

AUG-SEPT

VILLAGE VOICE

1991

To draw our cover picture artist Len Hubbard climbed up inside the Thurlestone Church tower and bell-ringer Derrick Yeoman pulled the treble bell (there are six in the belfry) to the upright position. The treble was given to the Church by the Grose family in 1951.

Founded by Dudley
DRABBLE
1982.



Cover pictures
by
LEN HUBBARD.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.
EDITED AND PRODUCED BY

KENDALL McDONALD
& PENNY McDONALD

AT
Cradles Cottage
Thurlestone.

Tel: Kingsbridge
560239

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IT IS NOT OFTEN that one can be in at the very start of something really big, but that is the opportunity given to parishioners by the impending formation of "Thurlestone Rockwatch". Everyone should support this new pressure group for nothing could be greener, or more environmentally conscious than Rockwatch with its proud slogan "Don't Knock the Rock".

Amazingly there have been voices raised against the formation of this new society which aims to protect our parish from all outside influences which could affect our health or well-being.

For Rockwatch is totally against all pollution, in fact is working towards a complete ban on the creation of sewage. This has led the society into its campaign against farmers, who, says Rockwatch, waste their time raising food when they should leave the farmland alone and so stop creating unhealthy smells and getting mud on our lovely lanes, whose hedges, says the society, should never be cut thereby making it impossible for cars to pass, which in turn must be a good thing because Rockwatch is, of course, against all traffic, which goes too fast anyway.

Indeed, says Rockwatch in their latest Press release, if there was no traffic we wouldn't need yellow lines despoiling our lovely lanes, which should be protected from tourist and other newcomers who overload our pubs, which should be shut at seven every evening so that residents can get to sleep and anyway public houses sell drink which is bad because it makes people fall down and shout loudly, which wakes up dogs, which should be banned anyway because they make a foul mess of our lovely lanes, which should be brightly lit to stop people falling down or walking into walls, which shouldn't have been put up anyway without planning permission, which would never be granted if Rockwatch had its way.

Those are just a few of the stated aims of Rockwatch, which will undoubtedly attract massive support. Application forms on recycled paper to join Rockwatch will be available at the society's inaugural meeting on April 1st, 1992.

P O S T B A G YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

DEAR EDITORS,

I'm sure that everyone will like to know that the jumble sale held in the Parish Hall on May 4 in aid of the NSPCO raised £404.30. The committee wants to thank everyone who so generously donated goods, and all our wonderful customers - what bargains they discovered!

It is nice to know too that all monies raised go towards funding our S.Devon Child Care Protection team based in Plymouth, which can be contacted 24 hours a day on Freephone 0800-800-500

MONICA DICKINS, THURLESTONE.

DEAR EDITORS,

May I draw your attention to the "Beyond the Hedge" Festival and Exhibition, organised by the Community Council of Devon, which will be held in the Great Hall at Exeter University on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This promises to be a great day out with a wide range of exhibitors showing goods and services of interest to Parish Councils, Village Halls, Playing Fields, Sports Clubs, Charities, in fact to anyone who is interested in living, working and playing in rural Devon. Admission is free.

As part of this exciting exhibition I should like to get together a village newsletters stand to display newsletters from around the County. I should very much like to display your newsletter as part of this.

I plan to have a live demonstration on the stall of a newsletter being put together.

HANNAH REYNOLDS, Rural Officer, Community Council of Devon.

Editor's Note: A copy of Village Voice is on its way for your display, but I'd think again about the live demo of a newsletter being put together - the language is something dreadful!

DEAR SIR and MADAM,

Would you please thank everyone concerned for a superb reunion. What about another one next year?

"ROYAL MARINE", Thurlestone 1942

SIR,

I think skips should be labelled with the area whose rubbish can be placed in them. This would make sure that people stick their rubbish in their own skips. I am sure the South Hams District Council would be as shocked as I was by the sight of people from down the hill lugging their rejects up to our skip. I cannot believe that this is what the architects of the skip service intended.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.



VILLAGER

IN THIS ISSUE, Villager is delighted to give up his space to Evelyn Snowdon for her impressions of a day that villagers still talk about and will remember for a long time to come. Evelyn Snowdon brought her mother Mrs. Ethel Snowdon to the reunion. Mrs. Ethel Snowdon was the organist at all the Royal Marine Church parades during the war years. Evelyn's poem is called...

THE DAY THEY CAME BACK.

"DOWN the street they all came, marching
Row on row, with heads held high.
On they came, so stalwart bearing,
Honouring the men who died,
The band preceded, all a-gleaming,
Rousing tunes to keep in step,
Faces set with concentration -
Veterans in time they kept.

To the Church, and Service glorious,
Memories, so many kinds;
To the wreath, in memory laying,
Last Post echoing through our minds,
Till at last the sermon ended,
Drawing with it to a close
An occasion tinged with sadness,
As we had remembered those

Who, so long ago had worshipped
Here, whilst training in the past;
We survived - whilst they went onward
To their Saviour, Home at last,
Honoured, Gloried, Worshipped, Buried,
Many, many memories,
Those who served and those who tarried
Here to train our troop cadets,

Those who came and watched the March Past
Have now retreated to their homes;
Another treat in store, when later
On the Green will play the Band.
We shall then return to hear them
Playing tunes of bygone times;
Now we go to a Reception
Meeting up with many friends.

continued overleaf.

Old ones, young ones - some had travelled
From far and wide for this great day
They have come to this Re-union
For them all we long had prayed.
Taking place in their former "Barracks"
Here they stayed whilst training hard -
Round the village gardens running,
In and out, well camouflaged

Away they went to many countries,
Spreading out the name - wellknown,
"We trained at Thurlestone" in the war time
Now we're back - a "home from home",
Much has changed - it will always do so,
But things familiar still are here.
After the banquet, toasts and tributes
To those who lived, both then and now.

Soon; too soon, our day has ended;
What will all their memories hold?
Joy, or sadness, everlasting
In the re-united fold.
Many, many thanks to Thurlestone
For the times they trained and played
A fondness for the place has tarried
Shown by those who came today.

I was privileged to take part
In History portrayed today
By our Corps, both then and always
Majestic, Proud and well displayed.
This was the day that they came back here
Back to savour again the times
Beginnings, Endings, Refreshing memories
Things to tell those left behind.

Or families who were not able
To attend this Grand Parade,
Tales to tell their children's children
Passing on respect and pride.
In our parade of wartime veterans,
Photographs record the side
Some of us saw all (some nothing)
Depending if we watched or cried.

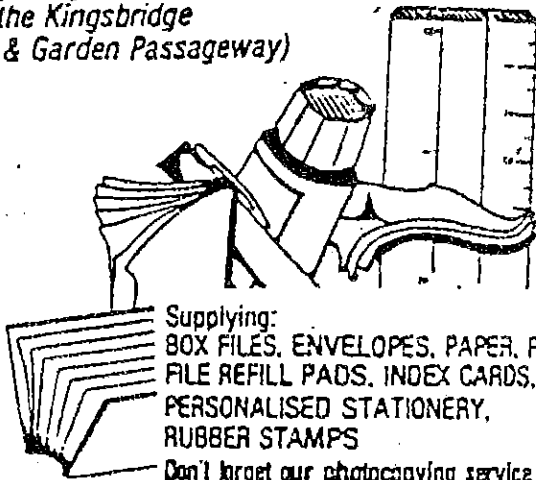
We prayed beforehand to our Father
For a day both fine and grand,
He surpassed us - it was His Blessing
To those of us who came to stand;
To partake, it was a privilege,
Another page of History fades
In our memories held forever
Of that Glorious God-given day."

E.B.S..

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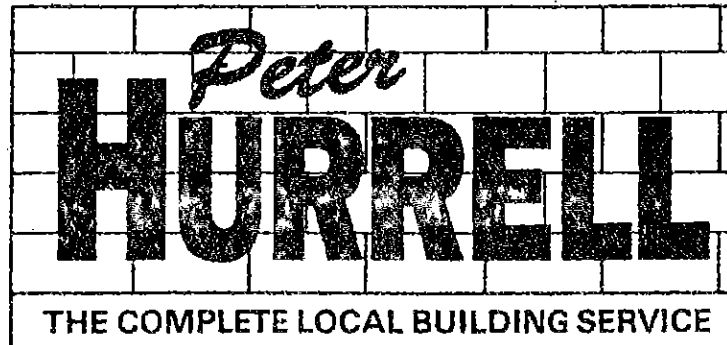
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Main speaker: David Mayo JP BA FLIA ACIFA

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- * Creating a Personal Plan
- * Maintaining and maximising personal ASSETS

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- * The nature of RISK
- * Personal attitudes to RISK
- * Risk reduction and avoidance

INVESTMENT PLANNING

- * Capital protected investment opportunities
- * Increasing income and reducing risks
- * Are stock markets recovering? Should I invest?
- * Investment cycles
- * Investment choices

TAX PLANNING

- * Reducing personal taxation
- * Using personal allowances
- * Tax Free Income
- * Avoiding Inheritance Tax - without giving away assets

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7.45pm Buffet Supper

For confirmation, Seminar dates and ticket availability please contact Lyn Bennetts at:

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LOCAL NEWS FROM THE W.I.

