

VILLAGE VOICE

APRIL - MAY

1992



STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..

A prominent Thurlestone resident was featured by Jack Holman in his Western Morning News Diary on March 12. Under the heading of "Making a clean sweep of the beaches", he wrote:

"Fiftythree years of dealing with rubbish and Miss Rosemary Stocken is still going strong. Not even the advent of an £80,000 beach cleaning machine deters her.

Rosemary's parents bought a house in Thurlestone in Devon's South Hams in 1939 and she started picking up rubbish on the three local beaches. She has continued with her self-imposed task, or, I suspect, her labour of love ever since.

She puts the rubbish in sacks which she carries to the edge of the village for disposal. Driftwood she takes home for firewood. South Hams Council's new beach cleaning machine operates on the main stretch of sand and relieves Rosemary of part of her patrol. But she says: 'It cannot get into the smaller coves and there is still plenty for me to do. I enjoy it, and you meet such interesting people on the sands.'

The smile leaves her face whenever she comes across greasy, oily bits of plastic. Too many ships dump such used containers overboard these days.

During the war Rosemary supplemented her household rations with soap, tinned food and tobacco washed up on the tide. She still has some candles discarded by ships all those years ago that she picked up as a girl. These days her most exciting find is likely to be a broom washed off a ship's deck. And why not? This gentle lady has been making a clean sweep of the beaches for a long time!"

STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..

Will the ladies of Thurlestone and West Buckland W.I. not go to the Parish Hall on April 9th to hear a talk on badgers (as detailed elsewhere in this issue), but to the Rectory Barn instead. Same time, different place, for X marks the other spot.

STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..

Mr. Bruce Mackay of Thurlestone's Landpath, has been elected Chairman of the Friends of Kingsbridge's Cookworthy Museum. Mrs. Patricia Macdonald of Thurlestone's Mead has been elected Deputy Chairman.

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APRIL-MAY 1992.

WHEN WE SAID THAT SENSE WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY at South Hams District Council we little knew how swiftly we were to be proved completely and utterly right.

We said in our last issue that only a bunch of lunatics would increase parking charges during a time of recession and consequent hard times in Kingsbridge shops. But now it is revealed that not only are the SHDC to reduce the number of parking places in the Quay car park in Kingsbridge from 68 to 24, but they are also to increase the charge for those fortunate enough to get into them!

Presumably the planners who are hell-bent on redeveloping the smaller car park (the one nearest to Boots) do not live in or travel to Kingsbridge, or they would have realised that they are cutting down on the car-parking spaces nearest to those two most important calling points for the elderly, the Health Centre and the Library.

And if you need further confirmation that the planners know little and care less about local residents, you will need reminding that they plan to have car-park entrance and exit at the same place down by the present toilet block. Is there not one among them who knows that the reason the present car-park has separated entrance and exit today is because the joint entrance-exit of a decade ago caused such chaos that it had to be changed? What wonderful bottlenecks we can look forward to when it is all changed back!

But do not let us be too downhearted. We have been told - and can well believe it to be true - that the revised car-park is to have a bandstand in it.

Is the bandstand the clue to what it's all about? Have we misunderstood the reasoning behind the whole thing? Here we are racking our brains to try and spot the hidden motive behind these amazing changes - and all the time it was right there before our very eyes...it isn't really a car-park at all, it's going to be a drive-in concert hall!

LOCAL NEWS

THAT PATH:

MR. J. N. HOLDEN, who held the local public enquiry into the footpath across the golf course on September 17 and 18 last year in the Thurlestone Parish Hall, has now confirmed that the public footpath does exist and should be added to the Definitive Footpath Map.

In his 19-page report to confirm the path running "east-west just inside the golf course, following the northern boundary wall and then the line of out of bounds posts", he does add that the path at its extreme western end has probably split and some have walked south of the area of gorse and heather and other walkers have gone north. As he has concluded that "the balance of probability" is that most have gone to the south, that is the route he confirmed.

This last small section of the path - to join the Coast Path - will be subject to objections, but the rest from the old northern Kissing Gate is not.

THOSE HOUSES:

Work on building 12 houses at the end of Seaview Road is to start this year, maybe as early as June. This good news - the houses are for local people - was given by Assistant Housing Director of SHDC, Mr. Brian Hickey at a meeting with the Clerk of Thurlestone Parish Council, Mr. Bill Ladd.

Mr. Hickey confirmed that 12 houses were to be built at the end of Seaview Road and that access to them would be by Seaview Road. At the same time he stated that 2 bungalows were to be built in Thurlestone on the site of the old telephone exchange.

The houses and bungalows would be built in two stages. First stage would be six houses in Seaview. The two bungalows together with the other six Seaview houses would be built later in the second stage.

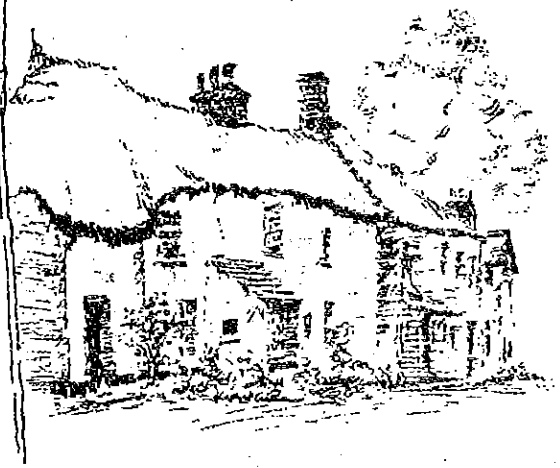
The houses would be built through a housing association on land financed by SHDC. Finance for the houses would come from the national Housing Corporation.

The houses would be for rent only with no right to buy. Preference would be given to local people. The housing association would own the housing permanently.

The first of the Seaview houses should be finished in a year.

OUR COAST:

The coastline from Bolt Tail to Slapton, including Salcombe Estuary, is to become a marine conservation area. Environment Minister David Trippier said that this was one of 16 areas around the English and Welsh coasts to get extra protection though it would mainly operate on a voluntary basis.



VILLAGER

NOW HERE'S ANOTHER GRIM LITTLE TALE. My notes about ghosts and the like in these here parts seem to have encouraged people to talk about such things on the principle that "it's being so miserable as keeps me going" as I think one of Tommy Handley's characters used to say.

The tale I am about to relate happened in Tommy Handley times, over 50 years ago to be precise when one of Thurlestone's holiday home owners was shot dead in London's famous Caxton Hall. Sir Michael O'Dwyer, GCIE, KCSI, a lean red-haired man with a clever puckish face, according to the newspapers of the time, owned Sunnybank in Ilbert Road where he used to relax in the summer by playing golf at the Club.

Sir Michael was a distinguished Indian Civil Servant and was Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab from 1913 until he retired in 1919. He was 74 on March 13, 1940 when he attended and spoke at a meeting of the Royal Central Asian Society in Caxton Hall, better known to most people as the venue for society and show business weddings than murder.

But murder there was as that meeting ended when an Indian in the audience, a Sikh called Udam Singh, put two bullets from a Smith and Wesson .45 revolver into Sir Michael's back. He then wounded Sir Louis Dane, another former governor of the Punjab, Lord Lamington, a former Governor of Bombay, and Lord Zetland, Secretary of State for India, before being floored by Miss Bertha Herring, who though in her sixties brought off a high tackle that would have got her sent off at Twickenham, and Udam Singh was then pinioned by several other members of the audience, who were convinced that this was an attack by the IRA (times do not change).

Why had Udam Singh turned his revolver on these men? He said at his trial that had not intended to shoot anyone and had aimed to hit the ceiling, but someone had knocked his arm down. He wanted to protest at the treatment of Indians by the British Government. The "Amritsar massacre" had made him hate the British. He denied knowing that Sir Michael had been the Governor at the time of the massacre. But there is little doubt that the Amritsar Massacre was the reason for his murder of Sir Michael. Yet it had all happened over 20 years before...

Roger Perkins of Newton Abbot in his book "The Amritsar Legacy", first published in 1989, says: "There is an area in the north west corner of India where two great religious traditions meet and overlap. This is the Punjab and it is the homeland of a proud and cultured warrior people, the Sikhs. They have a long and bloody history. Followers of a form of Hinduism, they have suffered repeated invasion by the armies of Islam who, over a period of many centuries, made their mark by creating an Islamic tradition in the same area. The gulf between the two religions, the cultural and philosophical differences have always been a source of friction."

VILLAGER CONTINUED:

Amritsar was, in 1919, a city of 155,000 people. But most important of all for the Sikhs it contains one of their greatest holy places, the Golden Temple. In 1919, despite Gandhi and his non-violent protests, the British Government was disturbed by reports of murders and other violent acts. O'Dwyer as governor telegraphed his concern to the Central Indian Government. In reply he was told that if troops were obliged to open fire, they "should make an example".

Unfortunately a General Dyer was in command at Amritsar. Reginald Dyer somehow got the idea that there was to be a general uprising against the British at Amritsar and that only a firm hand and a show of force would put a stop to it.

On April 13, 1919, the Sikhs celebrated the beginning of the harvest season. Traditional meeting places for this were the Golden Temple and the open space of eight acres surrounded by high walls called Jallianwala Bagh. Narrow gateways led into the space from only slightly wider lanes. A huge crowd had gathered there and political activists were trying to stir them up. Reports suggest that 10,000 people were in the Bagh. General Dyer decided this was a rebel army though many of those present were undoubtedly enjoying a holiday. So he took 50 riflemen; deployed them in front of the crowd, and ordered them to open fire. The soldiers fired until every round they carried was gone. Then Dyer marched his men back to their quarters. Under one of the piles of bodies was a Sikh called Udam Singh. Some said 200 died; some 2000.

Sir Michael O'Dwyer supported Dyer's action saying that it had been decisive in crushing the rebellion which he believed was about to break out. And that support probably led to his death from the gun of Udam Singh some 20 years later at Caxton Hall.

Thurlestone was mentioned many times at Singh's trial, which opened on June 4, 1940 at Number One Court in the Old Bailey. The trial did not receive much attention as it co-incided with the evacuation of Dunkirk and the last of the troops were being brought back across the Channel as counsel for the prosecution opened the case for the Crown.

Udam Singh seems to have taken his time about getting his revenge for Amritsar. He had appeared before Bow Street magistrates after arriving in this country on obstruction charges probably for pavement selling. He appeared as an extra in Korda's two films "Sabu" and "The Four Feathers", he was on the dole in October, 1939, and acted as a chauffeur before that for a retired captain in the Indian Army. Though he pleaded not guilty, he agreed he had fired the shots. He said he had been interested in Sir Michael for over a year (the police found "Sunnybank, Thurlestone" in Singh's 1939 diary). He added that he knew Sir Michael personally and had worked for him at Thurlestone. This was denied by the prosecution.

There was little doubt what the verdict would be. Singh was found guilty and sentenced to death. On July 31, 1940, Tom and Albert Pierrepoint hung him at Pentonville.

• The tale of Udam Singh and the Thurlestone connection is told in much greater detail in Roger Perkins' book "The Amritsar Legacy", Published by Picton Publishing (Chippenham) Ltd in 1989.

