



LEN HUBBARD

AUG-SEPT **VILLAGE** 1992
VOICE

Founded by Dudley
DRABBLE
1982.



Cover pictures
by
LEN HUBBARD.

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TRAFFIC SPEEDING through our villages is the cause of much head-shaking among residents. It is the number one concern, easily pushing muddy roads, poop-scoops, street lights, farmyard smells and other unimportant matters on to what the young of yesterday used to call the "back-burner".

The only other subject likely to inflame such local passion is parking and double-yellow lines. It is clear that the police find themselves in a cleft stick over the double-yellows which foul many a village street in the South Hams. Parked cars in village streets are not, to the police way of thinking today, necessarily wrong. This is part of the new think which uses parked cars to slow down traffic and which they call a "traffic calming measure".

There is no doubt that parked cars do slow down speedsters in our parish. Of course, they cause irritation too, but only the residents can decide which is the greater evil, a parked car or a car speeding past. On balance those with a proper sense of priorities will come down in favour of the parked car.

It is important at this stage in any discussion of the subject not to get distracted by the emotional argument that yellow lines must be introduced or emergency vehicles will be blocked from doing their job. The emergency services have no record of such a thing happening in our parish. If it had then it would be difficult to think highly of the ambulance driver or fireman who put up with it, or of anyone nearby who did not take drastic action to clear the way.

However, the speedster need not think that the police will leave him to be dealt with by the chicane of parked cars in our streets. They have promised to monitor traffic whizzing down to Bantham or hurtling through Thurlestone at a time when it is least expected. Be warned, police experience tends to show that the speeding ones are often locals! And not always the young ones either!

POSTBAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR MR.EDITOR,

Our Master read out your editorial from the June-July issue of Village Voice to us dogs, as we were downing our Pedigree Chum.

We wish to PROTEST - we dogs haven't become "Man's worst enemy" - it's just that some of our Masters are so thoughtless that they allow some of us to 'do our business' in the middle of footpaths, and never carry Poop-Scoops in case of accidents!

We, well-bred dogs of all breeds are Still Your Best Friends, and are always most careful where we leave our trademarks.

Caninely Yours, J.RUSSEL, Al SATIAN,
A.SCHNAUZER, S.T.BERNARD.

The Kennels,
Thurlestone.

DEAR Editors,

Did you hear Peter Alliss on the televised Masters at Pebble Beach Golf Links, California, discussing with his American counterpart the joys(?) of playing links courses with the hazards of fog and wind and so on?

Peter Alliss said:"We have a few links courses like this in Devon; Thurlestone being one". Do you think we should expect a huge influx of visitors after being advertised at such an important event?

JOAN BATCHELOR, Thurlestone.

DEAR EDITORS,

You asked in your last issue if anyone could tell you the origin of the phrase "The show's not over til the fat lady sings..." Well, I have been in the theatre all my life and it has always been my understanding that the expression comes from opera many years ago.

The principal diva was invariably very fat, unlike today(s) sylphs, and the final aria was nearly always hers. She was usually dying or about to die. Once this aria was over the end of the opera was nigh. To all intents and purposes the performance was at an end.

DIDI KING, Eddystone Road,
Thurlestone.

DEAR Editors,

My dictionary of Modern Quotations says the fat lady line comes from Dan Cook in the Washington Post on June 3, 1978, but I'm sure it's older than that.

CHALKY WHITE, The Mead,
Thurlestone.

Dear Eds,

It was one of Thurlestone's loveliest summer days so we decided to celebrate with lunch "en plein air" i.e. on the lawn. The wine flowed, and the claret kept the roast leg of Devon lamb company superbly. An inquisitive little dog came to see us, savoured the succulent aromas and disappeared. Cheeses, sweets and coffee followed and all were feeling replete when, suddenly, round the corner came the dog - with our leg of lamb in his jaws!

Continued overleaf.

All Saints' Church, Thurlestone with Bantham & Buckland

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Service will be on Friday, September 25th at 7pm
and this will be followed by the Harvest Supper
in the Rectory Barn, at 8.15pm.

