

# VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY — MARCH

1991



THURLESTONE ROCK, DEVON.



Founded by Dudley  
DRABBLE  
1982.



Cover pictures  
by  
LEN HUBBARD.

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560239

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It was a year ago that Village Voice first wrote about the future development of Homefield Farm. In fact, in the February-March issue of 1990 we showed you the first plans for the first major alteration to the heart of Thurlestone Village for nearly 1,000 years.

We know that Thurlestone had a "home farm" in 1068 because it was so recorded in the Domesday Book. So when you are dealing with something so ancient and so central to the village, it behoves all concerned to tread with extreme care. Get this wrong and the village will be blighted for ever more.

Exactly a year ago too we warned of the dangers to the village if planners and developers were allowed free rein. But we also said that if we had to lose the farm on economic grounds, the sort of replacements envisaged in the first drawings might be something with which the village could live.

Now we hear that outline planning permission has been given for the conversion of some of the farm buildings into four dwellings and a shop, and the erection of four new houses (one less than on the original plans) so presumably this enables the farm owners, Evans Estates, who have a fine record of conservation, to go to developers with the site.

Next step is an application for detailed planning consent and new plans which must show what the finished job will look like, what goes where, access and parking and so on.

This is an opportunity, not for a display of those advanced architectural ideas, loved only by architects and hated by those with souls who have to live with them, but for a fitting design for what is probably the most sensitive site in the whole of the South Hams today, curling as it does around the parish church, which itself dates back to early in the 13th century.

It is up to all of us to make sure that any development which is not totally fitting gets the boot before planners let it slide by.

# I remember...

This time the memories come from Gertrude Elizabeth Burns, a Mitchelmore before she married. She has now moved from No.1, Church House Cottages, where this interview took place, and is now living in her retirement home in Kingsbridge.

"I WAS BORN IN WHAT IS NOW No.2 The Nook in Thurlestone. I'm 87; I'll be 88 in March. I went to live in Devonport after I married in 1926 when I was 23. I was married in the Church by Canon Majendie and Miss Fellowes, who used to live in Snowdens played the organ - she used to play every Sunday for the services.

The village itself hasn't changed. The village street was more or less as it is now. Course the great big trees near the stores have gone. But the village hasn't changed. It's the people who have changed.

When I was little I used to go and play with Miss Ilbert, that was Miss Margaret Ilbert. That was in the old school. My dear Mother used to pay threepence a week for us to go to school. My three sisters were there and I've got a photograph taken with all the girls when I was 18 months old. The teacher, Mrs. Connolly, came down to our house and asked my mother if she'd let me go to be in the school photo. She said 'yes' and I was.

In those days Cradles Cottage used to be Mrs. Pound's shop. Home Cottage was in three and Mrs. Moore lived in there. She had about six children. Bill Hosking and Nurse Hosking and her sister used to live there too. Then there was Mr. Silas Moore and his wife, the German.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill were in Woodbine with Charlie Hill. Beattie Bevill, who married Charlie later, used to live down here with her mother at No.3 Church House Cottages. Mrs. Bevill used to live on the side nearest the stores - it only had one front door - and Mrs. Clark the other.

The windows have been altered in Church Cottages. The windows were right up high when the cottages belonged to the Church and the cottages were only one room deep and it was so dark inside. There wasn't any back kitchens. They were put on when the Council took the cottages over. I remember Mr. Willie Grose coming in and saying 'Oh my goodness, aren't you dark in here..we must get something done about this...'. And then the Council came and dug down and put the windows in lower down.

When I was very little the school was in the old schoolhouse, next to Snowdens. We used to come through Snowdens and down the steps in the front to the street. Those steps are covered in now. Changed the look of the village for me that did. Mrs. Snowden used to have a little tearoom out the front there looking down on the road. She used to sell teas and I used to go up there to look after her Albert, Albert Snowden.

Mrs. Connolly, the teacher, had a daughter and two sons, Fred and Patrick. There used to be a well up the back of the school where we used to draw water for the school. It was all covered over later, but Gordon Jeffery found it not that long ago when they were doing some building work up there.

Continued overleaf.

Course, the pump over the well in the village by the stores hasn't been gone all that long. All the women always wore pattens, wooden shoes, when they went to collect water. My mother certainly did. The dear old things put on their black shawls and bonnets when they did. They nearly all wore black. Later we had a tap with a sink out the back, but we still got most of our water from the pump.

There was a tap too at the corner of the Bantham road and that's where old Mr. Pound used to sit ready for a chat - that's opposite our Post Office then which was where the gate to Snowdens is now and has all been knocked into one house.

I left school when I was 13 and I went down to Mr. Moore, the butcher down at Buckland, to look after his two children, Elsie and Leslie. I was paid 18 pence a week, but then you see you had your food. My mother said 'Never mind the money, you'll have good food and we'll manage.'

To be continued.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

HAVE YOU GOT

A LIDSTONE

IN YOUR HOUSE?

If you have, of course, you have something valuable and much sought after by antique collectors, but the question was really aimed at those with the name Lidstone in their family tree, not the proud possessors of those famous Lidstone kitchen ranges.

For into the hands of Village Voice's veteran book-reviewer has fallen a new book "Lidstone of the South Hams of Devon" by Hugh R.G. Lidstone. From that you will realise that the book is the family history of the Lidstones, who stretch back in time to the first record of the name in 1238. But the book is more than that - it is the finest example of a privately-printed family history that I have seen for many a long year. Well-written with photographs and maps, it is well worth the £15 it costs (including both home or overseas postage) to anyone with a hint of Lidstone in their personal history. A fat book of 241 pages, it was its back cover picture of Thurlestone in the late 1800s which first caught my eye. In the index you'll find no less than 19 pages which concern Thurlestone.

Not surprising because Hugh Lidstone writes of Thurlestone as the ancestral home of the majority of the Lidstone family branches "There are," he records, "no less than 165 Lidstone (or variant names) entries in the Thurlestone registers from when they started in 1558 up to 1658 and a further 98 in the next 100 years! From the earliest times up to the end of the 19th century, nearly

POSTBAG EXTRA.

DEAR EDITORS,

As you, and probably most of your readers, know, Kingsbridge Age Concern operates a Day Centre, Luncheon Club and Advice Centre in Quay House, Kingsbridge and, for the past 9 months, a Visiting Service whereby lonely old people are visited on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, a number of our longer serving members are having to withdraw their services, leaving us a little short-handed. May I, through your letters column, ask if any of your readers would be willing to spare us a few hours each week by either assisting at the Day Centre and Luncheon Club or visiting lonely old people in their own homes?

If anyone could would they give their names to our Hon. Sec (856601) or Mrs. Jean Stephenson (560337) please. Many thanks.

DENNIS VINCE, Hon. Secretary,  
KINGSBRIDGE AGE CONCERN.

---

PAT MACHIN'S

PUZZLE CORNER

THE ANSWERS:

1. fore. 2. slip. 3. king. 4. lion. 5. will.  
6. pick. 7. wind. 8. case. 9. cuff. 10. pass.  
11. lock. 12. pant. 13. rest. 14. jack. 15. late.  
16. head. 17. port. 18. free. 19. rate. 20. book.

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LIDSTONE BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED.

all Thurlestone men were employed in agriculture or fishing, whilst the women were spinning, weaving or making cider in addition to their household duties looking after large families. There were few artisans, such as carpenters, cordwainers, thatchers and the blacksmith. Nearly all the cottages were thatched. Therefore it is no surprising to find the Lidstones of the 16th and 17th centuries were yeomen owning their own farms, but mostly husbandmen tenant farmers, smallholders, fishermen and agricultural workers. The parish was very fertile and the yeomen prospered, either by cultivating crops or raising cattle, sheep and pigs. The fishermen generally live in the hamlets of Bantham and Buckland at the mouth of the River Avon, which has its salmon pool..."

But not all the book is, of course, about those times of long ago. Here you will read of the later Lidstones - those who built up the Kingsbridge blacksmith's business in the mid-1700s and made Lidstone's Foundry famous. Lidstone ranges date back about 300 years. Read too of the Lidstones who emigrated all over the world. And that emigration is the reason why you will read too of the Canadian Battle of Britain pilot, Flying Officer William Lidstone McKnight, who flew with Douglas Bader, and won the DFC and Bar. He was Calgary's leading war ace of World War II with 23 kills before he himself was shot down and killed over France in 1941 at the age of 22.

Copies of this excellent book from: HUGH LIDSTONE, 11, Furzehatt Avenue, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 8LJ.  
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VILLAGE VOICE can only be distributed FREE to RESIDENTS of the villages of the Parish.

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the Parish Rate, but it was founded on behalf of the Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship.

But this does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views or opinions of any member of Thurlestone Parish Council and should be ascribed only to the authors concerned.

Your copy is delivered to you by our volunteer distributors. In Thurlestone, this is dairyman Peter Bromfield, and in Bantham and West Buckland, Mrs. Jean Hurrell. Extra copies may be bought from 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 £5, which includes postage.



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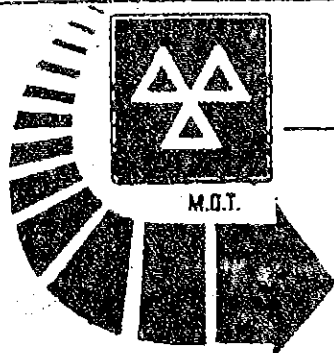
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V.Voice Feb/Mar 1991



# VILLAGER

Springs to attention and reveals all - or nearly all - about the return of the Royal Marines...explains why the Brown Bungalow is 'nt...and explains too why badgers are giving the Indian take-away a wide berth...

DEVOTED READERS OF THIS COLUMN will recall that I promised to keep you informed of all the latest about the return of the Royal Marines to Thurlestone to mark the 50th anniversary of their take-over of the Hotel in January 1941. Now I can do more than that - I can reveal that only in Village Voice will you be able to find a form to enable you to apply to take part in certain of those anniversary celebrations. That precious form will appear in the next issue of the magazine at the beginning of April.

Now to details of the latest information about the Royal Marines participation in the anniversary. Date is Thursday, June 20.

At 10.45 on that morning, the Church Parade will gather at the Parish Hall and then led by a full band of the Royal Marines will come down the village to the Church, where a special service will start at 11.30. The sermon will be given by a suitably Marine-experienced chaplain. After the service there will be a reception in a marquee in the grounds of the Hotel, followed by lunch with a high-ranking speaker. This in turn will be followed in the evening with a special dinner.

Organising these events is a committee consisting of Rector Peter Stephens, David Grose, Jim Woodrow and Royal Marine Colonel F.C.Bye, who now lives in Loddiswell and was at the Military School in the Hotel himself during the war.

But organising this sort of event, any reunion in fact, is always difficult, but this one is even more so. How many old boys of the Royal Marines Military School can Thurlestone expect? We know that some 7,000 men passed through the Hotel doors during the term of the school's stay in Thurlestone from January, 1941 to 1946. The war and time will have taken quite a number away, but as the word spreads, quite unexpected numbers may say they want to come. The Hotel already know of 100 former Marines and wives who intend to be there. Priority will of course be given to those who were here with the Marines for all these events, but parishioners will also be able to attend the lunch and/or dinner with once again priority being given to those who had links with the Marines at the time.

That is where the special form to be published in our next edition will come in. These forms will be the parishioners' special way to get tickets for the 50th anniversary events. So don't miss your April edition of Village Voice!