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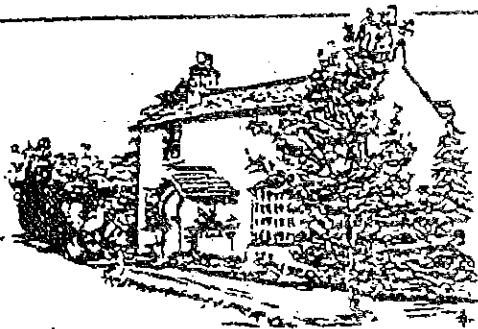
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SECRETS OF THE SAFE

- KENDALL McDONALD makes some strange discoveries among a roll of old documents found hidden at the back of Thurlestone Parish Council's safe.

MOST OF US like to think of Thurlestone's past as the good old days when roses bloomed round every door and the local inhabitants wandered freely in unspoilt fields and valleys when not working happily for kind masters who gave them huge meals and vast jugs of cider to wash it all down. No wonder they sang as they walked home from the harvest fields!

Most of us are not exactly sure of the exact period of this idyllic picture in our minds, but if pressed we might put it in the 1700s or perhaps later at the beginning of the 19th century.

Just how far we are from the truth became clear recently when the Parish Council took a good look inside their safe for the first time in a good many years. Out from the damp and dark of that steel box came a load of secrets from Thurlestone's long ago. And those aged documents, with ink faded to a rusty brown, firmly crushed many a dream of rustic life in days gone by.

For a great thick roll of fragile papers taken from the back of the safe have turned out to be "Removal and Settlement" documents dating from 1716 to 1854. And what an unhappy tale they tell of life in Thurlestone, Buckland, Bantham and roundabout in those days. And what secrets of local families they give away!

To know why all these documents were kept takes us back to 1662 when laws of settlement and removal tried to control the movement of the poor who, if they descended on the parish after being moved on from somewhere else, could bring poverty to the new area because of their demands on local supplies of food and shelter. So each parish was given power to look after their own and remove those vagrants who did not belong by means of a magistrate's order. Everyone was supposed to have a proper place to live. And if, for example, a man came to Thurlestone to help with the harvest, he had to bring his settlement certificate with him from another parish to prove that he wasn't going to dump himself suddenly on Thurlestone and claim poor relief from the rates.

To be permanently settled in Thurlestone or anywhere else round about, a man or woman would have to be paying rates, apprenticed, or in local service. And it was no good getting pregnant and then arriving in Thurlestone for the birth - the bastard child of a vagrant didn't get settlement in the place he or she was born. At least not after a law passed in 1743. Before that there were a number of cases where as soon as she showed signs of giving birth, the mother was rushed into Kingsbridge so that her baby could go on their rates.

But Thurlestone, it seems, was caught out by the case of poor Mary Shorwill who appears on the first document in the roll from the safe. The first time we meet Mary, to be honest, our impression is not good. The date is "the 28th day of October in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George King of great Britain" - which makes it 1716 - and the Thurlestone churchwardens have gone to local magistrate Edmund Reynell and told him they want to chuck Mary out because she was living in Thurlestone without any right and what's more had produced a "base child"! They thought Mary was going to be a drain on the parish and the magistrate agreed. After questioning Mary at some length Reynell writes that he determined that she was really settled in South Brent because she'd worked there for more than a year as a contracted servant. So back she had to go.

But Thurlestone hadn't heard the end of Mary. Not by a long chalk! Mary obviously wanted to live in Thurlestone and was prepared to wait to get her way ... Just like some people today!

The next document in the roll has no fewer than 9 little sealing wax seals and 3 sixpenny stamp impressions and is dated "the Ninth day of February Anno Dom 1721" and is the settlement certificate of Mary Shorwill of Ugborough! On it, the nine churchwardens and overseers of the poor in Ugborough sign and seal and promise the churchwardens and overseers of Thurlestone that if "Mary Shorwill, widow" ever became a charge on Thurlestone parish they would have her back again without any argument.

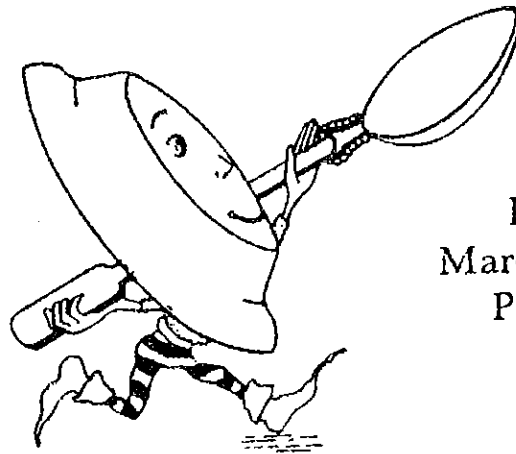
It would be nice to know what happened to Mary in the five years she was away. It would be nice to know too how she got on so well at Ugborough after the churchwardens of Thurlestone dumped her in South Brent. But whenever shall. Perhaps Mary moved on - at any rate there is no record of a Mary Shorwill being buried here. But then perhaps she married and lived happily ever afterwards and is in the churchyard under her husband's name.

We do know, however, a little about the magistrate in Mary's case. Edmund Reynell married Elizabeth in 1740 as was the custom only when she gave birth to their daughter Anne on June 3 that year. There is no record of what happened to Edmund and Anne, but Elizabeth was buried in Thurlestone Churchyard on January 12, 1785.

Edmund Reynell's much younger-looking signature appears on one of the earlier documents in the parish safe - an indenture dated "the 4th Day of July in the third year of the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Anne, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland", which would make it 1704. The indenture "between John Shepheard, Churchwarden, and William Tabb, Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Thurlestone within the County of Devon of the one part and Richard Morgan, Yeoman of the other" bound a girl called Anne Lynn to serve Morgan as an apprentice until she was "one and twenty years". Richard Morgan had to promise and sign in front of two Thurlestone justices of the peace - Edmund Reynell and John Pollexfen - that he would bring her up or cause her to be brought up in "huswifery" providing her with "Meat, Drink,

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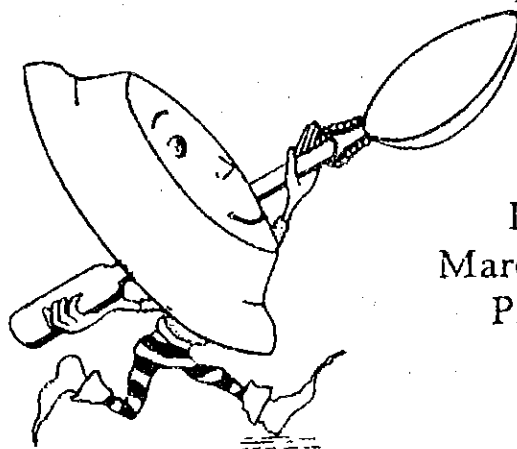
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Apparel, Lodging, Hose, Shoes and all other things fit and necessary during the said Term, and at the end thereof to discharge her well appparelled". Little Anne Lynn was of course to be a maid in Richard Morgan's house. Anne was probably about seven at this time and was a child of the parish, but though her family appear on parish lists in the late 1600s, there is no record of her birth. This may mean that she was not baptized, or merely that the records are incomplete.

Morgan's house was half-way along the road from the Sloop to West Buckland on the right-hand side. It seems to have been a farm of a kind, owned by the Courtenays, and I can see no sign of it today. Morgans consisted of a thatched house, a barn, a courtyard with pig sties on the opposite side to the house, and a small orchard nearby. The fields Morgan worked were further away. Two of the bigger ones - two acres and three poles each, - called strangely "Nearer Bove Town" and "Farther Bove Town" were on the left-hand side of the road as you walk up from the Chapel at West Buckland towards Aunemouth Cross and reached up as far as "Chuck Cheese Lane" as I am reliably informed every Bucklandian calls it. Morgan's other main fields were smaller, the largest only one acre two rods and 15 poles. These were just down on the left past the cottages of Bantham and would start just about where the gateway is to the Ham and run down into the valley. They were called "Higher and Lower Selland" which has of course been corrupted to Zealand today.

The Morgans had been associated with the parish of Thurlestone for a long time. The first Thurlestone church record of them is the birth of Richard on August 31, 1651 to another Richard and his wife Florence. This is the Morgan who will later be in charge of little Anne Lynn. He married a different Anne in December 1677 when he was 26 and appears to have no children. Both he and his wife lived a long time by the standards of those days. Richard Morgan died and was buried in Thurlestone Churchyard on September 2, 1733 when he was just two days past his 82nd Birthday.

Though Anne Lynn must have been well out of her indenture by the time her master died, I wonder how many times during his lifetime she had to trot along the road to the Sloop to get her master a jug of ale to go with his supper? And do you think she got her share of cyder when everyone in the house had to go out to the fields down by the Ham to get the harvest in?

I hopeso, but then I expect I'm getting all romantic about the past again!

Footnote:

John Shepheard, the Churchwarden who, as one of the Overseers of the Ppor of Thurlestone parish, handed over Anne Lynn to Richard Morgan for her "huswifery" training, was another long-lived local resident, born in 1627 in the reign of Charles I, and living through the rules of Cromwell, Charles II, James II, William & Mary, William III and most of Anne before dying and being buried at Thurlestone on February 16, 1710, when he was 83.

The record of his burial describes him as "John of Thurlestone" presumably because the name John was a popular one with the Shepheards who were one of the largest and most prominent families in the parish at the time. (Three years later the burial registers record "John the Elder", which must refer to another generation of Shepheards as "the Elder" was only 54!) The Shepheards of the early days gave lovely names to their daughters - Honour, Petronell, English, Nicol, Christian, Susannah, Virginia, as well as the masses of Sarahs and Katherines.

The funeral cortege of John of Thurlestone Shepheard on that weepy February day of 1710 did not have far to go - for John lived in a house in the village street not far from the Church known for years afterwards as John Shepheard's Tenement. Today you can still see part of it - it is now the Hide's garage near Broad's, but then it was thatched, bigger, and divided into two dwellings. It had a court garden on the same side of the road, a cellar, some outhouses, an orchard, and an "Ash Yard o'er the Way" as a report of 1777 describes it. The other half of the building was described at the same time as "the Late Mr. William Adams's Home Tenement".

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I remember...

MISS MARY SYMES has known Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland all her life - since in fact she was brought here as a baby during her father's leave from India in the early 1900s. In this contribution to our "I remember.." series she recalls Clanacombe in 1910,

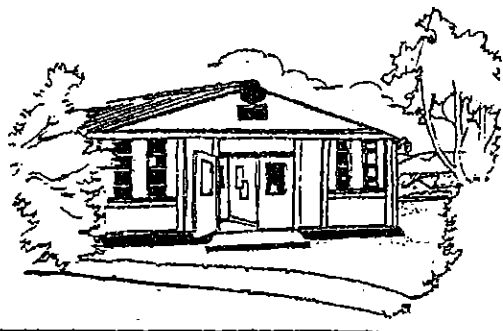
MY Cousin, Mary Cowper(nee Wise), and I remember vividly being taken to Clanacombe for tea when we were very young children. We were invited by Mrs.Jenkins to come with our Aunt, Miss Mary Helen Wise of Alleron. We would have been staying with our Grandfather and Aunt at Alleron, Loddiswell. I would have visited Clanacombe about 1910 and my cousin a little later as she is younger than me

We both remember going into a lovely drawing-room leading off right from the Hall. The Hall had a tremendously highly polished floor that caused us some anxiety in crossing! Mrs.Jenkins was a sweet little old lady who wore a lace cap over her hair and a full and long lavender-coloured silk dress with a tiny white apron - probably of lace. Mr.Jenkins was also small and he wore a little black velvet cap on his head and a black velvet jacket.

