who laughs - lasts !

+ + + + +

GREENHOUSES take their origins from the orangeries fashionable in the days of the Restoration Period. Orange trees in tubs were kept in specially constructed buildings fronted with glass, and heated in a variety of ways. Early in the next century the Dutch idea of glass-paned lean-tos came into fashion. These were built against south facing walls, garden as well as house walls.

Free-standing greenhouses with glass paned roofs were first constructed in the 1780s. With increased technology, it was possible to make larger sheets of glass of a constant quality. Such glass became available in the 1830s, but its popularity was hindered because of the ancient tax on glass. The tax was removed in 1845 and this had important consequences both for architecture in general and greenhouses in particular.

The Victorians seized on the opportunities of combining large areas of glass with prefabricated metal frames capable of being bolted together and able, with suitable support, to cover enormous areas. Greenhouses on a truly epic scale were constructed by designers such as Joseph Paxton. Chatsworth, Crystal Palace and Kew Palm House are superb examples of Victorian self-confidence. Ducted heating under tiled floors replaced the hotbeds of fermenting manure or wood-burners of previous centuries, whose hot air was carried through the walls by systems of flues.

+ + + + +

THE DI-MONTELY HORROR STORY Flies - and in particular the variety we call 'houseflies', are known to feed on anything sweet and moist, especially milk, meat, excrement and garbage - not forgetting the sweat of your brow! Protein rich food is needed by the females for egg production, but they have habits like vomiting on their food to soften or liquefy it. This is repeated several times, both on human food, dung and refuse. At the same time they defecate, perhaps every few minutes, leaving dark spots, so that the total contamination of food can be very considerable indeed.

Incidentally, houseflies feed by sucking up the food they have liquified with a specially adapted fleshy proboscis, which contains many little tubes called pseudotracheae, at the tip.

+ + + + +

TEN MILLION POUNDS on a sewerage system to serve the area from Salcombe through Kingsbridge, Hope Cove, South Huish, South Milton and Thurlestone (with Bantham and Buckland). I take it you read the Editorial in this magazine (June/July) ?

What sort of brain storm did the idiot who thought that one up suffer?

+ + + + +

CIVIL SERVANT: What I mean is that I'm fully seized of your aims and, of course, I will do my utmost to see that they're put into practice. To that end, I recommend that we set up an interdepartmental committee with fairly broad terms of reference so that at the end of the day we'll be in a position to think through the various implications and arrive at a decision based on long-term considerations rather than rush prematurely into precipitate and possibly ill-conceived action which might well have unforeseen repercussions.

MINISTER: You mean, no?

(Antony Jay & Jonathan Lyon (Yes Minister)

I remember...

JOHN HARDWICK recalls his building life...

I WAS BORN AND BROUGHT UP in Yorkshire and in due course became a qualified builder, joined my brothers in the family business, and got married.

My wife Alma and I were keen racing cyclists (she was better than me and once came third in a national championship over a course of about 100 miles) and we took every opportunity to cycle in the surrounding countryside, away from the soot and sulphur-laden atmosphere of the mining district near Doncaster where we lived. Indeed we began to think seriously of moving somewhere with clean fresh air.

In 1959, when I was 37, Mr. Donald Turner sent for me to finish off a house he was building in Warren Road. We knew nothing of Thurlestone, but realised it was on the coast, so we packed our possessions in a van and came down. We moved into a holiday home temporarily while I built our bungalow at Buckland during my spare in the following six months. In the next four years we opened up Eddystone Road, which at first was no more than a footpath, and built several houses there.

I was surprised to find differences in working practices, compared with Yorkshire. For instance, there were no large building merchants in the district of the kind I was used to. Instead, there were many people in allied trades working on their own, having been instructed after leaving school by a skilled builder, carpenter, painter or plumber as the case may be, and then gradually making their own way. Also the Yorkshire practice of piece work did not apply. For example, two men working fast might lay 1,000 bricks on a fine day and be well paid and then the next day, if it was raining, they laid no bricks and were not paid. In Thurlestone, with less emphasis on speed, tradesmen were slower but achieved higher standards with better equipment and fittings.

In 1963, I decided to set up on my own and soon had an order to build some bungalows at Frognore. Other work followed at East Allington, Modbury and Yealmpton, mainly converting barns into houses and flats, although most of my time has been spent on smaller projects in and around Thurlestone. I have never advertised and never been short of work. If I found that I was tackling something that was rather more than I could manage alone, I could always arrange for colleagues or their apprentices to help me out. That is the way the building trade is run down here.

We soon settled in our new home and took part in most of the local social and sporting occasions. When our son was born here, and especially when he started to go to the village school, we were accepted as villagers. As a matter of fact we just got here in time for that to happen, because very few new people were coming to live in Thurlestone then and we found our feet before the rush began. Alma and I have enjoyed our lives down here among a host of friends.