Continued over

## VILLAGER continued.

By the way, did you know that the Church will hold 220 by the use of extra chairs? So I suspect, if my guess at the numbers who will want to attend is anywhere near accurate, that we are going to see a service relayed outside our Church for the first time in its 1600-year history! But that's not all. A village events committee, chaired by Derrick Yeoman, plans to mark the anniversary with a wartime musical evening on the Friday, and "1940's Day" on the village green with stalls offering a lunch of the time. Look out for Spam, rabbit pie, and powdered egg dishes, though one popular dish of the day will not be on offer. Whale steaks would not be so popular now! On the Saturday, too there will be a "hop" at the Hall in 40's dress and Glenn Miller type music.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...I have been asked why the Brown Bungalow in Post Office Lane (as we always call it) was called that when it quite clearly isn't brown at all. Well, yes, its walls today are white, but they are only that colour because Squadron-Leader Michael Wray, its owner, got some panels from the Bolt Head airfield when a lot of the buildings were being dismantled after the end of the Second World War, and put them over the brown walls of the original World War One prefab which it was. Perhaps we'll see the original colour when the demolition starts and before they cart Thurlestone's thatched prefab away.

BEFORE OUR LOCAL INDIAN TAKE-AWAY GETS QUITE CARRIED AWAY with the repeated calls on its services by a well-known grand hotelier and dreams of supplying his august establishment with their products, I think I should enlighten them about the reason for his apparent infatuation with their Vindaloo. Sadly, though he loves a good curry, he uses this super-hot product as a badger deterrent.

"I like badgers," he says, "but they can be very destructive and dig up a good lawn in next to no time. So I recommend spreading curry powder over any lawn to which they have taken a fancy and I use vindaloo around my low fruit trees to stop the badgers getting at the apples. It works!"

Now if it works on rabbits too, I forecast a lot of Biryani around the bunkers of the golf course..

DOG LOVERS, who take their pets for walkies along Thurlestone Parish beaches had better watch out. Moves at Parish Council level are afoot to do something about the mess on the beaches now that the sewage problem is within sight of being solved.

They were told that one count of the number of dogs on one beach - Bantham - at one moment on one day was the astonishing total of 70!

Certainly it sounds as though the Council are going to try and do something about stopping dogs messing up their newly-clean beaches (when it happens). Buying a few poopa-scoopas will not solve the problem when, as the Council were told, people come from miles inland with their dogs for a regular walk on the beach.

No doubt every dog lover in the parish will tell the Councillors that it is not their dog to blame...

# **Grand JUMBLE Sale**

## **Thurlestone Parish Hall**

### **2.30pm Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Owing to two difficult years we are short of funds and to keep the Show on the Road we have decided to have a Jumble Sale.

#### THIS IS YOUR SHOW

PLEASE support it by letting us have all your (good quality) jumble either on the morning of 16th March, after 10 am at the Parish Hall, or please contact the member of the Committee nearest to you who will gladly collect from you. Names and telephone numbers are listed below.

The Show gives a lot of pleasure and it would be a shame if we had to give up

**SO PLEASE DO HELP IN ANY WAY YOU CAN**

The **PLANT SALE** will take place in **THURLESTONE PARISH HALL** on **Saturday 18th May** at **2.30 pm**. Please make a note in your diary now to buy your bedding and vegetable plants for the summer. Contributions will be gratefully received at the Parish Hall after 10 am on the morning of 18th May or please contact the member of the Committee nearest to you who will gladly collect from you.

**MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL:** don't forget that **THE SHOW** takes place this year on

**3rd AUGUST in THURLESTONE PARISH HALL**

when we hope for a bumper crop of entries in all sections.

**GOOD LUCK !**

Committee Members: Ben Horn (560000) ) South Milton  
Alf Amess (560336) )

Dick White (560368) Pat Macdonald (560436) )  
Doris Tyler (560662) Derrick Yeoman (560607) ) Thurlestone  
Chalky and Veronica White (560236) )  
David Coward (560792) West Buckland  
Tony Church (560661) Bentham

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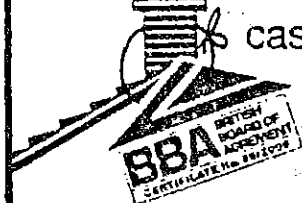
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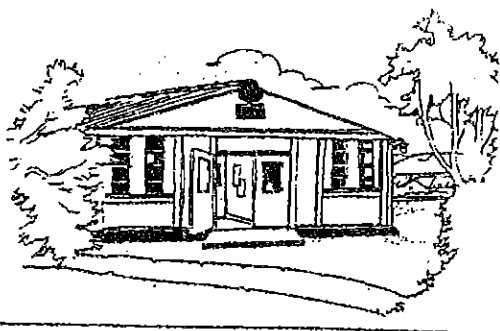


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## THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

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MANY VILLAGES have a tradition of holding a pancake race - what about us?

So here we go with...

THE THURLESTONE LADIES PANCAKE RACE. This major classic will be run on TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY at 10.30 a.m. (Prompt).

This event is open to all the ladies in Thurlestone, Bantham, West Buckland and South Milton.

Please support this event -

1. By ENTERING the race. The skill of tossing the pancakes is more important than the running.
2. By booking this date to support the runners en route.

Come rain or shine, the run will be from The Old Rectory to the Thurlestone Hotel. So the best vantage points for watching this sensational struggle will be from the raised path opposite Broads.

It is hoped that all clubs, associations, shops, hotels will be represented as well as those competing as individuals.

Runners need only provide a pancake pan with a base measurement of approx seven inches. Pancakes will be provided for this base size

Names of entrants to reach the following by Sunday 10th February:

Mrs. Mollie Oswald  
(560555)

Mrs Jean Yeoman  
(560607)

Mrs. Joan Mackenzie  
(560671)

The organisers can take no responsibility for any accident or injury occurring during this event.

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Thurlestone Parish Hall changes:

Booking Secretary: Mrs. Doris Tyler, 6, Glebefield,  
Thurlestone, TQ7 3NA. Tel: 560662.

Caretaker: Mrs. Joyce Hunt, 16, Court Park, Thurlestone,  
TQ7 3IX. Tel: 560225.

Continued

THURLESTONE AND WEST BUCKLAND W.I.

PRESIDENT TRICIA MILLMAN welcomed 50 members and two visitors to the January meeting. New Members Packs were presented to Norma Kendall, Dyane Newcombe and Joyce Drummond.

Surg.Capt.Fergus Mackenzie was the guest speaker and his talk was entitled "The Birds and the Bees", in which he told of some ways our forebears adopted to provide a ready supply of sustenance, in particular pigeon meat and honey. He showed a wonderful collection of slides of South Devon dovecotes, pigeon holes, and wall niches for beehives. Val Brown gave a warm vote of thanks, expressing members' appreciation, and said there was a lot to be said for today, when, instead of risking life and limb climbing up into a dovecot for fresh meat, or being badly stung trying to get at the honey, you could go along to the village shops and buy a chicken and a jar of honey from the shelf!

The enjoyable and successful Christmas lunch in December made a profit of £42.00 for funds and the special raffle had raised £45.00 for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. A cheque for £125.00 was given to the Parish Hall funds through its committee chairman, Mrs.Joan Mackenzie, as a result of the Forties Evening held in November.

The budget for 1991 was presented by Treasurer Joan Reece, and agreed by the meeting. Two coffee mornings will be held (on 14th May and 19th November at "Devoran" and "Cowrie House" respectively) in aid of Institute Funds.

As the competition for the next Sea Coast meeting was "A parcel for Rumania" - when all entries would be donated to that charity - there would be competitions in February, March and April, starting with a child's scrapbook, then in March a child's stuffed toy, followed in April by a child's knitted sweater. Everyone was urged to enter, no matter whether they felt they were not up to competition standard, as we wanted to make our contribution to Rumanian aid a good one.

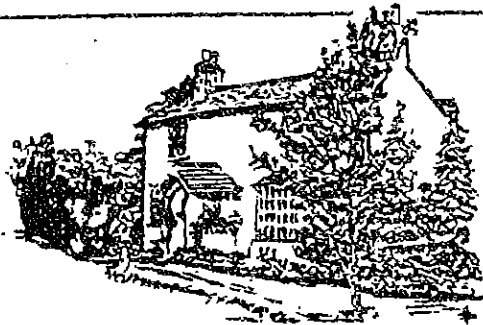
It was agreed that in future when any member took part in the Devon Federation's golf competition the Institute would pay the entry fee. Alice Foster would be starting a 6-week class on flower-arranging, in the Parish Hall, open to members and non-members, on 23rd January, 2.00 to 3.30 p.m., cost £8.00 the six - bring a container plus flowers and foliage.

Several members would be attending the Resolutions Special Meeting at Charleton during the month to vote on the short list of resolutions for the Triennial Conference at the NEC Birmingham in June.

An entry would be made in the Parish Hall Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday and Eve Cuming was volunteered as our contestant for this prestigious event. All members are required to line the Village Street, from the Rectory downwards, to shout suitable (helpful) words of encouragement on the Great Day.

The speaker at our February meeting is Mr.A.D.Elliott on "The History of Big Ben". We start at 2.30 p.m. and would be happy to welcome any ladies who would care to come along as visitors to the Parish Hall on February 14th.

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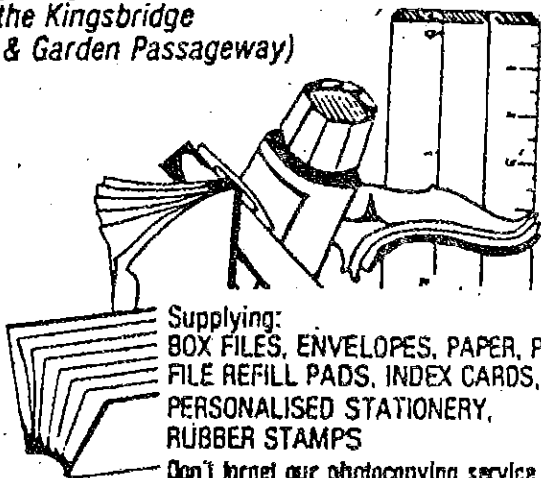
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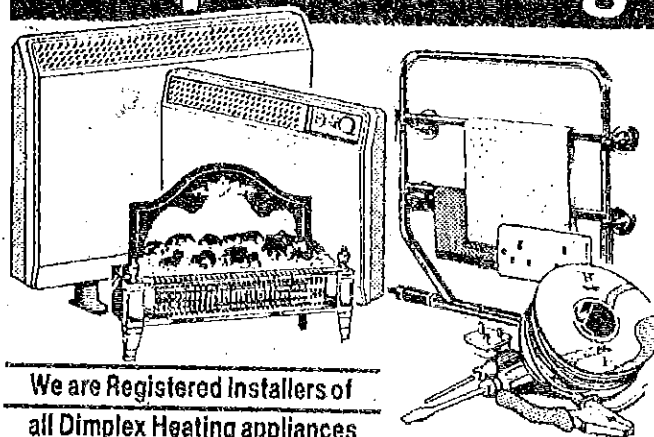
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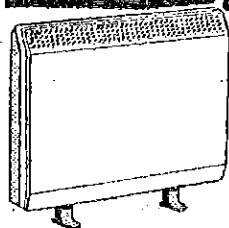
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# Neville OSWALD reports



SOMETIMES, WHEN WALKING DOWN OUR VILLAGE STREET, I GLANCE AT the rows of cottages and think of the generations of housewives who sat in their front rooms spinning and weaving wool whilst keeping their eyes on youngsters playing in the rough and muddy road outside.