The tea-table was set with silver - tea-pot, cream jug and kettle and the thinnest of cut bread and butter we had ever seen. Delicious cakes and a perfect Parlour-maid in cap and apron - all awe-inspiring to little girls! Although we were used to pretty drawing-rooms and parlour-maids at Alleron, the two old people in their velvet, lavender silk and lace, and the fairy-like bread and butter, all made a tremendous impression, one never to be forgotten even now when we are in our eighties.

Indeed whenever I have visited the South Hams and passed by Clanacombe, the old house, which I have never entered since, is really romantic to me and I can only think of it belonging to those sweet old people who loved it dearly as we do in our memories.

MARY SYMES.



THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Hall on Monday, March 9th.

Mrs Joan Mackenzie in her Chairman's report said that the financial state of the Hall was good and as a result rental charges would remain the same. The heating of the Hall was running at a loss and an adjustment would have to be made in the future.

There had been an increase in the lettings of the Hall and three generous donations had been made. This meant that it was only necessary to have the Annual Fair to raise money for improvements to the Hall entrance and it was policy only to ask for money when it was really necessary.

She regretted that due to illness they had been unable to hold the second pancake race, plus the fact that the road might have been closed!

She was pleased to announce however that the Pancake Race in the village would be held on Shrove Tuesday 1993. And that as some of their men folk had felt left out, there would definitely be a pancake race for them too! She therefore suggested that everyone should make 1992 a "get fit" year so that all would be ready for the Thurlestone Pancake Races on Tuesday, February 23rd, 1993.

At the elections which followed, the Trustees were Miss J.Yeo, Mr.D.Grose, and Mr.D.Yeoman.

Chairman: Mrs.J.Mackenzie; Hon Treasurer: Mrs.E.Spear; Hon. Secretary and Bookings: Mrs.S.Yeoman.

Representatives: Horticultural Show: Mrs.P.Macdonald; Keep Fit: Mrs.M.Oswald; W.I.: Mrs.A.Grose; Parish Council: Mrs.V.White; Parish Church Council: Mrs.P.McDonald; All Saints School: Mrs.M. Macmillan; Thurlestone Bridge Club: Mr.A.Caunce; Bowls Club: Mr.J. Dayment; Wednesday Bridge Club: Mr.T.Luddington; Junior Art: Mr. L.Hubbard; Football Club: Mr.S.J.Sullivan.

Committee: Mrs.J.Drummond (Legal); Mr.D.Yeoman (Building/Car Park). Auditor: Mr.A.Chapman. Caretaker: Mrs.J.Hunt.

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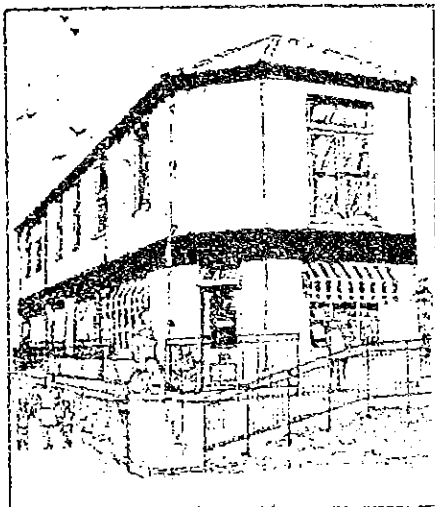
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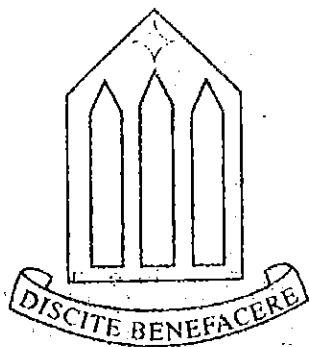
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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

IT'S THAT QUIZ AGAIN!

IF ANYONE IS A member of a local organisation or society which does not receive an invitation to our second village quiz, it is because you are not on our list!

I am therefore giving advance notice that this year's quiz will be in the School hall on Thursday, May 14th, beginning at 7.00 p.m. It needs to begin at this time because of the large number of teams which are expected to take part. This allows us to finish by about 9.30 and have a break for refreshments half-way through the evening. So, even if you do not receive an invitation, we would welcome teams of three from any organisation within the two parishes.

Last year the event was won by a team representing the Friends of Thurlestone School and, no doubt, they will be fielding a similar team, creamed from the local intelligensia, for this year's quiz.

Within our school, we have been delighted with the way our environment has been enhanced since Christmas. As you will know, we have been working hard to improve the outside of the building with flower and herb gardens, tree nurseries and a small plantation as well as with external decoration. I must now express my thanks to Mr. Paul Carpenter, a parent who lives at South Milton, who has designed a beautiful window inside the building which complements the medieval window on the east side of the school. The new window, also gothic in design, uses borrowed light and has created an exciting attractive and bright learning area. If you want to see a truly inventive and sympathetic example of interior architecture, come and admire our window.

During the next financial year we will be turning our attention to the school library. Another parent, Mr. John Simmons, has already spent a good deal of time working in our library - for which we are most grateful - and now complete upgrading is being proposed. We are comparatively well off for non-fiction (though there are certain gaps), but we are looking to remodel the library area and store other media and visual material such as posters and video tapes.

Clearly this is an expensive and ambitious undertaking, but we believe that we must try and develop library skills amongst the children and that we must create a stimulating study area where seeking out information and searching for stories and poems will be a joy and not a drudge. The Friends of Thurlestone School have agreed to support our efforts, but we will almost certainly be making an additional appeal at the village quiz! A.F. WILLIAMS,

Headmaster.

THURLESTONE AND WEST BUCKLAND W.I.

APRIL 9th meeting - speaker Mrs. Ruth Murray on "Badgers"; May 14th Debate on Current Affairs Resolutions for N.F.W.I. Intermediate General Meeting. Both meetings in Parish Hall, 2.30 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS FROM THE W.I.

Tasty, mouth-watering smells filled the Parish Hall on 13th February and brisk bidding followed when the microwaved fish dishes produced by Mrs Di. Rodwell at the W.I. meeting were auctioned.

The Sea Coast Group spring meeting will be at Thurlestone in April, with guests from West Alvington, South Milton and Salcombe WI's and items were sought for the crafts display which would be put on at the same time. An entertainment would also be required and following the smash-hit of the December panto it was hoped there would be no shortage of aspiring performers volunteering for the occasion.

It was agreed to undertake sponsorship of the Cookworthy Quilt, and members would be working on a panel later in the year. Eight members would attend the Spring Council Meeting at Exeter University in April. The guest speaker is Michael Dobbs of 'House of Cards' fame and former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and Norman Tebbit. He also worked as a journalist in the U.S. throughout the Watergate crisis. Two county resolutions would also be debated - 'How disposal are your disposables?' and urging the promotion of better understanding between producers and consumers of food. The new Federation wall-hanging would be on display for the first time.

By popular vote the charity for 1992 would be the Kingsbridge St. John Ambulance Brigade, and it was also agreed that during the year a short basic first-aid course should be held in the village, concentrating on resuscitation, which would be open to non-members, men and women.

Over 100 childrens' Jhuggi' jumpers had been knitted and sent out to India and a second-hundred was well on its way to being completed. Milk bottle tops were again being collected, this time for the South Hams Hospital League of Friends.

Three members hoped to enter the Golf competition at Cullompton, and a further tap-dancing day would be held at Longdown in May.

The Parish Hall and Parish Council representatives gave reports.

LOCAL NEWS

The End in Sight?

Everyone will be much relieved that the end of the sewage saga draws nigh. The switch from Thurlestone to the South Milton works will come at the end of June. The reed beds are in place and major work at the Thurlestone end will be completed by Easter.

If all goes according to plan the Thurlestone sewage saga will be over this year - which means that it has taken 12 years to reach a solution. Thurlestone Parish Council can rightly congratulate themselves on their determination.

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

HERE HE IS AGAIN - THE MAN
YOU LOVE TO HATE - WITH
ANOTHER OF HIS INFURIATING,
MIND-BOGGLING PUZZLES. WHICH
THIS TIME HE CALLS ADD-A-GRAMS...

ADD - A - GRAMS.

Starting with one letter, add a letter and rearrange if necessary, to solve the clues given. Numbers in brackets show the number of letters in each answer. The first puzzle is started as an example.

20th letter of alphabet (1)	T	Personal pronoun (1)
French and (2)	ET	Thing in question (2)
Consumed (3)	ATE	Small island (3)
Chair (4)		End of an ANTMAL (4)
Hindu class (5)		Of tides (5)
Position taken for stroke (6)		Small item (6)
Melodic treble accompaniment (7)		Followed in hunt (7)
Remoteness (8)		Devoted Admirer (8)
Mishaps (9)		Of an editor (9)

Letter on learners car (1)	4th letter of alphabet (1)
Spanish the (2)	Short for Edward (2)
Meadow (3)	Finish (3)
Valley (4)	Take dinner (4)
Mouth of river (5)	Condescend to do (5)
Followed closely (6)	Slightly coloured (6)
Fortress (7)	Set fire to (7)
Liable to illness (8)	Needy (8)
Throw light on (9)	Meaning to (9)

(Answers are on a following page in this issue)

LOCAL NEWS.

The NSPCC Proper Job Jumble Sale on February 22 at Thurlestone Parish Hall raised £394.

The organisers want to thank all who supported the event in any way.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE.

THE ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING
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Contacts: Mrs. S. Chapman
(560255), Mrs. J. Milson
(560088) and Mrs. T.
Woodrow (560206)

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Mr. NIGEL TOMS of the
St. John Ambulance Brigade
will be holding a short series
of lessons on

LIFE-SAVING
TECHNIQUES

SHOWING HOW YOU CAN HELP
in an emergency in

THE PARISH HALL,

THURLESTONE, starting in
the early summer.

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS
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or ring 560788.

KOI SOUTH HAMS

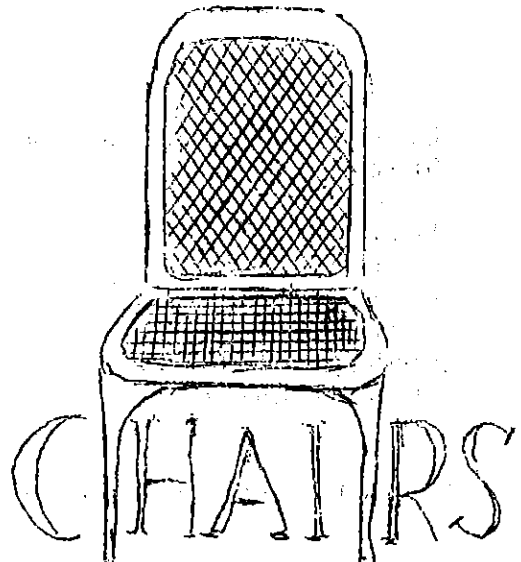
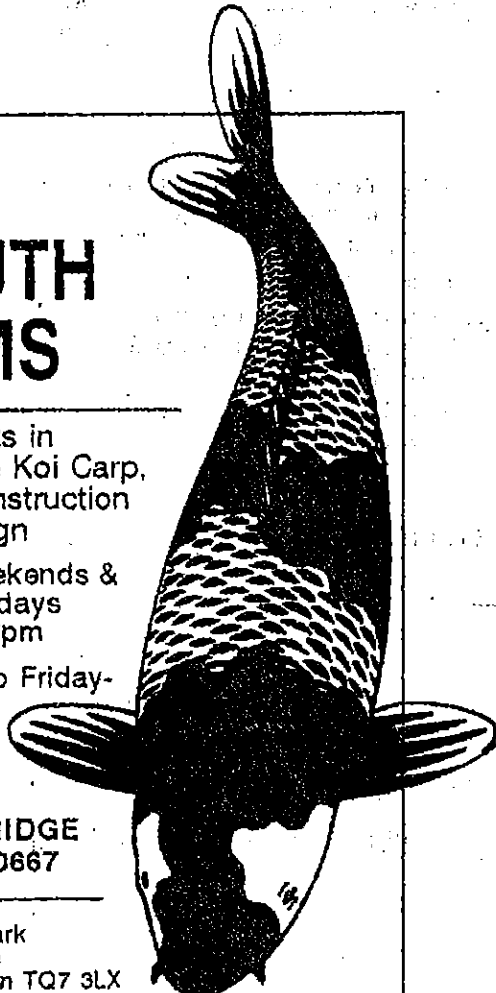
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Police Voice

Leading on this time from where I started in the last issue concerning the murder of Betty McCall, you will have read in the local press that a man has been charged with her murder. I am sure you will find this reassuring.