Tickets for the Supper - £2.50 - children ½ price
are obtainable from:

The Rector (560232) Jim Woodrow (-206) Joan Galloway (-453)
who all hope to see you at the Service and Supper
Transport can easily be arranged

POSTBAG Letters to the Editors continued:

He'd pinched it, out of our larder - and made off at high speed.
followed by one of the more athletic of our party.

We laughed long and loud and felt happier next day when our
doggy friend's owners replaced the leg of lamb - plus some lovely
strawberries for good measure.

"D.O'BERMAN PINCHER", Landpath,
Thurlestone.

Dear Editors,

Could you please find space to draw the attention of your
readers to the Parish Hall hire charges for people in the Parish.
Parish Organisations (Football Club, Womens Institute,
Bowls and Bridge Clubs etc).

Plays, Pantomimes, Concerts and Musical Evenings.

Parish Lectures and Whist Drives.

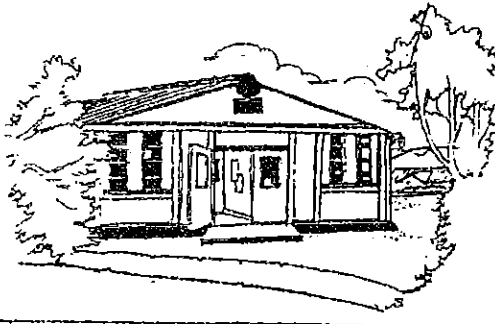
Devon County Council Classes.

Jumble Sales, Car Boot Sales and other money-raising events.
Horticultural Show.

All at £2.00 per hour. This charge includes
the use of tables, chairs, china, cooker, electric lighting and
hot water, but not heating. Heating costs 50p for approximately
25 minutes by meter.

The above charges relate to those events organised by and
for the benefit of members of the Parish. Minimum: 1 hour.

JOAN MACKENZIE, Hall Chairman.



THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER - 2.30pm

THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL FAIR.

(OUR ONLY MAJOR FUND RAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR)

The next project is the turn of the ladies.

The refurbishment of the ladies cloakroom will involve plastering the walls, a new toilet and basin unit and the overall decorating. No relief is possible from VAT and a goodly sum will need to be raised.

The organisers and friends of the hall will be running the stalls and they ask for your support -

CAKE STALL - for the freezer and from the freezer.

BOTTLES & JARS:-

JAX'S JUNK (but not items for the dustbin!)

MOLLIES GOOD AS NEW AUTUMN CLOTHING - unsold items will be passed on to other charities.

UNWANTED GIFTS AND TRINKETS.

THE RAFFLE.

Teas will be available throughout the Fair.

Items for the stalls can be brought to the hall on the day or will happily be collected by:-

Mrs Mollie Oswald
560555

Mrs Jean Yeoman
560607

Mrs Jax Auster
560578

Mrs Joan Mackenzie
560671

Mrs Veronica White
560236

PLEASE, - PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR HALL.

THE HERITAGE COAST MOBILE INFORMATION UNIT will be at our Annual Fair. Bring your queries and see the work which has already been carried out.
.....

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - A CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY - SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER.
.....

Joan Mackenzie, Chairman.



In this column, Villager has a brilliant idea. Or two. One will need a determined parish effort to bring about the desired result, so this is really a call to arms. His second idea may well start some arguments too...

And over the page, Villager reveals that he has become a victim of Blueflagitis. And what you can do now the village has become skip-deprived.

NOW HERE'S A GOOD IDEA, even if I did think of it all by myself! Brace yourselves, this is going to shake you to your foundations. And here it is: Isn't it time that Thurlestone had its own coat-of-arms?

Of course, we wouldn't be the first village in England to have our own coat-of-arms. The village of Henfield on the edge of the Sussex Downs has that honour. But there is no reason why we should not be an honourable second.

Just think how fine a coat-of-arms would look on our parish stationery, above our village pumphouse, on the sign at the entrance to our village. Why should all the cities and big towns get away with putting their arms on signs leading into their dreary streets? How much better vistas would the motorist find behind our coat-of-arms.

Now don't just dismiss it out of hand, saying that it can't be done. It can. The College of Arms told me so. All it needs is for the parish council to petition the College for one.