We do not have precise accounts of the ways they passed their time, but we do know how important the few pennies they earned were in supporting the meagre wages of their husbands, most of whom worked on the farms. Certainly there was no shortage of wool; there have been sheep in the parish for many hundreds of years, enclosed in fields by hedges much as they are today, or by stone walls of the kind which still exist on the golf course.

In Saxon Britain there was no real cloth industry. Instead, housewives made enough cloth to satisfy the needs of their families. That was probably the situation when William the Conqueror sent down a couple of men in 1086 to look the parish over in connection with the Domesday survey. They found no more than a dozen scattered homesteads, some of which had been ravaged by marauding Irishmen of all people a short time before; the farmers had their cattle and sheep and crops and there were plenty of fish in the sea, but there was little if any contact with the outside world.

During the 1100s and 1200s more and more sheep were raised, almost all the surplus wool in the county being sent to Exeter where some of it was made into cloth, but most of it was exported to the Continent. By the year 1200 the cloth industry was well established, with local centres supplying the local needs. Kingsbridge was granted a market in 1219 and Thurlestone villagers must have taken at least some of their wool there and maybe some of their cloth as well. By 1250 Totnes had become the local collecting centre for wool and cloth in the southern half of the county and was then sufficiently developed for the town to present King Henry III with a russet-coloured cover for his bed.

In the 1200s and 1300s the wool trade became the second most important industry in the county, after farming, and remained so in the following centuries. It all came about through the development of fulling mills or tucking mills as they are usually known in Devon. Since Saxon times, water mills had been used for grinding corn. These were adapted or built anew for fulling cloth wherever there were swift running streams to supply the power. Villagers all over the county took their cloth to the nearest mill to be cleaned, shrunk and thickened in water before being sent on to Exeter and Totnes for further refinement and dyeing. The cloth was rough and coarse and was known as STRAITS, its quality being assessed by 'aulnagers' who were appointed to see that it conformed to the requirements of the law.

Continued overleaf.

NEVILLE OSWALD continues:

During the 1400s, KERSEYS, rather finer and of better quality than the straits, were woven all over Devon, especially in the villages. After collection and finishing at Exeter and Totnes, some 100,000 yards were sent overseas each year, principally to France and Spain, via London.

Totnes became a wealthy town with John Giles of Bowden (by the hill looking right on the way down to the town) the richest merchant in Devon; the prosperity continued into the 1500s when the impressive merchant houses were built in Fore Street during Elizabeth's reign. The splendid fulling mill at Tuckenhay (turn right in Harbertonford) thrived; it was converted in a paper mill in the 1830s and the considerable relics are well worth seeing. Most of the wool and cloth was shipped out of Dartmouth.

In about 1570 light worsted fabrics called NEW DRAPERIES were introduced from Holland, but workers in the South Hams were too busy making profits from kerseys to take much notice at first. Soon after 1600 a brand of new draperies appeared in Devon called SERGES or PERPETUANDOS to indicate their long-wearing quality. By the end of the century they had ousted all other wools from the county. They brought much wealth to Exeter and North Devon, Exeter being served by thousands of villagers within a range of 20 miles and northern towns increasing their output by importing wool from Ireland. Vast quantities of serges were exported to Germany, Holland and Spain, mainly through the port of Topsham.

In and around Totnes, kerseys and new draperies never really caught on, instead their own NARROW PIN WHITES were made. Then the Civil War of the 1640s rather finished off the town as an industrial centre. Instead, impoverished Royalists, many with large families, went to live there and gave the place an air of gentility which has continued to this day. The Royal Seven Stars Hotel at the bottom of Fore Street was built for their social functions, allowing their carriages and pairs to drive clean through the entrance to the reception hall. With the decline of Totnes, Dartmouth lost nearly all its wool trade, but managed to pick up a little from Ashburton.

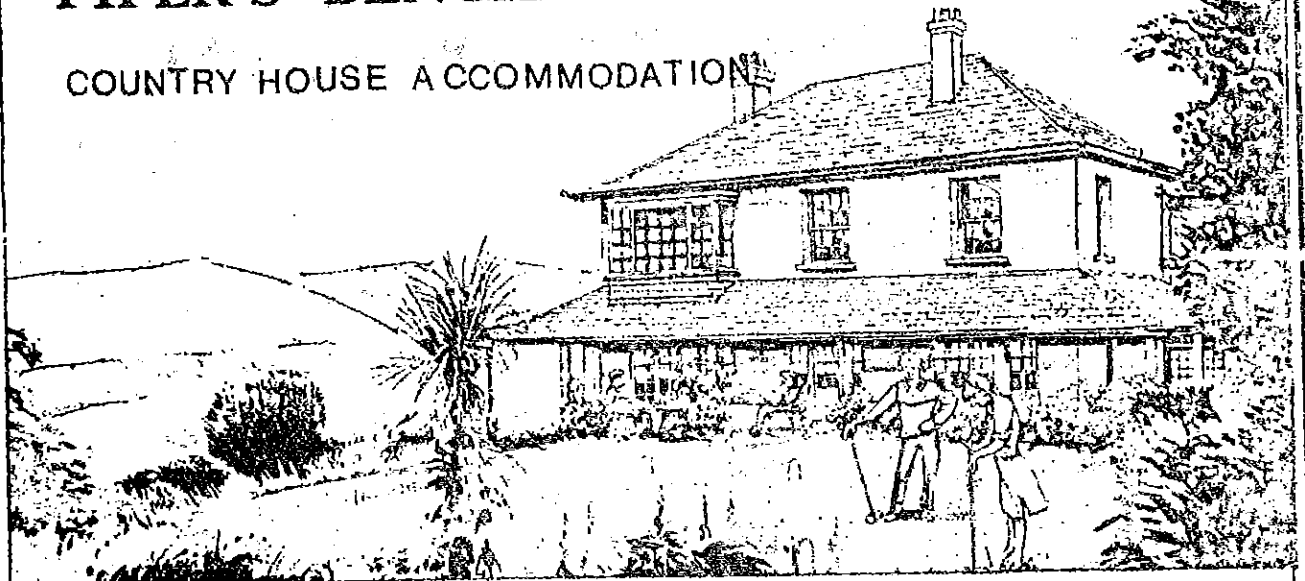
The profitable export trade in serges continued until the 1730s when finer and less costly Norwich STUFFS began to take over the market. Tiverton clothmakers, with 56 fulling mills to support, began to worry. They sent a man to Norwich to learn about stuffs and when his purpose was discovered he was lucky to escape with his life. Stuffs were successfully made in Tiverton for a few years in the 1750s, but then almost incessant overseas wars ruined the export market and the introduction of steam power and coal to drive large machines in the Midlands and Northern England led to the manufacture of cheap cloth that Devonians could not match.

When cotton began to be imported in large quantities from the 1780s, the Devon wool trade was almost killed, although it managed to keep going on a reduced rate for another 50 years by sending serges to China. Finally the Exeter cloth trade disappeared with the loss of foreign markets during the Napoleonic wars. Since then wool factories have been started in Devon from time to time but none, other than Axminster with its carpets, has made much headway.

\*\*\* Highly Commended.

# PIPER'S BENCH — THURLESTONE

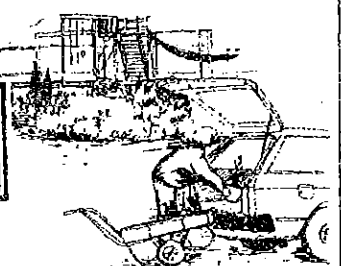
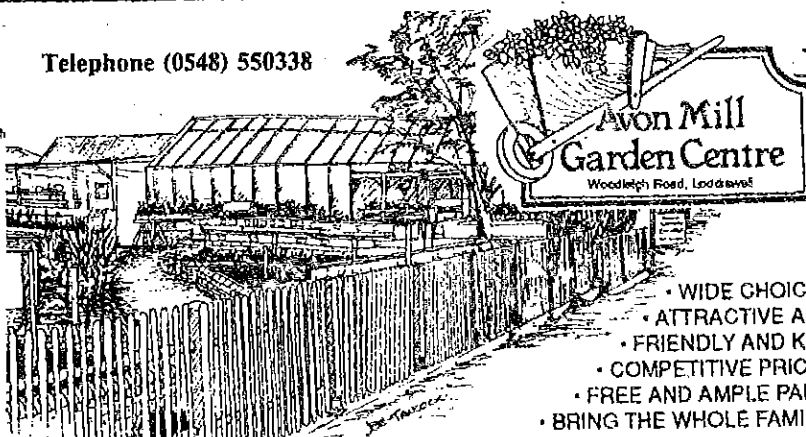
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# PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

Everyone has some kind of financial arrangement because we all have financial needs. Your present affairs have probably been managed by a number of individuals. You may be receiving advice from a Bank or Building Society, Solicitor, Accountant, Insurance Agent, Investment Manager, Stock Broker, Tax Consultant, Pension Advisor, Mortgage Broker or even a colleague down at the pub, all willing to advise on their own piece of your financial jigsaw. Problems arise because they often tend to work in isolation so there is no co-ordination and organisation of all the pieces that form your Personal Financial Plan.

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Yes, but as you would expect your financial planner does not replace any of your existing advisers, instead he works with them to achieve your present and future goals. He does this through the preparation of a written Financial Plan which is designed and implemented following consultation.

Your planner's aim is to make money for you and also to save you money. He will often bring to your attention ideas that may reduce your taxation, improve investment, increase income or capital growth, check out existing financial arrangements such as life and pension products ensuring that they are doing exactly the job you want them to, or even ways of reducing your costs and expenses budget. He will prepare a business plan which will help you identify and make full beneficial use of your current resources. Above all, your Personal Financial Plan will be your control document giving you a clear grasp of your present and future finances. Your plan will not just be a calculation of assets and liabilities, or incomes and outgoings. It will be much more, simply because it will clearly define your objectives, ambitions and goals over a timescale decided by you. Your plan is therefore individually tailor-made to your own specifications.

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# PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

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MYSTIFYING MISSING LINK  
PROBLEMS!

Can you find the missing link between these pairs of words by filling the spaces in the brackets. Each word has just four letters. For example sign (post) code.

1. there (       ) word
2. cow (       ) shod
3. par (       ) fisher
4. medal (       ) hearted
5. free (       ) power
6. tooth (       ) packet
7. wood (       ) pipe
8. brief (       ) mate
9. hand (       ) link
10. under (       ) over
11. row (       ) smith
12. ram (       ) her
13. arm (       ) rain
14. flap (       ) daw
15. emu (       ) rally
16. over (       ) ache
17. sup (       ) ray
18. care (       ) lance
19. lace (       ) payer
20. case (       ) case.