It is pleasing to be able to tell you about a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme now up and running in West Buckland and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parties involved for their enthusiasm. I know the scheme will be of great benefit to you all. Please display in a prominent position the stickers you have been given.

With the large numbers of extra Police Officers drafted into our area to help solve the murder now leaving and returning to their usual duties, it is noticeable that reported crime, particularly burglary, is starting to increase. Our main enemies are the professional burglars who travel in from Plymouth and, usually working in twos or threes, tend to favour the daytime for house burglaries and nighttime for industrial burglaries.

Please be alert and report any suspicious sightings. Don't forget to record vehicle registration numbers and the description of any person you are not happy about.

It might be helpful to explain a bit about our communications system.

We are in the area of the South Devon Policing Division and our Communications Centre is based at Paignton from where they direct all police vehicles from Starcross to Modbury. Therefore, if you ring Kingsbridge Police Station (852326) and speak to an Enquiry Clerk, they still have to contact Paignton if a police response is required.

Let me assure you, there is police cover from Kingsbridge Police Station 24 (twenty four) hours a day 365 days a year. Please do not be put off by a recorded message asking you to ring 999 in the case of an emergency, or Paignton Police Station or to leave a message if the matter is not urgent. The answering machine is used when the station is short-manned.

Finally, did you know that when you dial 999 for the Fire Brigade or an ambulance you get their Control Centre in Exeter!

With best wishes to you all.

Paul Shepherd
Community Constable

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

There is a new item on this year's Horticultural Show Schedule, an outdoor Hanging Basket, which should make a VERY attractive looking class. Why not plan YOUR entry now.

Plants quite enjoy being crammed close together in a hanging basket. A good rule of thumb regarding numbers is to allow AT LEAST one plant for every inch of the basket's diameter - so a 14" basket would need AT LEAST 14 (fourteen) plants. Do not use very small plants, they should be sturdy, well rooted and of a fairly good size. A good compost is also essential.

If you use a polythene lining to the basket, make sure it is generous and comes well above the rim. It can be trimmed flush with the rim AFTER planting, watering and settling of the compost. Moss lining should come 1" above the finished basket rim. Make sure the bracket or hook you are going to use to hang the basket is strong enough - a filled and well-watered basket is VERY heavy.

A newly planted basket should not be put outside immediately. Try and keep it in a cool greenhouse, conservatory or indoors for 2/3 weeks. Hang it outside in a sunny place when the weather is mild and all danger of frost has passed. Do not hang it in a windy spot.

Keep it well watered - daily - and give it a feed of liquid fertiliser from about mid-June. A high potash feed (tomato fertiliser) will ensure flowering, and about once a month replace it with a nitrogen feed to prevent foliage from yellowing. Dead head regularly.

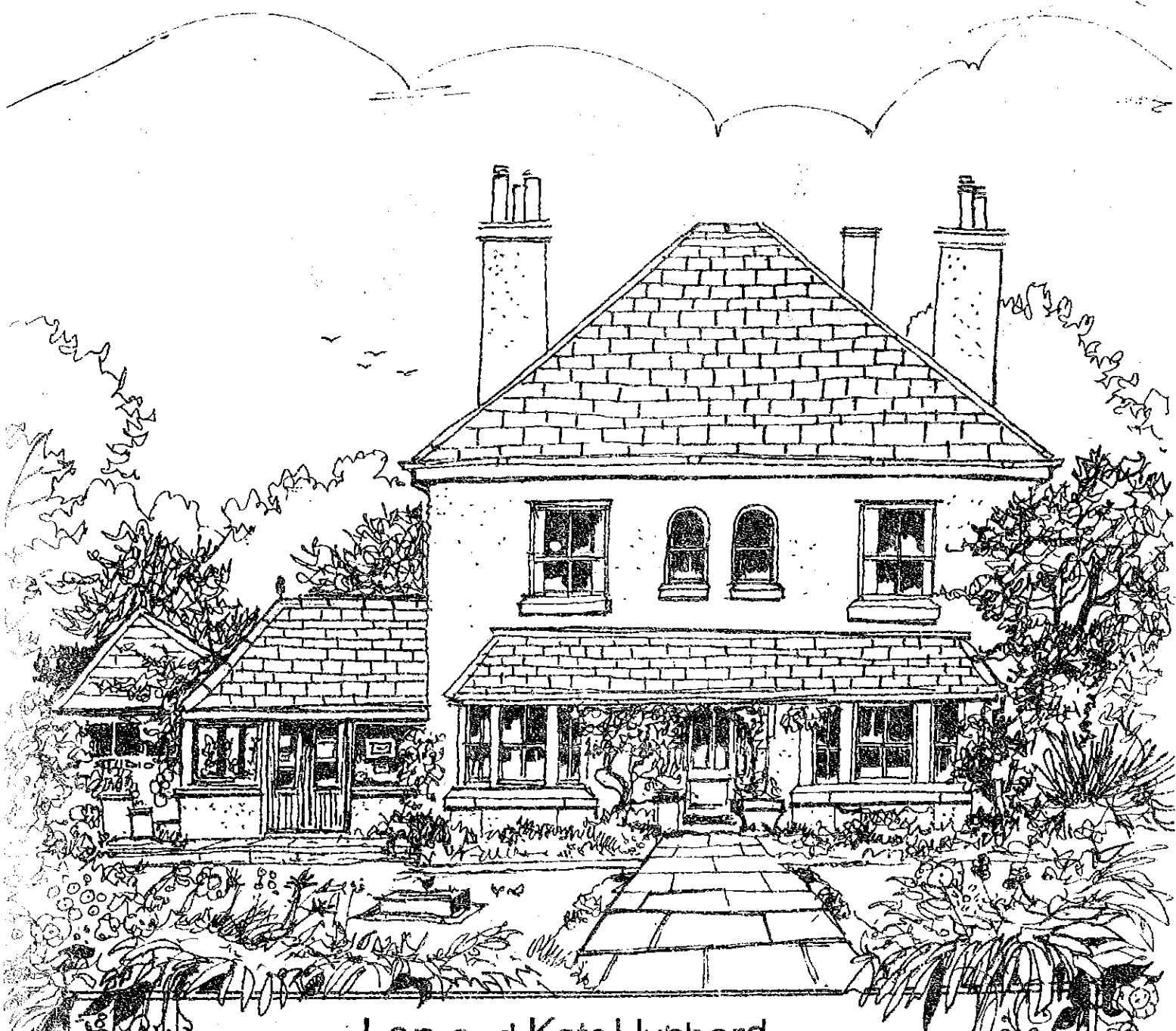
Hanging baskets need not always contain flowering plants. Foliage only hanging baskets can be very effective. Baskets can also be used for growing herbs and even tomato plants such as 'Tumbler', or a bush cucumber. Do not forget a winter basket of 'universal' pansies in a sheltered spot. Keep them well watered and if the compost freezes solid, bring the basket indoors every 2/3 days to allow it to thaw before hanging it outside again.

In the next issue: how to get decent sized plants poked through the mesh of a hanging basket without damaging the plants.

This year the Show is due to be held in South Milton Village Hall on Saturday 1st August (the schedules will be included in the next issue) but before then there is the ANNUAL PLANT SALE on SATURDAY 30th MAY at 2.30 pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall.

Growing conditions permitting we hope to have perennials and annuals of all kinds from geraniums and pelargoniums to fuchsias and hebes. On the vegetable side there will be tomato, pepper and runnerbean plants among others.

PLEASE come and buy your plants at YOUR sale and help support YOUR Show.



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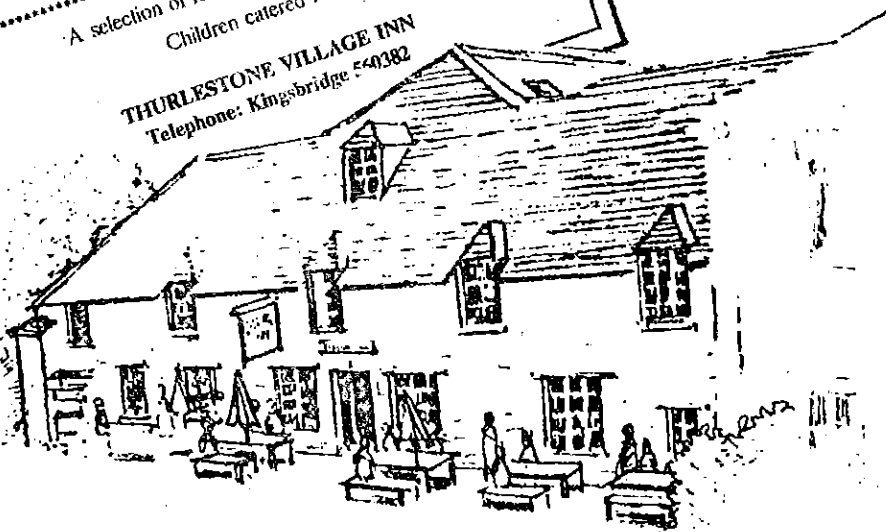
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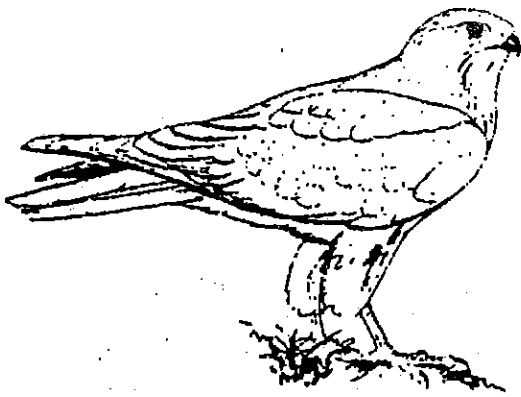
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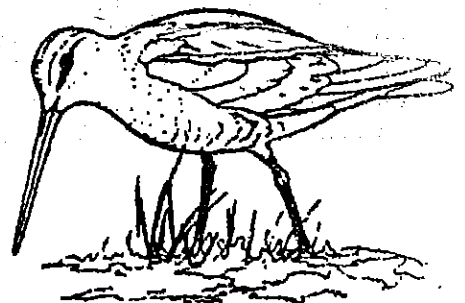
HARRY HUGGINS

LAST TIME I WROTE about some of the smaller birds which frequent our gardens. Now for a few of the larger ones.