IT WAS NICE TO SEE Jeanette Bickford, a former member on holiday from Australia and she was made welcome at the June meeting.

Flowers had been sent to Geraldine Bezant, who had broken a leg, and it was reported that Emma Hamilton would very much welcome visitors at "Westerlands" where she was now ensconced - particularly those who would welcome a game of bridge. Connie Hughes' coffee morning for the hospital had made £88.

Four members had attended Devon County Show as stewards, and had worked hard, but enjoyed themselves. Tricia Millman was thanked for organising a super day out to Knightshayes. A comment was passed that so much more of Devon's scenic beauty is visible beyond the hedge-tops when travelling by coach - it's a treat for the "nosey" in fact!

Tricia also gave a very entertaining and comprehensive delegate's report on attending the Triennial General Meeting in Birmingham. That well-known resident of Thurlestone, "Chalky" White, was the popular speaker and told members all about living in India.

In July a new member was welcomed, Jenny Roberts. There was no speaker booked, so everyone enjoyed a more "social" and relaxed meeting - although the committee was determined that we should not be too relaxed and devised some cunning quizzes to keep our brains stretched.

Final arrangements were made for the cake stall we would be running at the St. Luke's Hospice Fun Day on Plymouth Hoe on 20th July. Everyone was very generous in their promises of "goodies" which should be delivered to Tricia or Val on the 19th.

Joan Mackenzie would like our recipes to include in the Parish Hall Cook Book and Anne Grose said the Hall would be holding its Autumn Fair on 28th September. Arrangements were tentatively made to visit the West Country Embroiderers Exhibition at Torre Abbey in September.

The September meeting will see Alice Foster getting us all prepared for the long lead-up to Christmas, when she will demonstrate "Flowers for Christmas", and then in October Heather Trippas will be giving a practical demonstration of wood turning.

We look forward to visitors at our meetings - you would be most welcome to come along. We meet on the second Thursday of the month (except August) in the Parish Hall 2.30 p.m. P.M.

I remember...

FLORENCE MINNIE SAUNDERS changes the style of the "I Remember" series by putting her memories in the form of a poem. Here she recalls the period of 1914 to 1919 - "they were happy days when the family was complete with my brothers, Jack, Lewis and Harry and me" - but her poem starts with a glimpse of Pier's Cottage many, many years later after she left it.

"THE Cottage stands beside the wood, its windows sad and bare,
No wind of change has come to it, Pier's Folk no longer there.
No welcome now awaits you, no dog barks at the gate,
The chimney stack stands gaunt and still, no fire in the grate.

The pump stands rusty in the yard, the coalhouse door stands wide.
No shining lumps now does it house to cheer the old fireside.
The Lidstone Range, the teddy cake, the kettle on the hob,
Are memories of long time gone, t'was then a proper job
To call at Pier's and meet the folk and sit around the fire,
Dear Granny Saunders dishing tea, she never seemed to tire.
Grandfather Saunders with his pipe sat in the corner chair.
Such a dear old man with tales to tell, they made a pleasant
pair.

The garden was a picture with daffodils along the bank
And perfume in the air,
The shed was down the garden path with chickens round the door,
The thatching tools and binder twine stacked neatly on the floor.

The only Goose was sad alas, his mate had gone at Christmas,
But Grandfather fixed a looking glass, so the Goose wasn't
lonely any more,
He spent happy hours gazing at himself, now could he ask for
more?"

Florence Minnie Saunders, who lately called herself "Trixie", now lives with her son, Bob, and his wife, in Torquay. She is 86. Her father and all three of her brothers were thatchers, hence the reference to thatching tools in her poem. During the Second World War Minnie Saunders worked as a railway porter at Kingsbridge Station and recalls being told by Field-Marshal Montgomery, when he came to Kingsbridge by train to see the American troops at Salcombe, that she was doing "a fine job".

After the war Mrs. Saunders worked at Buckland Flower Farm. Though she describes Pier's Cottage in her poem as empty and bare that was when she saw her old home shortly after she left it. Now, as everyone who drives into Kingsbridge can see, the cottage has been beautifully restored.

Highly Commended.

PIPER'S BENCH — THURLESTONE

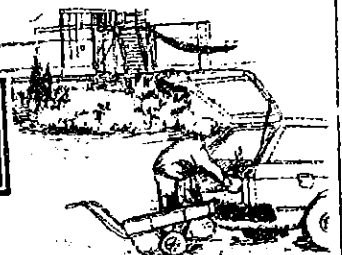
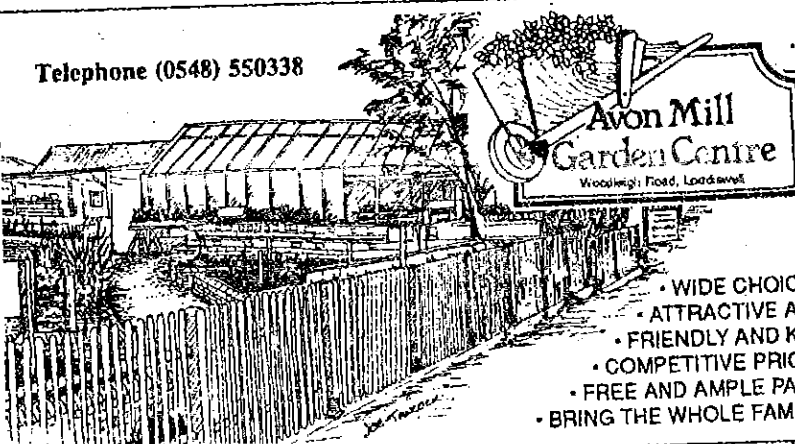
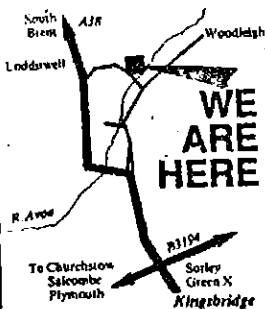
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Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE: Fruit with meats and poultry make a delicious combination, particularly during the summer months.

Fresh peaches are now at their best and cheapest. This recipe is quick to prepare and is served with boiled rice, sliced cucumber in yoghurt, and poppodums.

Chicken with Peaches.

Serves 4.

- 2 ozs Butter
- 1 tabbsp Oil
- 4 Chicken portions
- 2 Onions, peeled and sliced
- 1 Garlic clove, crushed
- 1 oz Flour
- 1 tablesp. Curry powder (or to taste)
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teasp. Ground Ginger
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teasp. Ground Cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Chicken Stock
- 1 tablesp. Mango Chutney
- 2 Fresh Peaches, skinned and stoned, or 4 canned peach halves
- Juice of half a lemon.

Heat the butter and oil in a large pan, add the chicken joints and fry until crisp and golden on both sides. Remove from the pan and reserve. Add the onions and garlic to the pan and fry until tender. Sprinkle in the flour, curry powder, ginger and cinnamon and cook for one minute stirring constantly. Gradually stir in the stock and bring to the boil, stirring constantly.

When the sauce has thickened season with salt to taste and add the chutney. Return the chicken portions to the sauce, cover the pan, reduce the heat and simmer for 45 minutes approx until the chicken is tender (or put in the oven for approx 45 to 60 mins at a low temperature with a lid on). Add the lemon juice and peaches.

WANT TO HIRE A HALL?

Here is the latest list of hire charges for Thurlestone Parish Hall:

For plays, pantos, concerts and musical evenings.

For Parish lectures and whist drives

For Devon County Council Classes

For jumble sales, car boot sales and other money-raising events the Parish Hall costs £2.00 per hour and that includes use of tables, chairs, china, cooker, lighting and hot water.