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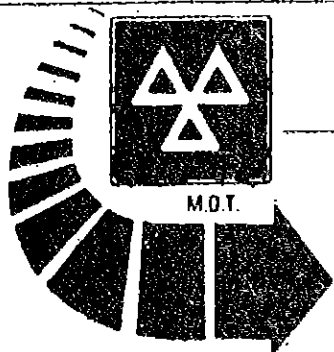
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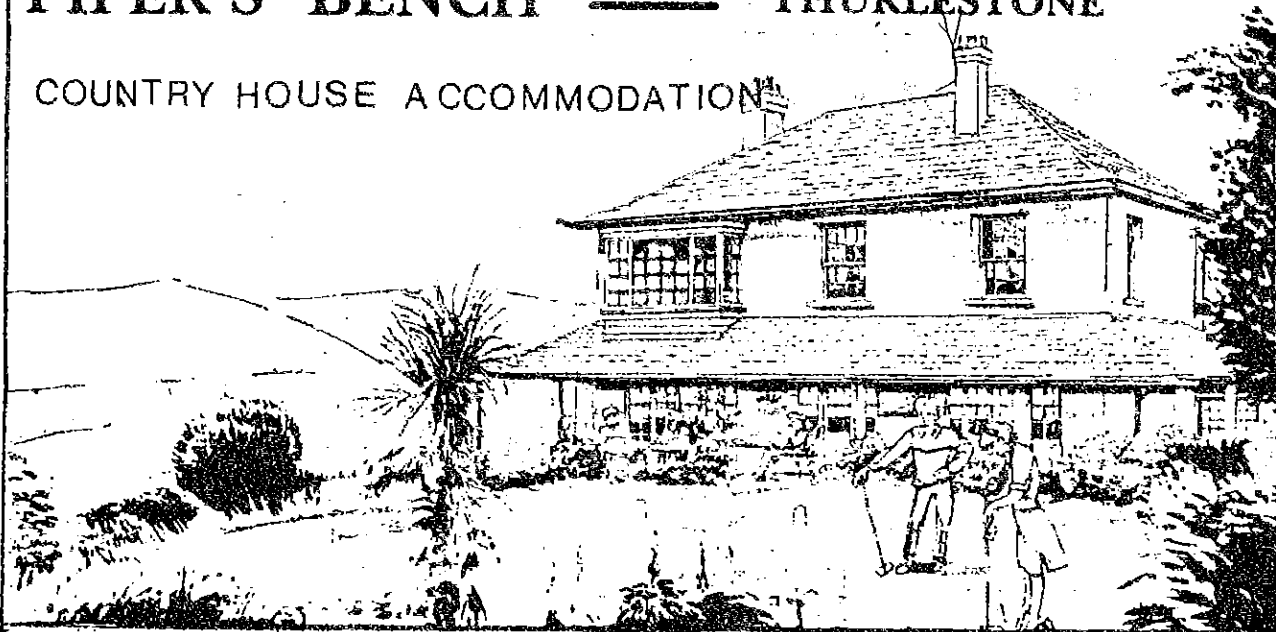
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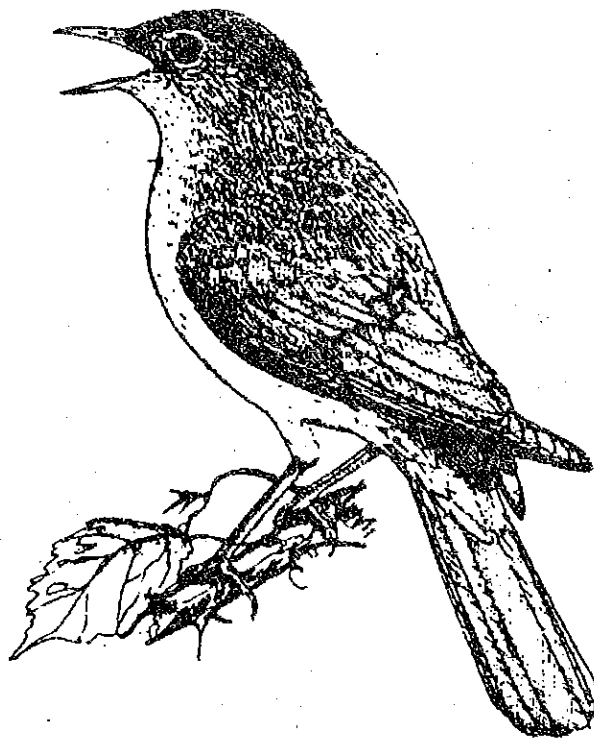
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HARRY HUGGINS

GOES FOR GOLD, BUT IS NOT
ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THE RESULT...



WE WENT AWAY IN JUNE, BIRDING OF COURSE. Not twitching. I spent too much of a long working life saying to myself, and to anyone else who would listen: "What risk do we run?". If you twitch the risk is too great that by the time you get to the right place the bird has gone.

We always think of the man we met at Malborough who had dipped out on a Bonelli's Warbler. In vain did we tell him about all sorts of interesting things in the area. He just said, through clenched teeth, "I-have-driven-all-night-to-see-one-bird. It-went-half-an-hour-before-I-came!". Oddly enough it did not seem to comfort him when we said we had seen it, and it was not worth looking at. Nor was it - Bonelli's Warbler is like a greyish Willow Warbler, a bit whiter underneath and with a yellow rump which you cannot usually see. It is really totally forgettable, except that it is a southern European species and very unusual in Britain. Now, had it been Bonelli's Eagle!