Course we'd have to have some ideas of the sort of thing we'd like to see on our arms. Something representing all the famous people who have lived here. Perhaps the arms of the Aysshefords - "Argent between two chevrons sable, three ashen keys proper", which are now indecipherable, on the shield high on the wall of Church House Cottages. The Aysshefords probably put up the money for the Church House to be built in 1536.

But you can think of some other names in the village which could appear on our coat-of-arms, but we won't go into that now!

Not that getting the coat-of-arms would be cheap, but four of our world-renowned village jumble sales should do the trick. And the presentation of the arms and the celebration thereof might well pull the village together in the style that has not been seen since

the Armada celebrations of '88.

But I'm not just a one-idea man. Here's another. Why don't we revive the ancient custom of Beating the Bounds of our parish? The tradition was to bash the bounds so that all the villagers knew the boundaries of their parish. Which would be a good thing today. Mind you, I expect it will be difficult to find anyone who knows exactly where the boundaries are, but if he'll lead us it will be a good walk and ever so healthy too. And you can expect some lovely arguments along the way - specially down along out along Leas Foot..

Change of subject. Are you getting a little confused about all these flags on the beaches? I know I am.

Not that I'm knocking the award to Bantam from the Tidy Britain Group, particularly as the key issues for this award are water quality to EC standards, cleanliness and beach safety. But I am confused about all the awards. Off-hand I think I'm right in saying that there's a blue flag from the European Commission, there's a blue flag for beaches which didn't quite make that standard, or am I confusing that with the Marine Conservation Society's Best Beach awards, and then there's some other local group giving out awards like confetti so that even the losers get a flag.

Course I've probably got it all wrong. But I must say I can't wait to see what kind of flag they give us to fly at Leas Foot!

Mind you, I have not the slightest hesitation - another change of subject - in awarding a top prize in the Worst Slogan Ever Coined Competition to the South Hams Council for the heading on a recent Press handout about the launch of a local liqueur. Believe it or not, it was headed: "Dittisham Plum Make You Liq-ueur Tips!"

And finally, please be advised that you brought it on yourselves.

I refer, of course, to the Parish Council's decision not to pay any more for the skip service. Which means that you won't be seeing South Hams District Council rubbish skips placed handily around the parish in the early summer next year. Though I'm sure your misuse of this facility wasn't intentional - you just seized a chance to fling in all your garden rubbish and hedge clippings and save a trip into Kingsbridge as you do for all the other weeks of the year. But as that wasn't what the skips were for - they were intended for bulky items that you couldn't get in your car - the Parish Council quite rightly got a little miffed and won't be paying for the skip service in future. So, you see, you brought it on yourselves, didn't you?

So what on earth can you do now? Here to ease your troubled minds is the Villager Guide to rubbish disposal:

1). During working hours, there are skips for filling at the Council's Works Depot at the top of Fore Street. Here you can dump domestic and garden refuse, mattresses, armchairs, washing machines and other bulky items. Mind you, if you turn up with a trailer full of rubble, you are liable to be redirected to one of the main rubbish dumps.

2). Fridges, freezers, cookers, washing machines, tumble and spin driers and dishwashers will be collected from your home free of charge by the Council. All you have to do is to telephone 852246.

3) And finally remember that your friendly neighbourhood dustmen will take away a sack of garden refuse each time they empty your dustbins.

So you didn't really need the skips, now did you?

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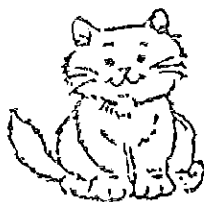
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CONTINUING THE VILLAGE VOICE GUIDE TO THE OLDEST HOUSES IN THE
PARISH AND WHY THEY ARE "LISTED".

In this issue we look at the centre of Thurlestone:

Just-a-Cottage and Trethurle.

Grade II

Pair of cottages. Circa late C17 or early C18. Plastered rubble and cob walls. Gable ended thatch roof. Rubble axial stack with brick shaft and brick stack at right gable end.

Plan: Just-a-Cottage has 1-room plan with passageway going under left-hand end to rear of house. Trethurle has 2-room plan.

