

# VILLAGE VOICE

JUNE · JULY

1992





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DRABBLE  
1982.



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HAVE YOU NOTICED how anti-social it is to own a dog these days? Of course, it used to be quite a normal thing, like smoking. But just as the smokers have been driven, so to speak, into the dog-house, now it is the turn of the dogs themselves.

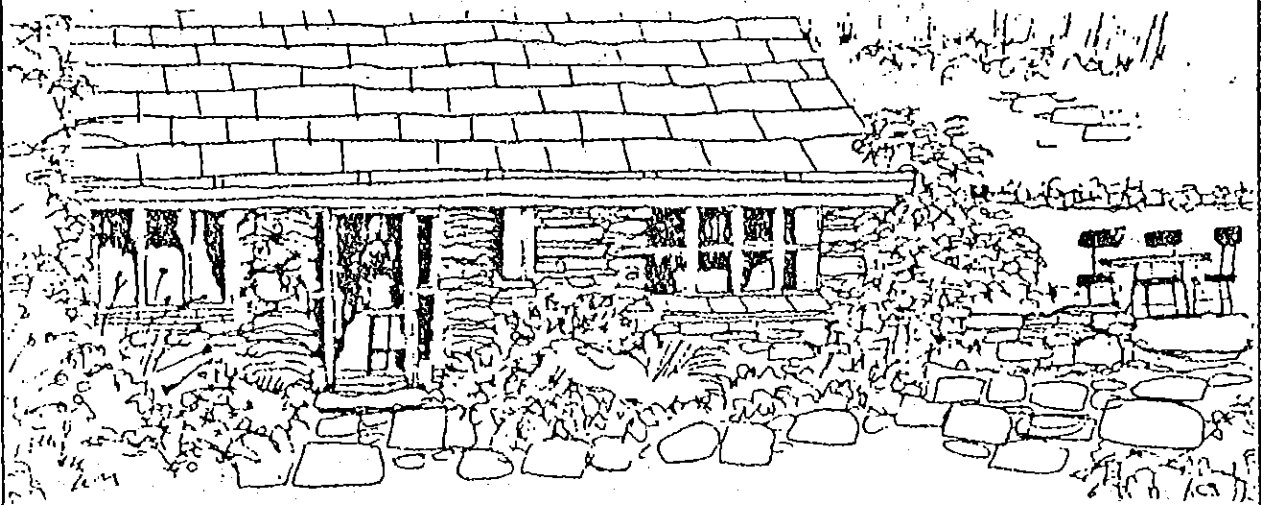
How many of us could have thought all those years ago, as we thrilled to the daring escape of our hero and his dog from the dreaded dog-catcher in those American penny-dreadfuls, that the catching of dogs and the killing of them after incarceration in the dog pound would come to this country? Who could have believed that the likes of the man with the stick with the noose on the end and the truck with wire-mesh to carry away his captures would ever come here?

Surely not! But surely - yes. Man's best friend, it seems, has become Man's worst enemy. And shamed dog-owners will now presumably be expected, like the smoker, to indulge in their disgusting and harmful practices out of sight of those who know better. Hide your leads from sight, only walk dogs at night...The Dog Warden is on patrol! Turn to our Local News pages in this issue for full details of the law.

Can this really be England? Can we really be living in a land that celebrates a National "Scoop The Poop" Day? And if so, can those who are so deprived that they have no poop to scoop claim Government assistance?

Mark our words well. The list of anti-social activities will not end with dog-owning. Soon it will be anti-social to go out in the sun without barrier cream. People with a tan will not be welcome in our villages, you may be sure of that!

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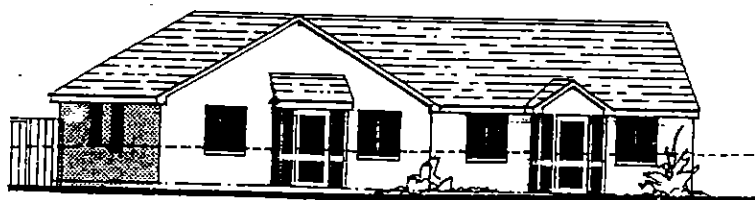


FIRST WITH THE NEWS,  
AS USUAL, IS VILLAGER.

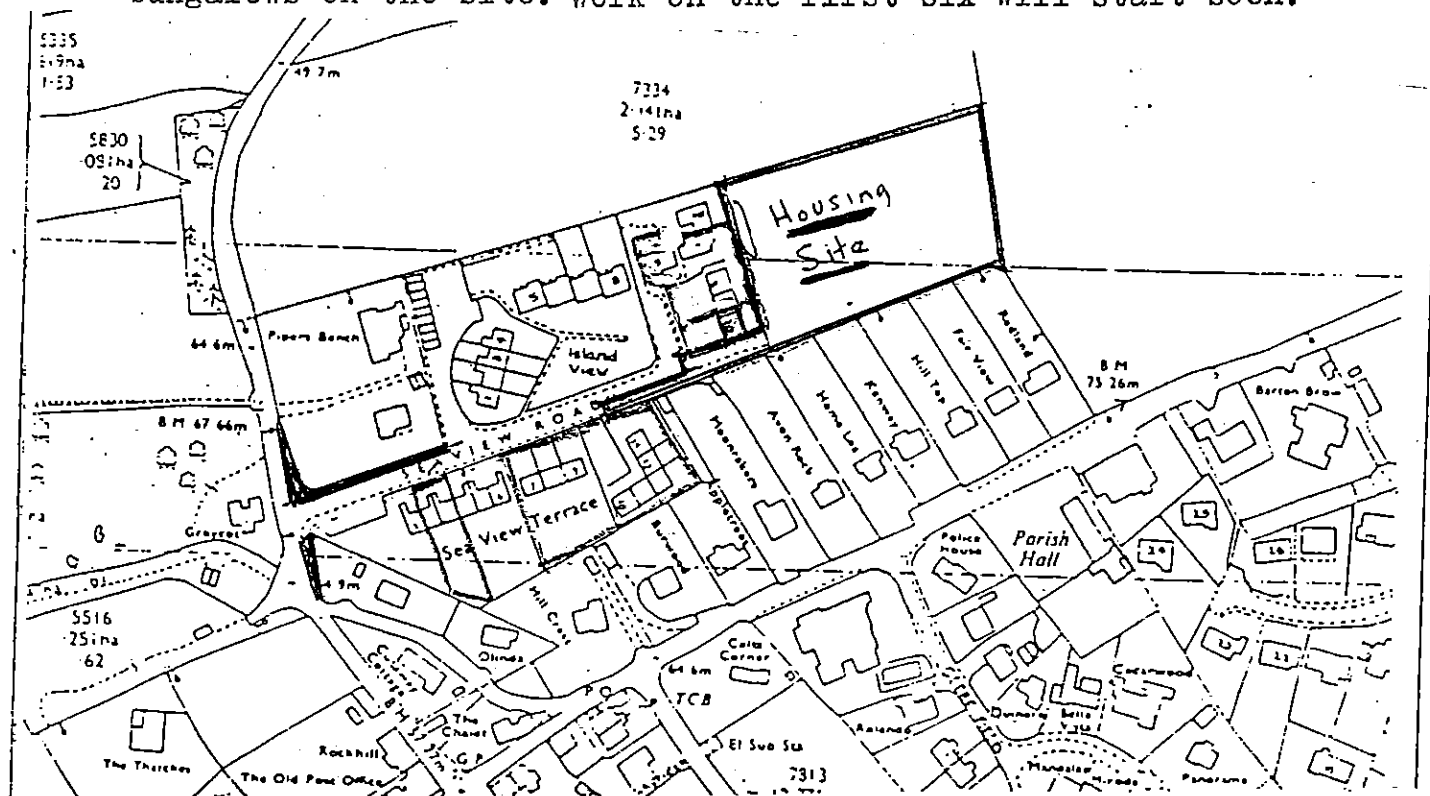
HERE HE REVEALS THE  
LATEST IN THE BIGGEST  
CHANGE TO BE MADE TO  
THURLESTONE SINCE THE  
MEAD WAS BORN...

THE PLANS FOR THE  
LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING  
AT SEAVIEW ROAD.

It has now been decided that  
there will be 12 bungalows  
built at Seaview. This is a  
drawing from the plans of the  
type to be built.



And just in case there is anyone in the parish who doesn't know where  
the bungalows are to be built, here is a copy of the location of the  
site according to the official plans. And overleaf is the layout of the  
bungalows on the site. Work on the first six will start soon.





THAT FOOTPATH:

Village Voice understands from the Department of the Environment that there have been objections to the Western end routing of the footpath along the Northern edge of the golf course - and that this may mean yet ANOTHER PUBLIC ENQUIRY!

THAT BEACH: All Thurlestone's sewage will be treated by the South Milton plant by the end of July and Leasfoot Beach will therefore be clean swimming from then on.

CONGRATULATIONS ROGER by Eileen Dayment.

WHAT A PLEASURE and honour to join family and friends at a surprise presentation to Roger Jackman at the Thurlestone Hotel! He has been working for and associated with the Grose family at the Hotel and Kennedy gardens for 67 years, and was presented by David Grose with a "framed certificate" for "long service", Royal Horticultural Society Award, and a medal with his name on the back.

The presentation was completed by a light lunch and wine from David, Cilla, Graham Grose and staff. Our thanks to them all. May Roger still have much pleasure in giving advice from the store of knowledge he has gained over the years. He has made the entrance wall to the Hotel look such a picture in the summer!

## KOI SOUTH HAMS

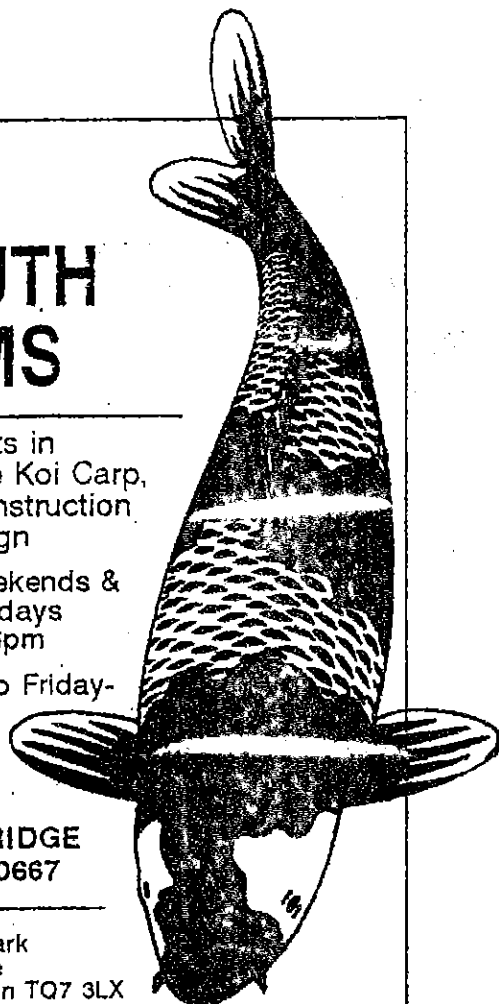
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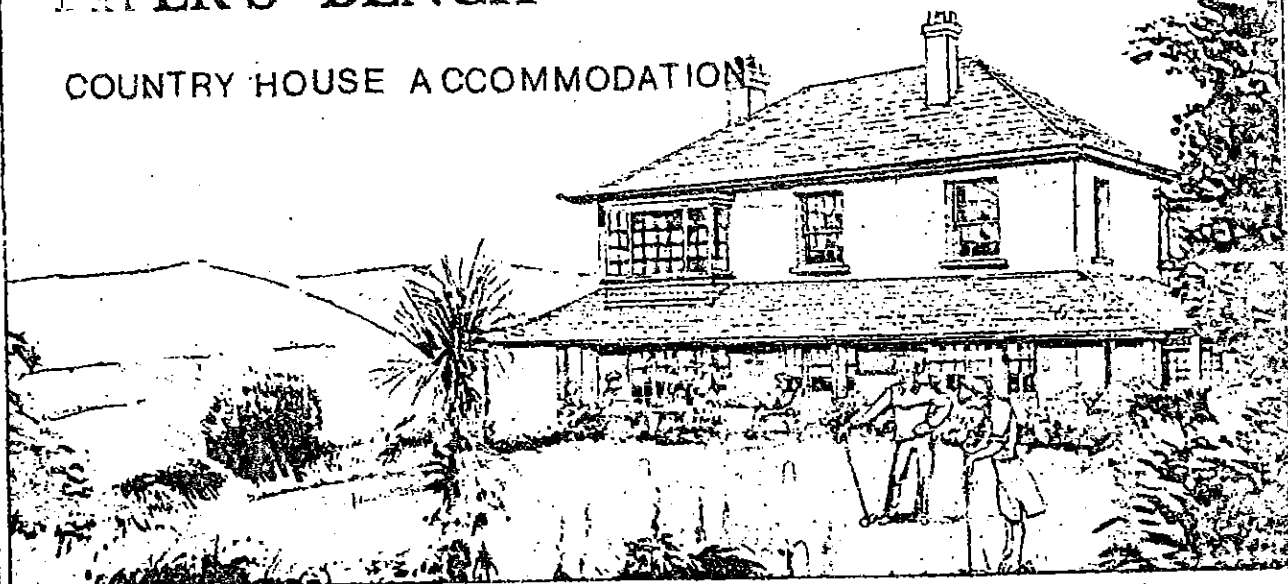
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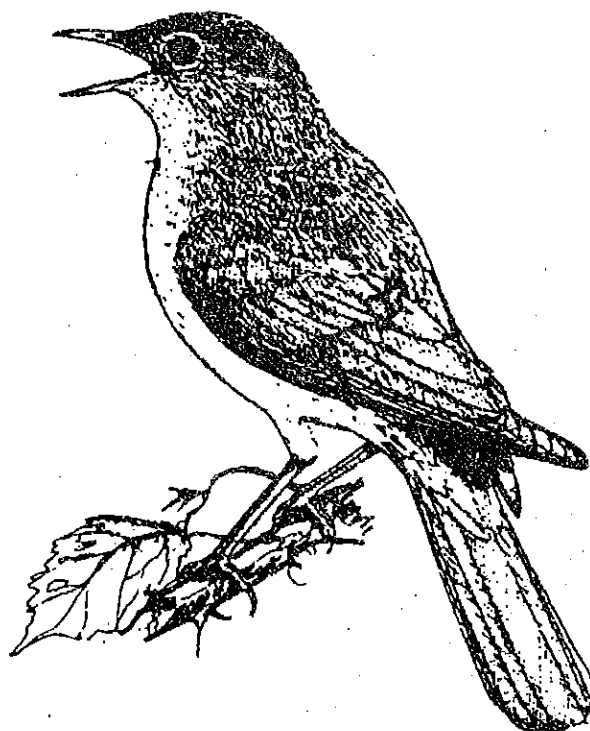


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# HARRY HUGGINS



GULLS! I MAKE no apology for rabbiting on about them; they are as much garden birds as any other, they are interesting, and big; when they are around you may require an umbrella, an old one preferably, but you will not need a telescope.