We didn't go foreign this time, unless you count Wales as foreign. In some ways it is. Road signs, for instance. In Spain they are no trouble. But in Wales you have got to flog through all the Welsh to get to the English bit, by which time you have driven past the sign anyway.

We went for three reasons: bacon and eggs for breakfast (at 19 Meadcombe Road it is muesli and prunes, or sometimes, for variety, prunes and muesli); no washing up; and to see some birds we don't normally find here.

So to Anglesey and out to South Stack. There on the cliffs were serried rows of Guillemots and Razorbills, in their breeding finery, not like the poor oiled waifs we pick up on the beach here. There were a few Puffins, and pair of dozy Peregrines. They cannot have been that dozy - they had four fine large young ones in a nest we could almost toss a biscuit into. We had gone hoping for Choughs, like Jackdaws with red bills and legs. This was the national bird of Cornwall, extinct there now, of course, unlike the new patron saint, St. Savary.

We expected maybe the odd black spot in the distance. Instead there was a pair so tame that you had to back away to photograph them.

We went to South Stack on a Sunday. In unknown territory it is no bad ploy to go to a popular birding place at a weekend. It is often visited by a bird club from far away, on a coach outing: there are nearly always people in the group who have been

before and can tell you exactly what to look for and where - the RSPB warden, if there is one, as there was at South Stack, is usually a bit cagey about pointing out sensitive things like a Peregrine's nest. But the birders from Bacup and Barnsley or wherever have no such inhibitions. They can usually tell you also what other hotspots in the area are worth going to.

Thus we were directed to Cemlyn where there is a large shingle bank close to Wylfa power station. Inshore of the shingle bank is a sizeable lagoon (it is a bit like Slapton Ley) and in the lagoon are little islands on which terns breed. You walk along the beach out of sight below the crest of the ridge. Then you climb up the bank, which is about one in three, or 33% as they call it now, and lie on your tummy with your head over the top to peer at the birds. A man remarked he had been in more comfortable hides and how right he was. The stones are about the size of cricket balls and most painful.

Here at Thurstlestone we see on passage migrating Sandwich Terns. They are big for terns, about the size of Black Headed Gulls, with short tails, black caps, and black bills with yellow tips. Likewise we see Common and Arctic Terns, smaller, with very long tail streamers (the "sea swallows"). Because of difficulty in telling the species apart they used to be lumped together as "Commie" terns. If they are close you can see that Arctic has a wholly red bill and that Common's bill has a black tip. Binoculars and field guides have improved, and it is not difficult now to tell them apart. At Cemlyn on the little islands there were over fifty pairs of each breeding and you could study them closely. There were five hundred pairs of Sandwich Terns and three pairs of Roseate Terns.

The latter were what we had come to see - they were a life tick for us, we had never knowingly seen the species before. They are like commie terns, but a little lighter on top, with black cap and bill, and a delicate pinkish flush to the breast, hence the name Roseate.

The species is not just rare, it is very rare and getting rarer. One reason has been the ringing of birds by ornithologists, done of course with the best of intentions, to learn about their migrations and wintering quarters. But they spend the first year or two of their lives on the coast of West Africa, and I do not know how long it took the ringers to find out the local children were killing the birds to make necklaces with the rings!

You cannot help wondering if this is a bird on its way to extinction. Efforts are made to protect them, but they nest on beaches, and going on beaches has become a way of life for the affluent society.

If a goose or a duck is endangered, with a bit of luck and a lot of skill they can breed it in captivity. Sir Peter Scott saved the Hawaiian Goose, which was down to less than 40 individuals, if I remember rightly: you cannot walk round Slimbridge without tripping over them now. Likewise the Laysan Teal, down to seven birds at one time - it is an undistinguished looking little thing, notable for living on only one island in the world and that three miles by one. A goose or a duck, provided it gets its food, will sit on its bottom, live happily and breed. Not so a wild free spirit like a tern, and you cannot build a reserve population in captivity.

Then to the RSPB reserve at Leighton Moss, just south of the Lake District: four hundred acres of reed bed with some open water which is mostly quite shallow - there were Roe Deer paddling in it. Here the hides are more comfortable, in fact one