Exterior: 2 storeys; Asymmetrical 2 : 3 window front of mainly C19 2-light small-paned casements apart from a C20 one at the centre of Trethurle on the 1st floor. C20 stable-type door to Just-a-Cottage with opening to passageway to its left. Trethurle has a C19 plank door to right of centre.

Interior: inaccessible at time of survey but the unspoilt nature of the exterior suggests that they might be relatively unaltered.

Home Cottage (formerly listed
as Cherry Tree Cottage and Home Cottage)

Grade II

House, formerly 2 cottages. Probably C18 with C19/20 rear addition. Rendered and plastered stone rubble walls. Thatch roof hipped to right hand end and gable to left. Rendered rubble stack with brick shaft at left gable end.

Plan: formerly 2 cottages but converted to one house and plan altered in C20, now probably 3 rooms, entrance into right-hand one. Late C19 or C20 lean-to behind each end.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 5-window front of later C20 leaded pane 1, 2 and 3-light casements. C20 thatched porch towards right-hand end with plank door.

Interior: inaccessible at time of survey.

Vine Cottage and Village Stores.

Grade II

Pair of cottages and village stores. Probably late C17 or early C18 but dateable evidence lacking and a fire in the C20 necessitated some rebuilding. Rendered rubble walls. Thatch roof hipped to left end and gabled to right. Projecting rendered rubble stack with brick shaft at left end and 2 axial brick stacks.

Plan: originally 3 cottages, Vine cottage to the left of 1-room plan, the other 2 of 2-room plan, the right-hand one probably built later than the other 2, and now occupied by the shop.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 6-window front. Vine Cottage to the left had an early C20 4-pane sash on each floor with contemporary panelled and glazed door to the right under slate hood. The central cottage has C20 2-light casements with a C19 small-paned one at centre on 1st floor. Below it is a C20 stable-type door under a slate hood. The shop has C20 2- and 3-light small-paned casements and doorway in its right-hand end.

Interior: central cottage only accessible and contained no early features.

Pearse's Farthing. (Snowdon's)
(formerly listed as Old Post Office
and cottage adjoining).

Grade II

House formerly 2 cottages. Early mid C17. Rendered rubble walls which may incorporate some cob. Thatched roof hipped to left and gabled to right end. Projecting rendered rubble lateral stack with brick shaft at front.

Plan: originally 3-room-and-through-passage plan with lower end to the left. Hall heated by fireplace on front wall. Inner room formerly had fireplace on end wall probably with newel or winder stairs behind. Wing behind inner room probably C18.

Exterior: 2 storeys; Asymmetrical 4-window front of C20 2-light casements, some with small panes. To right on 1st floor is window in C20 rectangular bay. C19 sliding 12-pane sash window to left on 1st floor. C19 4-panel door to left of centre under slate hood. Right-hand end wall of house has projecting stack cut off at eaves with very small stairlight behind it. Wing extends to rear of this.

Interior: inaccessible at time of survey but may contain original features such as open fireplace, ceiling beams and newel stair.