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

TEASER No1.

90 people in Thurlestone were questioned about which game they played - bridge, bowls or golf.

- 28 played bridge and golf
- 8 played bridge and bowls
- 9 played golf and bowls
- 20 played bridge only
- 5 played bowls only
- 19 played only golf
- 5 said they played all three games.

HOW MANY DIDN'T PLAY ANY OF THESE GAMES?

TEASER No2.

9 men were sitting in a row in a Doctor's waiting room. Looking at them Greg was to the left of Abel, who was to the right of Basil and Frank. Don was in the middle of the row, but Ivor was not at either end.

Hector was to the left of Eric and Cliff, but to the right of Greg and Basil. Cliff was three places to the right of Greg and three places to the left of Eric. Frank was to the right of Ivor and Basil was to the right of Greg.

CAN YOU PLACE THEM IN ORDER FROM LEFT TO RIGHT?

You'll find the answers at the foot of another page in this issue.

..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NE

NEIL GIRLING of the Sloop is a member of the South Hams Tourism Forum, according to a new Press release from the South Hams District Council.

The Tourism Forum is made up of private and public sector interests which meet four times a year to approve the Council's tourism marketing plans. New Chairman of the Forum is Trevor Pennington, who is also chairman of the District Council's Economy and Employment Committee.

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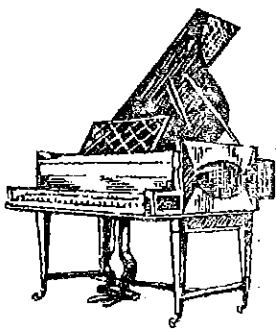
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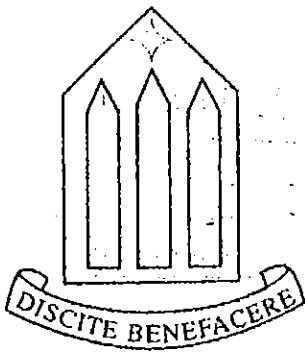
Andrew Hurrell

YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

THYME, GENTLEMEN PLEASE.

WHEN I WROTE in an earlier edition of "Village Voice" that the older children at All Saints School would be pursuing a Devon based project during the Summer Term, it would have been difficult to imagine the impact that such a study could have had on our own school environment.

For part of their project, the children had to re-design their school grounds. Many of their ideas, the creation of a pond, wild-life areas and gardens for study are long term and will not be established in a few short weeks. However, the variety of suggestions and the response of the children's parents and the kind contributions of people living near the school was an inspiring example of the extended school community cherishing its environment.

One of the most successful aspects was the creation of a herb and heather garden on the south side of the school; the children planned the garden, carefully considering the height, colour and range of the plants and they and their parents duly planted them during what was, by a happy co-incidence, National Environment Week.

Much, of course, remains to be done and a few of the herbs, notably two thymes, have perished. Nevertheless, during the next year or so, the results of our initial efforts will be to create a much more attractive environment in which to work and a school in which the whole village can take a pride. To these ends, any contributions that anyone wishes to make, will be seized with gratitude. We already have a stalwart squad of enthusiastic (and occasionally ruthless) gardeners and we are anxious that this interest does not decline.

A.F.WILLIAMS, Headmaster.

ANSWERS, ANSWERS

Here are the answers to Pat Machin's devilish brainteasers:

TEASER No.1 - 11 people.

TEASER No.2 - Greg, Basil, Hector, Cliff, Don, Ivor, Eric,
Frank, Abel.

HERE IS A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PAUL SHEPHERD, OUR COMMUNITY
CONSTABLE, TO ALL PARISHIONERS...

I am sure you are all well aware from watching television and reading the newspapers that crime is on the increase, not only in the South Hams, but throughout the whole country.

I must stress the importance of telephoning the Police immediately you see or hear anything suspicious. Be wary of all callers at your home, if they have a vehicle make a note of the registration number, this is always of great help to the Police.

Do you make sure that your house is locked at all times? Never go out into the garden and leave the front door open or insecure. The thief can be in and out in a flash. Make sure all windows are closed and fastened when you leave home. Remember to lock your car, don't just leave it on your driveway with the keys in the ignition, it's too late when you see it being driven off down the road.

At present would-be offenders are travelling in groups of three or four. Be alert, especially during the day.

Never be frightened to telephone 999 in an emergency, or Kingsbridge 852326 during the period from 8 a.m. to midnight; then Paignton (0803) 555201 during the night. We will always respond, no matter how minor the circumstances.

I'm sure you noticed the death of Ernest Edwin Tucker, who for many years was the Village 'Bobby' for Thurlestone. After his retirement he worked for a short period at South Devon Farmers, Kingsbridge, then returned to Kingsbridge Police Station where he was a civilian enquiry clerk. Mr. Tucker lived latterly in Ottery St. Mary, but I'm sure he will be remembered fondly by many of you.

Over the past weeks Thurlestone parish has been relatively crime free. Let's keep it that way during the rest of the Summer. With your help and support I am sure we can keep crime to a minimum.

Have you ever thought of asking the Crime Prevention Officers to come to your home and advise on suitable window or door locks and alarm systems. There is no charge for this service. If you are interested please contact me at Kingsbridge Police Station and I will make the arrangements.

I look forward to a continued close liaison between you and the Police.

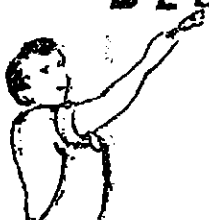
PAUL SHEPHERD, Community
Constable.

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

At our June meeting Mike Iddon gave a talk on "Why change the water" to the 33 members present. The talk was of considerable interest. 'Tufty' Sayers, a member for some years, attended his last Thurlestone meeting as he has decided to move to Hampshire.

It is hoped that Kevin Boote, Curator of Cookworthy Museum, will be the speaker at our July meeting with Colonel Bye joining us as speaker on September 13. As usual there will be no meeting in August and the October 11 meeting will be the annual golf competition with lunch afterwards in the Clubhouse. D.M. YEOMAN (560300)

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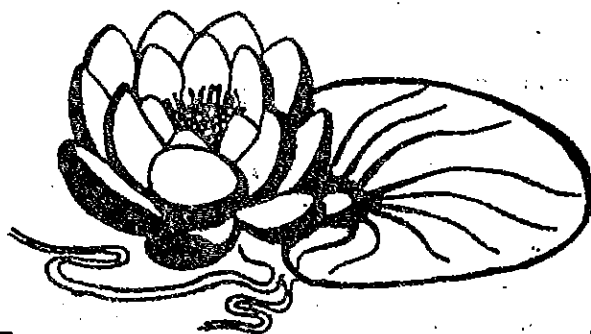
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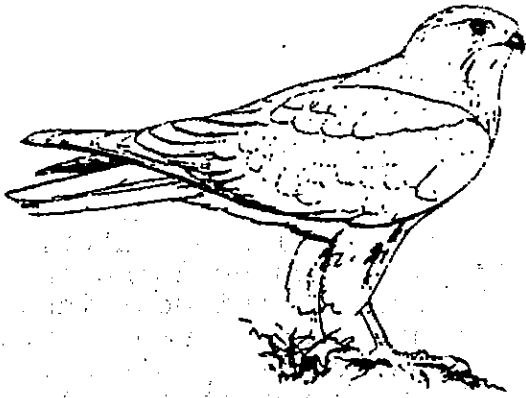
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HARRY HUGGINS

AROUND THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, one of my favourite lady friends told me she and her husband were off for a week to their apartment in Tenerife. I think, had I been then, I would have gone for a month. They go there for much of the winter, and well, this summer has seemed like winter.

What they were going to do, to exchange a cold climate for something more benign, is done by many of the birds as well. Migration they call it.

Not only birds. I have written in this column about butterflies. Some peoples do it too, though as the world has got overcrowded it has got much more difficult because the places they want to go to and from are occupied already by someone else.

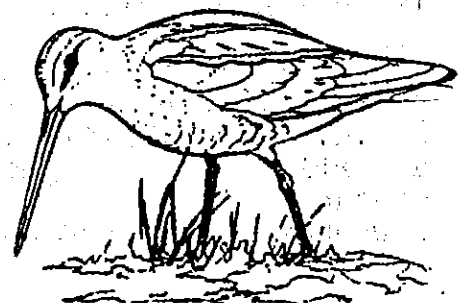
One of the most interesting bits in the late Jacob Bronowski's television thing "The Ascent of Man" was the migration of the nation, Baktiari I think they were called, from winter quarters up to summer pastures. Especially the poor old man who announced he could go no further and was left by the river to die (I would do that if I went out with TRAMP!). I assume in fact that this time he ~~did~~ not die and that the camera crew took him to the promised land in their helicopter.