You probably notice the crow family most. There are several species, from Starling, quite small, to Raven, large, in fact nearly as big as Buzzard. Not that Ravens come in the gardens, at least we have never seen one, but they fly over daily from their nesting places on the cliffs. You hear a deep "kronk" - my wife kronks back and gets them to answer. If you look up you see a big black thing with long wings, slightly angled back at the wrists, large head, and diamond shaped tail.

Starlings are the commonest crows. They nest under our roofs if we let them; one house we lived in had a central heating flue through the middle of the loft to a sort of raised tile on the right of the roof. The first time I went in the loft I found a great pile of grass and straw all over and around the flue. I cursed our vendor, who was : somewhat unconventional as well as impecunious - when we first moved in we were assailed constantly by dépt collectors (we used to let them spout their spiel and then enquire politely if they thought they were talking to Mr X). We cleared out the straw, only to find a few weeks later that it was back, and more. A Starling thought that nice hole in the roof was just the place for a nest, and was busy pushing stuff in. Whether in due time it would have filled the whole loft, and what was going into the gas boiler we did not know, but we felt that to have so much inflammability against the flue pipe was unhealthy and we tried to shoo the bird away. No joy - our home was down below, his was up there. So it was a case for the final solution - a borrowed air rifle.

It is customary among birders to deride Starlings, no doubt because they are common. But I like them - except under the tiles! They are bustling and lively and attractive to look at, with greeny black plumage all covered in little silver spots, like the old cockney pearly kings and queens. If only they were rare we would rave about them. And if they do have a punch-up together once in a while, no-one seems to get hurt and it is all forgotten in a moment. When they leave the nest the juveniles are brown - golliwogs we have always called them, I don't remember why (but there is nothing racist about it). They scurry



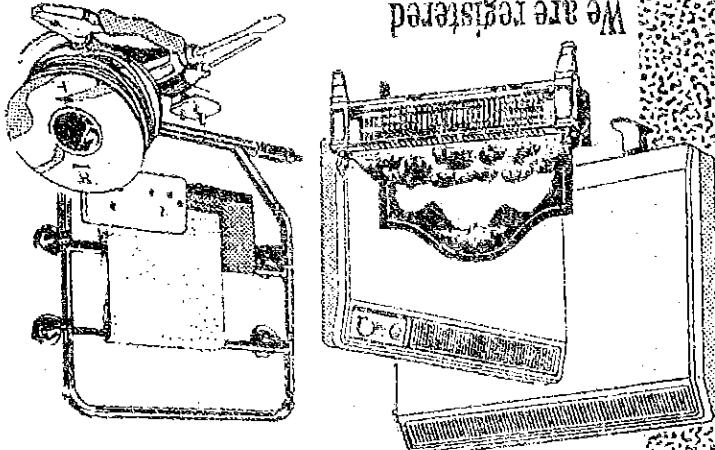
about pestering a harassed parent which has it works out out to feed such hungry things. All Starlings, of whatever age, are permanently hungry; you see a bunch of them running about the lawn shoulder to shoulder, each afraid the others will get the most goodies - like guests at a buffet lunch. A bit into the autumn the gollies start to moult and to get their adult plumage, first just a little patch on the breast, where black and silver replace the brown. Then it happens quite quickly until only their heads are brown, at which time we get telephone calls from people who have such a strange rare bird on their lawn. We always go and look: Nutcrackers, from eastern Europe, do turn up in this country sometimes. But we have not been lucky yet.

We get Rooks and Crows. The books call the latter Carrion Crow, to distinguish it from the crow family as a whole. Both are black; there are differences in shape but they are not easy to pick out. There is a lot of truth in the schoolboy statement - if you see ten Crows together they are Rooks and if you see one Rook by itself it is a Crow. You can't take that for gospel, but it says that Rooks are gregarious and Crows are not. To tell them apart you look at the head. Rook has a grey bill with quite a large patch of grey skin at its base. This shows its lifestyle. It feeds by digging into grass for uggies - leather-jackets, wireworms and such. Because its face is bare it does not soil feathers as it digs. Well, that is what we are told and I suppose it is true. But Lapwings and Golden Plovers feed in just the same way and they have no bare patches on their faces. Nor has another crow, the very rare Chough, now extinct in the southwest. That feeds by digging into short turf with a longish sickle shaped bill. Although the ones we saw on Anglesey did very nicely thank you on sandwiches.

Crow's bill is black and feathered right down on to the mandibles. It does not dig into turf for food, but takes, well, almost anything. Carrion, as its name implies, plus eggs, small birds, insects - you, however fast you ran, if you were small enough, or big enough, or big as you are now if you lay still enough.

In New Zealand we saw, and heard, Bell-magpies. They are an Australian species, introduced into New Zealand, black and white, which is why they call them magpies, and about the size of our crows. Unlike any of our crow family they sing, beautifully. "Quardle oodle ardle wardle doodle" the book describes it, - a fascinating bell like warbling. I would not agree that anyone should release them in this country, don't hold with artificial introductions, because you never know what the effect is going to be - for example Mink which are highly predatory and have no enemies have seriously upset the balance of nature, reducing the populations of many ground and waste nesting birds. But I would like to hear a Bell-magpie again.

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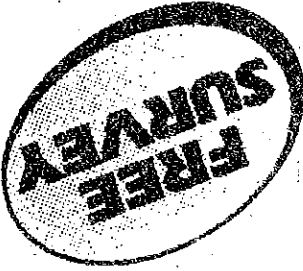
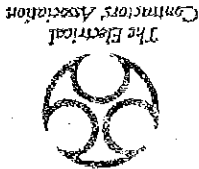


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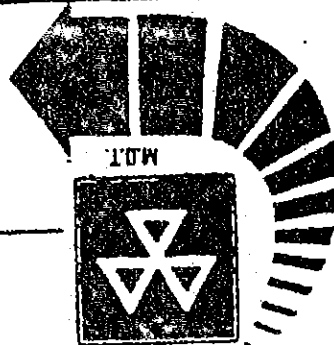
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Sometimes, when the Rooks come in the garden they have smaller ones with them - Jackdaws, picked out by their pale grey eyes and greyish patch on the backs of their necks. You see dozens around the cliffs, where they nest in holes. Chimney pots don't come amiss either - like the Starling, they drop things down until enough collects to make a nest on. It can be quite a lot of sticks sometimes.

I do not need to describe our Magpie. Like the Crow, it is omnivorous; it is handsome, successful and common; far too common many people say, and feelings tend to run high about it. It certainly takes the eggs and young of smaller birds, including of course the song birds. The people at the British Trust for Ornithology insist there is no evidence it has contributed to any diminution in the population of these smaller birds. But I don't like it and would destroy every one I could (in practice none, because I have no way of doing so). I find it distressing to have taken the nests of the Linnets and Hedge Sparrows which try to breed in our garden. True, they can try again. And we have to remember that 90%, at least, of young things come into this world to be an immediate dinner for something else. However, in the case of something like the Cirl Bunting, whose British population is teetering on the verge of extinction, the loss of nests to Magpies can make the difference between hanging on and being snuffed out completely;

Maybe there are Jays at Buckland, but we have not seen one in the parish for many a year. It is a crow, but a very colourful one - pinky brown head and body, white rump, black and white wings with a brilliant blue flash, and black moustache. We see them, more often hear them, when we go to the woods, and in the past we have seen them on the Hotel golf course, but they are scarce around these parts and so may they remain, for their lifestyle is similar to the Magpies' - these predatory things are all right, there is a place for everything, but in small numbers please.

We get pigeons in the gardens. Sometimes a racing bird, which looks lost but refuses to eat anything, having been used to a very fancy diet at home; and no one wants it; least of all the owner, because a bird which fails to fly home at a rapid rate of knots is of no use for future flying nor breeding. Eventually it will disappear - either to find its way home or to join other pigeons on the cliffs, where probably a Peregrine will eat it.

Collared Dove is the small pinky brown pigeon with a dark mark on the sides of its neck which hangs around gardens with well grown trees and says "coo COO coo". Forty years ago there was none - this is an eastern species which up to about 1930 had got no further west than Turkey. Then it started to spread across Europe. The books will tell you it reached Britain in 1955, - in fact we saw them in 1954 when we sailed our lil' ole tore-out, as we called that sort of boat on the east coast, into Whitstable harbour. It is, or was, nothing if not resourceful.

When we lived in Clacton-on-Sea a pair nested in a conker tree in the next door garden. Came a great storm of wind and next morning our neighbours found the two (there are always two) half-grown chicks on the lawn. So they picked them up, with what remained of the nest, put them in a child's sand castle bucket, and tied it to the tree. The parents went on feeding them. Came the next night a great storm of rain, the bucket filled with water and in the morning the chicks were swimming. So they took down the bucket, drilled a hole in the bottom and suspended it again. The parents continued to feed the young ones and in due course they flew.

Small wonder the doves spread with alarming speed. There was a howl about the harm they would do to agriculture and talk of scheduling them as an official pest. Whether farmers began to demand government compensation I do not remember; probably not, we lived in East Anglia and they were grain farmers who were more concerned about minimising their income tax. But the birds' impetus ran out and now they are not very plentiful.

My last pigeon really is common, though - Woodpigeon, or Ringdove, so called from the broken white band around its neck. It is large and successful, it breeds in trees all around our parish and numbers seem to increase in winter. grockle-birds I suppose they are. It always puts me in mind of a bishop - white collar, purple chest, and rather pompous strut. I do not know if bishops strut pompously, very much doubt it in fact, but I feel somehow they ought to. The Woodpigeons trot around our lawn on absurdly tiny feet, eating clover. Maybe your lawn does not have clover, but ours does, it stays greener than grass. They will tuck into the bread you put out, provided something else has not got to it first, and to the intense annoyance of farmers are inordinately fond of cabbages. When I was a child my father shot one once (pigeon, not cabbage, though I expect he peppered those too, he peppered most things at one time or another, including his father, and the dog, luckily in neither case fatally); my mother extracted from the crop of this pigeon enough cabbage to feed my rabbit for three days.

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS.. THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB

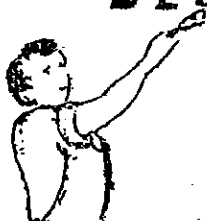
Kevin Boot, curator of the Cookworthy Museum, TV personality and author, not only presented the museum in a new light at our February meeting, but also gave an extremely interesting and informative talk which as well as holding the members' attention will hopefully result in a far higher proportion of the "locals" visiting the museum in future.

The Ladies Evening at the Cottage Hotel was again well attended with a total of 60 members, wives and guests in attendance. With two new members joining us since the beginning of the year we are having, once more, to bring back the waiting list as we are again up to the limit laid down in the constitution.

Our Speakers for April and May will be Roger Hill, merchant banker, and Norman Harding, Common Councilman (City of London).

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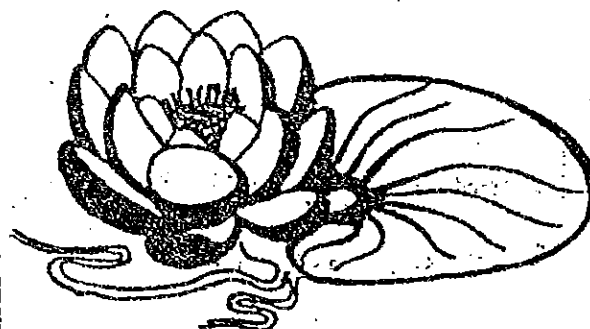
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Neville OSWALD reports



ALLOTMENTS FOR THE growth of vegetables would not seem at first sight to be a subject to catch the eye of many readers of Village Voice. Yet they have had their moments in the history of Thurlestone.