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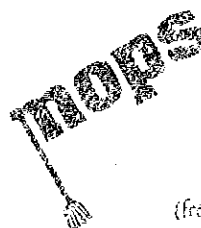
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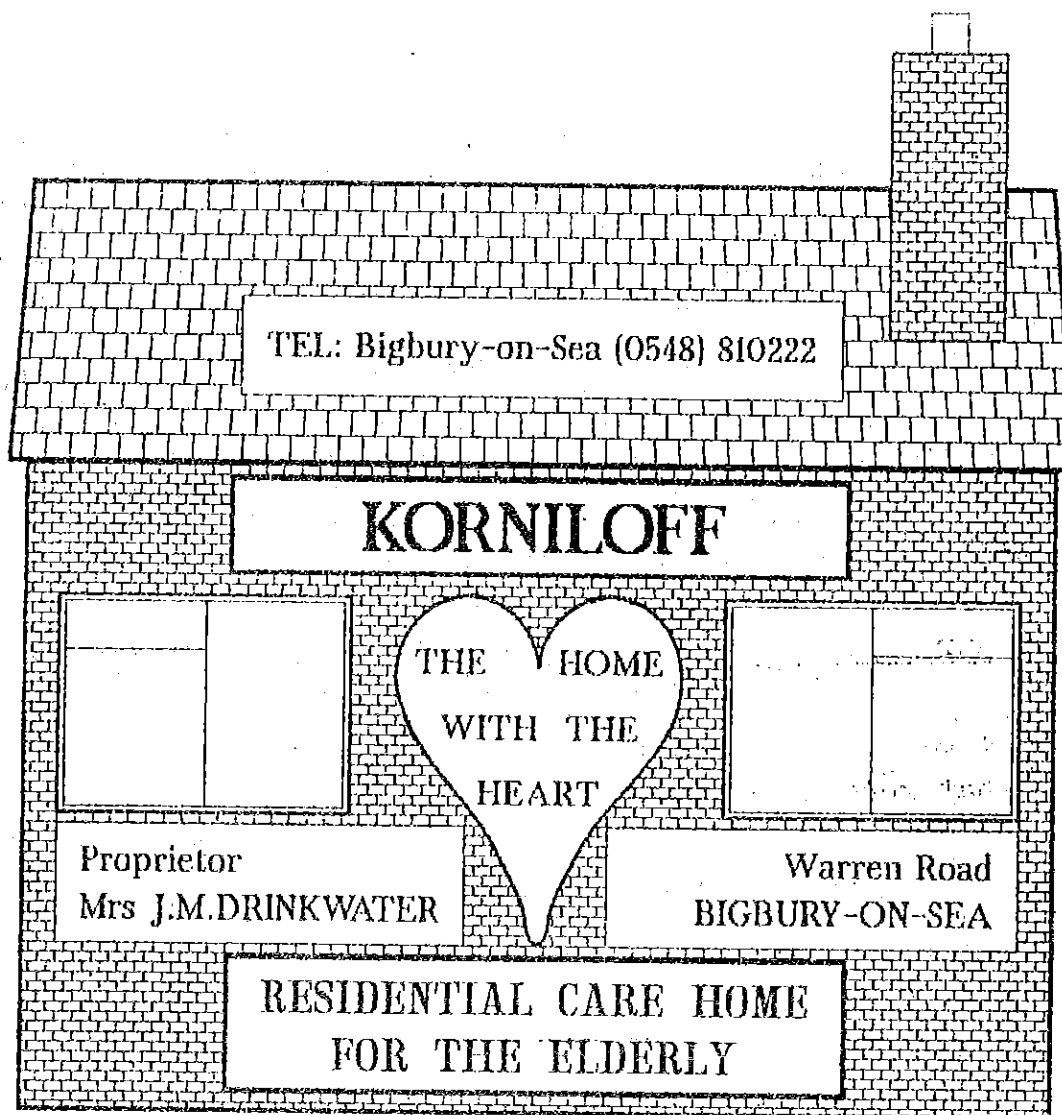
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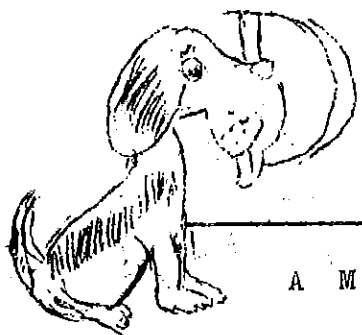




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rabbblemania

A MISCELLANY OF THOUGHTS
and REPORTS

In conversation with my dog he asked how it was that dogs were being hounded whilst cats could 'go' wherever they pleased and loved gardens !

+ + + + +

I often feel it is strange how ideas, institutions and ways of life come and go - often deliberately discarded by us to make way for something new and 'more modern', rather like the way we sometimes get rid of bits of furniture and familiar knick-knacks that have been around the house for years, sending them to a jumble sale, or even the rubbish skip, to make room for something new, only to regret, years later, the folly that induced us to part with them.