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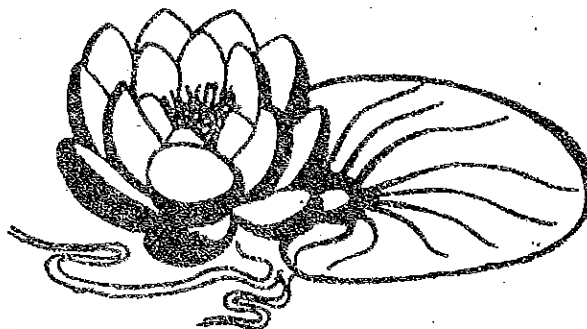
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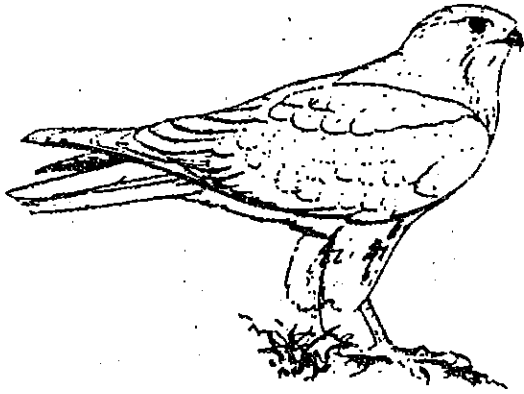
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the birds, the birds ignored them, and we saw a Bittern (very rare and skulking, you seldom see one fly, as we did), Marsh Harriers (also very rare, there is one pair), and lots of ducks and gulls, all tranquilly doing their thing.

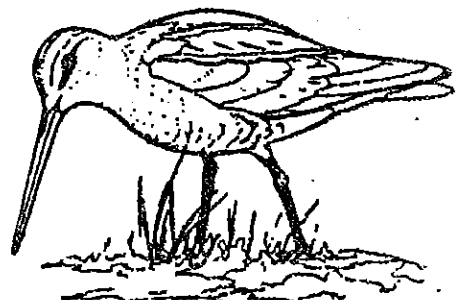
It is interesting to compare the birds you see at Leighton Moss with those at Minsmere, the RSPB's great Suffolk reed bed, and with what we find at Slapton Ley and South Milton Ley, similar places here in Devon. Reed and Sedge Warblers and Reed Bunting are in all. In Devon we do far better for Cetti's Warbler - climate could account for that. But Leighton Moss and Minsmere have breeding Bitterns, Marsh Harriers and Bearded Tits. We do not. All visit Devon from time to time. Bearded Tit has nested once in recent years, at South Milton Ley, and breeds regularly at Radipole Lake, in Weymouth. Why do they all not nest in Devon? There is a line of research here for someone.

Our final call was up the M.6 to Haweswater. By arrangement with North West Water the RSPB has a reserve there of over 22,000 acres: just for one pair of birds, the only Golden Eagles to nest in England (there are two or three hundred pairs in Scotland). They used to be found in the mountains of England and Wales, but persecution and trophy hunting wiped them out in the 1700's. It is thought the White-tailed Eagle, or Sea Eagle, was commoner around the coasts. The old name for it was Erne, and surely there is an echo of this in the name "Yarmer" - they probably nested on Loam Castle or some previous equivalent. This species too was exterminated.

But we dipped out on the Eagles. They have been adding to the same nest for twenty years, it is now the size of a domestic garage, and this year its weight made it tip forward a bit from the cliff face. There were two eggs, but when nearly ready to hatch they got tumbled down behind the nest. The wardens (they watch the eagles day and night from April to August) realised after a couple of days from the birds' behaviour that something was amiss and went to investigate, but by that time the eggs were chilled, and that was that until next year - they will not try again this year.

At the observation point the wardens said they could see the birds sitting about. Maybe they could, we couldn't - it was just about like standing in the garden of the Thurlestone Hotel and trying on a rather hazy day to pick out a brown dog sitting still on the slopes of Bolt Tail - an eagle, at 20-25 lbs, weights the same as a medium dog.

They said the eagles live all year in the one valley. If they raise a chick they drive it away in the autumn as soon as it can fend for itself. But the valley is no more than two-and-a-half miles long by a mile wide, and it looked too small and barren



to support two big birds. These raptors do not eat as much as one might expect - the books reckon about half a pound a day does them - because they spend most of their time just standing about, and when they fly they flap a bit and then glide, or soar, with little expenditure of energy. But they need to forage over a vast area for the hares and rabbits, grouse, dead sheep and occasional lambs on which they live.

Like Buzzards, which are much smaller, they were said to take babies. I am sure this is apocryphal, a tale invented by someone who for whatever reason had made away with Little Willie. Although when our late King required me in his air force in Lancashire there was a place of refreshment, which in fact we did not frequent because we considered it too low even for us, called The Eagle and Child; the sign showed an eagle flying off with a baby in a cradle. It was all a long time ago, but if I recall rightly the name referred to part of the crest of the Earls of Derby. Needless to say we erks always called the pub the "bird and bastard".

We asked the wardens whether they fed the eagles. They said that if a dead sheep came their way it was taken up the mountain for the birds. We suspected it came to rather more than that, and that they were fed fairly consistently, at least during the breeding season (there was a clue a year or two ago, when it was announced that this pair had successfully reared two chicks. Normally they lay two eggs, but only one chick survives, unless food supplies are very good, which points to human assistance for them).

Let us hope that the eagles continue to flourish in their valley - the male is twenty years old now, and, at that age, getting past family duties; they would like a younger male to come. Whether the species can ever recolonise more of England and Wales is open to question. When the birds lived on the mountains in the past they were undisturbed, there was no sheep farming in the hills and as for people going walking there for pleasure - that would have been thought crazy! Much of Scotland is still wild enough for these magnificent birds, but it is hard to see their spreading any further south of the border.