We seldom put out scraps, and our minced peanuts are beneath the notice of gulls (but a hungry Crow will tuck in). Though if we do put out something bigger in hard weather, we get a few Black-headed Gulls. This species is a good deal smaller than our usual Herring Gulls, with red legs and bill, and a white mark along the outer leading edge of each wing when it flies. This is diagnostic, no other fairly frequent British gull has it. Slender-billed Gull, yes, and likewise Bonaparte's Gull, but the former comes from the Black Sea and seldom strays west, the latter is American and does not often come east. Both are on the British list, but forget them, I have.

It is called Black-headed Gull, but birds' names being what they are, its head is not black, but brown; I cannot say what sort of brown for fear of the race relations industry. Nor is the whole head coloured; the brown is a mask covering the bird's head to just behind each eye. It is supposed to have this mask only in the breeding season, but again, birds being what they are, some show traces of their masks late into the autumn and others start getting them soon after Christmas. When they are not in breeding plumage their heads are white with a dark spot behind each eye.

The birds leave us in March to go to the nesting colonies and return sometime in July. There are big colonies on marshes in eastern England and in the Welsh hills. At one time people used to gather the eggs extensively, for sale as plovers' eggs, a famous delicacy (the gourmet/glutton thought he was eating Lapwings' eggs),. Whether they still collect them I do not know - since Edwina Currie eggs of all sorts have been less popular, and knowing how partial gulls are to feeding on rubbish dumps, I would think that if anything carried salmonella it would be a Black-headed Gull's egg.

Unless they are away breeding you can always find a few Black-headed Gulls around Leasfoot Beach, and there are hundreds in Kingsbridge harbour, waiting for the little stream of local inhabitants who come to feed them.

If you want a Common Gull you have to look in winter in Bowcome Creek for them - come summer they are away in Scotland nesting; We have seen one in our garden once only, in very hard weather; its pale grey parts were a bit darker than those of Herring and Black-headed Gulls, and its legs and bill were pale green. Several species of birds which are called "Common" are far from that and this gull is no exception. The yanks call it Mew Gull, maybe a better name, except that you can apply it to a good many sorts of gulls, which is why every few miles around the coast there is a Mewstone, on which they congregate and yell. In principle I dislike agreeing with yanks, but some of their names are better - for example what we call Divers, Great Northern, Black-throated, etc, they call Loons, after their weird wailing songs, which of course we never hear because they do not breed around these parts.

Like the poor, Herring Gull is always with us. I think of them especially when I assist the Head Gardener by forking the lawn. You shove the fork in, meanwhile cursing Eagle Developments who left all those half bricks, broken tiles etc, just under the surface. When you have managed to get it in for a few inches you heave; this is supposed to let air and rain into the soil and stimulate root growth. It brings worms bursting out - they think I am a mole and retreat upstairs. Herring Gulls do something similar; you see them on grass industriously marking time. The worms think it is raining; whether they come up for a drink or whether they think they will drown in their beds if they stay under I do not know, but up they come and the gulls eat them.

No, Herring Gulls are far from stupid. They nest on our roofs, get called Percy or Horace, and know that if they tap on our windows we will throw food out. Later, when their young get big, they will terrorise Bronwen when she comes with the newspapers.

I say "we" throw out food. That is figurative - we do not, not wanting the dog frightened in her own garden. And have a care about taking in an injured one: if you must do so provide for it in your will. We have a friend on the east coast who decided to nurse one back to health. She did that, but she did not nurse it back to flight, and was stuck with it. A year or two back we met her again after a break of many years. She enquired if we knew how long they lived, she had had it then for thirty one years!

All the foregoing, and the two previous columns, have been about birds you might see marching around your garden. What you see from it depends on where you live. If you are in the middle of Buckland, or Thurlestone, there is a fine bit of sky and maybe not much else. Here on the Mead we can see a lot of sea and down into the valley, which collects puddles which delight us, even if they do not delight Farmer Stidston - having ducks and waders taking advantage of his hospitality cannot do a lot for his cash flow. Of course if we get the view we get what goes with it - everything covered in salt and roof tiles clattering like false teeth on a windy night. As the saying goes, 'yer pays money and takes yer choice'.

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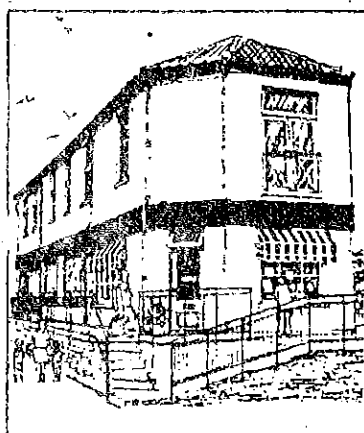
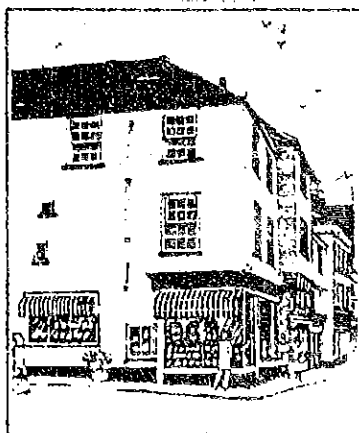
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On clear breezy days we see Gannets in the bay, gleaming white with black wing tips. Sometimes we see them fold back their wings and plunge into the water. It is an odd thing that from home it looks to us as though they are within yards of Warren Point, but when we brave the golf balls flying in all directions and go out to the point they seem just as distant.

If you live near Clannacombe you are not too likely to see Gannets from your garden. But it is not impossible, nothing to do with birds is impossible, only unlikely. When we lived in Clacton-on-Sea, surrounded by big trees, and separated from the sea by the best part of a mile of streets and houses, to say nothing of Butlins (it was still Butlins then) one flew over our garden. Part of this garden bird business is that you have to be (a) observant (b) in the garden. My wife was - is - both. She saw things then and she sees them now.

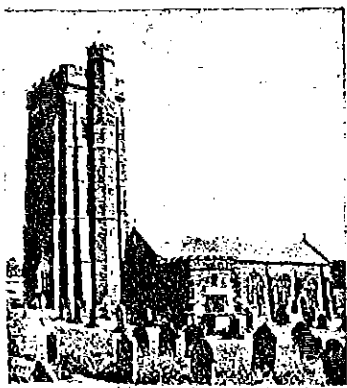
Like the Black Stork she saw here at Thurlestone. It was sailing overhead, mobbed by gulls. This is not the bird which makes huge nests on houses in Germany and places, and brings babies. That is White Stork. Black is much rarer, a bird of the great European forests. This one stopped off at Holbeton and the twitchers went wild; So if you hear the gulls making a fuss, look. They may just be fighting over a fish head, but there may be a Black Stork.

Buzzards often wheel above. There is usually a pair somewhere in the Buckland valley and another in the vicinity of Kerse. You can see these however enclosed your garden. One year a pair brought off a brood in the big pine trees across the road from the golf club. I do not suppose they will do that again - some of those trees have fallen down and the others, like this columnist, are near the end of their useful life. It always seems odd that trees should have an allotted span, but they do.

There are quite often Kestrels about - a slight bird with longish tail and long pointed wings; it is chestnut on top with dark flight feathers, and the male has a pearly grey tail with a dark tip. You will tell a Kestrel from a Sparrowhawk because the latter has short blunt wings, but a Kestrel's wings can look surprisingly blunt at times. It identifies itself by hovering. A Buzzard will sometimes do that, clumsily. A Sparrowhawk never.

Once in a while we see a Peregrine cross the valley. It is not very big, about Woodpigeon sized, but its body is broad and powerful. It is greyish below, purply brown on top - sometimes bluer if an old bird - and if you can see its head its black cap and moustache over a white chin are diagnostic. They come after the plovers and other waders which frequent the valley in winter.

People who pontificate about Peregrines are wont to point out how often their hunting sorties fail. Nonsense! Catching other birds on the wing needs skill and practice and a very young bird has to learn. After all no golfer really expects to buy a set of clubs and forthwith go round Thurlestone in par. But a hungry Peregrine does not often miss, it would starve if it did, and if it wants to catch it will catch. But more often than not it will stoop after a flock of birds just to frighten them - you can almost hear it chuckle: "Make that lot fly, didn't I" It is not only humans who are bullies!



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# The Rector Writes

FIFTY YEARS AGO WE WERE in the middle of the Second World War and so it is inevitable that for a number of years we shall be marking particularly significant events that happened "50 years ago".

One such, of special interest to me just now, was the bombing of Exeter Cathedral. Fortunately neither of the Norman Towers was hit, nor the "Crossing" where Nave and Transcepts meet, or the resulting damage might have been very much worse, nevertheless very considerable damage was done when, on the night of 3rd/4th May, 1942, a large high-explosive bomb struck the Cathedral on the South-East quarter, exploding in the Chapel of S. James very near the position of the Bishop's Throne. Fortunately, again, the "Bishop's Throne", or rather the Architectural Throne Canopy, (reputed to be the tallest, finest and earliest in Christendom and dating from 1312 and constructed all of oak without a single nail or screw used in its construction), had with considerable foresight already been removed, along with the East Window and a number of other irreplaceable treasures, to a place of safety, otherwise they may have been lost for ever. In the event they mercifully survived to be restored to the Cathedral after the war.

Another bit of war history "50 years ago" this summer was the terrible destruction of one of our Arctic convoys - PQ17 - which had been ordered to scatter with disastrous results when it was rumoured that the powerful German battleship Tirpitz, equipped with eight massive 15-inch guns, had broken out of her Norwegian base and into our sea-lanes. That brings me to an interesting enquiry I have currently before me on my desk.

Tirpitz was herself eventually sunk, or more accurately "turned turtle" in the Norwegian Tromsø Fiord in November 1944 as the result of an attack by the famous Dam-Buster Squadron equipped with 5½-ton blockbuster bombs, three of which hit the Tirpitz causing her to capsize.

On my desk I have an enquiry from one of the R.A.F. crew involved in that attack seeking information as to whether we have, living in Thurlestone, a lady, who, as a school girl in Norway, witnessed the attack on the Tirpitz and saw her capsize.

I am not myself aware of that fact, so - "Over to You". If that is the case the former R.A.F. officer would like me to assist him in establishing contact. Let me know please.

Continued

## THE RECTOR CONTINUES:

From 50 to 1500 years ago. From Warship to Worship.

On Sunday 17th May I preached on the Collect of the Day, the 4th Sunday after Easter. I mention it only because this lovely collect, reproduced here, is first known to have been in use in 492, some 1500 years ago and a thousand years before Columbus discovered America, and thereby gives us a wonderful sense of the continuity of the church and its unbroken worship.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. The Collect.

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally from 1500 years ago to the present and from the sublime to the ridiculous. Taking Assembly in the School recently I was talking to the children about the Good Shepherd and I asked one of the boys to read me this verse from the hymn we had just sung:

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

He read it very well, except for his surprise rendering of the last line which seemed to auger divinely inspired dietary problems for he rendered the last line as:

"With food CHOLESTEROL feedeth"

There are many apocryphal schoolboy howlers, but this is one that I can personally authenticate!

PETER S. STEPHENS. Rector.

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### LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS...

Malborough Primary School 'A' Team were the winners of the Village Quiz held on May 14 at All Saints School, Thurlestone. Quizmaster was the Thurlestone Headmaster, Alan Williams.

Runners-up were the South Milton Village Hall team. The Village Voice team was defeated in the very early stages of the contest!

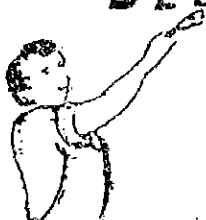
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The dates of the Parish Council meetings have been changed from June onwards. The Village Voice Superguide (inside the back cover) has the correct dates for the rest of the year.