For birds too it is a risky business. Our house martins have not returned this year in anything like their previous numbers, nor have the swallows.

We do not yet know why. It could be that in the past couple of years their breeding success was poor - dry weather meant no mud for nest building - and not enough young were hatched to maintain the population. They might have suffered disaster in their winter quarters, like Whitethroats and Sand Martins did some years ago through drought in the Sahel, just south of the Sahara. Or maybe they had trouble as they flew north - conditions were cold and wet and generally vicious in the Mediterranean at the time they should have been passing through. No doubt there will be learned explanations in the birding magazines, illustrated by maps, graphs and statistics (my pet hates).

Meanwhile we wonder. So why do they do it?

Some do not. Grey Partridges, for example. They are few now because they cannot live with modern agriculture (nor can the farmers, I will say it before they do), but not many years have passed since they teemed; mostly they lived and died within a mile or so of where they were hatched. Ptarmigans stay on the high mountains all the time, turning white like ermines when



HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUED:

the snow comes.

But all birds which do not migrate have a problem - winter. The seed eaters, like the Partridges, can get by. So can Woodpigeons, which gorge on things like broccolis and cabbages. But most insects disappear; not entirely, and usually Wrens and Tits, non-migrants, can still find them: it is surprising how insectivorous birds like these and the few warblers which stay with us do manage to get through quite sharp frosts, but a long cold spell can cause havoc. We have not seen a Kingfisher since the frost of last February - they can cope with the cold but not with the loss under ice of their food supplies.

So it makes good sense to move out: we are told, for example, that Swifts, which go to Africa, have a much greater life expectancy than Blackbirds, which stay. That is not surprising, for Blackbirds are much more at risk from bad weather and predators such as Sparrowhawks and cats, especially cats (as a person I love cats; as a birder I detest them!). It is thought that once a Swift flies from the nest for the first time, it will never leave the air, even to sleep, until it is old enough to breed. And in the air there are few things which can catch one - it takes a lithe active falcon like a Hobby to do so.

I do not know much about what happens in the southern hemisphere. No doubt some birds in the southern tip of South America go north. Some do in New Zealand - a few species go north to the Pacific islands, a lovely thought, and the Banded Dotterel, a little plover about the size of a Blackbird nips westward across the 1,000 miles of the Tasman Sea when it has finished breeding. New Zealand is not typical, though, because many of its native birds lost the power of flight, there having been no ground predators until man introduced them not much more than 1,000 years ago, which of course is no time at all in the development of a species.

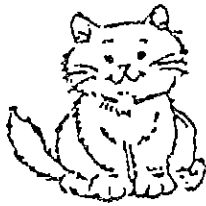
When you look at the northern hemisphere, where most of the world's land mass is (I always think it must be top heavy and might topple over), above about 40 degrees north there is a band of country over 2,000 miles wide extending right around the globe, bar a couple of gaps for oceans. In winter most of it is so cold as to be hostile to many birds. But in summer there is good habitat for the occupying and food for the taking.

It is logical therefore for them to move in during the summer, for plentiful food and extended daylight (many go way north of the Arctic Circle) and to scarper southwards when it turns cold and dark. So, most species probably, do just that.

When we lived on the East coast a friend who caught birds to put rings on their legs trapped one individual Nightingale in three successive summers in the same bush near Colchester. An acquaintance of his in Africa caught it in the same bush there in the three corresponding winters. It says a lot for how conservative in their habits some birds are, and how long individuals can live. I do not know the age of this one when it was first caught, but obviously it must have survived six flights back and forth which is not bad going for a creature the size of your thumb.

There is just about every variation you can think of in the way different species migrate. We took our Spring holiday this year in Corfu. It was, still is, if you keep away from Ipsos and Benitses, a particularly delightful island. Those two places are as ghastly as the holiday programmes make out. We looked at them and stayed elsewhere, and were untroubled by lager louts. We saw masses of

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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.

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HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUED:

beautiful wild flowers and some very nice birds. We photographed some. A few of them turn up in Britain on rare occasions to excite the twitchers - Great White Egret, as big as our heron and pure white, Alpine Swift, like our Swift but white below and twice as big, and Sardinian Warbler. If any twitcher wants pictures to support a claim to dupe the British Birds Rarities Committee, I can accommodate him, at a price. But of course no twitcher would dream of such a thing. I bet it has been done, though.

What especially took my fancy was Black-headed Bunting. It is a very close relative of our Yellowhammer. The female does not look much, but the male is orange on the back and yellow in front, with a black cap like a hangman's hood over its crown and eyes. It is a migrant, but instead of going north and south, it flies east and west, summer in Greece and Turkey, winter in Northern India.

Our wintering Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs do something similar. Here in England we have a lot of them in summer. You can hear both in our parish - Blackcap has a rich fluty song nearly as good as a Nightingale's (you will be incredibly lucky if you hear one of those in the South Hams, one sang near Bolt Head for a few days a spring or two ago, but he failed to attract a lady and moved on). A few Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps try to spend the winter with us - I say try because we are not sure they get through a really bad spell. In early January of this year we found three Blackcaps on the bushy cliffs at Strete Gate, on the Dartmouth side of Slapton Ley, and you can be assured that if we saw three, there were more we did not see. After the frost of early February had gone we searched diligently, but found none of them; maybe one survived - we do not know.

I wrote about a friend ringing a bird. It is through this ringing that they have discovered something of the journeys which species make. Another friend at the British Trust for Ornithology (which concerns itself with the study of populations, habitats and the like) tells us that the proportion of ringed birds recovered to those on which rings are put is 1 to 10,000. Not much but it is enough to show trends.

Ringling studies have shown that the Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs which we find in winter are not our summer ones left behind. They have all gone to Africa. The winter ones moved in from Poland and elsewhere in eastern Europe. They are not the whole populations from there, most must have gone south to Africa. But a few come here. Explain that one if you can, I cannot, any more than I can tell you why all the Wheatears which summer in Greenland and North America pass through the British Isles on their way to winter in Africa.

Wheatears are a familiar bird to us. In spring and autumn there are always a few, on migration, around the golf course. The male is bluish in spring, otherwise all are brown, with very distinctive white rumps and black tips to their tails. They nest on Dartmoor and similar places north. In the last year or two some have taken to breeding on Bolt Tail. It is quite sensible that the birds summering here should winter in Africa. But why do the American ones go to Africa, which means crossing the North Atlantic, instead of wintering in America? It has to be recalled that modern man is an upstart of 10,000 years or so - before that he hunted and gathered like any other animal. Compared to him, bird species are incredibly old - fossils indicate that the Barn Owl, comparatively a newcomer, was around 12 million years ago. Perhaps the Wheatears started going to America when it was still attached to Europe!

Other kinds of birds move generally southwards in winter, but

HARRY HUGGINS CONCLUDES:

not to the same place each time. In the cold of last winter we had here in the South Hams thousands of Redwings and Fieldfares. My wife counted 77 of the latter at one time in our crab apple tree - it had been covered with fruit and they stripped it bare in half an hour. But for the winter of 1989/90 we did not record either species here at all, except we have a note of hearing, in November 1989, Redwings' flight calls - to keep in touch when migrating in the dark (which is when most of the smaller birds make their flights) they make faint "seep" noises. We never saw these birds, they did not alight here, but must have gone straight on to France.

Further to complicate the matter, some species do not come on a regular basis as migrants, but "irrupt", like Lemmings do when they all get up and go. Usually it is because they are driven on by the failure of their food supplies in the areas where they normally live. Waxwings and Crossbills do it quite often, maybe once every few years. The former are impelled by lack of berries, the latter by failure of the pine seed crop. They come from northern Europe, but few get as far as us in Devon, although if you want to see Crossbills you can usually find some of those which live in the Haldon forest if you look, and listen, hard enough.

However, in 1983 we did have a big irruption - of Jays. It is not a common bird around here; there used to be the odd pair in Thurlestone, but we have seen none for years and if you really want them you have to go to Aveton Gifford, along the far end of the tidal road, where there is usually a pair to be seen, and more often heard, in the woods.