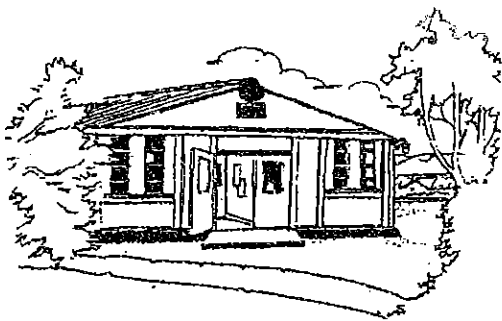
THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

Close on 40 members and guests attended our June meeting to hear Frank Clarkson talk on Military Customs. His talk was both humorous and informative and many, particularly those of us linked with the other two services, were surprised by the traditions associated with such mundane matters as the number of buttons and their placing on tunics. The history of these traditions made the whole talk very interesting.

Our next meeting is on September 13 when Peter Wall gives a talk entitled "Collectors Corner". The October meeting will be the annual golf competition - non-players will be welcomed at the lunch at the golf club - names to Al Parker (560330) please.

There will be no meeting in August.

D.M.Y.



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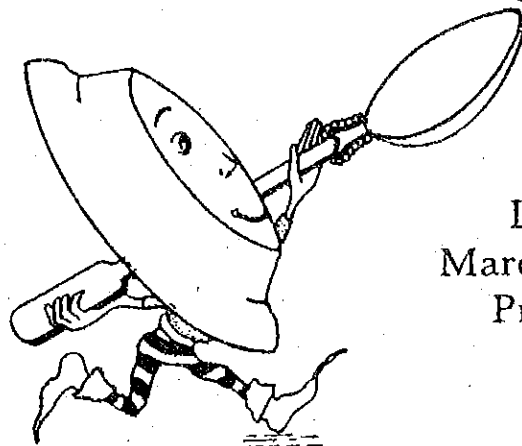
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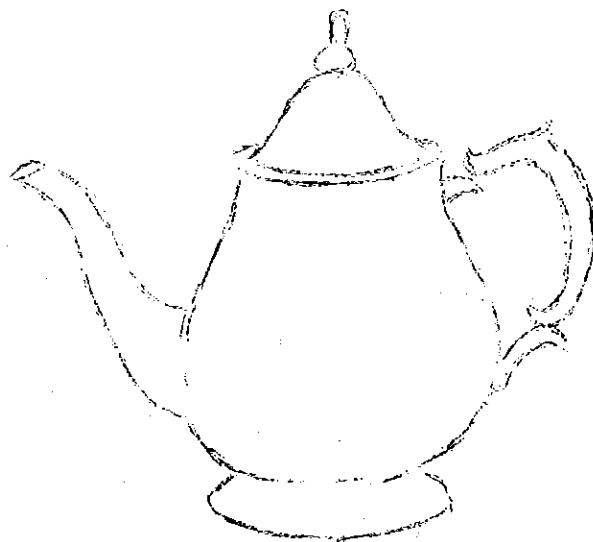
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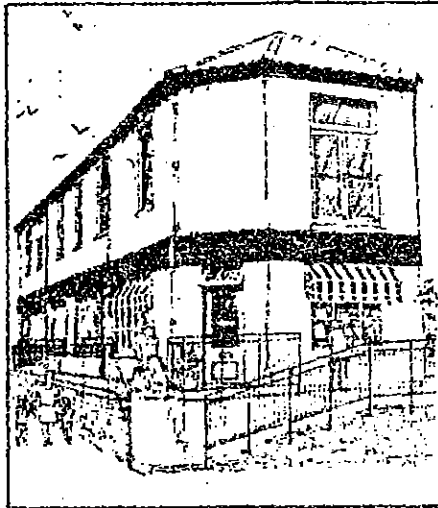
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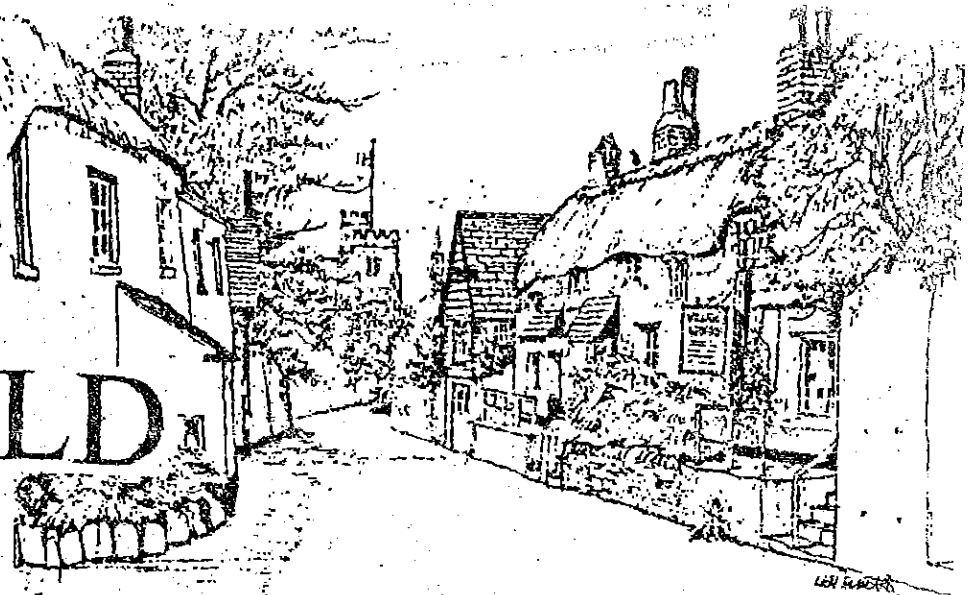
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Neville OSWALD reports