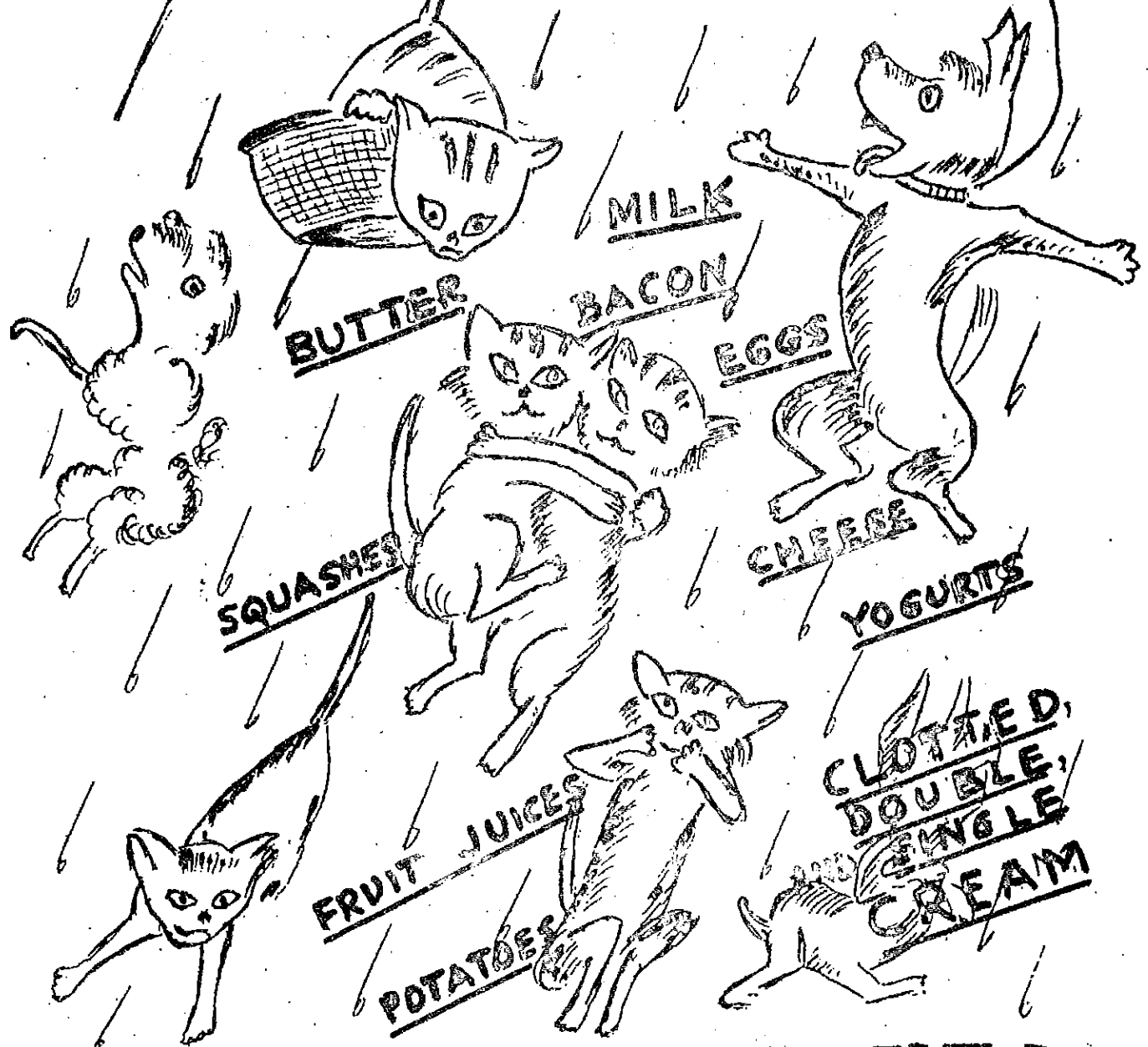
Answers to the missing link puzzle appear on a later page in this issue.

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## THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

How strange that a tree should die on a development just when it got in the way of building some garages. Perhaps it committed suicide...

# WHATEVER THE WEATHER



• PETER BROMFIELD •

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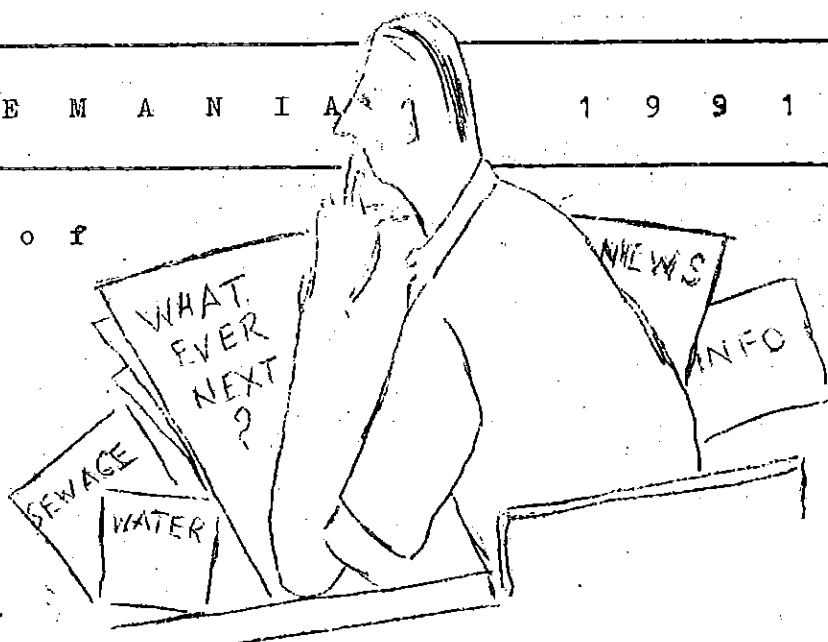
1 9 9 1

A Miscellany of  
This and  
That.....

# WE WANT IT BACK !

In a Saxon Charter of  
845 mention is made of a  
boundary point called Torleston,

a name which is considered to be derived from the Saxon word 'Thryl' or 'Thyrel', a name which means 'hole' and the verb 'Thyrelian' which means to pierce. Thus, 'Hole Stone' or 'Thurlestone' which describes the arched rock lying some quarter mile off-shore. This parish obviously derived its name therefrom. Was it lost to the parish through battle? Was it sold off by some hard-up Lord of the Manor? Or, was it pinched? It so obviously belongs to Thurlestone that the parish should consider claiming its own'. If you have any ideas drop a note to the Editor !



## It was thuggery !

+ + + + +

Perhaps Mrs Thatcher should take note of something Michael Foot said some years ago. W Political toleration is a by-product of the complacency of the ruling class. When that complacency is disturbed there never was a more bloody-minded set of thugs than the British ruling-class." !!

## Salt of the Earth

+ + + + +

Most people throughout the land must be familiar with common salt, which has been important for preserving and flavouring for very many years. But salt has not always been common. In the first century AD, salt was obtained by boiling brine, in the Fens and along the East Coast. Inland mines and salt springs provided other sources, but transporting such a heavy valuable cargo along primitive roads and tracks made the commodity rare in places, and costly.

Such was salt's value that Roman soldiers were partly paid in it, introducing the word 'salary' into the English language (sal being the latin word for salt). The full term 'salt salary' was changed with time to now describe the vessel containing the condiment - the 'salt cellar'.

As salt was precious and often hard to come by, it needed careful storage. By the 11th century, all but the poorest of homes kept salt in niches built in the wall of the hearth, where it stayed dry and handy for cooking. On the table, the salt was put in a box or bowl, decorated to denote the household's wealth, the table guests sat either 'above' or 'below' the salt according to their status.

Salt has always been a sign of purity and virtue. Predictably, it became an amulet against the devil, leading to the custom of sprinkling coffins with salt as a protective measure and causing the spilling of salt to herald bad luck. But times have changed, and salt is now often removed from the table for health reasons, but its worth has been preserved in the many phrases what echo its history.

MORE.....

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL AUDIT OF 1989-90 ACCOUNTS

After due astonishment at the cost on our Community Charge of District Councillor's expense account, perhaps the following extract from a letter I received from the District Auditor will be of interest:

"Members are entitled to claim travelling, subsistence and attendance allowances for carrying out approved duties as a councillor; these duties are broadly, attendance at council and committee meetings and other approved council business. The maxima rates of them are prescribed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. An attendance allowance for carrying out an approved duty may be claimed as of right; but a member instead of claiming this allowance may opt to claim a financial loss allowance if he gives notice in writing to the Council. He cannot claim both an attendance and a financial loss allowance. In my experience members generally claim the attendance allowance and not the financial loss allowance. I have no power to limit the amount of expenses claimed by any member."

+ + + + +

BIRTHS IN WEDLOCK LOWEST SINCE 1847 !

It is reported that unmarried women gave birth to 186,000 babies in 1989, but happily, the numbers living with the fathers of the children is on the increase ! Seventy percent of unmarried parents registered births jointly - many giving the same address.

Abortions have almost doubled in the past 18 years, from 95,000 in 1971 to 184,000 in 1989. Is it any wonder that hospital services are getting more overloaded. There were 347,000 marriages - but 151,000 divorces in 1989.

+ + + + +

At six I was left an orphan. What on earth is a six-year old supposed to do with an orphan ?

+ + + + +

WE'VE LEARNT TO LIVE WITH SEWAGE POLLUTION & TRAFFIC POLLUTION . . . .

Do we now face something a touch more serious.? The latest call by the National Radiological Protection Board is a dramatic response to surveys which show that houses in the South West face high levels of Radon Gas. I was under the impression that the only people who had to worry were those living in the 'granite areas', but it would seem the battle against this cancer linked gas has been stepped up by scientists who want every one of the 500,000 homes in Devon and Cornwall checked. If the NRPS recommendation is accepted by the authorities, all surveys for the gas in the two counties will be free. Report dated 7.11.90

Yet a further Report speaks of pollution from London and the South East fouling Westcountry air as prevailing breezes blow city smog hundreds of miles west. Department of Environment figures reveal that air pollution levels in the South West over the past twelve months were the worst in Britain. Mike Weaver, West Country Tourist Board marketing manager said " ...the figures could have long-term implications for the holiday trade"

And I, poor soul, always understood the prevailing wind of England was South Westerly. How wrong can you be!

+ + + + +

What makes common house flies trying - is that they keep multiflying !

MORE:....



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Mr. David Grose - - - - 560375

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PARISH CLERK: Mr. W. G. Ladd 560686

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SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL:

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KINGSBRIDGE POLICE STATION: 85 2326

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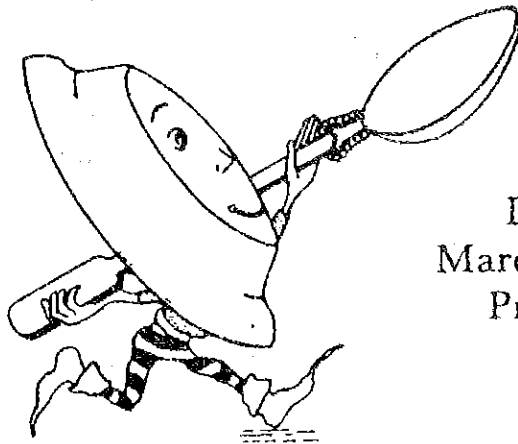
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## D R A B B L E M A N I A   P a r t   I I I

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### I T   H A P P E N S   E V E R Y   T E N   Y E A R S   I

1991 is another NATIONAL CENSUS YEAR, an event which occurs every ten years. There is nothing really new about such an event, but it has changed a good deal since the first Census was held on 10th March 1801 when the simple aim was to count the numbers of households in Britain and the number of people in them. The total then was just 10½ million.

APRIL 21st 1991 will be Census day when around 117,000 enumerators will be released around Britain to see that everyone is included in the Census.

In practice this means that the head of each household will have to fill - in ink - the 12 page Census form, and include every member of the household - even a baby born on Census day !