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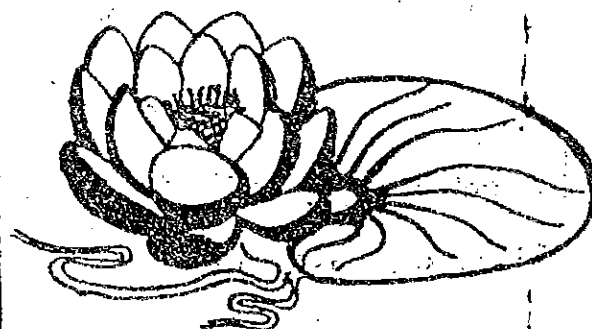
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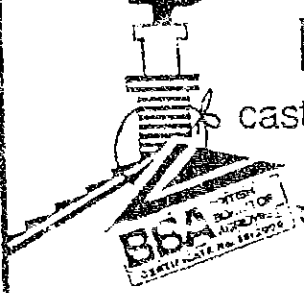
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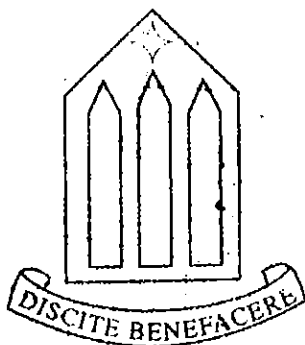
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# ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

## A TENACIOUS SCOT.

IN THE SCHOOL WHERE I began my teaching career there survived some idiosyncratic and noteworthy customs. Some of these were so bizarre that their significance could not be appreciated outside the very specific environment in which they operated. Other school traditions, though curious, had an obvious point. Among these was the much-prized presentation of the Bruce Badge.

The inspiration behind these badges was Robert the Bruce, who was apparently, after he had observed a spider tenaciously attempting to build a web, encouraged to persevere in his attempts to free Scotland from English rule. The badges named after him were given for effort and at various stages in the school term. The organisation of pupil selection and badge distribution was almost Byzantine in its complexity.

The system would be almost impossible to import to any other institution, yet as a way of encouraging individual effort it had considerable merit. A crude competitive system can lead to complacency at one end and depression at the other. What each school must try to do (and its techniques will vary) is to provide an atmosphere where children stimulate each other and are delighted by the variety and complexity of the efforts of others. And only then will those illusive creatures known as educational standards, be truly and permanently raised. For whether we give children badges or other forms of encouragement, they do learn from consistent example which is often interventionist.

On quite another matter, we are trying to raise money to carpet the entrance to the school, classrooms and library. This is quite outside our budget allocation so we have decided to try to obtain sponsorship; this can be from individuals, businesses, clubs and organisations. We have divided the area up into notional squares and are seeking sponsorship at £10 per square yard. We believe the children should be provided with a high quality learning environment; I think this sends out important messages to the pupils themselves. If the children see that teachers, parents and the local community have a genuine care for their local school, it is likely that the children will look after it. We would be pleased if local people supported this and if you are interested in sponsoring a square yard (or making another donation), we would be pleased to hear from you.

A.F. Williams, Headmaster.

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LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS... Five rubbish skips will be in position in the parish between June 22 and June 26. They will be at: Little Ham, Bantham; at the Barn next to Thurlestone Church; in the Parish Hall carpark; in the lay-by at Valleyside, West Buckland; at the cattle-grid to the Mead Estate.

POSTBAG....YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITORS...

Dear Editors,

I overheard my two grandchildren talking to each other when down here on a visit to us. One said: "Have you noticed how old the people are in Thurlestone?"

"Yes," said the other, "except for Nannie and she is only as old as Mummy..."

A Very Flattered Grandma,  
Thurlestone.

Dear Mr and Mrs. McDonald,

I must write to you and let you know how honoured I feel to have my recollections of tea at Clanacombe printed! I am so delighted and pleased that you thought it worth while - I only wish my very dear brother, Edward Symes (Teddy) was still with us - he could have written some really amusing and "special" accounts of childhood memories of Thurlestone!

I had two brothers and when my Father left India and was appointed to the P. and O. Office in London we lived in Surrey. Every Easter holiday we went to Thurlestone! It was the big looked forward-to event of our year. What with childhood at Loddiswell I can assure you that Devon and the South Hams is permanently and lovingly imprinted on my heart!

Your magazine is quite outstanding and anyone I have shown it to is very impressed. You collect so many splendid articles and varied writing and the illustrations are so talented. I have never seen such a very "special" village publication and I am so glad to be a subscriber.

MARY C. SYMES, Sherborne, Dorset.

The following letter was passed to Village Voice for use, but was not addressed to us. It comes from South Hams District Council:

The dog which is permitted to leave the owner's premises and roam at will, is the underlying cause of many of the problems which it can create - indiscriminate fouling, road traffic hazards attacks on people and their animals. Many people, even those who consider themselves responsible dog owners, do not readily

appreciate what their dog might be doing when away from home.

The measures which have been introduced and proposals which are in the pipeline are aimed at ensuring that dogs are kept at home when not being exercised under supervision. These measures include byelaws controlling the fouling of public places, dogs on leads in built-up areas, dogs bearing a collar with the owner's identity. The Dog Warden will enforce these measures rigorously. A dog found straying is likely to be impounded. The Dog Warden will respond to complaints...

J.H. BLOOMER,  
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# Neville OSWALD reports



LOCAL DEMOCRACY is a pretty elusive concept at the best of times, not least in the South Hams where it really did not get going until about a hundred years ago. Before that, the day to day running of places like Thurlestone was in the hands of the parish church council and its vestry committee, which usually included several prominent local people, while general administrative and legal matters were dealt with by justices of the peace selected by the Lord Lieutenant from the local gentry. The South Hams have never been renowned for their gentry, that is people of education and substance who avoided getting their hands dirty whenever possible. If we go back to Elizabethan times we find there were several families of Norman origin around Modbury, for example the Champernownes, Prideaux and Bulteels who would now be called County, but they gradually petered out and few have come forward to replace them. Even they did not produce leaders who could dominate hard working farmers whose individualism ruled out subservience.

Walter Raleigh, whose mother was a Modbury Champernowne, found that out at the time of the Spanish Armada. After a spell at Elizabeth's court and experience in Ireland, he and others were detailed to rustle up a defence force in case the Armada landed somewhere along the south coast of Devon. They achieved little mainly because there were few people with influence they could call upon for assistance; it is just as well that the Armada passed them by. A strain of independence in the Devon character still flourishes.

During Victorian times this antiquated form of local government became more and more inefficient as advances in science and industry and rising standards of living made it obsolete. Parliament took twenty years trying to find a solution and eventually Gladstone's government came up with a Bill which, after surviving over 800 amendments, became the Local Government Act of 1894. The Act established a new structure of urban, district and parish councils to supplement the county councils that came into being in 1888. It also reduced the importance of justices of the peace who were left with petty crime and the licensing of public houses.

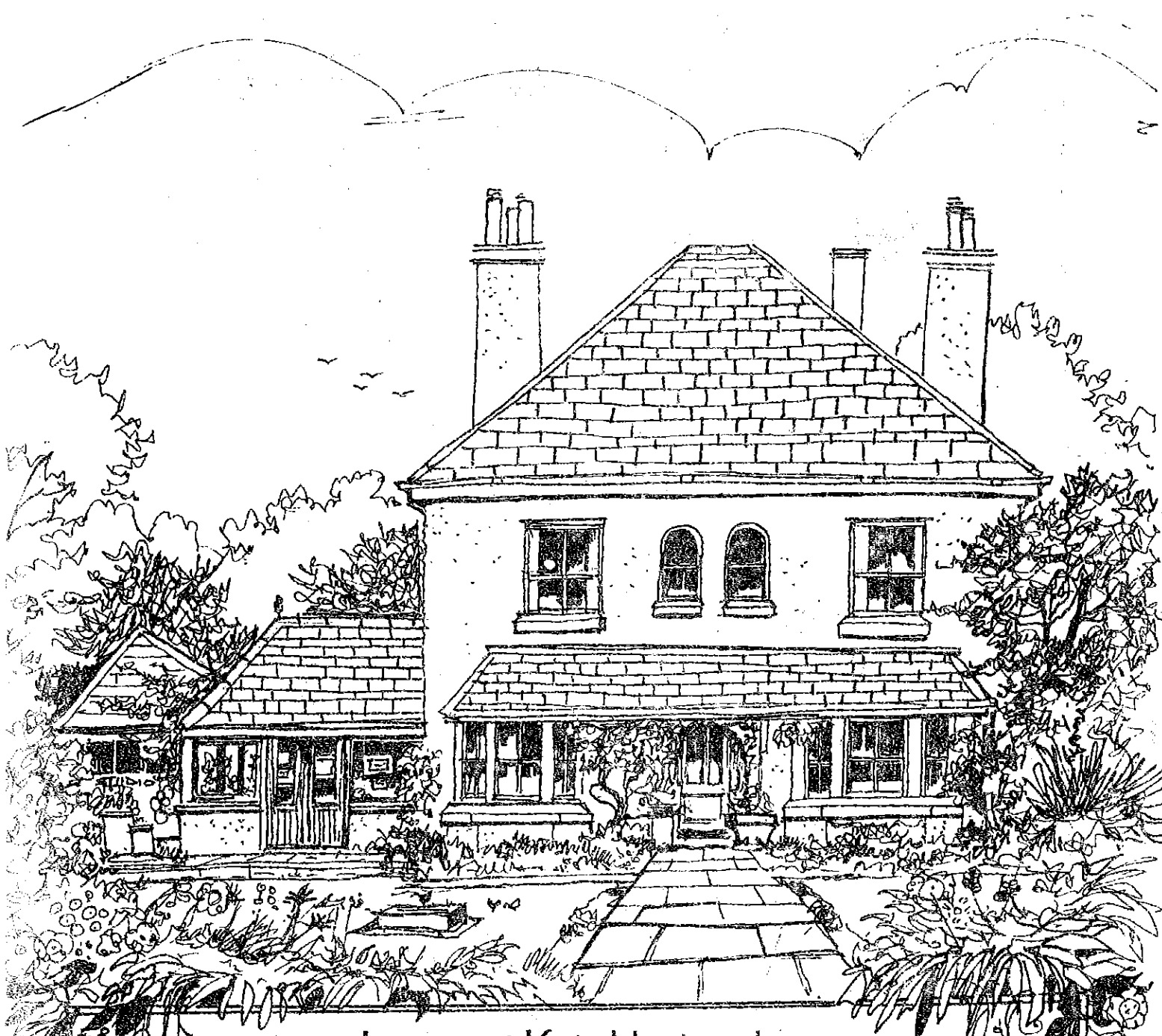
For Thurlestone, the Act did two things; it created a democratically elected parish council and transferred to it civil functions previously administered by the church. At a time when landowners

and the clergy up and down the country objected to intrusions on their authority, many of them refusing to support or actively opposing the new councils, the transition in Thurlestone went fairly smoothly, according to the minute books which our council has kindly allowed me to see. There were, however, differences over the disposal of records and documents held by the church. The vestry book, with minutes of meetings back to 1827, was claimed by both; it contained detailed records of, for example, housing, roads, rates, water and sewerage all of which were to pass to the new council, leaving the church council with the Church of England village school, church house and various charities. Eventually the Devon County Council was called upon to adjudicate and ruled that the vestry book should be kept by the parish council in the iron chest it had purchased for the purpose.

The new council soon settled into a routine and meetings were held quarterly at 7.30pm in the winters and 8.30 in the summers, which can hardly have suited members of the farming community few of whom, after an early start and a long day in the fields, would be inclined to trudge a mile or more along primitive country lanes. Indeed, the meetings rarely attracted as many as half a dozen and those who did attend were the same councillors who were ordinarily reappointed year after year. Yet they were amongst the best informed members of the community, at least in local affairs, and were well qualified to apply themselves to the many problems with which they were immediately confronted, especially poor roads and defective water supply and sewerage. They were also aware of their responsibilities in maintaining and improving the general appearance and amenities of the parish and in scrutinising the plans of intending developers and new residents. Some years were to elapse before they were confident enough to put their powers into effect.

The Thurlestone parish council was founded in 1894 and soon fell into a routine which changed little in the next 80 years. Its members were almost always drawn (as they still are) from men who have spent the greater part or the whole of their lives in the district. In such a small community, their selection was bound to be a personal matter. Indeed, they were called upon to give a personal service by keeping watch on all aspects of parochial life and by being available to receive suggestions and give advice. They were aware of the extent and distribution of local resources, from which they earned their living, and recognised the importance of maintaining a ready access to Kingsbridge and efficient postal and telegraph services.

Newly elected councillors, usually with no previous experience of committees, soon realised that the comparatively simple structure of a rural parish council was but a small part of a complex system of local government that took time to understand. Whilst they recognised the need to carry out routine instructions from the county and district councils, they realised they also had responsibilities as arbiters of local initiatives. When a promising suggestion was supported, they might choose to submit it to the official chain of command only to find that what started as a simple proposition, such as a request for a new bus stop or telephone box, soon developed into a major undertaking which might take months or years to resolve.



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**EVENINGS**

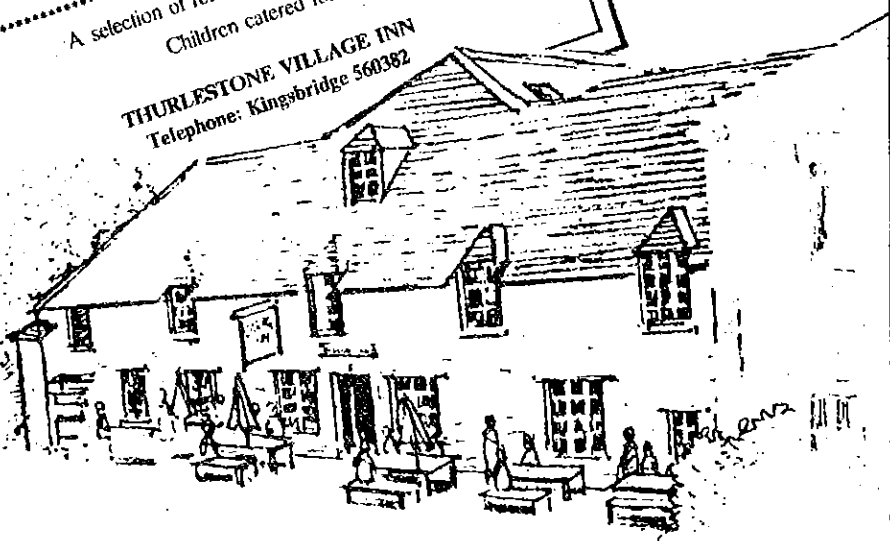
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In time, they learnt the value of experience and came to accept their limited authority.