If we go back a couple of hundred years we find that four-fifths of the Devon countryside was in the hands of landowners and farmers and that most of the rest, including Dartmoor, was wasteland. Parishes usually had twenty or so acres of common pasture upon which villagers could graze their animals. For example, a farm worker might have his own cow, a few sheep and a goose or two upon which he relied for an important part of his income; another might have just one cow from which his wife retained some of the milk and made cream out of what was left over. With the country then needing to be self-supporting in food and having to feed more and more people as the population increased, extra farm products were required. Consequently, in Victorian times, many of the remaining open fields were enclosed and taken over by farmers, leaving precious little room for the simple needs of poor villagers.

This process of progressive enclosure of land has been going on in the South Hams for centuries at least since the 1300s, and may be clearly seen all over the parish. The high hedges, raised to mark the boundaries of ownership, have also protected cattle in stormy weather. On the western half of the golf course there is a network of stone walls to contain the sheep of various owners, whereas the eastern half is open country and was probably at one time common pastureland, at least in part.

By about the 1850s, something had to be done about the crowding out of farm workers. The poor had a legal right of access to the common pastures - they might even have the right to cultivate a strip of the village field - but proof of their rights was often beyond their means. Sometimes they were given a lump sum in compensation for loss of access which was not enough to allow them to set up on their own and, sadly, might soon be dissipated in an alehouse. Fortunately, allotments which workers could rent for a small annual payment came into favour. They were instituted primarily for the relief of poverty by providing food, fuel, stone and recreation; they were regarded as a form of charity.

With allotments scattered all over the parish, the obvious place to administer them was the Vestry (parish church council) which was already responsible for and raised the poor rates. This was arranged and continued until 1894 when the new parish council was established by law and took them over. As a matter of fact the first items of substance to confront the new council arose early in 1895 when it had before it thirteen applications for allotments, each asking for about half an acre. Mr. Jenkins of Clannacombe, was asked whether he had any suitable land available; he offered a seven acre site at a cost of two pounds an acre annually. Later in the year the clerk to the council wrote to him stating that he had been unable to raise a quorum at the last three council meetings and apologised for the delay. Mr. Jenkins replied that he had let the field to another applicant and that he had no other land available.

Over the years the acquisition, siting and allocation of allotments has been supervised by the council. When the ground occupied by them was acquired for new housing, the council was bound to find alternative sites. They were often allocated to newly built labourers' cottages. Then in 1948 the council was appointed to act as agent for the Kingsbridge Rural District Council and to charge 5 shillings annual rent for each allotment.

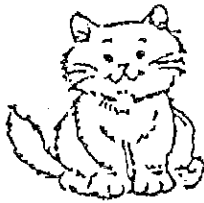
Bill Robins and Ben Horn, who have been gardeners here all their lives, have seen the changing face of allotments in their time. When they were young, after a day's work they would ordinarily spend an hour or two in their garden or allotment. Earning less than a pound a day, their own vegetables were a useful addition. A load of seaweed from the beach or manure was cheap, as were seeds and there were then few other ways of occupying themselves in the evenings.

During World War II, before they were called up for Services, they saw allotments proliferate with the urgent need for potatoes, which were grown even in flowerbeds around houses.

Since World War II the number of allotments has steadily declined. Many of them have been built over and of those that remain, by no means all are actively tended. Yet high quality vegetables are still raised in the parish, some of them by retired people who like gardening and have time to spare. They are displayed annually at the annual Horticultural Show where they represent the efforts of both young and old.

In general, young people are not as interested in gardening as their fathers were. In the evenings they have television, and, should they seek entertainment elsewhere, they have a greater variety to choose from than formerly and most of them have some means of transport. The world has changed. Allotments were never things of beauty, but they filled an economic and social need. We have moved on,

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HERE WE CONTINUE THE VILLAGE VOICE GUIDE TO THE OLDEST BUILDINGS
IN THE PARISH AND WHY THEY ARE "LISTED".

In this issue we go into the Churchyard
and start with...

THURLESTONE - Chest tomb approximately 7m
south of Church of All Saints.

Grade II

Chest tomb. 1790 to James P...l b....ay (Inscription eroded)
Coursed stone rubble sides with plinth. Slate lid with inscription.

THURLESTONE VILLAGE - The Cottage.

Grade II

House. Early C18 and C19 with C20 alterations. Stone rubble and cob walls, plastered at the front. Gable ended thatch roof and hipped scantle slate roof to front addition. 2 gable end stacks, brick at left-hand end and brick on a rubble base to the right.

Plan: original range is of 2-room plan, similar-sized rooms each with a fireplace on the end wall and divided by a central passage. At the front of the right-hand end is a C19 wing which was originally separate from the main house but connected probably in the C20.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 1-window front with wing projecting from right-hand end. At centre on 1st floor is a C19 2-light casement with small panes and above it is an Atlas firemark. Below is a C19 4-panel door with flat hood over. The wing has 2 small-paned 2-light casements on the 1st floor with large late C20 casement without glazing bars below to the right. To its left is a C20 part-glazed door.

Interior: one C18 2-panel door survives on the ground floor. Fireplaces are modern and beams encased. C19 stairs block the passage.

Continued overleaf.

Editor's footnote: The inscription on the chest tomb listed above is very eroded but it would seem likely that this is the tomb of James Pulliblanke of that Thurlestone family. He died and was buried on 29th of January, 1790 at Thurlestone. In church records he is noted as "James of Plymouth".

THURLESTONE - Church of All Saints.

Grade II Star

Parish Church. Earliest fabric is C13 with major re-building in C15, a repair in 1685 and restored in 1904. Roughly coursed slatestone rubble walls. Gabled slate roofs.

Plan: nave, chancel, west tower, south aisle and porch. The earliest are the C13 windows in the chancel and the C12 font but most of the structure dates from a major re-build in the C15 which included a West tower and a South chapel, aisle and porch, of which the aisle apparently had new windows put in in 1685. At this date the north wall of the nave was rebuilt and the vestry might also date from this period. The church was restored in 1904 by G.Fellowes Prynn.

Exterior: 3 stage crenellated west tower with set back buttresses and 5-sided stair turret on south side rising above parapet. 1 and 2-light cinquefoil belfry openings. West doorway is of the characteristic rubble South Hm arch with recessed inner arch. The window above it was entirely renewed in the restoration in Perpendicular style. The north wall of the nave has 2 debased Perpendicular windows (presumably of 1685). At the chancel end is a break in the stonework beyond which is a single C13 lancet window which is partly obscured by the vestry built on to the north of the chancel. This is crenellated with a large rubble stack built onto the side of the north chancel wall. An early C16 3-light mullion window has been re-used in the vestry. The east end of the chancel has a completely renewed Perpendicular style window while the late medieval granite Perpendicular window survives at the end of the south aisle. This is of 4 bays with a chapel at the end. The chapel has a Perpendicular 3-light window whereas the aisle has the larger debased Perpendicular windows with no tracery. Buttresses between the windows, one above the priest's door divides to form a shallow porch to it. 2 storey crenellated porch at west end of aisle with diagonal buttresses at the front. Small segmental headed light on front above doorway. 4-centred moulded granite arch with square hoodmould.

Interior. Porch has a good foliage carved intersecting beamed ceiling with central boss but floor above has been removed. Simple 4-centred arched chamfered south doorway with carved spandrels. Internal walls of the church are plastered. 5 bay granite arcade of Pevsner A-type piers with simple moulded cup capitals and chamfered 4-centred arches. 2-centred double tower arch with projecting imposts. Wagon roofs entirely renewed. South chapel has a good C17 memorial to Thomas Stephens (died 1658) and his wife Julian (died 1677) of Clannacombe House (q.v.) depicting a lady and gentleman kneeling at prayer with 3 sons and 4 daughters. On the south wall to the Chapel is a wall memorial depicting the figure of a divine kneeling in front of a desk with inscription to Henrie Luscombe, Rector of the Parish. Good C12 red sandstone tub font with chevron and cable moulding and carved honeysuckle ornament around the outside.

Source: Beatrix Cresswell: Notes on Devon Churches in the Deanery of Woodleigh.

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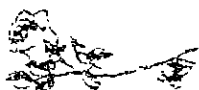
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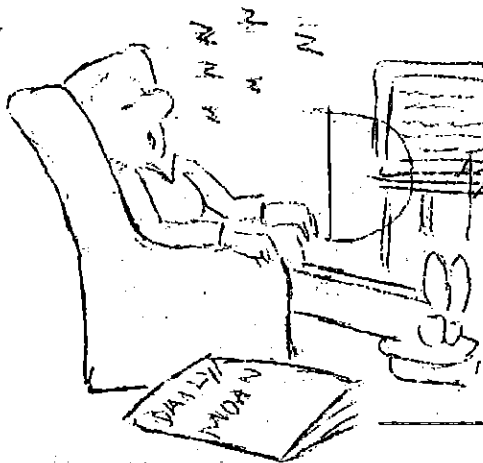
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A MISCELLANY OF THIS & THAT

Electionitis !

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

+ + + + +

I READ: "Britain is in the grip of an unnecessary 'health panic' caused by scaremongers who misuse science to distort the risks of everyday life.the British, American and the rest of the developed world, people who have the longest, healthiest and safest lives of any peoples anywhere, are obsessed with their health."

" We shiver in a state of perpetual fear lest some unknown hazard in the air, the water, our lunch or lifestyle may strike us out of the blue, depriving us of the right to exactly the same lifespan as the next man. For example, there are no fewer than 240 risk factors for heart disease which have been found by epidemiologists. These include: cold weather, snowing, baldness, not eating mackerel, too much milk, too little milk, alcoholism, vasectomies, slow beard growth, and not being a Mormon. . . . to say they are causes is rather like suggesting driving licences cause car accidents simply because it is noticed that a high proportion of drivers have licences! "

"Worrying is bad for your health !"

= = = = =

I can offer you a strange but very true story about milk. In 1991 a very good friend of ours, a spinster lady of mature years - well, 77 years - fell down the stairs of her flat and suffered a spiral fracture of her left leg. Sadly after six months and treatment in three different hospitals it was discovered - if that is the right word - that she never took milk - even in tea. She was put on a milk diet and within a month she was able to start walking again. I should know for my wife and myself went to lunch with her - and she was able to get up and down her staircase and walk to a restaurant. That would really seem to be Pinta Power. - assisting the actual healing of the fractured bones.

= = = = =

The ambitious young sales engineer took her in his arms, and cooed, "Darling, I love you. I may not be rich like my boss, I may not have a limousine like him - but I would do anything for you!"

"You would?" her two soft arms circled his neck, and two ruby lips whispered in his ear. "Well, then, how about introducing me to the boss?"

= = = = =

MORE.



WHAT ARE HOME CARE SERVICES ?

Verybbriefly, Devon Social Services is a part of Devon County Council with legal duties to look after the welfare of people in Devon, and help people in difficulty because of their circumstances, age or disability, or because they are caring for someone else.

They can provide a range of personal and practical help to people in their own homes: Meals on Wheels = Personal and Incontinent Laundry Services = Night sleeping and Night Sitting Services (being developed) Home Care Assistants = Day Care and

other support Services. Meals on Wheels costs £1 and Home Care Assistants a maximum of £12 per week. The offices serving this area telephone Kingsbridge 857366 or call at Combe Royal, Kingsbridge for detailed information.