WHEN WORDSWORTH, in the Lake District, wander'd lonely as a cloud and saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils, he exclaimed: "Ten thousand saw I at a glance!" How on earth can anybody count that number of daffodils at a glance? I doubt whether there were half as many, and for good reason.

Cumbrians are, to my knowledge, unreliable when it comes to figures. For example, I once read that over a thousand people died from plague in Penrith in the year 1588. I did not believe it and so, on my next visit there, I consulted the parish registers and found that no more than 550 had perished in the epidemic.

If we look at Trevelyan's celebrated English Social History, we find the statement "a third and possibly half of the inhabitants of the Kingdom died of plague in less than two years" (1348-49, the Black Death). This is followed by the sort of effects such a loss would have upon the day to day life of the nation and especially on the havoc it caused in farming. Yet modern estimates put the deaths in those two years at about 200,000 in a population of four million or one in 20. Had Trevelyan known this, he might have written rather differently.

Heskins, in his admirable book Devon describing the plague of 1349-51 in the County states "the deanery of Kenn lost 86 incumbents in 17 parishes" or an average of five parsons from each parish. I find that difficult to believe and wonder how many of them made good their escapes when they saw the plague coming. Ah well, I suppose poets and historians are not renowned for their numeracy, but this is no reason why we should not try to use figures sensibly.

How do people in Thurlestone today handle figures? My impression is that some looseness has been allowed to creep in. Ask a visitor if he has been here before and as likely as not you will be told "Oh yes, a number of times" What kind of answer is that? I believe it implies at least one visit, but it could be 5 or 10 or even 20. Down here we have our own system of grading. "Often" would suggest three or four visits. "Several or half-a-dozen" some five to seven, "many" means about ten.

When we have a larger number in mind, we widen the range, so that "a couple of dozen" cows in a field would indicate somewhere between 20 and 30. Such implicit quantification is unsatisfactory, even regrettable, but we find it to be adequate in making observations on subjects of no great moment.

There are occasions, albeit few, and far between, when accuracy can be achieved. Suppose, on a visit to an agricultural show, you

find an enclosure containing 200 sheep. Everybody knows there are more white sheep than black in Devon and you are asked to sit by an exit door and count them as they come out until you are satisfied there are more white than black. Obviously to be 100 per cent certain you would have to count 100 white sheep, but you may not need to be quite as accurate as that. If the first seven are white you can be 95 per cent certain that the majority is white; that is sequential analysis and raises the whole question of probability statistics or calculating the odds, a subject that has dogged me throughout my professional life. After all, all forms of treatment of illness are based on it and when something new comes along it is subject to strict statistical enquiry and with pilot surveys followed by more rigorous trials.

How do probability statistics impinge on Thurlestone? Well, they do if they are allowed to, in a simplified form. Take two golfers, A and B, both lying on the fairway 100 yards short of the green, each having played the same number of shots. A, with a low handicap, reckons he can hit the green 3 times out of 4 and get down in two putts. B, with a long handicap, knows this and, eyeing the green with apprehension, goes for it and finishes in the bunker, losing the hole. Had B thought a bit, he might have put his chances of hitting the green as one in four but, by playing short and being a good putter, he gave himself an even chance of getting down in two more. He has a lot to learn.

Experienced card players have the distinction of being the only group of people in Thurlestone who do not distrust probability statistics, although some of them may have misgivings at times. Yet there must be many occasions when they calculate the odds carefully. Suppose as dealer you hold the ace and Queen of a suit and wonder whether the King is on your right or left.

Your starting point is a 50-50 chance. Next you consider the bidding and that may make the odds 60-40. After that, if the finesse is a really important one, you have a chance to observe the play of expressions on your opponents' faces, which you hope, will squeeze the odds to 65-55. Then, if you get it wrong, you can at least pride yourself as having done all you can.

Maybe we should all treat numbers with rather more respect than we ordinarily do.

LOCAL NEWS, LOCAL NEWS...from the Thurlestone and Kingsbridge
N.S.P.C.C.

The Spring Jumble Sale raised £545.90, and all the money will be used solely in Devon to fund the Child Protection Scheme. During 1989, 398 calls for help were received, involving 746 children in the S.Devon area alone. The majority of these were concerned with sexual abuse and these cases took up a great deal of time.