During the first 50 years of its existence, up to about 1950, the council was able to influence many local plans and services, for example, housing, water, sewerage and the postal services. Its immediate superior, the Kingsbridge Rural District Council, was near at hand and it had free access to the Devon County Council. Yet it suffered from the disadvantage that it lacked the means of obtaining an informal opinion other than through official channels. This difficulty was not overcome until 1947 when the National Association of Parish Councils was formed. During the following 7 years, the association influenced over 60 changes in the law that stimulated councils and gave them more say in local affairs; it greatly assisted the Maud Commission of 1969 in emphasising the importance of responsible councils in the oversight of anything that affected the well-being of their parishes. The Thurlestone council has on many occasions sought the independent advice or support of the Devonshire branch of the association.

As long ago as the 1940s, during World War II, the three tiers of local government proved to be cumbersome and inefficient. In the following years the county and district councils increased in size and importance whilst the parish councils were virtually ignored. The process continued until the Local Government Act of 1972 which drastically reduced the number of local authorities and created new district councils. It also withdrew personal health services, water and sewerage from local government and reduced local influence on planning and housing.

For the councillors of Thurlestone, the new act meant the loss of the rural district council of Kingsbridge whose members were well known to them and of whom two were their own representatives. Instead, the South Hams District Council (SHDC) opened at Totnes, some 17 miles distant, in 1974 with one councillor representing Thurlestone and two neighbouring villages. The SHDC was soon carried along by its own momentum with a proliferation of committees and a degree of complexity that was far beyond the previous experience of the councillors at Thurlestone. In a sense, a new form of communication had come about. Whereas previously the council communicated with whoever it wished, whether he was the Chief Constable in Exeter or a minister in London, it now found itself confronted by a formidable array of professional and elected members at Totnes.

The effect of the new district council upon Parish annual general meetings at Thurlestone was dramatic. Attendance rose from its usual 6 or 7 to an average of 50 to 60; in two years exceeded 100. The annual amount needed for expenses advanced from £50 in 1972 to £300 in 1973 and £600 in 1974. Representatives from the DCC, SHDC, the police and others regularly attended and made statements; the clerk gave his annual report.

Divested of some of their former responsibilities, the purpose of rural parish councils may be questioned. First and most important is their function in safe-guarding local democracy, something which was ingrained in the British character for generations by parish church councils and latterly has been preserved by parish councils. For the people of Thurlestone, the difference between having their own councillors or consult rather than nebulous figures in Kingsbridge and now in Totnes, has been the difference between their being able to air their views in public and having to accept edicts from afar. Indeed, local opinions are still important, whether upon local initiatives or upon innovations that have originated elsewhere. The council is able to seek parochial opinions with ease, in a way that county and district councils might hesitate to do, especially when there is a political aspect.

Councillors at Thurlestone have always given much time and thought to their duties. They have been inclined to regard innovations with suspicion, preferring to retain the status quo which they understand. Yet they have been essential to the orderly administration of the parish.

---

LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS...LOCAL News...Local News...

THURLESTONE CHURCH HAS LAUNCHED A GRAND SUMMER DRAW

FIRST PRIZE IS A THREE NIGHT STAY AT THE DRYBURGH ABBEY HOTEL ON THE BANKS OF THE TWEED IN BONNIE SCOTLAND  
(Courtesy of the Thurlestone Hotel who have the Dryburgh Abbey as their Luxurious Northern annexe!)

AND WITH THAT FOUR STAR PRIZE GOES A BIG DISCOUNT ON A RETURN AIR FARE TO SCOTLAND FROM PLYMOUTH (Courtesy of Brymon Airways).

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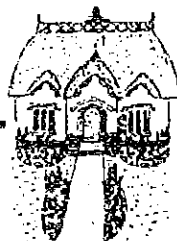
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VILLAGE VOICE can only be distributed FREE to RESIDENTS of the villages of the Parish.

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

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

Your copy is delivered to you by our volunteer distributors. In Thurlestone, this is dairyman Peter Bromfield, and in Bantham and West Buckland, Mrs. Jean Hurrell. Extra copies may be bought from local newsagents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morley at the Village Stores.

There is also a subscription service, which already sends copies to readers all over the country at an annual cost of £5, which includes postage.

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# Drabblemania



## LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE ? ? ?

WHEN the Norman Conquest took place - 1066 and all that - the estimated population of Britain was just about one million, but it would seem the edict "Be Fruitful and Multiply" was taken very seriously indeed for there was a population increase of around one million every hundred years - until 1666, when the population count was approaching seven million. From then on the figure rose dramatically increasing to an average of seventeen million increase in population every hundred years - raising the level in the 326 years in 1992 to nearing 60 million.

But all that will seem as nothing if the projected increase in world population doubles within 30 to 50 years time, at which stage it is suggested we - well, you who are young enough - will witness the self-destruction of mankind, for there will not be enough vegetation in the world to sustain a population of such gigantic proportions - and it could then mean Britain having a population of 100 million plus.

No, no, it must be utter nonsense. But is it? The one million people could never have imagined the seven million of 1666, and likewise the seven million of that year could never have imagined the 60 million of the late 1900s.

If it is accepted that every adult person is entitled to have a car and one or two holidays a year, where on earth will they go? What will it be like outside our village inns, on our beaches and moorlands and car parks. Will we still have the Editor worrying about car parking charges!

Stop the world - I will want to get off!

+ + + + +

## THIS IS WHAT THE LAST TWELVE YEARS OR SO HAS SERVED UP . . . .

SINCE 1979 we have seen the price of a loaf of bread rise from 30p to 60p. A kilogram of sugar from 35p to 70p - prices correct at the time of going to press, as the adverts so regularly tell us - even a pint of beer from 46p to 146p on average. My Sunday 10p newspaper now costs 70p, and a Ford Escort saloon which was £3,500 in 1979 is now around £10,000. In 1979 there were about 10 million Credit Cards issued. Today there are in excess of 30 million, and the average outstanding debt has risen from £95 to £295. The Old Age Pension has risen, of course, from £19 50 in 1979 to £54.15 - which is not truly commensurate with the rise in the cost of living. However, if you were a millionaire in 1979 you will be the first to appreciate you now need two and half million to sustain your status. I'm one of the fortunate folk who don't drink or smoke - I gave up when 20 Players cost 3/6 (35p) in 1961 - but I didn't do it soon enough and suffered lung cancer in 1977. However, I've been fortunate indeed, to survive on one and a half lungs since. I don't recommend it! Smoking I mean! I was just a youngster of 68 when that lot hit me!

+ + + + +

dare I say . . . .MORE;;

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

JUST ABOUT NINETY YEARS AGO . . . . . certainly not in 1992 !

WHEN you next journey to Torcross area take along the memory which is taken from 'The Field' of that era:

" The ride along the coast from Exeter to Dartmouth is a thing to see and experience. What a lovely ride it is! No railway in England can equal it! And then the drive from Dartmouth to Torcross, all along the cliffs, sometimes high up in the air far above the sea, and then down along the crest of the pebbly sand with constant beautiful peeps of rocks and thickets and hidden little sandy coves where luggers have whilom beached on moon shiney nights, and hundreds of kegs of very bad brandy - and worse - have come ashore to poison the natives ! The pretty surf lined points, with foilage decked almost to the salt water's edge sum up a ride which alone it is worth a long journey to make."

"Slapton Ley is a huge sheet of fresh water, profusely studded with reeds in places, of which there are enormous patches covering many acres, in fact. It is about a mile-and-a-half long and half a mile wide at its widest. There is ample room for a dozen or more boats to fish on it. There are, however, only seven, and these are attached to the Royal Sands Hotel. Visitors staying in any of the cottages can also hire a boat if there is one to spare, visitors at the hotel having first claim. The Ley is divided from the sea by about one hundred yards or more of high beach along the top of which runs the road, and in the immense waste of swash, reeds and rushes the wildlife find safe and serene harbour, for they are never allowed to be disturbed - two huge slices at the Torcross end and on the north shore being cut off and marked by posts, and on which no boat is allowed to trespass, and thesen two preserves comprise a large area of water and reeds. On these not a line is ever cast and, as the Ley swarms with perch, eels and rudd it may well be assumed that there is a pike or two of patriarchal age and size. Besides pike, the Ley swarms with perch, rudd and splendid eels, and a couple of hooks on a bottom line, and a bit of fish for bait, will always produce a dish of eels for dinner. There are very large perch, but they are not got every day. The rudd are something marvellous, and run up to a large size, and heaps of them may be had from 1lb to 2lb. One of the most favourite ways of fishing for them is with a fly. Any sea-trout fly should fetch them. Such is the sport to be had on Slapton Ley, and I venture to say that there is no place in England like it.

(The name of the writer is not known. It is related in the book: "Salcombe & Neighbourhood' by the late James Fairweather at the turn of the century)

+ + + + +

### CONVERSATION PIECE

I met the postman down the road, he said: " A lovely day."

My next door neighbour thought he's heard that rain was on the way.

The man who read the meter said - and we had quite a chat -

The weatherman had mentioned gales, "Best prepare for that."

But Mrs Jones (the paper shop) thought they'd predicted snow,

"Or was it just on Scottish hills?" She really didn't know.

A stranger coming in said: "Well, I heard the forecast too,

But there are thunderstorms about I know - I always do."

And then the vicar came along, "The weather, well, it's nice

to know it's always there," he said, "My word! It breaks the ice!"

Anon

MORE:--

A BASKETFUL OF MEMORIES !

I believe I am the only surviving basket-maker, who, during the 1860's and the early 1870's made in the ordinary course of his work, the wicker bug-traps then surviving in use in middle-class families. Such, as I remember, were placed in every bed in my great-grand-father's house in Whitechapel, and in my grandfather's house in Spitalfields. In order to preserve specimens of this quaint instrument I made one for exhibition in our Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and another for the London Museum of Pestology.....The trap was placed behind the bolster and between it and the head of the bed - the iron bed had not then been invented - . The little Anthropophagi after their nightly meal (of blood!) would retire to digest it between the interstices of the wicker trap. The housemaid in the morning would take the trap into the yard or garden and shake out the victims, who would meet a violent death under her feet. She would then replace the trap in position for the following night's service.

THOMAS OKEY 1922

+ + + + +

MISTRESS: "Well, Cook, if you and the other maids are at all nervous of the Zeppelines, you can have your beds removed into the basement,"

COOK: "No, thank you, ma'am. we have every confidence in the policeman at the gate."

+PUNCH + March 10th 1915.

+ + + + +

OVERHEARD: "My son has taken up Meditation - I feel it is at least better than sitting doing nothing."

+ + + + +

TOLERANCE !!

I count myself very fortunate that as a person and as a writer I have known people of all sizes. I've known some very small people, very small people indeed. I've also known some very tall people. And, of course, I've known quite a few people who come somewhere in between. But knowing in this way, people of literally all sizes, I think my attitude is perhaps more liberal and more tolerant than someone, who, whether rightly or wrongly, has confined himself to people of his own size.

ANON

+ + + + +

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S RIGHT !?

Westcountry Vicar, the Rev Chris Hudson, has ordered brides to 'cover up' for their church wedding - or risk the cold shoulder at the altar. He has warned his congregation in the Parishes of East and West Huntspill, (Somerset), that off the shoulder wedding dresses will not be permitted in future. "I do not think it is appropriate to see oceans of flesh in church." He confessed that he believed such action would not have been necessary a few years ago. "Brides acted with common sense and a degree of modesty, " he said. Bright and startling colours will also be frowned on.

W.M.N. 1.2.92.

+ + + + +

There you are then - three pages without a word on politics !

END

# PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

If you haven't a clue,  
you'r bound to enjoy this  
CLUELESS CROSSWORD...

No clues are given, but each number represents a letter.  
For example, 1 is P, 2 is A and 3 is T. So begin by  
repeating these letters where these numbers appear in  
the grid. Identify other numbers with their letters  
and when finished the diagram will resemble a normal  
crossword. Each letter of the alphabet is used.

A	16	19	23	3	2	1	25	10	5	3	5	25	12	N
B	19			4		21		3		13			9	O
C	5	17	1	5		2		4		5	14	9	2	P
D	6			1	5	18	19	9	3	10			4	Q
E	9	26	3			19		2			15	2	10	R
F		2		12		9	21	17		9		21		S
G	10	7	4	5	12		4		10	7	19	21	21	T
H		5		17		6	25	3		9		25		U
I	25	4	8			2		4			3	20	25	V
J	24			25	4	6	13	5	14	10			17	W
K	25	12	22	23		13		8		1	22	4	9	X
L	12			9		25		2		25			12	Y
M	9	11	9	12	3	19	2	21	5	3	5	9	10	Z

REFERENCE GRID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
P	A	T										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



# 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.

AN INFAMOUS WIDOW - that was what the Reverend Benjamin Reed thought about Mary Terry, when he christened her daughter Frances at Thurlestone Church just four days before Christmas in 1758. And he did more than think about it for he quilled those same words into the Church records and added with a furious flourish that the father Francis Shepherd was a "married man". As indeed he was - and it was only two years before in that same church that the Reverend Benjamin had married the 25-year-old Customs Officer to Margaret. In fact he had christened their first child, Peter, the year of their marriage.