About a week before Census day the enumerator allocated Thurlestone Parish will deliver a Census form personally to each household. He or she, will carry an authority card, and will be able to answer any questions you might have on how to fill in the form. The enumerator will return a few days later to collect the completed form.

EVERY household has to fill in a Census form. You cannot opt out not to take part ! That would be against the 1920 Census Act. Failure to give the information asked for on the form could lead to a fine up to £400, and anyone making false statements or failing to complete the whole form could find that they land up in court.

Although people are required by law to provide the information requested on Census forms, they are also protected by that law. The Census Act 1920 and the Census Regulations 1990 lay down panalties for the unlawful disclosure of information from the Census by everyone involved in taking it. Confidentiality is the keyword. Indeed, I should know, for I acted as a Census Officer for all of this area in the 1961 and 1971 Census, which is when I realised there is no other way of obtaining vital information on the changing pattern of modern living. The only possible exception to the strict rule of confidentiality is where someone refuses to complete the Census form. It could be produced in evidence in court !

---

### TO FOLLOW THAT - ON 2nd MAY 1991 we have the DISTRICT & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS .....

Of course, as I have mentioned previously, there will only be an Election for the Thurlestone District Council seat if there is more than one nomination. For the Parish Council there must be more than seven nominations to cause an Election. Nomination papers will be available in due course, for either District or Parish Council. Apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes TQ9 5NE - or have a word with the Parish Clerk - Mr W.G.Ladd (Telephone 560686

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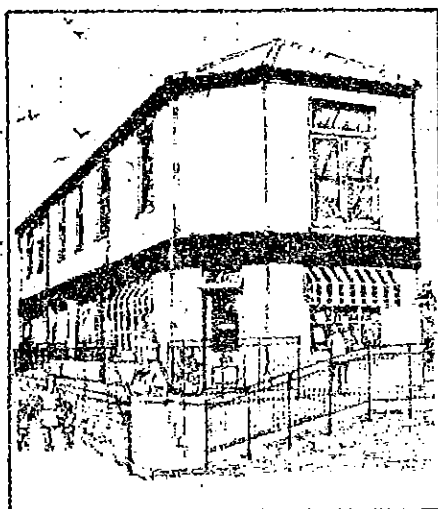
When the heart is troubled with an aching restlessness  
When the soul is tossed upon the waters of distress,  
Close the door upon the world with all its whirl & noise.  
In the quiet of your home seek peace and simple joys.

(Patience Strong (born Winifred Emma May on 4th June 1907) died in August 1990. In 1927 she wrote the lyrics for the Lawrence Wright tune 'Jealousy' )

---

End of Part III

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# LOCAL NEWS .. .. .

THE KINGSBRIDGE AND THURLESTONE BRANCH of the NSPCC thank everyone who helped to make their Christmas Bazaar such an enormous success. Over £700 was raised - 'For the Sake of the Children'.

THE RISING GENERATION would like to thank all the parents and friends who supported our Christmas Show.

Our raffle, which raised £45 was donated to the Parish Hall to help with lighting costs. Thank you to everyone who kindly contributed the super prizes. And a special thank you to all the team who worked so hard and gave so much of their time to make the evening such a success. Happy New Year! See you all again on December 16th this year!

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB. Despite our Christmas Lunch co-inciding with the Bridge Club Christmas Dinner, over 30 members attended, some apparently having digestive systems able enough to cope with a duplicate meal in the evening!

Our first meeting in the New Year will be the AGM on February 8th. This will be preceded by the Ladies Evening at the Cottage Hotel on Saturday, February 2nd. To date 68 members and wives have confirmed they will be attending together with three guests, bringing the total number present to over 70 again. At the March 8th meeting Wing-Commander Denis Luke will be telling of his experiences as an air attache. D.M.YEOMAN, Hon Secretary (560300).

KENDALL McDONALD, WHO RECENTLY confessed in our letters column to being a complete idiot, having locked the keys inside his car in the Kingsbridge top car park, tells Village Voice that Thurlestone residents have rallied round to help him not to repeat the performance. Among the list of complete cures recommended to him is a little magnetic box from the likes of Halfords in which you put the spare key and then attach it under a bumper. That sounds reasonable, but he is still trying to work out whether another resident was pulling his leg when she seriously told him to put the spare key in his pocket!

IF THERE ARE MORE FRENCH AND DUTCH tourists around the lanes this coming summer, you can put the blame on a new tourist drive by South Hams District Council. Their tourism department has produced new brochures in Dutch and French for distribution in both Holland and France. Dartmoor, you'll be pleased to know is headlined "Mysterieuze Heidelandschappen" in one, and what seems to be Burgh Island is described as a place of "magic and passion at night" in the other!

SOUTH HAMS MOBILE LIBRARY is calling at Bantham, West Buckland, Thurlestone, Thurlestone Sands and South Milton, fortnightly on Fridays from February 8. Times are Bantham (10.15); Old Chapel, West Buckland (10.35); Village Hall, Thurlestone (10.55); Bus stop, Thurlestone (11.20); Thurlestone Sands (12.05); South Milton, Sunnyside (1.25), Backshay Close (1.45) and Sutton (2.40).

# Kate's Kitchen



Soups, SAYS KATE, are one of the earliest known methods of cooking. Later when food became more sophisticated, the lowly soup was thought to be no more than 'peasants food'. But today people are aware of soup's economical and nutritional value...

SOUPS CAN BE as simple or extravagant as you wish, depending on whether you are serving them as a nourishing meal or an appetizing starter.

Both of the following recipes have simple ingredients, but can be "dressed up".

## Carrot and Orange Soup:

6 ozs Onions, peeled and chopped finely  
1½ lbs Carrots, scraped and chopped finely  
1 oz Butter  
1¾ pints Chicken Stock  
¼ pint Orange Juice  
Salt and freshly-ground Black Pepper  
Grated Carrot or Orange Rind to garnish  
3 tablesp. Orange Liqueur (optional)  
2 tablesp. Double or Whipping Cream (optional)

Put onions and carrots into a large saucepan with the butter. Cover closely with a piece of greaseproof paper, cover and cook on a very low heat for 15 minutes. Remove paper, add stock and orange juice. Bring to the boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for approx. 40 minutes, until the carrots are soft. Liquidise until smooth, then add salt and pepper to taste. If using liqueur, add this, pour into dishes and swirl on the cream and decorate with the grated carrot or rind.

## Onion Soup:

1 lb Onions, sliced into rings  
2-3 cloves Garlic, peeled and coarsely chopped  
Grated rind and juice of 1 Orange  
4 oz carton Cottage Cheese  
1 Bay leaf  
1 teasp. chopped Parsley  
2 tablesp. Brandy  
2½ pints Beef Stock  
Salt and freshly-ground Black Pepper to taste.

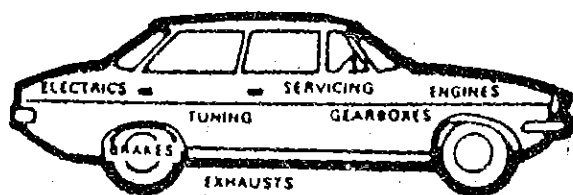
Heat a small amount of stock until boiling, cook onion, garlic with the bay leaf until soft. Stir in the grated orange rind and approx. two-thirds of the juice and simmer for 5 minutes. Add remainder of the stock, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for further 30-45 minutes. Remove bay leaf and add brandy and adjust seasoning. Meanwhile, pound the cottage cheese with the parsley and remainder of juice also salt and pepper. Pour soup into dishes, flaat a blob of the mixture on top and heat under a hot grill until it starts to brown. Serve immediately.

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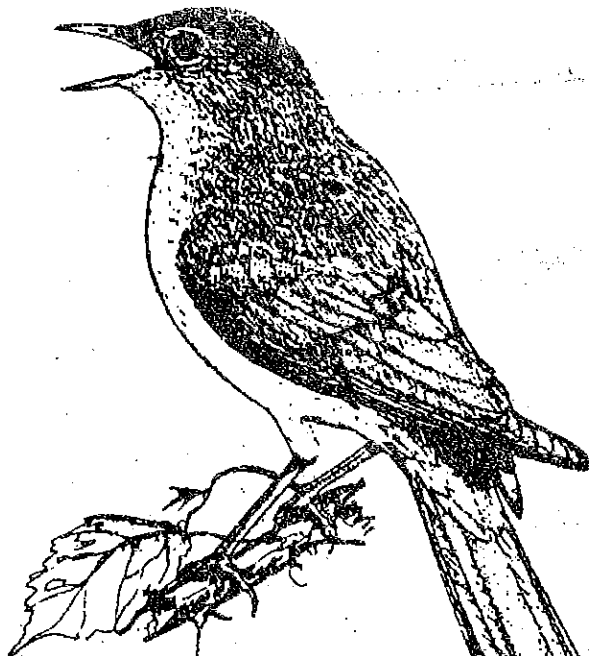
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# HARRY HUGGINS

WRITES OF BIRDS AND HATS AND  
BUTTERFLIES, OF CATS AND  
OTHER THINGS..



We went to Madeira in the autumn. Mostly to have a warm-up before winter, and to see a place we had not been to before. But my wife had a motive which I had forgotten, or not taken seriously: to buy a hat.

We found it on the second day, while doing the so-called island coach tour. They take you for lunch to a place at the north-west corner along a road just a little wider than the coach, with a vertical cliff up on one side and a vertical cliff down on the other. Going is all right, but on the way back you do just wonder what the driver washed his lunch down with.

Everywhere a coach might stop there are stalls with woollies, jerseys and cardies and hats, mostly coconut-ice colours, pink and blue and white. She espied, though, one of the real Madeiran woolly hats: dirty brownish grey in colour, knitted up half an inch thick to be tight fitting with a pom on top and big ear-flaps. The woolly girls all laughed when she tried it on - that was a man's hat. True. All the ones who work outside, in the fields and on the building sites, wear them, winter and summer, hot and hotter. It seems they are worn with the flaps up, except in inclement weather and when they go home to their wives; the flaps are pulled down then. So she bought it - you may have seen it on the coastal path - and says she is going to keep bees in it in the summer.

We birded, of course. We found only about twenty-five sorts, but there were two new to us: Berthelot's Pipit and Plain Swift. I do not know who Berthelot was, and am quite sure I would not recognise his pipit if it turned up on Bantham Ham, because it is just like our Pipits, Meadow and Rock, but with a yellow stripe over each eye.

In fact it is probably a Rock Pipit, grown a bit different through isolation, like the St. Kilda Wren and Darwin's finches. It is found only on the Atlantic Islands, the Canaries and the Madeira group, and there being no other pipit in Madeira, that is how we knew what it was. No brains required.

We identified Plain Swift in the same way - there is no other. It is in fact a little smaller than the Swifts which nest under the thatch of the houses in our parish, but without one of each side by side you cannot tell.

There were hundreds of Canaries - stripey green things, not at all like the fancy yellow creatures you see in cages - and Blackcaps, resident there, although the ones which come to England are migrants. On higher ground were hundreds of Firecrests and we saw several Buzzards. They were much more eagle-like than our South Devon Buzzards, which always look a bit like chickens. For birds, that was about it.

But if we could not bird much, we flowered. This was November, when most were finished, but there was still enough colour to make an English summer garden seem dull. We went to the Quinto do

## HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUED.

Palheiro, an enormous private garden above Funchal. June was ecstatic before an Abutilon, almost swooned in from of a Banksia, and when she found a Protea...