It is thought that in 1983 there was a failure of the acorn crop, the Jay's staple winter food, because in October they started to arrive in the West in large numbers. We saw eleven or so at South Huish and more than twenty around Quarry Wood. But a friend in Plymouth saw over 2,000 and there were more than 6,000 in Cornwall. Most were moving West. What became of them is not known - they just disappeared. A lot were seen making their way out to sea from North Cornwall and others went offshore from North Devon. No unusual numbers were reported from Ireland and not a single Jay was seen on Lundy nor on the Isles of Scilly. The former has always birders on the lookout and the latter at that time of year would be stiff with watchers, all coming to the islands in the hope of rare transatlantic vagrants. It can only be assumed that most of the Jays met a watery end.

Here I have written something of what birds do. That is the easy bit. Much harder to explain is how they do it. Next time, I'll try!

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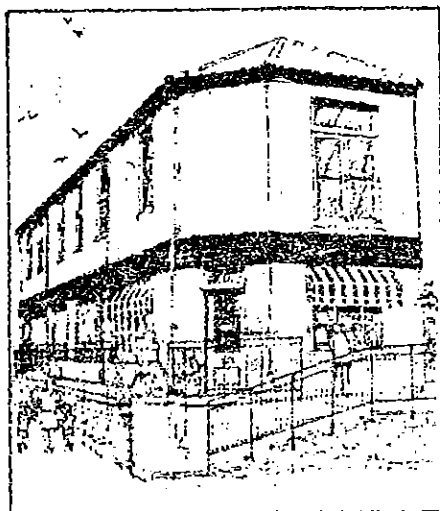
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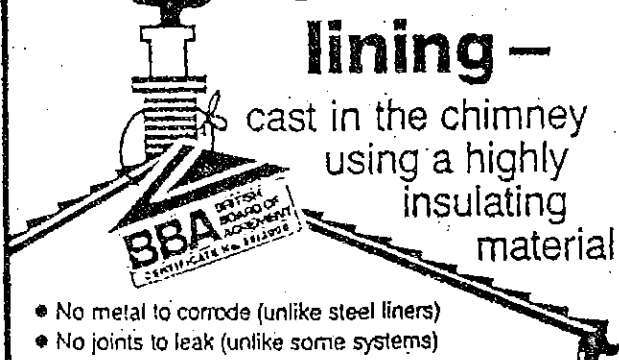
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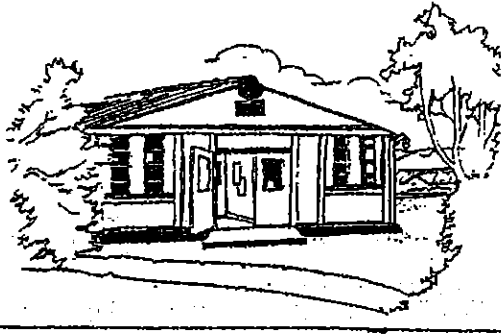
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SHOW BUSINESS. Village Voice reviews a local play:

ALL SAINTS' SCHOOLCHILDREN provided wonderful entertainment when they presented a short play "The Coming of Arthur" in July. Parents and friends crowded into the schoolroom to watch a colourful "pageant" which had something for all ages to enjoy.

There was Merlin in a tall, jewelled hat, a truly regal King and Queen, a collection of dubious knights providing some amusement, and the boy-King Arthur who was, of course, able to draw the sword out of the stone.

The costumes were simple, but very effective against the castle background. All the children obviously enjoyed themselves and their own cheerful musical accompaniment was excellent. Children and staff had worked enthusiastically for nearly two months on the production with invaluable help from Mrs. Vikki Carpenter, Mrs. Jackie Jackson and Mrs. Anna Toovey. Eleven-year-old Laura Carpenter designed the programme cover.

Especially effective was the final song "Long Live Our King", and the country dance, starring the youngest members of the cast. Nice final touch was the presentation of chocolates to the authors of the play who were present. Both live in the South Hams. Mrs. Dulce Marshall, a distinguished cellist, and Mr. Nicholas Marshall, Head of Music at South Brent, wrote both music and script. W.B.

POSTBAG EXTRA..MORE OF YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITORS.

DEAR SIR (AND MADAM,

Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show.

It may not be appreciated by your readers that the Thurlestone Bridge and Bowls Club have uncomplainingly and generously forfeited respective games to enable us to prepare the Parish Hall for the Show on Saturday 3rd August.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Clubs for their co-operation and also Len Hubbard who has encouraged the Rising Generation to enter several of the handicraft classes.

Members of the public who come to the Show will have the first viewing of the collage that the Rising Generation have been working on this year.

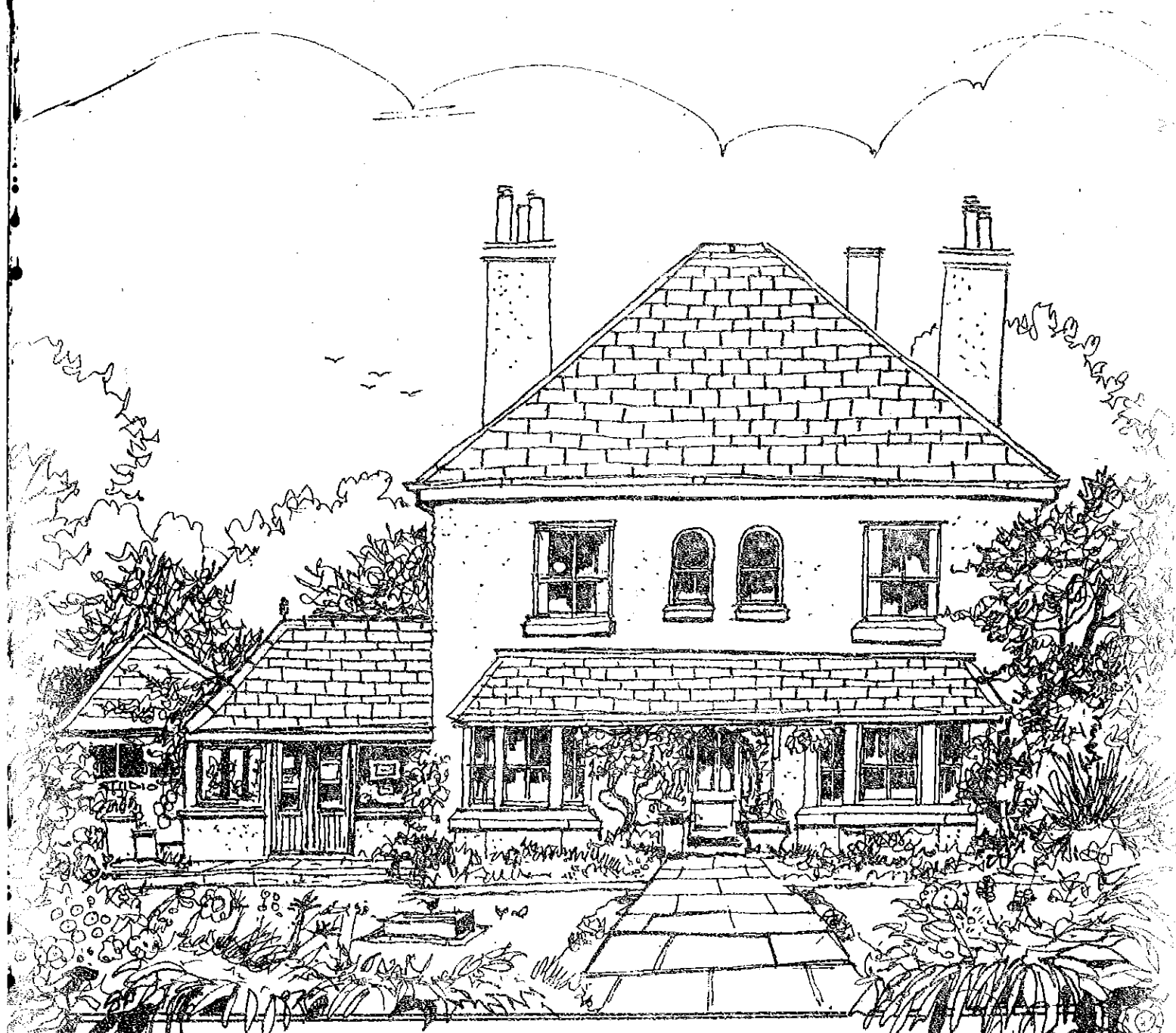
THE SHOW COMMITTEE.