All of which is more proof that though Thurlestone today may be too quiet for some, and is certainly short of infamous widows of the Terry kind, it was hardly the sleepy little Devon village that we may imagine it to be when we let our imaginations run riot back to the 1700s.

In fact a browse through the papers from the parish safe - those that are still readable for brown ink has run and faded on many - shows that Mary Terry was not the only lady who was no better than she should have been nor were the villages' married men reluctant to take advantage of them.

Mary Terry, the infamous widow, had perhaps earned her title. She first appears in the records as Mary Williams when she married the 35-year-old William Terry in Thurlestone Church on February 26, 1750 and then had three children - Mary in 1751, Grace in 1753 and Elizabeth in 1756. William Terry died aged 41; why we can only guess.

It was very soon after his death that Mary set about becoming infamous in earnest. Her husband had only been dead a few months when her affair with Francis Shepherd became the talk of the village. Did he go to her house (where that was I can't say for sure) or was this an al fresco coupling? If it was an open-air affair then Thurlestone in March must have been a bit warmer than it is today even in a hayrick! Certainly they couldn't go to his house - he lived with his wife in a little cottage with a courtyard and garden just a few steps up the village street from Cradles Cottage. Only one wall of Francis's cottage survives today - as one side of Elsie Brewster's garage!

Perhaps Mary had a deep desire for a boy child - all her children legal or not, were girls, and so on November 3, 1761 there, much to Rev. Benjamin's amazement, she was in church again, this time marrying another local lad George Jarvis. Now George was no lad really. In fact he was 59 when he married Mary, but Mary soon had a child, another girl called Anne, who survived only 18 months.

George Jarvis didn't last much longer. He died in 1767, aged 65. And there our knowledge of Mary Widow of Thurlestone ends. I can find no trace of her death or of her marrying again, yet I would like to think she went on her merry way - she was after all only 35 when our trail ends.

But immorality keeps to no particular timetable - except the obvious one - and many a sad tale of famous Thurlestone names lies between the sheets of the pages kept for centuries in the parish safe. Take the heart-rending story of poor Alice Jarvis, who was 27 when she died two days after Christmas on December 27, 1804. We know the reason for her death was her dalliance with the mighty blacksmith of Bantham, William Whiddon. William Whiddon, of course, lived in the place called "Whiddons" today, close to the gate to the Bantham Ham. And when he wasn't bashing hell out of iron to make horses' shoes, he was hiding smuggled goods in the loft through a specially made trapdoor over each of the two forges. As the smoke from the forges grimed over the well-fitting doors each day, the Customs men never found them.

Whiddon even so obviously found time for his other interest - Alice Jarvis. And we know that he was the father of the boy born to Alice on December 6 of 1804 because not only is there a record of the child being baptised William by the Rev. Coplestone Coward in Thurlestone Church on December 23, naming Whiddon as the father, and noting that the child was "base born", but because of a paternity order amid the documents from the safe dated "the Twenty-first day of February in the forty fifth year of our Sovereign King George the third now of GREAT-BRITAIN and Ireland, and so forth, and in the Year of our Lord 1805".

This is addressed to the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Thurlestone and tells them that two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, Abraham Hawkins, and R.H. Froude, "do adjudge William Whiddon of Thurlestone Parish, Blacksmith, to be the Father of the said Bastard Child; and for the Relief of the said Parish of Thurlestone and also for Provision and Maintenance of the said Bastard Child, shall weekly and every Week from the Birth of the said Bastard Child, and so long as the same shall be Chargeable to the said Parish of Thurlestone pay unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish for the Time being, the Sum of One Shilling and within Six days after the Notice of this our order the Sum of Two Pounds and Nine Shillings as has already been at for the Maintenance of the said Bastard Child and obtaining this our Order..."

That amount of arrears - 12 shillings at most - tells us that William Whiddon was being charged £1. 17s for the trouble he caused in getting the order made against him. It was a pretty hefty sum for those days, but we know a great deal about one of the magistrates, Abraham Hawkins, who lived at Alston House, near Marlborough and was particularly severe in his judgements, particularly with those concerning moral turpitude. Known at the time as "Strict Judge Hawkins", he had been born at Norton near Kingsbridge in 1756, served in the North Devon Militia as a captain,

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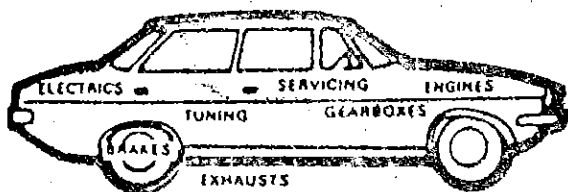
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and is the author of the first local history of Kingsbridge and Salcombe published in 1819 (the splendid and efficient ladies of Kingsbridge Library will let you look at, but not take away, an original copy if you ask nicely).

William Whiddon died at Bantham and was buried at Thurlestone on March 14, 1832. He was 49. Of his illegitimate son, William, there is no further record.

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

### BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

At the AGM of the Bantham Sailing Club at the Sloop, Bantham, on April 17, Edward Ridgway was elected Commodore, Hugh Cater Vice-Commodore, Marilyn Cater Hon. Secretary, Patrick Price Hon. Treasurer and the Committee Members were Alan Gompertz, Penny Kain, Peter Kirvan, David Lynch, and Gary Luddington.

The Commodore told the meeting that, as a result of the Club's fundraising efforts, £1,400 had been forwarded to the Ocean Youth Club to sponsor a berth on the "Lady Beaverbrook", formerly the "Falmouth Packet". The berth would be available to a young person from the South-West, nominated by the Ocean Youth Club, to sail on one leg of the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge Race as part of the Quincentenary celebration of the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus.

The first leg leaves Cadiz on 3rd May bound for the Canary Islands. The second leg crosses the Atlantic to Puerto Rico. The next leg is up the Eastern seaboard of America to New York and Boston with the final leg bank across the Atlantic arriving in Liverpool during August.

The fleet will be made up of "Tall Ships" from several nations, including Scandinavia, Germany and Italy, and should provide the young people with a wonderful adventure under sail.

Bantham have been promised regular reports on all the legs and these will be displayed on the Club noticeboard in the village as soon as they are received.

MARILYN CATER.

---

### LOCAL NEWS..

Thanks to all concerned from St. Luke's Hospice for the magnificent sum taken to them after the annual coffee morning for the Hospice which was held this year on May 9 in the Parish Hall. The coffee morning raised £891, to which an anonymous donor added a cheque for £500!

Dr. Sheila Cassidy attended the event and was amazed by the number of people who asked about "Teddy". She was delighted to tell everyone that "Teddy" goes on his doggie rounds with the nurses every morning.

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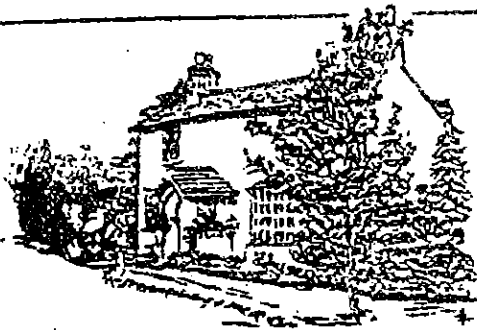
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# Police Voice

I am sure that many of you will know that due to internal policing changes in Kingsbridge I have been moved from your area into Kingsbridge Town Centre. This is to try and provide a greater policing presence due to the high number of burglaries that are currently occurring there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the enthusiasm and support you have given me during the five years I have been responsible for policing your Parish. When I first came to Thurlestone and Bantham burglaries were a regular occurrence, now, with the help of the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes set up in all the villages, they are a rarity I am happy to say. Let us hope it stays that way.

Knowing the high policing standards you all expect, and rightly deserve, I was fortunate to be able to choose my successor and I am pleased that WPC Sally Strickland has taken over from me. This is a good opportunity for Sally to tell you a bit about herself.

Best wishes.

Paul Shepherd

Thank you Paul for that introduction - and as he said my name is Sally Strickland.

I am a relative newcomer to the Police Force having completed my two year probationary period at Crownhill, Plymouth, in December. I moved to Kingsbridge in January amongst all the activity of the Murder Enquiry which, thankfully, is being brought to a close allowing the station an air of normality - if that is possible.

Although I now live in Ivybridge I am not a native of Devon having been born in Chatham, Kent, and I spent my school days and early working life in the area known as the Medway Towns. My parents moved to Plymouth in 1983 with the closure of Chatham dockyard and I was able to come with them to a wonderful part of the country. At the time I was working for Nat West Bank and arranged a transfer. I continued to work for the Bank for a further seven years both in Plymouth and Exeter until I decided I was bored with banking and started looking for a brighter and much more fulfilling career. And so I applied to join the Police Force and here I am.

I look forward to meeting you all in the course of time and not just on official visits. I am sure that the valuable work that you and Paul have initiated will continue, and I personally look forward to being part of this and to policing your Parish.

Regards

Sally Strickland  
Community Constable

# LOCAL NEWS FROM THE W.I.

ELECTION DAY CLASHED (yet again) with our meeting date, but gathering in the Rectory Barn instead of the Parish Hall meant we were tempted into the welcome sunshine outside when it came to "cuppa" time.

Members were sad to hear that Emma Hamilton had recently died and they stood in remembrance of her at the start of the meeting. Emma had made a valuable contribution to the Buckland and Bantham section of the DFWI "Devon Village Book", with her knowledge of an area she had known and loved for many years.

President Tricia Millman reminded members to look at the young cherry tree (then just about to flower) which had been planted on the Green in memory of the late Doris Tyler.

The booked speaker (subject: Rambling in the South Hams) was unfortunately not present as he thought his engagement with us was for the evening...and he'd taken himself off to do yet more rambling during the day!

In May, the members discussed the resolutions to be voted on at the NFWI's General Meeting at Bournemouth in June, when our delegate will be from Salcombe W.I. It was a good opportunity to learn more about and voice concern on three topics as diverse as:

Endometriosis (an illness of women) - urging a higher level of research; Fallen Stock - problems facing farmers through lack of rendering and disposal sites; Patenting of Lifeforms - asking for more public debate. These three items had been put forward by Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, and East Sussex Federations.

Eight members had attended Devon's Spring Council meeting at Exeter University and delegate Val Brown gave a highly enjoyable account of the proceedings. It was an occasion for pride, too, because Thurlestone member Alice Foster was also awarded a National Judges Certificate in Flower Arranging - presented by the NFWI's General Secretary Heather Mayall.

Thurlestone had played hostess to a highly-successful Sea Coast Group meeting, when South Milton, West Alvington and Salcombe W.I.s had joined us and put on a wonderful craft display. Kelvin Boot gave a talk on Nature's Nightlife which was very much enjoyed.

A chance to say what's wrong with the committee then presented itself. Fortunately for our hard-working committee's sake, this was not an opportunity for dissident members to have a go, but rather was just good clean fun...like spotting deliberate mistakes such as who was wearing odd shoes, had her jersey on inside-out, wearing her WI badge upside-down etc. Unfortunately time ran out and sadly the proposed demonstration of yoga exercises by Joan Batchelor had to be postponed - doubtless to Joan's relief. As usual, a happy and thought-provoking time was had by Thurlestone and West Buckland W.I.

Reminder: At the June meeting the draw for the Denman College Bursary will take place. Why not put your name into the hat for a chance to win? If interested, contact Tricia.

PAT MACDONALD.



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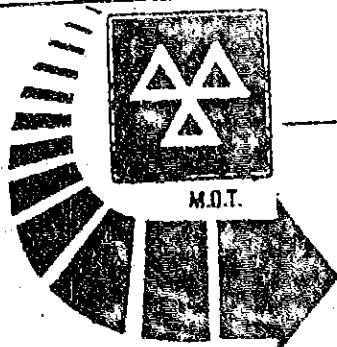
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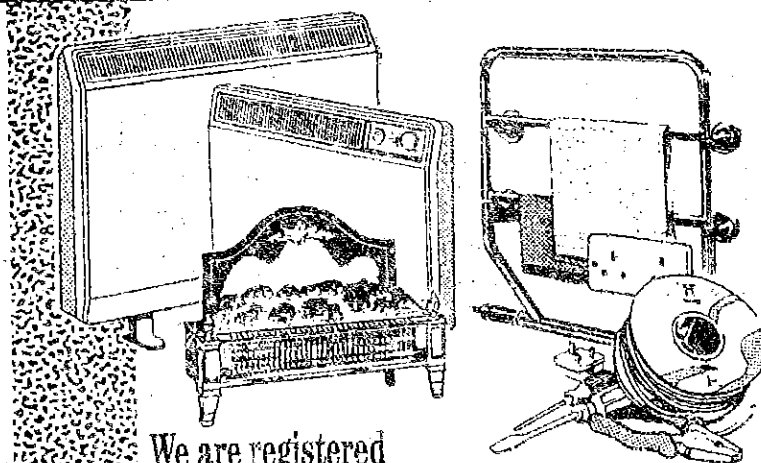


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# Talking About

A BAD DAY AT

THURLESTONE ROCK

by Captain Frank Allen,  
Royal Marines.

AT FIRST SIGHT it might seem a little difficult to link a Danish merchant ship and a naval captain of Nelson's time with the present day Royal Marines' Commando Training Centre near Exmouth. But a connection does exist. It exists in the form of an elegant silver trophy which frequently graces the dinner tables of the Officers' Mess at that Centre. Standing just eleven inches high, it bears on one side an engraving of a three-masted ship in heavy seas, and on the reverse, the following inscription:-

The Owners of the Ship  
De Lille Catherina of Copenhagen  
Request Capt NATHANIEL PORTLOCK of the Royal Navy  
to accept this Piece of Plate  
as a small token of Respect and Gratitude  
for his Voluntary, indefatigable and judicious exertions  
in extricating the Ship from her perilous  
Situation in Bigbury Bay  
on the 20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>  
1805

Although there is some uncertainty about the early life of the man to whom this trophy was presented, Nathaniel Portlock appears to have been born in America in about 1747. What we do know for certain is that, at the age of twenty-five while serving as second mate in a merchant ship, he was pressganged into the Royal Navy. His experience as a mariner was quickly recognised by those in command of his first ship, with the result that he was made a midshipman. And so, in this rather unusual way, began the career of a most successful naval officer.