= = = = =

COMMENTS overheard on a recent 'bus journey relating to the Election:

- + "Have you ever seen a candidate talking to a rich man on TV ?
- + "Vote for the man who promises least, he'll be the least disappointing!"
- + "If voting really changed anything they'd make it illegal!"
- + "People on whom I do not bother to vote, are people who do not bother to vote".

= = = = =

Wartime breeds many heros, many deeds of selfless courage as well as many acts of supreme sacrifice - but not all were the fearless fighters in the front line, and I shall always look upon Perla Siedle Gibson as one of many unsung heroines, for she was known to myself and around three million other servicemen as 'The Lady in White'.

It all began in April 1940. Perla was standing outside the Durban dockside Canteen, where she was a voluntary worker, when a giant troop-ship entered the harbour. Homesick servicemen draped over the rails, shouting down to the chubby lady in white, "Hey Ma, sing us a song ! Give us Land of Hope and Glory." Without so much as a second thought, this trained concert singer and classical pianist, steelled herself against a deafening cacophony of cranes, trains, tugs and marching feet, cupped her hands wide round her mouth and sang the first notes of that patriotic composition soaring into the morning air. Silence fell, swiftly followed by a rumbling crescendo as thousands of delighted servicemen joined in the chorus.

It was the beginning of her destiny. For the next five years Perla stood on the North Quay of Durban Harbour and serenaded every convoy which called at this strategically important South African staging Port, come rain and shine, this Vera Lynn of the Southern Hemisphere never missed a convoy - a total of some 200, involving more than 20,000 ships and three million servicemen.

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Are We going to let Europe Rule Britannia?

What is the proposal?

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So much easier to control. I wonder. Think about the situation in Yugoslavia - Russia and much of Eastern Europe.

Our present political leaders and those who might like to take their place are too young to have any real knowledge of the last war and the lessons learned from it. I wonder what the situation would be like today if we had lost the war. Can the British people imagine life as it would have been under the fanatical sons of Hitler in occupation of our country if we had.

THE PEOPLE MUST BE CONSULTED before our nation is finally thrust into an organisation with no common language, no common background of real democracy - simply a marriage of convenience with a foreigner for a bridegroom with words that fudge the real issues, trying to convince us that such a merger is both inevitable and desirable.

Utopia by Committee!

When the facts are filtered from the waffle our independence is at stake and we are quite literally on the brink of losing our national sovereignty, our Monarchy, our Parliament.

When you vote in the forthcoming General Election it could be the last time we have a Parliament which can act without reference to Brussels.

Is that what you want?

Think about it.

Sir Winston Churchill said: "But we have our own dream and our own task. We are with Europe but not of it. We are linked but not combined. We are interested and associated, but not absorbed."

We, the British, with just a little help, mainly from God I truly believe, saved ourselves and Europe to have and enjoy the freedom that prevails today. Don't let us see Puppets, promises and thirty pieces of silver now let Europe rule Britannia.

After 900 years of growing independence, governed by our congenial laws and customs devised over that period, are we now going to finally conform to the edicts of foreigners - the bureaucrats of Brussels or is that British sickness apathy starting to fade. All political candidates should be asked "Do you favour Europe ruling Britannia"? If he says 'yes' - offer him Thirtypieces of silver!

The personal opinion of -

DUDLEY DRABBLE

"Being on the defensive does not suit the British. It is time to attack, and not for more than half a century has there been a target so in need of attack as this proposed Federal Europe."

Sir Peregrine Worsthorne 5.1.92
in the 'Sunday Telegraph'

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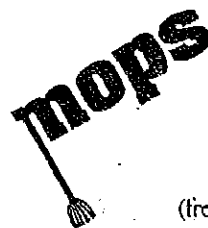
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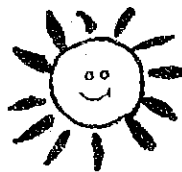
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The Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

Financial Crisis in the Church of England.

The concept of a national church - one to serve all those who have not deliberately opted for the ministration of some other body or group, - is not limited to the Church of England. There is for example the Lutheran Church in Sweden which is basically financed by the government from the national exchequer with the clergy treated as fairly high ranking and well paid civil servants.

The Germans have for long had an interesting way of financing the State Church through a "church tax" added to income tax. Anyone who chose to do so could opt-out of paying the tax but by doing so they opted out of any ministrations of the church.

In England the running of the national church has for many centuries been financed through three sources, none of it provided by the government. There are the historic resources, largely the result of the generosity of past centuries. This money is the much talked about wealth of the Church Commissioners, from whose income all the Rectors and Vicars were once paid (up to about twenty years ago). Contrary to the much trumpeted and ill-informed public opinion the Commissioners' present income is totally inadequate to meet those costs which it used to cover. Nowadays, despite greatly reduced numbers of clergy, the Church Commissioners are only able to meet rather less than half of the stipends bill, the remainder has to be found by the church of the present day. The situation is worsening greatly at the present with the Commissioners being forced to withdraw up to £600,000 per annum of their support to the Exeter Diocese by 1995. Despite this very serious situation there are still those who like to talk as though the Commissioners had millions of pounds of surplus assets. My Mother used to have a saying "There's none so ignorant as those who don't want to know" I'm afraid that is frequently true of those who like to "sound off" about the Church Commissioners wealth.

A second source of income to the church is Fees for the occasional Offices - Weddings and Funerals etc. (there is no Fee for Baptism). (Incidentally, Fees payable to the Incumbent are not a "perk". All have to be carefully recorded, not only for tax purposes, but also for the information of the Church Commissioners. An equivalent amount to the Fees received is then deducted from the Incumbent's salary cheque).

The fees to the P.C.C. contribute something towards the costs of providing these particular ministries, but only a fraction of the cost as the following example will indicate:-

Thurlestone Churchyard.

Approximate income from Fees for burials and monuments over past 5 years	£1715.00
--	----------

Approximate expenditure for same period of maintaining the churchyard (and that very economically)	£7500
--	-------

From the above it is obvious that Fees meet only a small part of the cost of maintaining, and making available for the benefit of parishioners, the churchyard and the parish church and its ministry.

For the rest the Parochial Church Council must rely, quite properly, on the "Giving of Parishioners"

This is the third source of income to which I referred.

So to re-cap: Apart from that element provided by the Church Commissioners toward housing and stipend of the Incumbent in any benefice, and the relatively small Fee income, all other costs for the upkeep of the Churchyard, the Parish Church and its ministry is the responsibility of the parishioners to supply and the Parochial Church Council to administer.

How do the parishioners provide their share of this cost?

Ideally through "Christian Stewardship". Recognising that all that we have comes to us from God and is on loan to us to use as good stewards of His gifts, and in accordance with the Bible instruction setting aside a due proportion of our income for His work. The Bible Standard is 1/10 of income. Since much social provision is made from taxation, the church today asks us to "tithe" at 1/20th, or 5% of our income (after tax).

Some of us do use this standard for our regular giving. Unfortunately very few; though a reasonable number of families do make a substantial contribution to the church income by way of Covenants, others through the Envelope scheme and through regular giving in the Sunday collections. Unfortunately, most parishioners fail to make any regular contribution to church finances, whilst expecting its plant and ministry to be always readily available. One way of seeking to make up the resulting shortfall in necessary income is to take up a collection at all services.

At Weddings and Funerals this is done by means of a retiring collection at the door.

Such "Collection" like all collections made within the church or churchyard is the absolute possession of the Parochial Church Council to be used by the P.C.C. in such manner as the Council may agree with the Incumbent.

Sometimes, in response to a specific request, the P.C.C. or the Rector acting on behalf of the P.C.C. will permit a proportion of the collection at a Funeral to be contributed to some very good cause dear to the heart of the deceased or bereaved but, and I stress the point, this is entirely as an act of grace by the P.C.C.

As so often happens with gracious acts, it is not long before they are taken to be "of right" and so I stress that in the matter of Funeral Collections no such right exists, and I would be glad if this could be made known generally as there seems to be a mass of mis-information currently circulating on the matter.

The recently prepared "Code of Practice" advises churches in Exeter Diocese as follows:-

"Where a Church normally takes a retiring collection for Church Funds, but, on occasion a request is received for some other proper cause, a 50/50 division often provides a mutually satisfactory solution.

Care should be taken to distinguish clearly between any Collection in Church and the destination of any gifts desired in lieu of flowers. The latter should be dealt with quite separately, perhaps by being sent to the Funeral Director.

I expect any such requests to be made to me before a Funeral takes place, and would hope for restraint in such requests, bearing in mind the title of this article.

The effect of the financial crisis to which I have referred can be seen quite clearly in, for example, the Diocese of Durham, where there is to be a further reduction of one in every eight existing clergy. Another clear indication may be observed in all those communities, throughout the country, whose parish churches have been declared redundant and turned over to some other use or worse - demolished. Our own Diocese of Exeter faces many of the same problems and the way in which they may be resolved will be very much up to the people of Devon as a whole - i.e. the parishioners of each parish. The churches of the South Hams are, unfortunately, no more immune from the situation than any other, and the way our parishioners support, or fail to support, their own parish churches will inevitably govern the eventual outcome.

Whilst all that I have here written is abundantly true, we must not allow ourselves to become too parochially minded. To that end the two parishes of the united Benefice of Thurstlestone with South Milton not only seeks to teach the Biblical concept of Stewardship

and Tithing - setting aside 1/10 of income for God (Or 1/20th after Tax) but also to practice that principle. To that end both P.C.C.'s have a duly minuted resolution that we will aim to denote one tenth of our P.C.C. income to charitable giving beyond our parish church interests. This, coupled with the church sponsored Cream Teas ensures that some thousands of pounds are contributed annually to various good works.

We hope that these facts may be of some interest, and awaken us all to our own duties and responsibilities, as well as dispelling some of that mis-information which, sadly, seems to be so readily promulgated by those who should know better.

Very sincerely yours,

Peter S. Stephens,

Rector.

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOC.

AN OPEN INVITATION to you from the Thurlestone School Governors is this notice in Village Voice.

Because of the constant and increasingly heavy demands on their slender income to help All Saints School meet essential running costs, the School Governors have decided to organise some money-raising events.

The first of these events will be...

A COFFEE MORNING

at the SCHOOL on

MAY 16th (10.30 to 12 noon).

Everyone is invited - and the Governors hope that this will be a pleasant way for everyone to get to know the School better.

MORE NEWS..MORE NEWS..MORE NEWS..MORE NEWS..MORE NEWS..MORE NEWS..MORE NEWS

IT'S ON AGAIN!!!

Here's a special one to put in your diary:

THE THURLESTONE CHURCH FETE IS ON SATURDAY, JULY 25th,

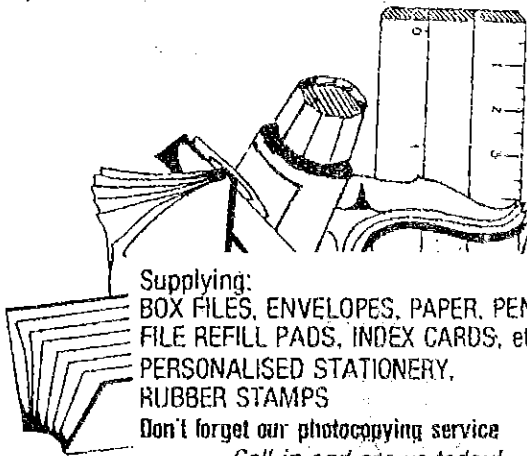
IN THE RECTORY GARDEN.