DEAR EDITORS,

Until fairly recently all pillar boxes had names - little plates fixed to the front of each box with a descriptive title. These have, alas, now vanished and dull numbers only have become the rule.

I recall the name for the box on the hill going down to the golf club was "Mollycombe". Does anyone know how it got its name? Is the hill called Mollycombe Hill?

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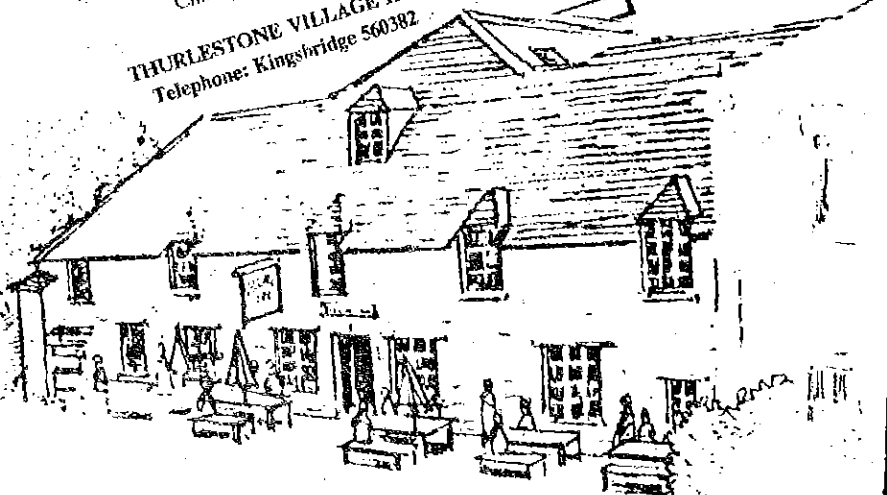
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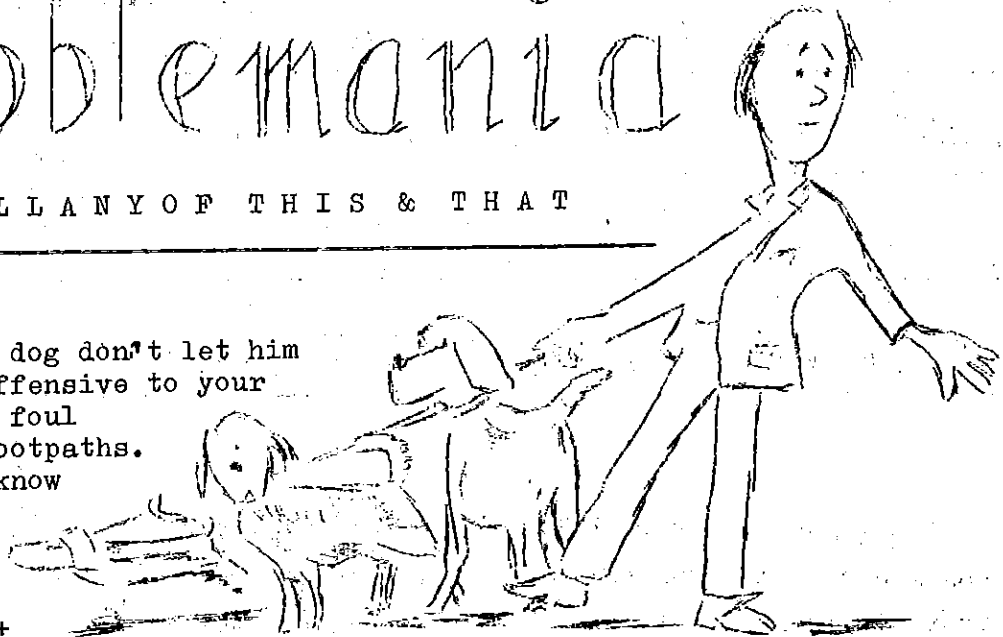
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neighbours or foul
beaches and footpaths.
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any better -
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SELL YOUR CAR whilst you still have the chance - for in due course
it is likely no one will want it !! According to the British Road
Federation, transport is the biggest item in the family budget, after
food and housing, and they tell us that by the year 2000 road traffic
is expected to rise by at least 28 per cent, but could be as much as
40 per cent. There will obviously be no need for high speed vehicles
or speed limits for it will surely only mean 'follow my leader' to
wherever it is your going. And as for car parking

++++++

IS a Committee a group that takes Minutes and wastes hours ?

++++++

I understand the Department of Employment has launched a campaign to
"ensure that tourism develops in harmony with the environment." (I wonder
if the Department of the Environment know about this?).

According to some estimates tourism is about to become the biggest
industry on earth, but fortunately Mr Michael Howard (the Employment
Secretary) has indicated : "These glittering prospects will be tarnished
unless the responsibilities are taken seriously." This seems to make it
a situation for the District Council Planning Department. Can they cope
do you think? Our forefathers left behind them all the villages whose
charm and beauty has not only enticed the tourist but created so very
many 'settlers' from foreign parts like the South East and the Midlands !
We must watch, for Housing Minister Sir George Young is reported that he
is to urge councils to grant permission for low cost housing where it
would normally be refused. Our MP Mr Anthony Steen is reported to have
stated: "Instead of Council Estates we would get low cost housing estates,
In theory this could open the floodgates for a wave of such housing
unless it is carefully controlled by local planners and politicians."
A small number of low cost homes under Housing Association conditions
are needed, but would anyone really want a cheaper variation of, say,
the Mead?

++++++

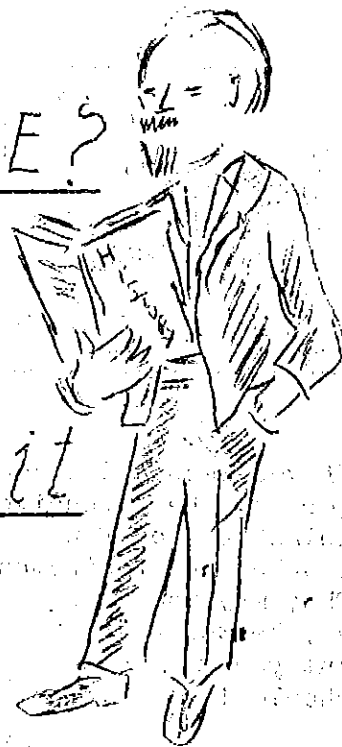
POLITICS: The gentle (?) art of getting votes from the poor and campaign
funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other !

++++++

MORE::::::

IS IT NOT REMARKABLE?

Mind you, you have to
start quite young to
achieve anything like it



+ + + + +

IF, like me, you were born before the year 1910, you can enjoy a certain smug satisfaction. For we are survivors ! In spite of the odds, the dangers, the pressures, everyone in our age group has made it beyond that figure of three score years and ten. We have survived the Awful Twenties, the Frightful Thirties, the Frugal Forties, the Hopeful Fifties, the Swingin' Sixties, the Backlash Seventies and the Greedy Eighties.

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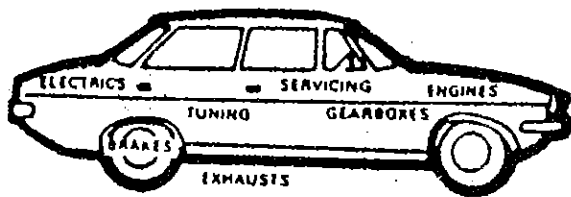


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D R A B B L E M A N I A P a r t I I I

CONCLUDING: IS IT NOT REMARKABLE ?

We were before Gay Rights, life support systems, computer dating, group therapy, flexitime, the Greenhouse Effect, being 'into' things like punk and ecology. We had never heard of tape decks, Walkmans, electronic typewriters,, artificial hips, knees and hearts, word processors, calories, slimline or yogurt. Time share meant togetherness not a holiday home; a chip was a fragment of wood, hardware meant hardware - software wasn't even a word. Walls had 'Stop Me and Buy One' Tricycles, and sold you real dairy ice cream, a finger stretch long, for one penny. For that penny you could have bought a morning paper, or made a phone call, posted a letter or two postcards, or taken a journey on a bus. You could buy a new car for around £150 and petrol was less than a shilling a gallon. Cigarettes and tobacco were dirt cheap too! A 'fix' was a job for a handyman, 'crack' was a smart retort and 'pot' was for your wife to cook in. 'Uppers' and 'Downers' were your Grandpa's choppers, and aids was someone who helped Generals and Prime Ministers. We were even before the Womens Institute and, yes, we were before theme parks, sports centres, surfboards, supermarkets, interior spring mattresses and hose pipe bans. I'm sure there is more, haven't we done well to survive all that !