Portlock was to sail with Captain James Cook aboard the 'Discovery' during his circumnavigation of the world, and would later command a ship of his own on an expeditionary voyage to the north-west coast of America. The book he wrote as a result of his experiences on these two voyages can still be found and read today. He was also to be associated with another famous seaman, Captain William Bligh, when, in 1791, he was chosen to command Bligh's escort vessel during his second expedition to bring back bread-fruit plants from the Pacific. But it is Portlock's later life that chiefly concerns us here.

At the age of fifty-two, after a very active career at sea, Portlock was promoted to the rank of Post Captain and was later appointed to a newly formed organisation known as the Corps of Sea Fencibles. First raised in 1798 as a naval 'home guard' the Sea Fencibles drew its volunteer members from coastal towns and villages, with the aim of helping to counter any attempted invasion by the French. Later, in 1803, this force was officially recognised by the Admiralty, then given a uniform, allocated districts of responsibility along the south coast of England, and had serving naval officers such as Portlock appointed to command them. There was certainly no shortage of willing recruits for this new Corps. A uniform as evidence of service to the King afforded a man a degree of protection from the attention of the Navy's infamous pressgangs, which at that time roamed coastal districts in search of 'volunteers' to helpman the fleet.

Captain Portlock was appointed to the Dartmouth District of Sea Fencibles, which helped to look after a stretch of coast from Teignmouth to Plymouth. Accordingly, he settled in Salcombe to watch over his own particular sub-district and await the arrival of Napoleon's fleet off South Devon. He had under his command a collection of small boats and multi-oared galleys, positioned near strategically important beaches and river estuaries within easy reach of their crews. Each boat mounted a single eighteen pounder cannon, while their crews were armed with pikes, muskets, and cut-lasses. In the event of invasion they had orders to raise the alarm and impede French seaborne landings along their particular stretch of coast as best they could until reinforcements arrived.

Although Napoleon never came, the Sea Fencibles were sometimes able to practise their skills against smugglers or privateers. Occasionally they doubled as lifeboatmen when a ship got into trouble, though the concept of lifeboats was probably not one with which they would have been familiar. It was in this latter capacity that Captain Nathaniel Portlock was to distinguish himself.

On Saturday 19th January 1805, a 300 ton barque, the De Lille Catherina, got into difficulties in the English Channel. Bound for Copenhagen from the West Indies with a valuable cargo of coffee, sugar, redwood, and fustic (a tropical wood from which yellow dye was obtained), she was driven into Bigbury Bay by a severe westerly gale. Her crew, reduced to only a few fit men by the effects of cold and exhaustion, was unable to handle the ship, and in a last desperate attempt to save her let go the anchors as she was about to go aground on Thurstlestone Rock. Luckily the anchors held, and while a frightened crew glanced anxiously from their ship's straining cables to the menacing arch of Thurstlestone Rock now towering astern, the Bigbury Bay Sea Fencibles raised the alarm.

Captain Portlock arrived at Hope Cove early the following day, accompanied by the Danish Consul from Dartmouth and several customs officers. The situation seemed hopeless. The ship in the bay to

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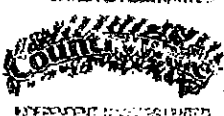
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north was almost obscured by flying spray, and huge breakers crashed into Hope Cove itself, making the launching of rescue boats from the beach an extremely dangerous business. Nevertheless, the volunteer crews at great risk to themselves bent to the task and pushed their boats through the thundering surf into the teeth of the gale. Portlock's boat was stove in almost at once and others were swamped, but eventually he managed to struggle away from the shore in another craft to lead the way out towards the endangered vessel.

The ship, when he reached her, was bucking at her anchors with her stern perilously close to great seas that were smashing themselves against Thurlestone Rock. Somehow Portlock, together with sufficient men to reinforce the Danish crew, managed to scramble aboard and took charge. It did not take him long to assess the situation. Realising that two chafing anchor cables could not be expected to hold the vessel against a strengthening storm for much longer, he had a spring secured to one of them, and by skilful use of capstan and sail managed to turn the ship's head round to the south. Then, at the crucial moment when her sails began to take effect, Portlock had both anchor cables cut, allowing the De Lille Catherina to lurch free and beat slowly away from danger. It was a bold move. With her anchors left behind on the seabed there would have been no second chance for either the ship or those aboard her.

However, the danger was not yet entirely over. Between the ship and the comparative safety of the open sea loomed the spray shrouded headland of Bolt Tail, almost blocking her course as she tacked away from Thurlestone. It seemed that they had escaped from one trap only to perish in another. There was nothing anyone could do but pray. With helm hard over and the ship heeling and groaning in protest, Englishman and Dane stood together, helpless spectators as their vessel clawed her way slowly past the deadly rocks of Bolt Tail with only yards to spare. None aboard would have been more relieved than Portlock himself, whose daring rescue attempt had for several minutes placed the ship in even greater danger than the one she had cheated off Thurlestone. But his luck held, and once clear of land the little ship bore bravely away to the east, driven along by the same gale that had nearly smashed her to pieces against Devon's unforgiving shore.

After a short and uneventful passage, Portlock brought the De Lille Catherina into Dartmouth where he left her the following day 'moored in perfect safety', as he put it. The letter in which this phrase occurs was written to the Admiralty from Salcombe the following day and still lies preserved in the files of the Public Record Office for anyone to find. In Portlock's neat hand it gives a neat and modest account of the rescue, playing down his own part in the proceedings, but crediting many men by name for their efforts during those dramatic and dangerous moments off Thurlestone Rock and Bolt Tail.

And there the story ends: or nearly so. At some time between the events described here and Captain Portlock's death at Greenwich Hospital in 1817, the grateful owners of the De Lille Catherina presented him with a beautiful silver cup as a mark of their appreciation; the very cup which now adds to the splendour of formal dinners at the Royal Marines' Commando Training Centre. It is perhaps fitting that this trophy, which once reminded Nathaniel Portlock of the day he risked his life at sea, should now serve to remind young men in today's Naval Service of an act of bravery that would otherwise have long been forgotten.

#### LOCAL NEWS - THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB

APRIL'S MEETING WAS well attended to hear Roger Hill talking about his career as a Merchant Banker. Those previously unawared of the workings of this exclusive world of finance learnt a lot!

It was agreed at the same meeting that, for the first time in the history of this club, that we would appoint Honorary Members and that Dr. Neville Oswald and Dick White, both founder members, who had served the Club well over the past fourteen years, should be nominated. Both accepted the offer.

At the June Meeting David Morris will be talking about his life as an Airline Pilot, and in July John Prosser, one of our local vets, will be talking of his experiences in what, if television is to be believed, is an exciting, but sometimes messy profession.

D.M.YEOMAN 560700.

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HERE IS ANOTHER PART OF THE VILLAGE VOICE GUIDE TO THE OLDEST  
BUILDINGS IN THE PARISH AND WHY THEY ARE "LISTED"

In this issue we take a look at both Thurlestone and West Buckland.

THURLESTONE:           The Old Rectory.

Grade II

3 houses formerly the rectory. Mid C19 altered and extended in C20. Roughly coursed sandstone rubble walls. Gable ended slate roof. 2-axial rubble stacks and one front lateral rubble stack with octagonal shafts. Rendered probably rubble lateral stack at side of front wing.

Plan: Complex irregular plan subdivided in C20 into 3 houses. Kitchen and service rooms at left end, next was the dining room with a wing in front of it, a stair hall to the right and drawing room at the right-hand end. This was extended at the rear in the C20. A substantial C20 addition was also built in front of the left-hand end.

Exterior: 2 storeys with attic. Irregular front, the left-hand end of which has a large 2-storey flat-roofed addition in front of it. Gabled wing projects at centre with a tall arched stair window to its right beyond which is a gabled porch with chamfered 4-centred arched doorway and plank door behind. All windows to original front are circa mid C20 metal-framed casements. Right-hand end wall has a bay window on the ground floor. Behind this end of the house is a brick C20 addition with the original rear wing beyond it.

Interior: much altered and only central part accessible which retains a decorative ceiling band in its principal room.

-----

THURLESTONE:           Thatchways.

Grade II

Pair of cottages formerly one house. Circa early C17 with probably C19 addition. Rendered rubble and cob walls. Gable ended thatch roof. 3 rendered rubble stacks, one at each end and one lateral stack at the front.

Plan: 3-roomed-and-through-passage plan, passage now gone and its exact position uncertain. Hall heated by fireplace on front wall and projecting window bay adjoining it. Probably C19 addition behind right-hand end.

Interior: Hall has open fireplace with chamfered slate lintel and dressed rubble jambs. Chamfered ceiling beam. Roof timbers not inspected but ajointed cruck is recorded in Dr. N. Alcock's 'Cruck Catalogue'.

-----

Continued overleaf..

WEST BUCKLAND. - Buckland Cottage.

Grade II

House formerly 2 cottages. Circa late C17 or early C18 altered in later C20. Rendered stone rubble and cob walls. Hipped thatch roof. Axial rendered rubble stack with brick shaft.

Plan: Formerly 2 cottages each probably of 2 rooms. Converted to one in later C20 internal plan altered then and the former left-hand cottage is now one room.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 4-window front of mainly small-paned C19 and early C20 2-light casements and C19 6-pane sash at far end on ground floor. C19 plank door at centre and C20 part glazed door to left of centre.

Interior: open fireplace with wooden lintel in right-hand room.

-----  
Old Farm and Old Farm Cottage.

Grade II.

House and cottage. Circa mid C17 and C18 with C20 addition. Plastered and rubble cob walls. Thatch roof gabled at left end and hipped to right. 3 rubble stacks, 1 at each end and 1 axial, 2 with brick shafts.

Plan: Old Farm to left is 2 or 3-room-and-through-passage plan, room to right of passage has stack backing onto passage. 2-room plan cottage at right-hand end in C18 with C20 addition.

Exterior: 2 storeys; Asymmetrical 4:2 window front. Old Farm to the left is taller and has C19 small-paned 2 and 3-light casements on 1st floor and ground floor to the right, otherwise C20 2-light casements. Wide gabled porch to left of centre with C20 part-glazed door. The cottage has later C20 2-light casements and shallow porch to left with glazed doors. Flat roofed one storey C20 extension to right.

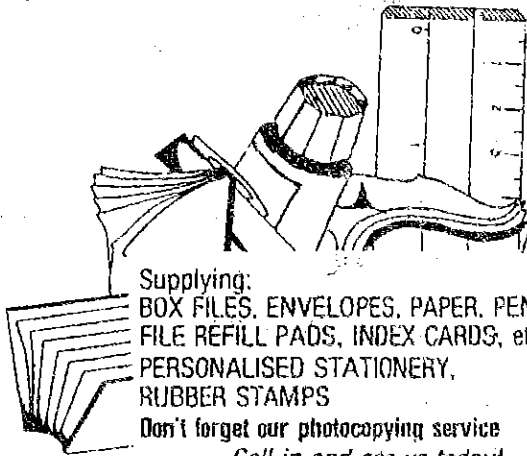
Interior: Old Farm has chamfered ceiling beams in room to right of passage.

-----

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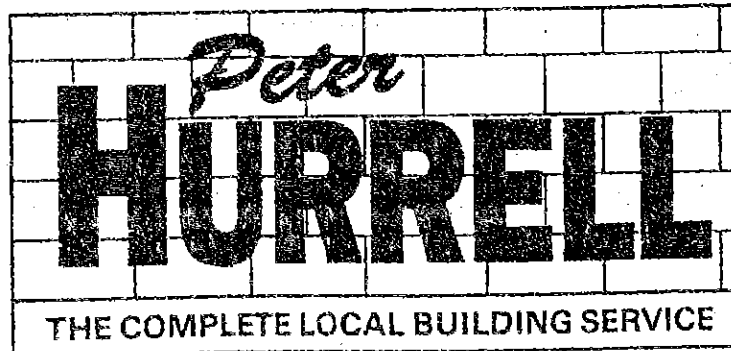
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You are invited to attend one of our monthly Dinner Seminars at:

The Thurlestone Hotel, Nr Kingsbridge - 26 February 1992

OR

Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth - 25 March 1992

The evening is designed to give an informal insight into Personal Financial Planning. There is no charge or obligation for attending. Places are limited but if you would like to attend please contact Lyn Lane who will be pleased to confirm availability and book places. These Seminars have proved to be very popular and an early response is advisable.