If I were stinking rich I would spend it on a garden. Not on a painting by the late Mr. V van Gogh, whose works in my view are over-rated; nor on a racehorse, which assuredly would come in last; nor even on a yacht. There was a fine big one lying just offshore in Funchal harbour. It looked idyllic for the handsome young man and the dolly bird who were crewing it. Then they dragged up from below yellow oilskins, bedding, sails and hung them in the rigging to dry; we realised that despite the size of the yacht everything below which could get wet had, and we were reminded that the sea is large, wet, nasty and very frightening, and that the best way to cross it is in an aeroplane.

I am no gardener. If I deadhead, I cut off buds. If I hoe, I dig up onions in the belief that they are grass. But I love gardens and feel sure if I were rich enough there would be plenty of people who would come forward to assist.

As well as birding and flowering we butterflyed. Much the most common were Clouded Yellows; their upper sides are bright custard yellow with a black rim round the outside. Some British butterflies have two broods a year, most have only one. They are compelled to such a lifestyle because their food plant (usually only one plant or family of plants per species) dies down or loses its leaves in winter. So at some stage in their cycle they have to hibernate.

But Clouded Yellow is a Mediterranean species and the vetches on which the caterpillars feed do not die down so it goes on producing new generations all year round. It is strongly migratory; hence its arrival in Madeira where in warm surroundings it breeds continuously and prolifically.

It reaches Britain. We see a few in most years and maybe once every ten to fifteen years, when there is a strong southerly air-flow at the time of a big hatch in France, it is present in thousands if not millions. It breeds in southern England, but then all are killed by the cold when winter comes.

When I was a small child we lived near Margate and the Isle of Thanet was a hotspot for Clouded Yellows. My father collected butterflies and moths. It would be incorrect to call him a fanatic - that term is far too lukewarm to describe his attitude to his collecting (once, when my mother had an accident at home - trapped by the neck by a window, or something - and shrieked for him to come quickly, he did not do so until he had armed himself with a receptacle to catch the rare insect she must have found to be calling so urgently!). He didn't do it for a living: you could not live from natural history in his day. So he worked in a bank; his collecting occupied all available hours of his spare time and the family's holidays were invariably taken where he could catch and kill something, anything else would have been unthinkable.

In East Kent then there were many fields of lucerne. You don't see it around here, maybe you don't there now, but it did well in the light chalky land; it was said to be a seven year crop (an important consideration for a farmer whose only power plant was a couple of broken-down old horses); it grew about three feet high, they got three or four cuts of feed a year off it, and could graze

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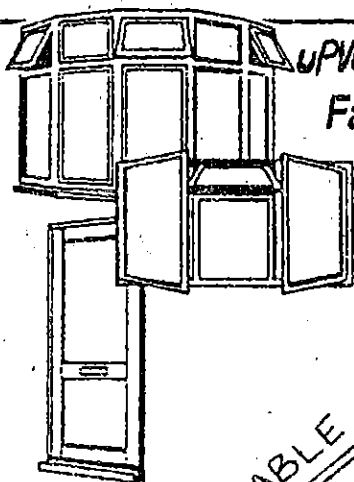
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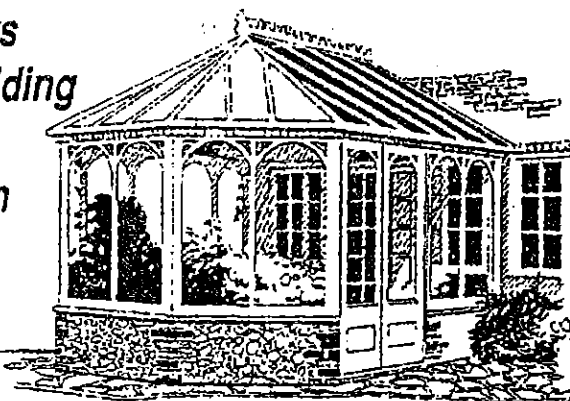
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## HARRY HUGGINS CONCLUDES:

it during the winter. Being a sort of vetch it attracted Clouded Yellows, and we would gallop about through the crops catching them. I do not recall that any farmer ever chased us out, but I doubt if the poor things had the energy to do so in those difficult times, at the end of the '20s.

A collector would keep in the drawers of his cabinets perhaps a dozen or so of the adults of each insect, half males and half females. In the case of some moths the female is wingless, no more than a crawling bag of eggs (such species have never heard of Womens' Lib) and he would keep only one of her.

But some species show variation between one individual and another. Then the collector would try to secure a specimen of each variety, the rarer it was the better, of course. Indeed, we had an acquaintance who collected only one species, the Heath Fritillary. He had cabinets and cabinets of this unfortunate butterfly; it existed at only one site in the area, was rare before he started and extinct by the time he finished.

The Clouded Yellow varies a bit. In particular, the ground colour of the wings of the female is sometimes white, instead of yellow. Even in the female this is quite rare and I do not think a white male has ever been found.

My father used to explain to me in detail the principles of variation as expounded by the Abbe Mendel, and all about dominants and recessives. Enthralling to a six or seven year old, I did not understand then and do not now; if you want to know more about it doubtless the Editor will get Doc. Oswald to oblige.

One year, in the hope of finding varieties, it was decided to breed some Clouded Yellows in captivity instead of chasing about catching them in the wild. A plant of lucerne was dug up out of the field of an unsuspecting farmer, planted in a very large flower pot and covered with fine black muslin supported by the only thing they had which was flexible enough to hoop over the top, the cane they used to thrash me with. Born in the 1880's my mother was a child of her time where child-rearing was concerned; her favourite maxim, oft repeated was "Children should be seen and not heard". "Spare the rod and spoil the child" was not far behind in her affections. So I was pleased that the cane should for a time be otherwise engaged.

A freshly-hatched female Clouded Yellow was caught and put on the plant of lucerne. She must already have mated, for she laid eggs which after the usual process became butterflies.

If a white female appeared, then she was to be mated with one of her brothers, who would of course carry white genes (except I don't remember that word being used then) and in the next generation more white females should result. If one of these daughters had one of her brothers for a husband then in the following generation all the females ought to be white, and if you carried on who knows what might appear, maybe even the unknown white male.

I cannot remember if the plant of lucerne was replaced, whether it was supplemented by foliage pinched from a field, or whether it grew well enough to keep pace with what the caterpillars ate. But all went well and one day, joy of joys, a beautiful white female emerged from her chrysalis. My father lifted the muslin to put her in a box. But in his excitement he fumbled, she fluttered to the floor and our large fluffy yellow cat sprang upon her and ate her. The breeding experiment was discontinued and the cane restored to its customary use.

DEAR EDITORS,

Having been born in Devon and having owned a second home in the South Hams for many, many years we have been irritated by the attitude in recent editions where Village Voice has been somewhat pro-residents and anti-holiday-homes.

We have a great number of very dear friends amongst the "residents" - quite a number of them retired from the Midlands. We still have a crust to earn and are not ready yet to retire.

However - your leading articles in the December issue were so splendid all is forgiven and we enclose our subscription for another year.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID and YVONNE RICHARDS,  
BARNT GREEN, WORCS.

DEAR EDITORS,

I thought you might find this amusing - the other day I received by post an envelope, marked from "The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland" and addressed (believe it or not) to "Dr.T.T.W.Eaton, deceased"!

Inside was the usual printed form giving particulars of the annual dinner and if he wished to attend would he fill in the form and send a cheque!! I know we Irish are known for making gaffes, but I really think this one beats all!

MRS PAULINE EATON,  
THURLESTONE.

DEAR SIR,

I am very surprised and disappointed that someone with the name McDonald, with considerable journalistic experience, and Editor of a publication as internationally famous as Village Voice, would print the OUTRAGEOUS and COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED suggestion that the Great Bagpipes of Scotland could be associated, in any way, with the Small Pipes of Northumbria, a miserable collection of little reeds operated by a group of people too weak to blow the instrument themselves. They have to use a bellows to get any sound.

I would remind you and all your readers world-wide that the "Tunes of Glory" played on the Great Pipes of Scotland have soared over the Heights of Abraham, the Walls of Lucknow, the Sands of the Desert, and the Beaches of Normandy, and to attribute their existence to anything other than the inventive genius of the Scottish race is an insult to the Greatest Nation in the World.

Always remember that the Scots are the bravest, the most inventive, the most independent, and the most generous of people, and to even think otherwise is deplorable. I hope that no other errors and insults will see the light of day in your otherwise delightful publication.

ROB ROY,  
SCOTLAND.

P.S. This letter has been composed by Ian C.Young, Backshay Close, South Milton, but I do not want my name disclosed in case it might frighten the natives.

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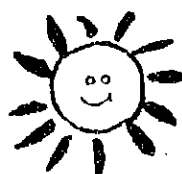
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# The Rector Writes

JANUARY, as I write, sees the commencement of two new happenings in the life of the Church.

One, "The decade of Evangelism" started on 6th January the 'Feast of the Epiphany' or 'Showing Forth of Christ', the other already commenced "Churches together in Britain", a new movement for the coming together of the Churches, has its local focus on January 22nd during the week of prayer for Christian Unity, when a special inauguration of "Churches together in Devon" will take place in Exeter Cathedral. Special guests are David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool, Derek Warlock, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, and Dr. John Newton, a leader of the Freechurchmen of that area.

---

A COMMONLY-HELD modern view is that everybody's opinion on anything is as good as everyone else's opinion. (This has always seemed to me to be the basic flaw in commonly perceived democracy).

It appears not to matter how informed or ignorant you happen to be of the situation. A kind of "Jack's as good as his master" sort of approach to life. The fallacy of such a position is generally only conceded by forcing the conversation into some highly technical area of discussion, such as 'flying aircraft' or 'micro surgery' or 'printed circuits' to force the admission that the basic premise is a false one, and one person's opinion is not necessarily as good as another's - only if they have taken the trouble to be equally informed. It is rare indeed for such a concession to be made in the area of politics or religion.

People will readily declare that they have 'no interest in politics' and immediately proceed to say what the Government should or should not be doing. Entry, recently into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism was one such example. Action in the Gulf is another.

So, too, in the field of "Religion". The sort of nonsense in which the Rector is from time to time invited to acquiesce can be expressed as "It doesn't matter what we believe as long as we all believe something!" That, of course, may possibly be true if we are discussing some fine point as to whether it is more fitting to kneel or stand when praying in public, or whether 13 or 16 are preferable ages for Confirmation. But to apply such nonsense to the great questions of Faith, such as, for example, the Divinity of Christ, or whether Christians may under any circumstances bear arms, is to demonstrate the absurdity of the assumption. It matters whether we believe a bottle contains poison or not - especially if we propose to drink from it! What we believe does matter because it affects what we do, and how we live.

Sometimes the "it doesn't matter what we believe" notion is expressed somewhat differently, usually by sincere Christians of different denominations seeking to minimise their differences. They

THE RECTOR WRITES CONTINUED.

are then inclined to say "We all really believe the same don't we?" To which the honest answer must be "No we don't" or we would not have so many different branches of the church and our divisions would not exist.

The new "Christians together" movement doesn't seek to paper over the cracks. What it does do is to say "sad as is the number of things which divide us they are as nothing compared with that which unites us" - our faith in God and our allegiance to Christ as expressed in our worship and our service to our fellow men and women. For the future we explore ways of better doing things together rather than separately, of moving ever closer together rather than further apart, or even continuing happy in our separation.

Since we have only one building for public worship in this parish, this might be an appropriate time to say that all are welcome to worship with us there at the Parish Church (or at South Milton) and all who are communicant members of their own Churches are most welcome to receive the holy sacrament at our eucharistic worship.