Many events are planned for 1990, including a ProAm Golf at Stover on September 29 and a Royal Gala Ball in October. It is hoped that Princess Margaret will be present at several functions. At the County AGM on October 25 she will present certificates to the branches for 100 years' service. From January 1 this year, South Devon became part of NSPCC 24-hour freephone childline. The number is 8088 181188.

Mrs. Angela Ford, Treasurer.



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

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Talking About

THE BANTHAM AND WEST BUCKLAND
FAIRS.

IN 1953, THE YEAR OF THE CORONATION of Queen Elizabeth II, the people of West Buckland and Bantham, led by Mrs. Clare Fox, staged an exhibition of village history. Much of the exhibition was held in the Bantham Village Hall. Unfortunately this hall was demolished in 1963, and the residents of the two villages lost a centre for their local social events.

Some years passed, until early in 1975, I was invited to call a general meeting to consider the possibility of forming a Residents' Association. The meeting, held in the Sloop, was well attended. After a long discussion the proposition was turned down. Then followed various suggestions about what else we could do to enliven the life of the two villages. One was that we should resuscitate the old fashioned fair. This idea was welcomed with enthusiasm and many of those present offered to help organise one.

I was invited to act as Chairman and volunteers offered to act as secretary, treasurer and committee members. This committee was then asked to plan a fair to be held in the summer of that year - 1975. Offers of help poured in. To quote just a few: The Directors of Evans Estates, the Bantham Surf Life Saving Club, the Kingsbridge Silver Band, the R.N.L.I., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, who prepared an exhibition of Bantham past and present in their cottage, and all the local residents offered to help on the day, which was to be Saturday, August 16.

But on the Friday evening, a severe gale blew up with torrential rain which threatened to collapse our large marquee. The situation was saved by a squad of volunteers, who hung on to the guy ropes. This saved the marquee from being blown away, but it had to be let down, which meant a 6.30 a.m. start on the Saturday. The wind and rain dropped on the Saturday morning and the fair got under way.

Practically the whole population of the two villages had taken part in the preparation for the Fair, and now, on the day many were helping to run the numerous stalls and side shows. A team of ladies worked hard preparing and serving light refreshments and Devon cream teas inside the marquee.

Special emphasis had been made in the planning stage to ensure the children had a happy day, and when the Fair opened the first item on the programme was the sand-castle building competition. For this there was a large entry with some splendid results. Then came a kite-flying competition, a life-saving demonstration, sailing club events and a raft race.

In the afternoon there was a special children's event that was so successful and enjoyable that it became a regular event at all the following fairs. A children's fancy dress parade through the village and down to the fairground, led by the Kingsbridge Silver Band. On arrival, they were split into age groups, and their costumes judged by two ladies, resident in the villages, and watched by a large crowd of spectators. This was followed by a children's novelty sports.

BANTHAM FAIR CONTINUED:

Until the evening the weather kept fine, but during the final event the rain returned. But eight tug-o'-war teams from Bantham and surrounding villages fought it out in the Ham Field regardless. Ipplepen were the winners. Cups and prizes were presented by the grand-daughter of Commander Evans, the founder of the Evans Estates, and so ended a long and happy day.

Immediately following the fair, a meeting was held to discuss it. Many lessons had been learnt and a decision to hold another one the following year was taken.

The 1976 Fair was held on August 14th and was opened by Mr. Hugh Scully, a BBC television personality. Due to the tides the raft race had to be brought forward to August 7 and the tug-o'-war was held then too. The main fair the next Saturday was a day of brilliant sunshine and attracted hundreds of visitors. One stall selling fresh garden produce took £75 in the first hour! Additional attractions this year were the East Allington Bell Ringers and folk dancing by the South Hams Folk Dancing Club.

As after the first fair a meeting was called to plan the distribution of the small profit and to elect a new committee to plan the 1977 Fair, which would be known as the Bantham and Buckland Silver Jubilee Fair, I had intimated that I wished to resign as Chairman, as I contended that the post was an onerous one and should be passed on to a fresh brain at least every two years. So a new Chairman was elected and I was invited to become the first President of the Bantham and Buckland Fair committee.

The 1977 Fair was held on two days, August 12th and 13th. On the Friday an exhibition of village history was held in a large show room above the Village Shop. The main fair was held on the Saturday in the Ham Field and was opened by Miss Gillian Miles of BBC Spotlight. The fair was also visited for the second time by Mr. Hugh Scully. More variety had been added to the stalls and games and to the refreshments. About 2,000 people visited the Fair. The day ended with the usual raft race from Aveton Gifford to Bantham.

The 1978 Fair was held on August 12th and was opened by Mr. Henry Moore, the oldest inhabitant of Bantham, born and bred in the 16th century thatched cottage called "No. 1, Bantham". He was presented with a painting of the village he had served so long. I am sad to say he "passed away" recently.

The programme of the Fair was excellent, but unfortunately rain came on and some of the stalls had to be moved into the marquee.