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Mrs. Veronica White 560236

Parish Clerk: Mr. W. G. Ladd 560686

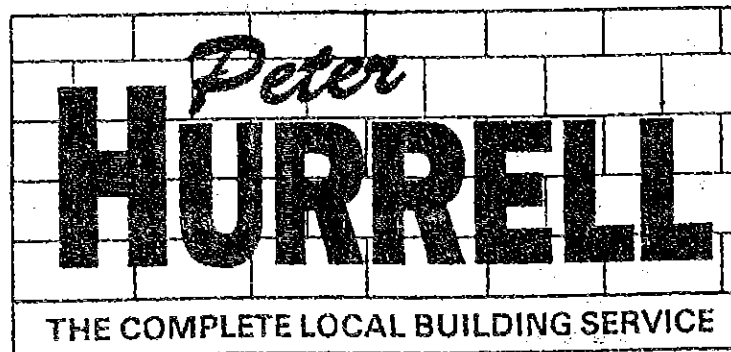
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SAYS KATE:
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the crunch
comes at the
heart of it!

RECIPES FOR THE TRADITIONAL Simnel Cake are varied, but all have a layer of almond paste. I make this lighter version, but with an extra nutty centre.

EASTER CAKE

Using a 7" cake tin - Greased and lined.

6 ozs softened Butter
6 ozs soft Brown Sugar
4 ozs Self Raising Flour
4 ozs Wholemeal Flour
4 ozs Dried Apricots, chopped
4 ozs Sultanas
Rind and Juice of one Orange
1 teasp. Cinnamon
3 Eggs, well beaten
1 oz Hazel Nuts or Almonds, chopped
8 ozs Marzipan

Put the apricots and sultanas to soak in the orange juice. Knead the marzipan till soft, then knead in the nuts. Roll out to the size of the tin.

Cream the butter and sugar till light and fluffy, add a little egg at a time and beat well. Sieve the flour with the cinnamon and fold into the mixture together with the soaked fruit and rind. Put half the mixture into the tin, lay the marzipan on the top, add the rest of the mixture, making a slight hollow in the centre. Bake for $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 170C or 150C if you have a fan assisted oven.

Cool on a wire tray. Decorate with either a liberal dusting of icing sugar or if you feel more adventurous make a plait from marzipan to put on the top and place under a hot grill for a few minutes, then fill the centre with small chocolate eggs.

Just a thought..

From the South Hams Society newsletter:

"Despite all the existing planning policies, an individual application appears to be judged in isolation, and its small but possibly deleterious effect ignored. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the ever-increasing volume of traffic along roads originally used to connect widely-separated villages and now expected to cater for ribbon development. How long will it be before Kingsbridge is joined to Torcross by continuous housing?"

Or Thurlestone to South Milton?

NEW BANTHAM CULTURE SHOCK! LOCAL FISHERMEN BUILD LIBRARY
FROM PROCEEDS OF THEIR CATCH!....

Among the more colourful anecdotes that have originated hereabouts, my favourite concerns fishing during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the First. In the 1500s and 1600s shoals of pilchards used to invade Bigbury Bay. During the season, a local man was stationed on the top of Burgh Island to look out for the fish. When he signalled a shoal in sight, anybody with a boat set off to catch his haul, and that included the fishermen of Bantham and their pals. Most of the fish were taken to Hope Cove, whence they went to Plymouth for drying and onward transmission to France, Holland and other Catholic countries of the Mediterranean. The export trade stopped in the late 1800s when the pilchards stopped coming.

In Fore Street, Totnes, just above the archway that recently caught fire, on the left as you go up the hill is a row of Elizabethan merchants' houses, including No.16 which belonged to Mr. Nicholas Ball and has the date 1585 on the front. Among other things Nicholas was an exporter of pilchards. He bought as many as he could get hold of, packed them in wooden barrels and sent them off to France. A lot of them came from Hope Cove. He had a daughter, but nobody now seems to know what sort of girl she was or what she looked like. Even so, she stood to inherit her father's wealth and doubtless attracted many a roving eye. The eye she caught was that of young Tom Bodley, from an old Devon family, who lived up the road towards Newton Abbot. They were duly married and went off to live in Oxford. Old Nicholas died.

Apparently there was then no decent library in Oxford. Tom put up some money to build one, which became the Bodleian Library and is now one of the most celebrated libraries in this country if not the world. I have always thought it odd that had a man not sat on top of Burgh Island to spot pilchards, then Oxford might not now have its Bodleian Library!

N.C.O.

Here are the answers to Pat Machin's Puzzle Corner:-

1. T	2. I	3. L	4. D
BT	IT	EL	ED
ATE	AIT	LEA	END
SEAT	TAIL	DALE	DINE
CASTE	TIDAL	DELTA	DEIGN
STANCE	DETAIL	TAILED	TINGED
DESCANT	TRAILED	CITADEL	IGNITED
DISTANCE	IDOLATER	DELICATE	INDIGENT
ACCIDENTS	EDITORIAL	ELUCIDATE	INTENDING

POSTBAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR SIR AND MADAM,

I read in your Childrens Page about vinyl records being obsolete - and asking for suggestions for using them. I used to put old records in hot water, which softened them, then I moulded them into shapes, plates, bowls and pots and made miniature gardens to give away. Be careful with the hot water of course!

JOAN MILLS, Thurlestone.

P.S. While writing, I thought I'd mention how few local people seem to take advantage of the meals on wheels service. There must be many who would find this a boon. A note from their doctor is all that's necessary.

DEAR EDITORS,

Your editorial about paying for parking in Kingsbridge. Like yourselves I hate paying parking fees, but have you thought of the alternative? The car parks in Kingsbridge used to be free in the winter, but it was nearly impossible to find a space, because people who worked in Kingsbridge would leave their cars all day!!

If that happened in the summer, when the visitors are here, the situation would be impossible. There would have to be some control, and without a fee, who would pay an attendant?

TOM GASCOYNE, Kingsbridge (but
formerly of Cradles Cottage!).

DEAR EDITOR,

When I was persuaded to assist the South Milton newspaper collection, I approached the idea as a rather boring chore to be completed as quickly as possible, and then forgotten about for a fortnight. Strange as it may seem it wasn't long before I found myself looking forward to my fortnightly tour of the area, because with every visit to my increasing number of "clients" I was discovering more of interest.

I began to notice the wide variety of garden styles from prairie-like stretches of grass, through Chelsea quality displays of flowers, to the local example of a primeval forest.

Then there were the newspapers and magazines themselves. The Financial Times figured regularly in certain areas, and many people went "up market" at the weekend with the Sunday Times, but managed with the Mirror during the week. Some people just stuffed the papers into any carrier bag that came to hand, others tied the bundles neatly with coloured string, while another seemed to have a limitless supply of old stockings to tie hers.

Now that circumstances have forced us to suspend operations I find I am suffering from withdrawal symptoms and finding it difficult to adjust to blank Saturday mornings, but I take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in any way in the operation and I wish all much happiness and hope that whatever paper you may read will contain good news for you.

IAN C. YOUNG, South Milton.

POSTBAG EXTRA - MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITORS.

DEAR EDITORS,

Here's a note for you diary. It's on again! The Church Fete will be on Saturday, July 25th in Thurlestone Rectory garden.

It's not too early to start thinking about making or collecting things for the fete: fancy goods, home-made wine, jams, draw prizes, bottles for the bottle stall.

And don't throw away any chipped or cracked china as we hope to have a "Break Up the Happy Home" event! And we'd like to hear from you if you've got any bright ideas for something different to make this a really bumper day..

JOAN GALLOWAY, Thurlestone.

DEAR SIR AND MADAM,

I think your readers might like to make this sweet pickle. For Apple Chutney, you need: 1lb of each of the following: Finely chopped apples (peeled and cored); finely chopped onions; finely chopped dates (block dates); demerara sugar. $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt; 1 teaspoon dry mustard; $\frac{1}{4}$ pint of malt vinegar.

Use a large bowl and pour vinegar over ingredients. Mix well. Cover with a teatowel and leave overnight. Bottle and seal next day.

And here's a recipe for sweet dip cheese: 4 small packets of Philadelphia cheese, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb crushed walnuts; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb large raisins; 2 teaspoons castor sugar; Guinness to soften (about 2 table-spoons. Cream together. Serve in a dish with small plain biscuits. This is very popular at our Save The Children parties in the summertime.

D.M.M.COLE, West Buckland.

DEAR EDITORS,

My second child, a girl, was born in a thunderstorm, when it is believed by some that witches are born, I am sceptical about that, but she certainly has an amazing affinity with the animal world.

One day when she was about seven, my husband and I were astonished when looking over our garden wall to discover her ensconced in an apple tree in the orchard below. On her head, hands, shoulders and lap were about twenty white wyandottes with their silky white coats and little red coxcombs shining in the light, the tree was also crowded with them and she was talking to them! The birds belonged to the farmer next door.

Another time I was working in the kitchen of our guest house when a learned Professor who was on the point of leaving called to me from the hall requesting his bill. I was making a custard and could not leave it so invited him in. He paid me in cash and as I was writing his receipt the door to the garden burst open and in came this child very excited and holding out a closed hand. She opened it and there was an enormous black spider. I ran screaming into the hall and when I returned I found a white-faced and shaken Professor writing a cheque out for the bill he had just paid me! Whether he too was frightened of spiders or had thought I had gone completely mad, I shall never know.

HILDA DAVIES, Thurlestone.

Here it is....

THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE TO 1992

APRIL

Thurs 2nd Thurlestone Conservatives AGM, Thurlestone Hotel.
Sat 4th Jumble Sale, Thurlestone Primary School 2pm
Tues 14th Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 22nd Tramp Walk. Dart Valley from Hembury Wood.
Mon 27th W.I.Group Meeting at Parish Hall.

MAY

Sat 2nd Jumble Sale, Cookworthy Museum at Parish Hall.
Wed 6th Tramp Walk. Easy from Holne
Sat 9th St. Luke's Hospice Coffee Morning & Sale at Parish Hall
Tues 12th Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Parish Hall
Sat 16th Coffee Morning & Bring and Buy; Thurlestone School 10.30
Wed 20th Tramp Walk. Coastal path from Wembury.
Sat 30th Thurlestone & S. Milton Horticultural Show Annual
Plant Sale. Thurlestone Parish Hall.

JUNE

Wed 3rd Tramp Walk. Dartmoor foothills from Lee Mill.
Tues 9th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 17th Tramp Walk. Moors walk from Two Bridges.

JULY

Wed 1st Tramp Walk. Easy river valley from Loddiswell.
Tues 14th Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 15th Tramp Walk. Dartmoor from Hexworthy.
Sat 25th Thurlestone Church Fete in Rectory Garden
(Parish Hall if wet)

AUGUST

Sat 1st Thurlestone and S. Milton Horticultural Show -
South Milton Village Hall.
Tues 11th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 12th Flower Arranging Demonstration (Mrs A. Foster) -
Parish Hall p.m.

SEPTEMBER.

Wed 2nd Tramp Walk. Local coast from Malborough.
Tues 8th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 16th Tramp Walk. Easy, Moors foothills from Cadover Bridge.
Frid 25th Harvest Supper. Parish Hall.
Sat 26th Thurlestone Parish Hall Annual Fair.

OCTOBER

Tues 13th Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 14th Tramp Walk. Easy. Coastal from E. Portlemouth.

NOVEMBER.

Tues 10th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 11th Tramp Walk. Local country from Blackawton
Sat 28th Church Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall.

DECEMBER

Sat 5th Thurlestone Conservatives Christmas Bazaar.
Tues 8th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.
Wed 9th Tramp. Christmas walk from Totnes.

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