In the next issue of Village Voice I will write something on the "Decade of Evangelism" The need for such a decade may be judged to these two quotes from recent publications:

---

"CHRISTMAS USED TO  
BE A RELIGIOUS  
FESTIVAL YEARS  
AGO, DIDN'T IT?"

BBC Radio 5 interviewer  
to Christmas card  
publisher.

---

---

"WESTERN EUROPEANS, FOR THE  
MOST PART, NO LONGER  
WORSHIP GOD. WHAT THEN  
DETERMINES THEIR  
BEHAVIOUR AND THEIR VALUES?"

---

A sorry state of affairs!

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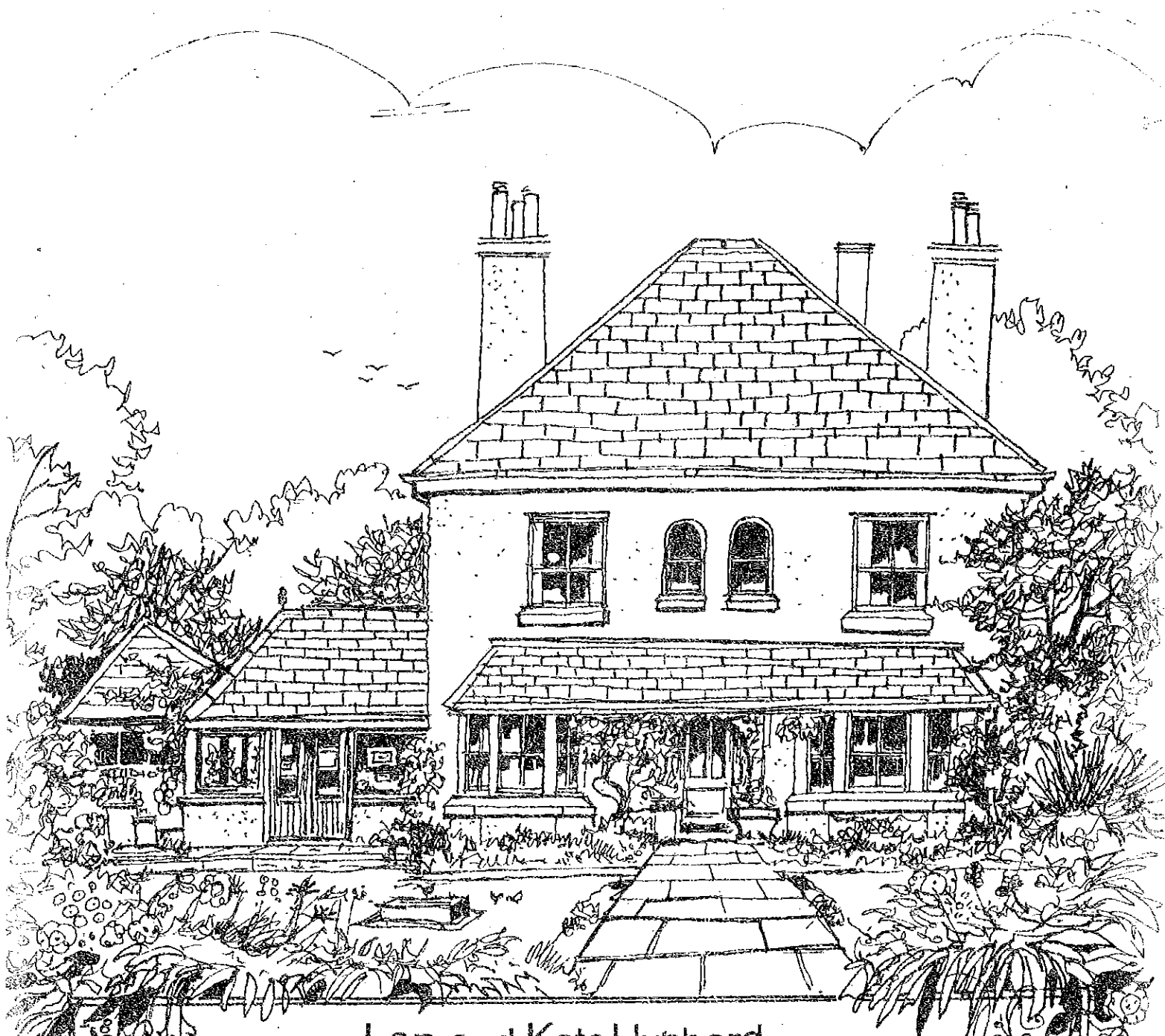
CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS or DON'T BLAME THE RECTOR!

NEW Churchyard Regulations have recently been issued by the Chancellor of the Diocese. Much that has hitherto been acceptable is thought to be so no longer.

If you get a "No, sorry, I cannot permit that", it is not the Rector being difficult. I don't make the law - but I am bound by it and so are you. I can only permit those things permitted by the law and within the area of my delegated authority. I can say, however, that I am currently taking steps to attempt to get the new Regulations amended.

In short, if you make a request to do with Monuments, and you do not get an affirmative reply, you will be best advised to wait. I will write more on this when the position is finalised.

PETER STEPHENS,  
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## TRAMP IS THREE!

## Thurlestone RAMblers Party.

Stuart Reynolds tells how TRAMP got to its feet, its first steps, and its confident strides into the future..

TRAMP CAME INTO BEING as a result of an article - "Footpaths in the South Hams" - which appeared in issue No.30, January-February, 1988, of Village Voice. The idea of the article was to make people more aware of the splendid network of footpaths, bridleways and green lanes from which innumerable walks can be devised.

The offer to lead a local walk was accepted by 16 people, who met at the Church on January 20, 1988. Such was the interest that further walks took place and a regular pattern of walks has now developed. There were eight walks in '88, ten in '89, and 13 in '90. The 1991 programme of TRAMP walks follows in this issue and ninety per cent are new additions. So this article is to highlight our third anniversary.

In 1988, our first year, the walks included exploration of the Avon valley. In 1989 the repertoire was considerably extended to include the coastal path from Bolt Head to Bantham, coastal paths near Newton Ferrers, along the Salcombe Estuary, and the West bank of the Erme (which included a Trampers swim-in!). In 1990, we spread wider still and one successful innovation was our "local history tour" of the old farms in and around South Milton. This was led by Dr. Fergus Mackenzie, who drew attention to many unusual architectural features and the reasons for them. In 1990 too we ventured for the first time on to the high moors and explored the upper valleys of the Plym, Erme and Avon.

In 1991, we extend again with four coastal walks, two inland walks, two river valley walks, three in the foothills of the moors, and four walks on Dartmoor. As a result of these new walks at the end of the year we hope to have a repertoire of 35 proven walks.

We are able to do this only because we now have four additional walk leaders - we are grateful indeed to Fergus Mackenzie, Bob Nicholls, Geoff Wilkinson, and Derek Yeoman for their contributions. To that list we must also add the name of Chalky White, who led for us in 88-89 and whom we hope will rejoin us as soon as he is able.

In the future we intend to broaden our list of walks. Our goal is to establish a "bank" of about 60 proven walks so that no walk need be repeated more than once in four years. The immediate area of exploration will include the valleys of the Meavy, Walkham, Tavy, Lydd, Teign and Bovey, and the Northern parts of the high moors. In general our walks are not demanding and walked at a very leisurely pace. The length is between six and eleven miles. They last about 4-5 hours (plus a break for lunch). In the summer a picnic lunch is the norm, but in the winter we plan all our walks so as to be able to enjoy the warmth and cosy environment of a village pub.

Our objective is only to provide pleasant, friendly walks in the beautiful and richly varied countryside with which we are blessed. So perhaps this is the point to draw attention to a threat hanging over the footpath network.

Continued overleaf.

STUART REYNOLDS continues about TRAMP.

That threat is the DEFINITIVE MAP REVIEW (DMR for short) which is now in the process of being applied to all parishes in the Country.

The Devon County Council has already started this massive bureaucratic process, but it is still not clear what it will mean when they have finished. Certainly landowners will be able to challenge the validity of existing definitive footpaths. The effort to resist such challenges by, say, the study of parish records, assuming that these documents still exist will be enormous.

There is another worry too - this time about the "green lanes". This worry is best described by quoting from the newsletter of Ramblers Association:-

"You know those lovely Green Lanes from which so many of our footpaths start. Devon County Council have already stated that they are not going to put these old Green Lanes on the new definitive maps. Green lanes have hitherto been protected as being unclassified County Roads. However the list of UCCR's is being reviewed constantly and many of them are being omitted from the newer lists. Therefore they may lose their protection without the public having any fore knowledge of this change of status. They must continue to have the protection they deserve. We must establish the evidence to prove that they have always been in the past 'rights of way'."

I do know that the area Ramblers Association is attempting both locally through the Devon County Council and nationally through the Ramblers Association headquarters and the appropriate Ministries, to clarify these issues. At local level we shall be listing all the Green Lanes which we use and registering them with the Devon County Council as footpaths which we must retain, and demanding that there should be no change of status without public enquiry. Fortunately, the local Ramblers Association had the foresight to carry out this procedure several years ago and the documentary evidence is still available.

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#### DOWN ON THE FARM.

AT A PARTY, I met a friend who had been having trouble with his sheep. Over the years he had carefully selected and nurtured his flock (or is it herd?) which now numbers no less than 700. During last summer's drought, he ran out of grass and so, at great expense, he had the whole lot transported to Wiltshire where, apparently, there was more grass.

He recently went to collect his sheep, now restored to robust health, and returned them to their home pasture where they set about the new crop of grass. Feeling well satisfied with the emergency measures he had taken, he enjoyed a mild celebration with his wife and family and gave no thought to farmer next door who also had a flock of sheep, but of a different breed. But somehow or other, a gate must have been left open allowing the neighbour's rams free access to his sheep.

My friend now faces the prospect of having a whole generation of lambs of the wrong sort. He is fully insured and wonders how much compensation he will be given. His insurance man was also at the party and I did my best to persuade him to take a charitable view! NCO.

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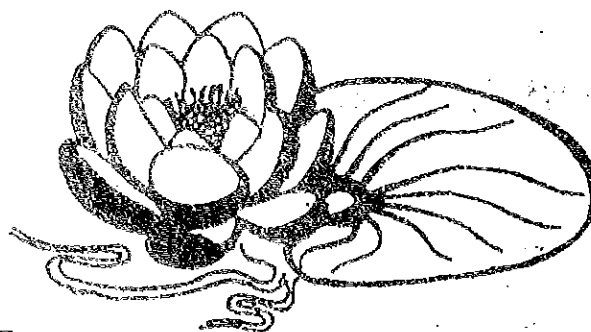
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TRAMP...TRAMP...TRAMP...TRAMP...TRAMP..

THURLESTONE RAMBLERS. WALKS PROGRAMME FOR 1991.

February 20. Centred on Bigbury. Leader: Derek Yeoman (560300).

Park at Bigbury. NE to Mount Folly, across golf course to Hexdown, Villa Crusoe. Riverside path to Lincombe, then to Bigbury Church and St. Anne's Chapel. Lunch at The Pickwick. Back to Bigbury, West to Noddon, Noddon lane to Noddon Mill, SE to Rihgmore. Return to Bigbury-on-Sea via Ayrmer Cove or direct. About 8 miles. Not tough.