Speaker: David Mayo JP BA FLIA ACIFA

6.15pm Coffee/Wine/Sherry on arrival

#### **6.30pm ESTABLISHING PERSONAL OBJECTIVES**

- \* Defining Personal Objectives
- \* Changing Values - time values
- \* Maintaining and maximising assets

#### **INVESTMENT PLANNING**

- \* Basic Investment Choices
- \* High and Rising Income
- \* The Risk Pyramid
- \* Portfolio Planning
- \* Investment and Economic Cycles

#### **TAX PLANNING**

- \* Maximising independent taxation
- \* Using capital gains allowances
- \* Inheritance tax planning and trusts

#### **RISK ANALYSIS**

- \* The nature of risk - the unexpected
- \* Personal attitudes to risk and wealth
- \* Risk reduction and avoidance

7.30pm Brief Question Time

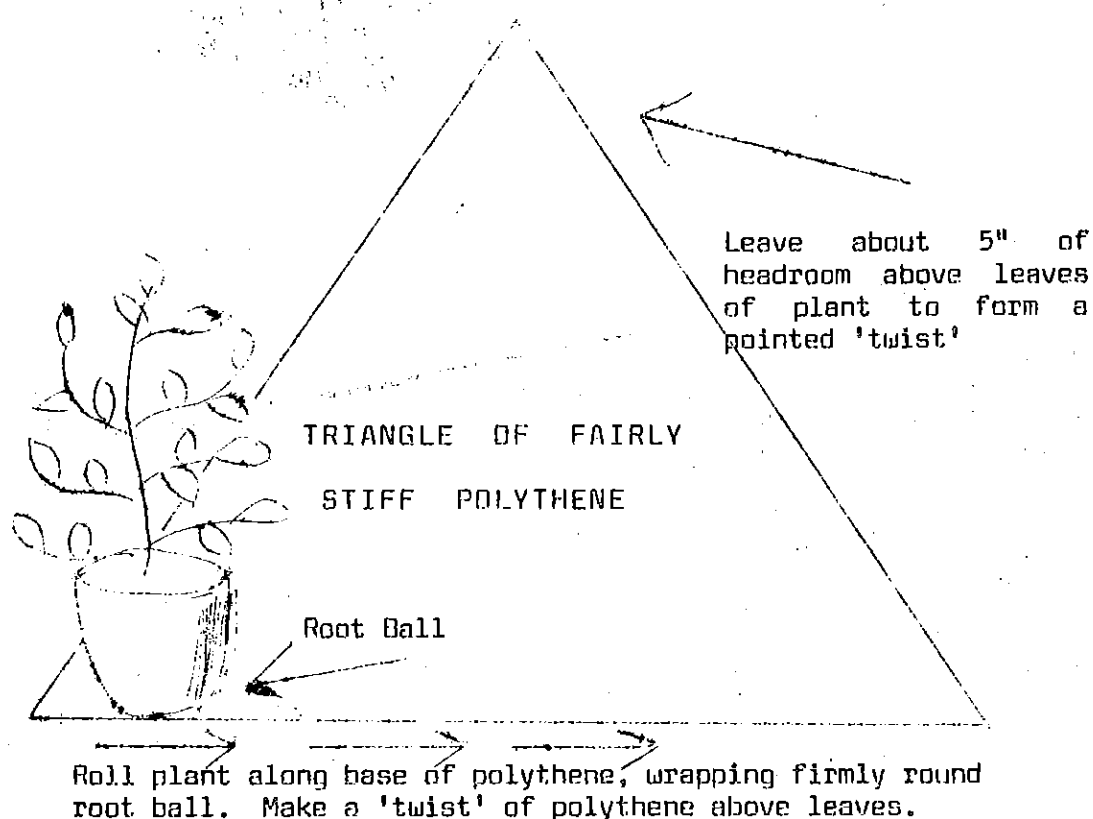
7.45 Dinner in the restaurant

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## THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

As promised in the last issue, here are some tips on how to get decent sized plants through the mesh of a hanging basket without damaging the plants.

1. Cut a piece of reasonably stiff polythene into a triangular shape, with enough height from apex to base to cover a plant from its root base to about 5" above its topmost leaves, and enough base to wrap several times around the plant
2. Lay triangle on a firm surface. Water plant well, remove from pot, and place on its side at one end of the triangle, its root base flush with the triangle base. There should be about 5" of polythene above the topmost leaves of the plant
3. Roll the root ball along the base of the polythene, wrapping polythene firmly around the plant, constricting the leaves, but LEAVING THE ROOT BASE FREE
4. Make a 'twist' of polythene above the topmost leaves of the plant
5. Working from inside the basket, make a smallish hole in the lining and poke the 'twist' of polythene wrapped plant through to the outside of the basket, position the root in the soil, and gently but firmly 'tease' the plastic triangle undone and remove. (This is why it is important not to cover the base of the root ball when parcelling the plant). You will find the polythene good protection for the plant and minimises damage to the leaves as you manoeuvre the plant out through the mesh



/cont

The JUMBLE SALE held on 14th March in the Parish Hall was a fantastic success netting in excess of £240 due in the main to the generosity of Mrs Croger (Mrs Jackson's niece). Ben Horn cleared plants, pots, garden equipment etc from the Old Rectory Garden before it went on the market.

Enclosed with this issue of VILLAGE VOICE is the Schedule for the Show together with an Entry Form. PLEASE look at it and see if there are any Classes you would like to enter - hopefully we cater for all talents.

ALL residents of South Milton, Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland are automatically members of the Show and are therefore eligible to enter. Please do. We hope that everybody who does, has some fun and perhaps even benefits from the event.

THE SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 1st AUGUST 1992

at 2.30 pm

IN SOUTH MILTON VILLAGE HALL

The Prize Giving will take place at 4.15 pm followed by The Raffle which is a bit special this year as Len Hubbard has very kindly donated THREE of his signed works. Thank you, Len, very much.

If the Schedule and Entry Form are not enclosed, or you need extra copies, they are available from the Post Offices in Thurlestone and South Milton. If you have any queries or comments please contact the Secretary, Veronica White at 7 Crosslands Thurlestone (560236)

GOOD LUCK!

Greenfly

May 1992

---

DID YOU KNOW ?????

That as well as the 11 am collection on Sundays from the Village Post Office, there is also an 11 am collection on MONDAY Bank Holidays, instead of Sundays in Bank Holiday weekends?

---

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..

Plans for a Sloop coach to the Royal Agricultural Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, are well advanced.

Neil Girling told Village Voice that the coach will leave the Sloop at 6 a.m. and will arrive back around midnight. Date is Monday, July 6. Cost will be £19 including entry to the Royal Show. Anyone interested phone Neil on 560489 as soon as possible.



# Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE:

Healthy eating  
is the thing, so  
try this one for  
lunch or supper..

WITH MUCH EMPHASIS on Healthy eating and a well balanced diet, this tasty lunch or supper dish has all the required ingredients. Plenty for 2 persons. If cooking for one, halve when cooked and chill quickly before freezing.

## Smoked Haddock Bake.

8 ozs Smoked Haddock  
7 oz can Sweetcorn  
Approx 4 ozs Calibrese or Broccoli (broken into small florets)  
2 ozs Wholemeal or White Breadcrumbs (whichever preferred)  
12 fl. ozs. Milk (you can use semi-skimmed or skimmed)  
1 tabls. Fresh Parsley (chopped but keep stalks).  
1 Bay leaf.  
1/4 teasp. ready made mustard  
1 rounded tabls. Cornflour  
4 teaps. Lemon Juice.  
1 1/2 ozs Butter or Low Fat Spread (1/2 oz for Sauce; 1oz for topping)  
Salt & Black Pepper.

Grease a deep ovenproof dish approx 6" dia. Poach the fish in half the milk with bay leaf, parsley stalks and pepper for 5 minutes. Discard the bay leaf and stalks, add the milk to the rest. Cook Broccoli for approx 5 minutes till just tender, rinse in cold water and drain. Using 1/2 oz of the butter make a roux with the cornflour then add the milk slowly making sure there are no lumps. Bring to the boil stirring until thick. Add lemon juice, mustard and parsley. Flake the fish. Pour a small amount of sauce into the dish, add a layer of fish, sweetcorn and broccoli, then repeat the layers. Cover with the breadcrumbs, melt the 1 oz butter and dribble over the top. Bake for approx 30 minutes at 360F or 180C. Fan assisted ovens at 160C.

Can be reheated from frozen, either in a microwave oven or covered with foil and placed in a preheated oven. It is important to make sure that the food is thoroughly heated before consumption.

---

CAN ANYONE TELL US the origin of a phrase much used by one part-time resident of Thurstlestone - "The show's not over 'til the fat lady sings.."

We think we understand what it means, but what shows have fat ladies as the last act? Tell us please...

---

Anyone who likes to watch show jumping on television will find the rural version - complete with fresh air - at Stumpy Post Cross, Kingsbridge, on Sunday, June 14 when the Dart Vale and South Pool Harriers hold their Horse and Pony Show and Gymkhana there. Starts 9.30 a.m. and continues all day.

## LOADS OF RUBBISH

Only this month at our Parish Council Meeting a South Hams District Councillor reiterated what we already know, and have known for a long time: that nationally available land fill sites are reaching the limit of their capacity and consequently many are becoming increasingly hazardous.

By the end of next year our local site at Molescombe will be full and its replacement is likely to be further afield, thus adding to operational costs. Is it surprising that our local site is full if 3 villages in the area provide 1,270 tons (yes, tons) of waste a year between them. See table below. [The estimate is based on the average contents of a refuse truck X the number of collections a year].

	<u>Malborough</u>	<u>South Milton</u>	<u>Thurlestone</u>
Newspaper/magazines	22	9	25
Good quality paper	13	5	14
Cardboard	69	28	77
Glass	32	13	35
Steel	23	9	25
Aluminium	3	1	3
Plastics	22	9	24
Textiles	13	5	14
Kitchen/garden waste	215	86	239
Misc-residue	94	38	105
	<hr/> 506	<hr/> 203	<hr/> 561

In parts of Australia Councils are experimenting with 'electronic dustbins' which will allow them to charge each household for the weight of rubbish taken away. If the experiments are successful households throwing away more than their allowance of, say 5 kgs (11 lbs) a week, could find themselves paying, say 15 cents (7p), for every kilo of waste they produce.

In Germany under new rules brought into effect earlier this year, customers have the right, when buying goods, to hand back unnecessary packing. The shop, at risk of heavy fines, is obliged to take it, separate it into plastic and paper and prepare it for recycling collection.

In India their problems are of a different kind. New Delhi, a city of nearly 10 million inhabitants, generates only 3,200 tons of rubbish a day, while Greater London's 6.7 million people discard 9,041 tons. The Director of Delhi's Sanitation Department said: 'Raw materials are scarce here in India, so it's economical to re-cycle'.

Rubbish from every home in Delhi is sifted out every morning by pickers who are either Muslim refugees from Bangladesh or 'Untouchables'. Paper, cardboard, metal and glass are sold to factories through middle-men who also act as money lenders. Dead batteries are collected and sold as new.

/cont

The ingenuity of the scavengers can be revolting. Plastic drinking straws are wiped clean and re-packaged. And even stale chappati bread is salvaged from the muck and pounded into bread crumbs for use in restaurants.

The efficiency of Delhi's scavengers came as a rude shock to the Danish Government, which lent India £5m to build a power plant fuelled by burning rubbish. When the plant was finished in 1987, and the first load of rubbish was put in the incinerator, nothing happened. The ecologically minded scavengers had picked clean the rubbish of all the combustible matter - paper, plastic and wood - so abundant in European bins! All they had left was a slimy mess of rotten vegetables and kitchen glop. Officials experimented for 2 years trying to salvage the plant but as an official explained: 'It just wouldn't burn'. The plant has been abandoned.

In some countries waste is pre-sorted by householders and collected in sectioned refuse trucks: this could be part of the answer in this country.

In September 1990 the Government published an Environment White Paper 'This Common Inheritance: Britain's Environmental Strategy' in which it proclaimed that half of all household waste is reckoned to be recyclable, and of this the Government requires 50% to be recycled by the year 2000 - mainly undertaken through the auspices of local authorities. But it is worth noting that there is no specific requirement to implement recycling plans.

So far, recycling has made few inroads into the U K's waste stream. It is only economic when there is a viable market for recyclable materials. The Government has to date relied on exhortation to stimulate recycling in the U K : this cannot work.

Veronica White

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#### A PLEA TO ALL JUMBLE SALE HOLDERS

The Plymouth Recycling Unit of the Salvation Army will receive any clean clothing left over from Jumble Sales. Says Mr Pook: PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE don't take it to the dump but contact him and he will come and collect.

His staff work full time removing buttons from unusable articles and 'remodelling' large to small. They can use almost anything: they get \$100 for a ton of bras in the Third World!

Mr Pook's telephone number is: 0752 223017 or 0579 50955

VPH

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

A MERE 37 PARISHIONERS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING,  
BUT HERE, FOR THOSE WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT, IS A CHANCE  
TO CATCH UP ON WHAT WENT ON...

SEE YOU THERE NEXT YEAR!

THURLESTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall on 31st March 1992  
at 7.30pm

Chairman: Mr Peter W.J.Hurrell (Chairman of the Parish Council)

Speakers: County Councillor Simon J. Day  
Police Superintendent R. Mechan & Inspector V.A.Davidson  
District Councillor A.R.Watson  
Mr Ian Kemp, (South Devon Heritage Coast Officer)  
Mr S D.Lavery, (Area Engineer, South - DCC)

Present: Thirty-seven Parishioners.

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

Apologies for absence: Messrs D.W.P Grose & G.L. Stidson.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman welcomed all present and highlighted the principal events of the year then ending, notably:-

- (a) At the Elections held on 2nd May 1991, Mrs Veronica White and Mr Charles Mitchelmore had succeeded Messrs Roy Adams and Geoffrey Wilkinson as members of the Parish Council, and Mr Tony Watson had succeeded Mr. Jack Thomas as the District Councillor for the Thurlestone Ward. The more recent death of Mr Roy Adams was sincerely mourned.
- (b) Much deliberation had led to the Precept for the coming year being set at £4,500 involving a substantial increase over that set last year because of the considerably increasing costs including £522 now payable for last year's Parish Election, the effects of inflation and the need for the Clerk's salary to be based on the nationally recommended scales.
- (c) Plans to erect 12 low cost Starter Homes adjoining Island View were at last being finalised by the District Council with a Housing Association on a rental basis without any right to buy, so that they would always be occupied by local persons in need of such accommodation. Two bungalows would be built on the site of the former Telephone Exchange in Parkfield when the second six of the above project were erected.