P.S. And before the 'Permissive Society' !

DUDLEY DRABBLE

+ + + + +

THE STONE FOR MANY OF ENGLAND'S FAMOUS BUILDINGS . . .

came from the Dorset quarries. Inigo Jones used Dorset stone in the stately banqueting hall in Whitehall. It was incorporated into the construction of Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and many of our great Cathedrals. After the fire of London in 1666, Sir Christopher Wren used Portland stone for rebuilding much of the capital.

Quarrying has been the chief industry in Purbeck and Portland for many centuries. The stone is composed of countless molluscs, whose lineal descendants still creep about our shores, and which, millions of years hence, will form more stone. Men have quarried in these places for so long that the origin of the work is lost in antiquity. The working of freestone was done in the Bronze Age. Cists and chambers were lined with the stone in pre-historic times, and pieces of stone used by the Romans have been found on the Roman site of Silchester.

Queen Elizabeth I conferred a Charter on the Purbeck quarrymen in return for services rendered by them. Legend has it that the Charter was granted for the quarrymen's part in defending the coast from the Danes, who ravaged England in 787. This brave action is commemorated by a mural in St. Stephen's Hall in the House of Commons.

A man not descended from a quarryman used not to be welcomed into the industry. Son followed father for generations, and any boy who did not start in the quarries before he was ten years old, had no future. The rules of the Ancient Order of Purbeck Marblers state that: "An apprentice shall serve a term of seven years apprenticeship, down-lying and up-rising with his tutor."

+ + + + +

A good cure for insomnia is to get plenty of sleep !

+ + + + +

Neville OSWALD reports



IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS, say more than a hundred years ago, obtaining a glass of water needed rather more than just turning on a tap. Indeed, despite the climate, a reliable source of water was then hard to come by, especially during the summer.

Each of the half-dozen farmers in our parish would hope to have a spring or well on his property, preferably near his home with an extension to his kitchen or just outside.

Thurlestone itself was rather poorly served by a hand-operated iron pump in the recess above the Village Stores. The roofed recess is now a bus shelter. Water was carried home by women with two pails on a wooden yoke across their shoulders, the clatter of their wooden pattens on their shoes being a familiar sound in the rough and often muddy street. Before the pump, it was just a well.

The length of the carry home from the well must have been critical at times. For instance, an elderly rheumatic widower living a bit off the beaten track is likely to have relied on relatives nearby, perhaps one with a horse and cart, to keep him supplied.

There were other wells in the village. One rediscovered not so long ago is up behind Snowdons (which has now reverted to its old name of Perse's Farthing) and there was another at the Rectory, now the Old Rectory. Water was precious. For example, we know from Monica Coope's memoirs that when the Rev. Frank Coope moved in to Thurlestone in 1897, ^{they} took care not to waste water. "We had our own well at the Rectory," wrote Monica, "but it took an hour to pump the tank full up in the attic so we had to be very careful of water, especially in summer when the rain water tank was running low."

"Our nightly bath in front of the nursery fire was on the instalment plan, youngest first, and so on until the eldest lowered herself into a veritable pea soup of sandy, soapy water, hotted up for her by an addition from the brown enamel can standing near."

Monica Coope goes on to say that at the top of the village a tap ran off the same spring which fed the well. "Sitting by it on fine days on his little camp chair, was old Pound, smoking a clay pipe and exchanging yarns with whoever came to the tap. Mrs. Pound kept the sweet shop (now Cradles Cottage) and supported herself and her husband who was so crippled up with rheumatics that he could only just crawl down to the tap with the help of a couple of walking sticks, and there he stayed, hour in, hour out". The tap end today sticks out of the archway in the wall which is dated 1888, like the one on the hill at Buckland near the old Chapel. Most people



COLLECTING WATER FROM THE RIVER AT EXETER IN ABOUT 1840. NOTE THE HOOPS WHICH WERE PUT ROUND THE BUCKETS TO PREVENT SLOPPAGE.

NEVILLE OSWALD continued:

collected rainwater as it dripped from their roofs and, because of its softness, used it for washing clothes.

When the golf club opened in 1897, the club house had no water at all. Fortunately Mr. and Mrs. Grose, then farming at Court Barton, South Huish, moved into the Thurlestone farmhouse, now the Village Inn, in that year and supplied the club with bottles of aerated water and occasional luncheons in baskets. In 1900 and still without water, the Committee placed two barrels at the back of the club house to catch rain water and connected them with a hand-basin, but very little water came through. The Secretary was ordered to go out and find or dig for water in the vicinity - with what success is not recorded. In the early 1900s, with the building of the Avon dam, the village obtained an improved supply from which the club managed to pipe an intermittent flow. At once, the members' amenities were transformed. The Committee voted a table, three chairs and a water jug for the ladies' room and the professional's wife, Mrs. Coombes, provided admirable Devonshire teas, a tradition that was continued by her daughter Nellie.

Despite these advances, neither the village nor the golf club had a reliable water supply until the Thurlestone Hotel erected a large water tower on the high ground at the back of the twelfth green in the early 1920's, to which water was pumped from a spring beside the tenth tee. It remained until it was no longer needed, and was dismantled in 1951.

What on earth the people of Thurlestone, Buckland and Banthan used to think of the water system in Kingsbridge when they met there on market days, I do not know. Up at Combe Royal, above the town, there was spring with enough water to supply the whole town. Certainly in 1677 and possibly in 1607, the owners leased water to the Kingsbridge feoffees and four conduits were built at regular intervals in Fore Street, the oldest dated 1611. They were sited plumb in the middle of the road to supply the needs of the homes and alleys on either side and measured six feet square and ten to twelve feet high. In time, what with horse-drawn traffic, the pannier market, shoppers and the weekly market in Fore Street, which included horses, cattle, and sheep, there was no room to move. The conduits were demolished in 1793 and replaced by smaller ones at the side of the street. These 'water taps' continued until 1853 when pipes were laid conveying water to the various houses and courts.

Things are very different now. South West Water reckons that each of us uses about 30 gallons a day on average. A bath takes 25 gallons as does an automatic washing machine; then some people water their gardens and clean their cars. All this can only come from rain water, most of it from Dartmoor where it is collected in vast reservoirs. With the opening of Wimbleball on Exmoor in 1978 and Roadford in West Devon in 1990, the holding capacity of the couple of dozen reservoirs in the county has been almost quadrupled.

These reservoirs exist primarily for regulating rivers in that they keep them supplied with enough water to maintain fish and other life and to feed the 57 water treatment plants that are scattered over the county where impurities are removed and possible harmful bacteria are killed. They also ensure sufficient water for the 300 or so sewage treatment works, many of them very small like the one at South Milton.

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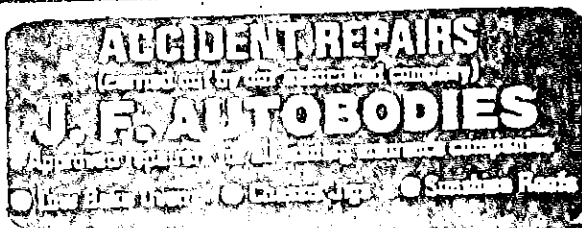
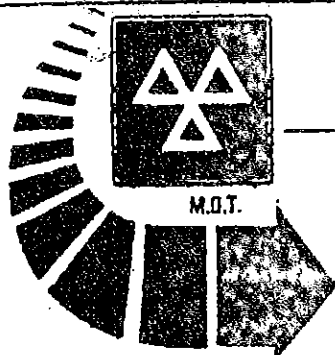
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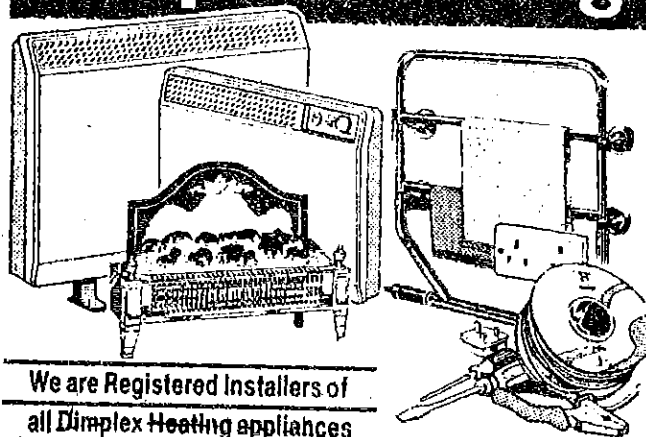
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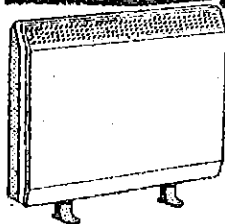
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Talking About

THE JOLLY ROGER!