March 20. Centred on Aveton Gifford. Leader: Fergus Mackenzie (560761)

Park at Ebb Tide. N to Coombe, E to Chantry, NW to Lixton, S to Ashford, to Ebb Tide via North Efford. Lunch at Ebb Tide. Then to North Efford, N to Waterhead Bridge, E to Foxhole, SE to tidal road, WSW to Bigbury via Doctor's Wood, NE to Foxhole, SE to tidal road, return to start. About 8 miles. Not tough.

April 17. Centred on Newbridge (712708). Leader: Stuart Reynolds (560643)

Riverside walk to Buckland Bridge. NW to Spitchwick Manor, N to Lower Town then WNW to Leusdon, N to Mill House, backtrack to Ponsworthy, SW to Bel Tor Corner, Mel Tor, Dr. Blakall's path to Aish Tor, S down to River Dart, back along river. About 8/9 miles. Not tough.

May 1. Moors walk. West of Chagford. Leader: Geoff Wilkinson (560512)

Park near cattle grid (667872). SW to Batsworthy and Shovel Down, NW to Teign clapper bridge, North then East to Gidleigh, path through Gidleigh North Park to Start. About 6/7 miles of easy moorland walking.

May 15. Coastal path East of Dart Estuary. Leader: Stuart Reynolds (560643)

Park in Dartmouth central car park (if full, park-and-ride) Ferry to Kingswear, Coast to Down end then Pinewoods, Home Farm, Coletton and on ENE to Scabbacombe Head, coastal path back to Kingswear. About 7/8 miles. Toughish on the coast but worth it. About six 300 ft climbs from sea level to cliff top.

June 5. Moors. Circumnavigation of Avon Reservoir. Leader: Stuart Reynolds (560643).

Park Shipley Bridge CP (683630). Zeal Tor tramway track towards Red Lake, Avon clapper bridge, along the Avon and E to Grippers Hill, along ridge S to Shipley Tor. Return to carpark. About 7/8 miles. Not tough.

June 19. Starting from Dartmeet. Leader: Stuart Reynolds (560643)

SW to Comberstone Tor, NW to Saddle Bridge then Week Ford, N to Huccaby Farm, NW to Bellever Tor, NE to Bellever Bridge. SE along the East Dart to Babeny and back to Dartmeet. About 8 miles. Not too tough.

July 3. Moors. Starting from Two Bridges. Leader Stuart Reynolds. Continued overleaf.

TRAMP PROGRAMME FOR 1991 continued:

July 3. Moors. Starting from Two Bridges. Leader: Stuart Reynolds  
(560643)

Path to Bearden Farm, follow Devenport Leat N along valley of West Dart, NNW to Rough Tor then Devil's Tor, SW to Stone Row, ESE to Broad Hole, follow Cowsic River to the Sluicgate, follow Devenport Leat (West arm) back to start. About 8 miles. Not tough

July 17. Coastal path from Kingston. Leader: Geoff Wilkinson  
(560512)

Park at Kingston Church. SW to Okenbury Farm, then to Nodden Mill, Ringmore, SW to Ayrmer Cove, W to Wonwell beach, return through Furzedown Woods E to Kingston. About 8 miles. Four tough climbs on the coastal path.

August 7. Moors. From Whiteworks (615712). Leader: Stuart Reynolds  
(560643)

Park at Whiteworks. Devenport Leat to Nun's Cross, SE to Nun's Cross Ford, Plym Ford, Plym Head, Duck's Pool, Blacklane Mire, N to Fox Tor, Childe's Tomb, W to Cairn Circle and Cross, return by Fox Tor Mire. About 7/8 miles. Not tough.

September 18. East of Salcombe. Leader: Bob Nicholls (560876)

Park Shadycombe car park, cross to Portlemouth on ferry, coast to East Prawle. Pub lunch if reqd. NW to West Prawle, Green Lane (Woodlane) to Waterhead Creek. Return following Southpool Creek to ferry. About 10 miles. Not tough.

October 16. From Start Point. Leader: Bob Nicholls (560876)

Park at Start Point carpark. Coast path to East Prawle (pub lunch if reqd), return NE via inland path to Lamecombe Green and then to Hallsands. Coast path back to start. About 8/9 miles. Not tough.

November 20. Swincombe Valley. Leader: Stuart Reynolds  
(560643)

Park near Hexworthy (650726) To Whiteworks and then back along the Wheal Emma Leat. About 8/9 miles. Not tough.

December 11. The Christmas Lunch walk. Bow Creek to Dittisham.  
Leader: Derek Yeoman (560300)

Park Tuckenhay Bridge (818562). Along Bow Creek to Cornworthy, E to East Dittisham and Dittisham. Lunch in Ferry Boat Inn, return via Kingston, Capton, Broadridge, Higher Tideford, Gitcombe, Coomery and back to Tuckenhay. About 10 miles. Not tough.

WARNING NOTICES OF WALKS will be posted up in both the Village Stores and Broads nine days before each walk and will give the time of assembly at Thurlestone Parish Hall. Many thanks to Mrs. Morley and Mrs. Bromfield for giving us this service.

MISS OTIS REGRETS SHE'S UNABLE TO LUNCH TODAY. WHY? BECAUSE THE SILLY GIRL GOT HER DATES MIXED UP. SHE SHOULD HAVE CHECKED WITH THE SUPERGUIDE TO WHAT'S ON, WHEN AND WHERE...

VILLAGE VOICE'S DATES FOR 1991.

Tues 12th Feb. Ladies Pancake Race. Start Old Rectory. 10.30.  
Tues 12th Feb. Parish Council Meeting. Sloop Bantham. 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 20th Feb. TRAMP walk. Bigbury.  
Thurs 28th Feb. All Saints Fellowship. Local shipwrecks. Barn. 2.30.  
Wed 6th March. Thurlestone Parish Hall AGM. Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Tues 12th March. Parish Council Meeting. Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Tues 12th March Boutique 144 fashion show for South Hams League of Friends. Thurlestone Hotel.  
Sat 16th March. Jumble Sale. In aid Horticultural Show. Hall. 2.30 p.m.  
Wed 20th March. TRAMP walk. Aveton Gifford.  
Thurs 21st March NSPCC Bridge. Thurlestone Hotel.  
Tues 26th March ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Tues 9th April. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 17th April. TRAMP walk. Newbridge.  
Wed 1st May. TRAMP walk. Dartmoor.  
Tues 14th May. Annual Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall. 7.30 pm.  
Sat 18th May. Horticultural Society Plant Sale. Thurlestone Parish Hall. 2.30 p.m.  
Wed 15th May. TRAMP walk. Dart Estuary.  
Wed 15th June. TRAMP walk. Dartmoor.  
Tues 11th June. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall. 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 19th June. TRAMP walk. Dartmeet.  
Wed 3rd July. TRAMP walk. Dartmoor.  
Tues 9th July. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 pm.  
Wed 17th July. TRAMP walk. Kingston.  
Sat 3rd August. Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show. Thurlestone Parish Hall.  
Wed 7th August. TRAMP walk. Dartmoor.  
Tues 13th Aug. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Tues 10th September. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall. 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 18th September. TRAMP walk. East of Salcombe.  
Sat 28th September. Parish Hall Annual Fair. Parish Hall 2.30 p.m.  
Tues 8th October. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 16th October. TRAMP walk. From Start Point.  
Tues 12th November. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 20th November. TRAMP walk. Swincombe Valley.  
Tues 10th December. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.  
Wed 11th Dec. TRAMP Christmas lunch walk. Dittisham.  
Mon 16th Dec. Rising Generation Christmas Show. Parish Hall 7.00 pm.  
Details of your dates to Mrs. Joan Mackenzie (560671) by March 1st for inclusion in next edition.

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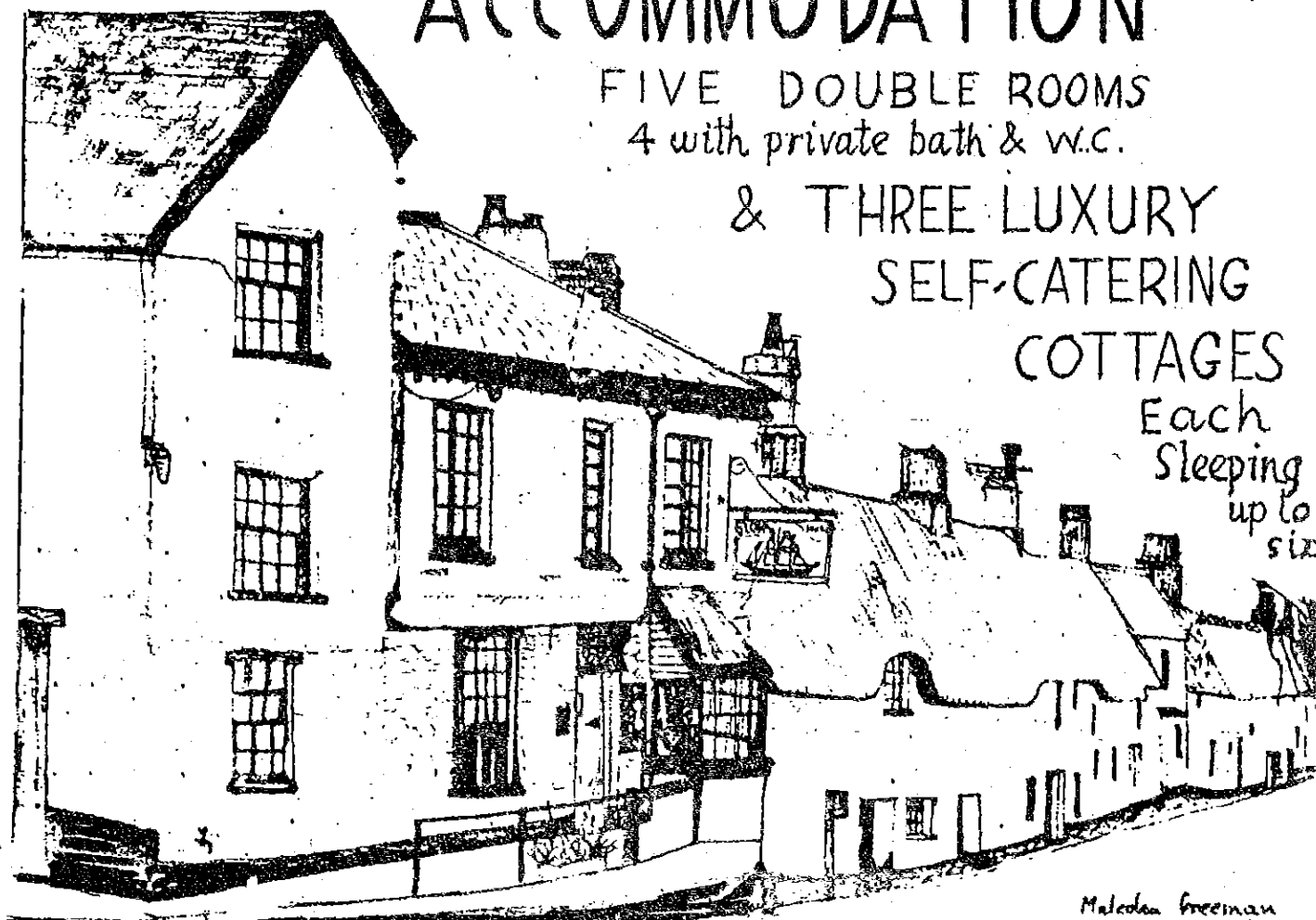
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