- (d) We had been unable to have more yellow lines marked outside the Village Inn, and that proposal was now suspended under a new 3-year moratorium imposed by the County Council.
- (e) The Re-union on 20th June of those who served at the Royal Marines Military School between 1941 and 1946 at the Thurlestone Hotel had been a memorable day in the Parish to mark the fiftieth anniversary of that School.
- (f) The construction of the new Sewage Treatment Works to serve both the Parish and South Milton was now nearing completion, as was the pipe by which Thurlestone sewage would be conveyed to South Milton's Works instead of being discharged untreated into the sea at Leas Foot. The system should be fully operative by the year-end.
- (g) Thirty-four Planning Applications had been considered of which nine had been opposed; the District Council had refused four, granted three and two were still pending. One application was for the change of use of land at Cross Park into a 9-hole golf course, and SHDC's decision on that case was also awaited.
- (h) A Public Inquiry was held regarding the footpath across the Golf Course to Longstone Point and the Inspector had confirmed the route subject to a minor variation at the western end of the path.
- (i) The campaign to obtain the right to appeal against planning consents granted despite significant opposition by the local community was still being pursued in collaboration with many other Devon Parishes as well as the Devon Association of Parish Councils and the National Association of Local Councils.
- (j) Village Voice continued to be one of the best parish magazines in the country under the editorship of Kendall and Penny McDonald. Their efforts as well as those of others involved in its production and distribution were greatly appreciated by everyone.

After referring to a number of other items and thanking the Police, especially the Community Policeman for the Parish - P.C. Paul Shepherd, for their help and assistance, the Chairman invited questions from Parishioners. There being none, he then asked County Councillor Simon Day to address the Meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIMON DAY confirmed that the County Community Charge for the next year would be £238 per chargepayer, a figure less than last year. The standard spending assessment set by HMG had obliged the County, of which he was the Leader, to reduce by £13 millions, the expenditure considered desirable, but such savings were necessary to avoid charge capping by the Government, because HMG did not allocate enough Revenue Support Grant for the large County with the special problems of Plymouth - the tenth largest City in the Country, coupled with the rural problems of the very large county.

The whole basis of Local Government was now being reviewed, with the responsibilities of County and District Councils up for discussion. It was even possible that Devon could be split into four Unitary Authorities based on Plymouth, Exeter, Torbay and Barnstaple, and there was some talk of more power for parishes, although they may then be merged into larger units such as

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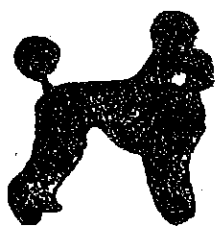
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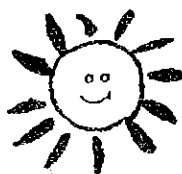
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combining Thurlestone, South Milton and Aveton Gifford. Should the forthcoming election result in a Labour Government, even larger Authorities might be formed with the West Country's based in Bristol. As Chairman of the Police Authority for Devon and Cornwall, Mr. Day was able to confirm the continuing efforts made to ensure law and order was maintained in the area. With the Chief Constable they had seen and supported the team of 97 officers who had investigated the recent Kingsbridge murder which had led to the arrest of the person believed responsible, whilst also solving 15 burglaries in the area.

Responding to questions Mr Day explained that only the need to control finance limited the number of Police Officers allocated to each Division, and although Community Policemen were not always visible, they nevertheless regularly and effectively patrolled their areas aided by telecommunications which ensured rapid response to every emergency. In conjunction with Mr Lavery, the bases of no-parking controls were explained, it being impossible to comply with every such request without jeopardising the ability to enforce the regulations which could lead to abuse of the entire system.

SUPERINTENDENT MECHAN then explained how the Brixham and South Hams Sub-Divisions had been combined to make the best use of their resources. Previously the South Hams had 53 officers, whereas the combined force had 136 under his command with one Chief Inspector and an Inspector for each area. He had noted the earlier comments on the desirability of a Police presence always being seen, but flexible resources were essential to cope with unexpected events. Recent months had involved not only the Kingsbridge murder but also the Torbay Post Office raid which had alone involved 50 Officers, and other events were also possible such as the arrival in the middle of the night of hundreds of people and many scores of vehicles determined to hold a party at some unauthorised venue. Teams of thieves could also hit an area and commit many burglaries in a short time.

Other Police commitments involved political events, royal visits, etc. requiring considerable resources, and the deployment of personnel for other special duties such as Devon & Cornwall's involvement in the review of the Birmingham Six case. Fortunately the position was eased by new technologies such as a modern computer system enabling detailed and speedy collaboration with other regions. Such equipment was essential to permit better enforcement of some new regulations, such as those covering shotguns and other firearms, but obviously such resources were limited and telecommunications among all Officers remained the best way to ensure that everywhere was properly covered even though the Police presence may not be obvious.

INSPECTOR DAVIDSON amplified the position affecting the Kingsbridge area covering 102 square miles with 15 officers, all of whom worked very hard to serve the community, and many being appointed to specific sections for local liaison. PC Paul Shepherd had been the Community Constable for the Thurlestone district for some years and had devoted much time and effort to achieve a standard of cover commended by many. He was now acting as Sergeant and temporarily concentrating on the Kingsbridge section, being replaced by WPC Strickland as Community Constable for Thurlestone.

Mr Tony Church asked for Police assistance to restrict speeding on the Bantham road which he feared was likely to cause a serious accident, and in the general discussion which followed on that subject, the Police Officers, Mr Lavery and Mr Day all responded to queries regarding various traffic calming measures and the need for some such devices in the Parish, especially on the Bantham and Thurlestone routes. Superintendent Mechan undertook to consult the Traffic Department to obtain help for the monitoring of the conditions, but pointed out that past experience showed local people often responsible for most speeding offences. However, it was agreed that such monitoring was most desirable and Dr Susan Openshaw expressed the hope that it should not be necessary for accidents to occur in order to get remedial action. Messrs Lavery and Day explained the cost of installing any of the calming measures which only permitted two or three such installations in one financial year, and Mr. Day agreed to discuss with the County Chairman the possibility of increasing such financial provision; the problem applied to all areas, not just the coastal resorts with surfboarding invaders like Thurlestone and Bantham, and the Superintendent pointed out that education of road users should be a factor as well as engineering.

MR SEAMUS LAVERY further emphasised the above problems and explained that the installation of traffic calming measures such as 'sleeping policemen' or speed humps were only possible when conditions met certain criteria. Unfortunately, accident records were part of the evidence necessary to establish a proven need for such devices, but the Police had other resources such as 'speed guns' to support the issue of fixed penalty tickets, which were very effective deterrents to speeding drivers.

THE CHAIRMAN invited further questions from Parishioners to any of the said Speakers and they resulted in more discussions on the success rate of solving crime and the efficiency of computer data thereon; the complexities of firearm regulations and their enforcement, the overcrowding of prisons; valued assistance provided by the Neighbourhood Watch schemes including those operative in the Parish; the limitations of the probation and bail systems; and concluding with a request by Mr White for details on the number of parking, obstruction and such traffic offences which have occurred recently in the Parish - a matter Inspector Davidson undertook to ascertain and advise.

The chairman thanked Messrs Day, Lavery and the two Police Officers for joining the most interesting and useful Meeting, and they withdrew after Superintendent Mechan and Mr Day expressed appreciation for the support provided by Parishioners. The Chairman invited Mr Ian Kemp to outline the current activities of the Heritage Coast Service.

MR IAN KEMP expected most Parishioners knew his Service which had operated in South Devon for nine years originally led by Mr Ken Carter whom he had succeeded a few years ago. Mr Ron Charlesworth continued to be the Warden for this area covering the coast of some 58 miles from Dartmouth to Plymouth City, with another Warden covering the Kingsbridge to Kingswear section. There were now 44 Heritage Coasts in England and Wales, the last formed being around the Exmoor Coast in N. Devon, but South Devon's was the longest and possibly the best, operated with the support of the County and District Councils and the Countryside Commission.

The many functions included landscape and nature conservation work, promoting everyone's enjoyment and understanding with practical management of the many footpaths in their coastal area including our section of the 592 mile South West Way. Also maintaining signs, waymarking, protecting the rights-of-way from obstructions and liaising with the Parish Tree Wardens and Mr. Hugh Cater's ferry service. The Service now had a mobile Information Trailer opened last year by Mr Tony Soper and opportunities for that Unit to attend Village Events would be welcome. Many Information Boards were placed around the coast including one in Thurlestone opposite the Church showing the local footpaths etc, and each year the Service published Coastal Event leaflets to promote the many guided walks arranged for varying grades, such as one around Thurlestone on 27th May for a round tour involving use of Mr. Cater's ferry. A slide show on Old Thurlestone was to be presented by Mr Peter Hurrell in the Parish Hall on the coming Monday evening, 6th April.

Mr Kemp then projected many other photographs of the area, including ones showing the action being taken by his Service to remedy the erosion of Leas Foot Beach by using old Christmas trees around which dry sand will build up to recreate the dunes which will then be planted with marram grass to stabilise them to meet normal weather conditions within a retaining wall of tanalised larch poles. Also in conjunction with the Golf Club it was intended to improve the signing and waymarking of footpaths as well as replacing with timber the concrete posts and rusty items along the coastal road and otherwise improving the appearance and protecting the environment.

Responding to questions Mr. Kemp undertook to investigate Miss Stocken's report of a tree obstructing a path near Links Court, and another suggestion that the cliff path down to Broadsands was becoming dangerous and needed attention; also for repair of the stile above the Longstone on the path to Bantham.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kemp for the work of his Service and for giving such an interesting report, to which Mr Michelmore, the Parish Tree Warden, added the thanks of many parishioners for the very successful and beneficial free tree scheme.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY WATSON explained that having held office for only nine months, he was still involved on a steep learning curve regarding the District Council so that he had little to add to the reports he had made during the year at the Parish Council Meetings, but he referred particularly to the Kingsbridge Quay Enhancement Scheme which the District And Town Council were sponsoring yet many residents of the surrounding parishes were less supportive. The reduction of many car parking spaces coupled with increased parking charges were matters which were likely to be implemented despite the objections of many including himself. Anyone wishing to comment on the new South Hamd Local Plans should do so before 21st April 1992.

In the ensuing Question Time, Mr Michelmore voiced his thanks for the help given to get Glebe Field re-surfaced; Mr Cater mentioned that the West Buckland road near Rose Cottage still needed attention, and Miss Benneto and Miss Jenkins queried the action being taken by the NRA concerning the stream at Clannacombe.

The Chairman confirmed that the NRA were investigating the pollution of the West Buckland stream, and thanked Cllr Watson for his efforts at District Council level to look after the interests of the Parish and its residents. He then invited Cllr Mrs Veronica White to comment on the Re-Cycling Seminar recently attended at Ivybridge.

COUNCILLOR MRS VERONICA WHITE outlined the actions being taken on waste minimisation in the South Hams, and whilst the provision in Kingsbridge of containers for the re-cycling of not only bottles, but also paper and textiles, were of some benefit, she feared the subject would not be properly solved unless a kerbside service was provided. That needed Government action and support, especially in a rural area like the South Hams. It had been estimated by SHDC that the annual garbage disposal from Thurlestone totalled 561 tons comprising:-

Newspapers	25 tons
other paper & cardboard	91 "
Glass	35 "
Steel	25 "
Aluminium	3 "
Plastics	24 "
Textiles	14 "
Kitchen & garden waste	239 "
Miscellaneous	105 "

The costs of re-cycling the re-usable items were heavy, for example the glass goes to Yorkshire via Plymouth. Inevitably an efficient national scheme was needed to simplify sorting into appropriate types so that as much as possible was able to be re-used or re-cycled.

The Chairman thanked Mrs White for her report, and everyone present for their attendance at the Meeting, then closed the meeting at 9.10pm after ensuring that Parishioners had no other questions or comments.

W.G.Ladd  
Clerk to the Council.

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MORE LOCAL NEWS...MORE LOCAL NEWS...MORE LOCAL NEWS...

Those who have supported the various fund-raising efforts in Thurlestone of the Thurlestone and Kingsbridge NSPCC will no doubt be delighted to know that the organisers of local events have proudly sent £2,714 to NSPCC H.Q., all raised during the past year.

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THIS IS THE ONE WHICH REALLY MATTERS.....

THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE TO 1992

JUNE

Wed 3rd Tramp Walk, Dartmoor fopthills from Lee Mill.  
Wed 17th Tramp Walk. Moors walk from Two Bridges.  
Tues 23rd Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Parish Hall.

JULY

Wed 1st Tramp Walk. Easy river valley from Loddiswell  
Wed 15th Tramp Walk. Dartmoor from Hexworthy  
Sat 25th Thurlestone Church Fete in Rectory Garden  
(Parish Hall if wet).  
Tues 28th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.

AUGUST

Sat 1st Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show -  
South Milton Village Hall.  
Sat 8th South Milton Church Fete 2.30pm in Garden of  
Brook House. (opposite Village 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.

Wed 14th Tramp Walk. Easy. Coastal from East Portlemouth.  
Tues 20th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.

NOVEMBER.

Wed 11th Tramp Walk. Local country from Blackawton.  
Sat 28th Church Christmas Bazaar. Parish Hall.

DECEMBER.

Tues 1st Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.  
Sat 5th Thurlestone Conservatives Christmas Bazaar.  
Wed 9th Tramp. Christmas Walk from Totnes.

DON'T LET YOUR DATES CLASH. GET YOURSELF ON THE ONLY LIST  
THAT MATTERS. DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE  
SUPERGUIDE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MRS SALLY YEOMAN ON 560300  
AS SOON AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN. DON'T DELAY. DO IT TODAY!

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