TALES ABOUND ABOUT THE ASSORTED RIFF-RAFF who followed the calling of pirate, but one man's story stands out as proof that truth can indeed be stranger than fiction, and yet his name is hardly known.

Bartholemew Roberts was born in 1682 in the small village of Little Newcastle at the foot of the Preseli Hills in Pembrokeshire. His parents were poor small farmers and he was one of several children. He was only ten when he was sent to sea as a cabin boy in a slaver trading between Bristol, Africa and the West Indies. She was the "Princess" and commanded by a Captain Plumb.

Roberts proved himself to be both intelligent and brave. Although he had no education at all, he became a competent navigator and, as the years passed, worked his way up to become Third Mate. But he did not like the slave trade, nor did he care for Captain Plumb. So he had little or no chance of rising above his present rank and was thinking of leaving the sea when fate stepped in and altered his life.

The "Princess" had delivered and sold a cargo of slaves and was on the way back to Bristol with the proceeds when she was attacked off the Guinea coast by the pirate ship "King James", which was commanded by a Welsh captain, Hywel Davies, and most of the crew were also Welshmen. Because of this Roberts was spared and allowed to join in with them.

A kind of rough democracy ruled in pirate ships. Officers were elected by the crew as a whole and could equally be demoted in the same way. "Barty" as he was now known, was eventually made First Mate, and when Davies was killed in a Portuguese ambush, he was voted Captain. At this point his career started on a course which is almost incredible, but which is fully documented in the Admiralty records of the day.

In two years his ship, a converted Welsh collier called "Royal Revenge" captured and looted four hundred ships, taking from them gold, jewels and merchandise valued in those days at £51 million!

On one occasion, when the Portuguese treasure fleet was at anchor off the coast of Brazil awaiting the arrival of men o' war which would escort them safely home, Roberts sailed into their midst and took the 100-gun "Sagrada Familia", which was carrying the King's own treasure of gold, silver and jewels valued at £21 million. The fight lasted four hours.

His tactics were quite simple. He approached his victims flying a flag, wither of their own country or one known to be friendly to them, and then at the last moment would break out the pirate flag of which he was the originator. It did not bear the skull and crossbones; it was black and carried a skull, plus two hour-glasses and was embroidered with the threatening words "Youre tyne is runnyng oute".

When he was voted Captain one of the first things which Barty did

TALKING ABOUT CONTINUED:

was to draw up a set of rules for his crew, which they solemnly, and with one hand on his Welsh Bible, swore to uphold. It is a tribute to his personality that he managed to get a gang of cut-throats to do any such thing, but there was a quid pro quo contained in the deal. The rules laid down that all prisoners were to be treated humanely; that women were to be respected and would not be violated in any way, and that, when in port or close offshore no women, or for those that felt so inclined, boys would be allowed on board. There would be no gambling, swearing or quarrelling and, almost unbelievable, that men off watch were to be in their bunks or hammocks by nine o'clock at night.

The quid pro quo represented thinking completely out of context with the customs of the day. At a time when both the Army and the Navy discharged their disabled or time-served men on to the streets to beg or starve, Barty's rules contained a simple table of compensations for injuries ranging from a sword cut to the loss of an eye or limb. In addition, when any man's share of the loot reached the equivalent of a thousand West Indies dollars, he could leave the crew with no hard feelings and his money in his pouch. Several followed this course, but unfortunately this usually meant that wild living soon put an end to them.

The British Government built a string of forts along the New England coast to protect the colony. Roberts had learned about what trumpets did to the walls of Jericho, so from his crew he formed a bugle, drum and fife band. He would sail close in shore by a fort; the band would strike up, and the black flag with the ominous message would be broken out. At this, nine times out of ten, the garrison would open the back gate of the fort and take to the woods without a fight. This left Roberts to replenish his stock of powder and shot, victuals and fresh water. After doing so he would set fire to the timber fort and raze it to the ground.

Finally, George I, who could hardly speak a word of English, had a letter written offering Barty and his crew an "Act of Grace" - a free pardon - if they would cease their activities. George got a very dusty answer, brief and to the point, which recalled that Captains Kidd and Braddish had been foolish enough to accept such an Act of Grace and "were now hanged up, a-drying in the sun on Execution Dock".

Roberts, who is said to have drunk nothing stronger than tea, had one affectation. He habitually dressed from head to foot in red, from a scarlet hat with a red plume down to red leather boots with gold buckles. In consequence, the French called him "Le Joli Rouge" (The handsome Red-man) and so, by way of the uneducated seamen's vocabulary, he became "Jolly Roger", a name which eventually came to describe him and his distinctive flag, a term which we have used ever since.

"Tyme" eventually ran out for Barty. The Admiralty despatched what we today would call a "Task Force" to deal with him; a Man o' War and three Frigates under the command of Captain Challoner Ogle. They found him in 1722. And Ogle used Roberts' own tactics to lure him into a trap. One of the frigates, flying the French flag, approached the pirate ship and then turned away as if in fright. This

[illegible]

TALKING ABOUT THE JOLLY ROGER concludes:

was a bait that Roberts could not resist, and he gave chase at once. As he rounded a headland in pursuit, there was Ogle's man o'war waiting for him. At this time Barty was commanding a ship called "Royal Fortune", one which he had captured from the French as "La Victoire". She was a three-decker and really too big for the crew he had aboard. Nor was she as nimble as his earlier, smaller pirate ships.

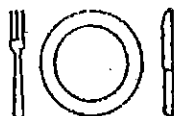
Barty Roberts, conspicuous in his scarlet outfit, was killed by a Marine sniper in the foremast cross-trees of the man o' war. Shortly afterwards the "Royal Fortune" blew up and sank. Ogle returned home to a Knighthood and a rich reward with which he bought an estate in the Midlands, and to which he promptly retired.

And what happened to Bartholemew Roberts' treasure? Men are still searching for it to this day.

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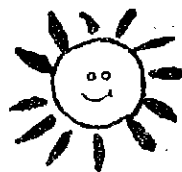
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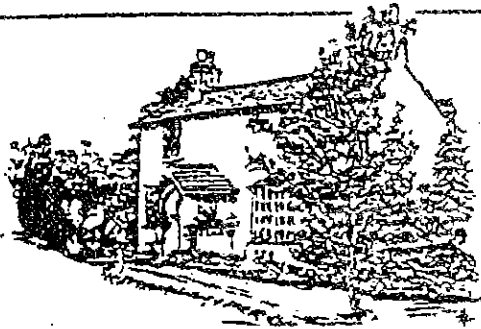
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VILLAGE VOICE'S SUPERGUIDE TO 1991

August

- Sat 3rd Aug. Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show
Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30 p.m.
Wed 7th Aug. Tramp walk, Dartmoor.
Tues 13th Aug. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.

September

- Tues 10th Sept. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Tues 17th and 18th. Dept of Environment Public Enquiry on Footpath
across Golf Course, Parish Hall.
Tues 17th Boutique 144 Fashion Show, Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 18th Sept. Tramp walk, East of Salcombe.
Sat 28th Sept. Thurlestone Parish Hall Annual Fair 2.30 p.m.

October.

- Tues 8th Oct. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Wed 16th Oct. Tramp walk, Start Point.

November

- Sat 9th Nov. Thurlestone School Autumn Bazaar.
Tues 12th Nov. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Wed 20th Nov. Tramp walk, Swincombe Valley.
Sat. 30th Nov. NSPCC Christmas Bazaar.

December.

- Sat 7th Dec. Conservatives Christmas Bazaar, Thurlestone Parish
Hall 10.30 a.m.
Tues 10th Dec. Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.
Wed 11th Dec. Tramp Christmas walk, Dittisham
Mon 16th Dec. Rising Generation Christmas Show, Thurlestone Parish
Hall, 7.00 p.m.

Village Voice is now taking your dates for 1992 and for the end of this year. Details of events - in writing - should be given to Mrs. Joan Mackenzie, 7, Old Rectory Gardens, Thurlestone so that they can appear in the October-November issue. Dates by September 1 for that issue please.

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