I now come to the last two fairs to be held in Bantham. The 1979 Fair was held on August 11th and Mr. Craig Rich, a BBC weather forecaster, opened it. The second fair in 1980 was opened by "Miss South West".

There were signs in the 1980 Fair that the enthusiasm of the past was waning. Many of the helpers over the past four years were showing signs of tiredness. Some had left the villages, others had died. The children were becoming more sophisticated, the jet age was coming and the tenor of life was changing. Despite all this, the new Chairman made strenuous efforts with his committee to arouse enthusiasm. There were many new stalls, including bottle stalls, craft stalls, a wheel of fortune, and among the activities there were coconut shies, guess the piggy's weight, catch a rat. The Sparkwell Wild Life Park exhibited animals and birds. There was also a fine display of a model railway. Amongst the competitions was one for the most glamorous legs. Another item which was very popular was a dog show entitled "Likeme, like my dog".

This last fair went well, but there was obviously a change in the feelings of the general public. The committee then, and I think quite rightly, agreed to put the Village Fair in abeyance for a few years.

I hope this broad outline of the fairs from 1975-1980 will

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Bantham Fair concluded:

bring back happy memories. Finally I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all those who gave me so much help and advice over the years. One person I feel I must mention is Mr. Denis Cresdee, the Secretary of all six fairs, who provided so much help and so much material. He was in fact the backbone of the whole range of fairs. Sadly, both he and his wife have now died. He will never be forgotten by those involved in the Buckland and Bantham Fairs.

Let me end by quoting a real Devonshire poem which was published in the 1978 Fair programme; "Greetings Vrum Dere Ol' Deb'n":

Yurs a welcum vrum dere ol' Deb'n
The zunniest place this side o' Heaven
Vull o' 'istory an' claims to vane,
With "Scrumpy", "Dumplings" an' "Clotted crane.
Quaint thatched cottages, an' vields zo green,
The purtiest scenery yu've ever zeen
The wild rolling moors, so majestic an' grand,
Wi' deep wooded valleys, an' zea clos at 'and.
In Deb'n the fust thing the local volks zay
Iz "Do 'ee 'ave a dish o' tay.
Yu'll cum again in vuture years
We're sartin sure o' that, m'dears!

R.ROBINSON.

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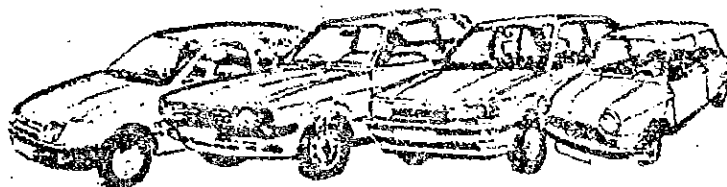
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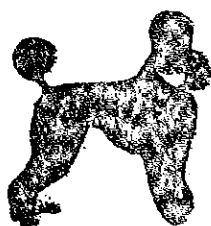
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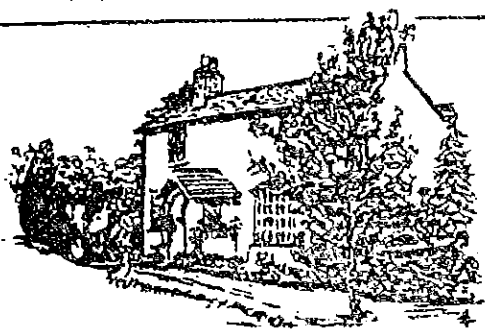
To find me: Take the Kingsbridge-Totnes A381 and just before Totnes Cross Filling Station note a lane on your right signposted 'Ritzon Farms only'. Turn in this lane through the Ritzon farmyard and begin looking for my Warren Farm signboard at a little lane on your right. Sounds more complicated than it is!

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PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER - THE ANSWERS:

(a) 2,9 (b) 1,14 (c) 12,29 (d) 10,11 (e) 8,27 (f) 13,28 (g) 4,20
(h) 32,21 (i) 24,26 (j) 6,18 (k) 3,31 (l) 16,19 (m) 5,22 (n) 17,25
(o) 7,30 (p) 15,33. Leaving just one word - Estuary.

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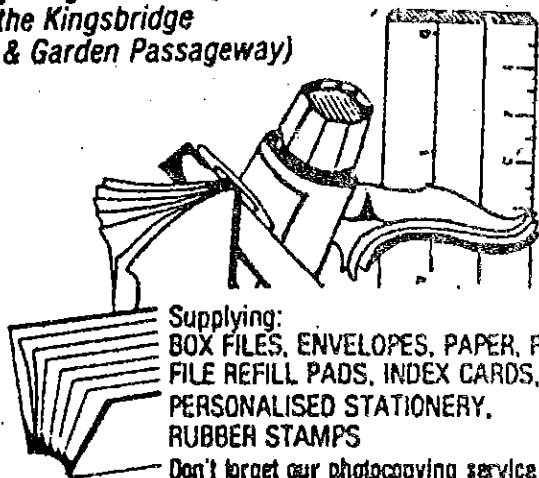
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