+ + + + +

Shops still sell notepaper and envelopes although many people don't take the time to write letters to one another in the way they used to do. Where once young sweethearts poured out their feelings on paper, putting into words those thoughts and emotions that would never have been spoken. Now it is the telephone which is used for long distance trysts (paid for by long suffering parents !) - a crackling line, a muffled voice and nothing to keep in a special box tied with ribbon, to read over and over again for ever and ever. Many can no doubt recall the hesitant, stumbling rituals of Old-fashioned 'courting', progressing slowly and carefully step by step, within a set of unspoken but strictly defined rules, with the end result being marriage in a church. You knew where you were then, even if it could be a gruelling business persuading your hoped for partner to say 'I love you.' But relationships were far from being casual as so many appear to be today, people drifting apart and drifting together again. In those days any child could be sure of one thing - a full birth certificate!

+ + + + +

FIRE ALERT

The latest Home Office figures indicate that more than 1,800 fires were started by washing machines in 1990. About 100 more than in 1989 but, as yet, no one is certain about the causes of these fires. If the fire is caught in time damage can be limited (obviously !) but don't run your washing machine while you're out, and if you must use it at night you should install a smoke detector to wake you if there is a fire. I would add to all that report. Our Philips Electra machine at 5½ years old suffered a seizure of the electric motor. Fortunately the machine simply refused to rotate and nothing else happened - except a bill for £110 for a new motor. It just might have been a lot more serious.

+ + + + +

The Limerick packs laughs anatomical - in space that is quite economical. But the good ones I've seen - So seldom are clean - and the clean ones are so seldom comical !

EXTORTION AND THEFT!

WHEEL CLAMPING on private land was declared illegal in SCOTLAND ! It was condemned in the Edinburgh Court of Sessions, and in a judgement hailed by British anti-clamping campaigners as a 'step in the right direction' The Lord Justice General Lord Hope, sitting with judges Lord Allanbridge and Lord Cowie he declared the issue was 'whether the practice of wheel clamping was a crime within the law of Scotland. Although they had every sympathy with those whose land was used for parking without permission, they were not persuaded that the means selected to deter could be regarded as legitimate. On the contrary, it seems to fall plainly within the proper limits of the crime of extortion since the whole purpose of wheel clamping was to obtain money as a condition of the release of the vehicle. What made the practice of wheel clamping on private land illegal was that it amounted to a demand for payment accompanied by the threat that until payment was made the vehicle would not be released. In short it was illegal for vehicles to be held to ransom in the manner described, and those who have proved to have done so are guilty of attempted extortion or if the levy has been paid, of the completed crime of extortion and theft.

Many very unhappy cases are reported in the press almost daily. How can England permit something Scotland condemns so forthrightly?

From the D.Telegraph 13.6.92

+ + + + +

What is needed NOW is regulation under Parliament as with police clamping.

DEER WOULD SEEM TO BE VERY ODD CREATURES.

'They appear to teeter continually on the edge of a nervous breakdown, yet, when it is time to slaughter them, the farmer puts down a trough of nuts and shoots the animals as they eat. A hind will drop dead and its neighbours don't even lift their heads to examine the carcass to see if its complaint might be catching.

(S. West Farmer April 1992)

+ + + + +

I'm going to be in trouble for this true schoolboy howler referring to monogamy:

"Christians can have only one wife. This is called monotony" ! ! !

+ + + + +

I am always greatly intrigued by all the variety of motor vehicles the 'Travellers' use on our highways. Do they all have a driving licence - a current Road Fund Licence and M.O.T. Certificate - and if not why are they permitted to get away with it ? Just asking. AND INSURANCE !

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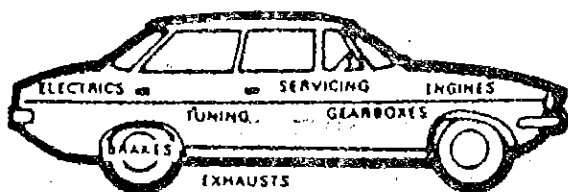
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S E L F D E F E N C E

Should you be unfortunate enough to have a burglar break in during the middle of the night, do you think you should wait until he attacks you or can you crown him one, or if by any chance you have a gun or other lethal type of weapon, shoot him and ask questions afterwards ?

Clear though it is that violence may lawfully be used in self-defence, and in defence of house and home, it is equally clear that it can bring on you the wrath of the law. The Criminal Justice Act (1967) does not beat about the bush. It states: "A person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders or of persons unlawfully at large."

The classic guidance was given by Lord Morris of Bath-y-Gest in Palmer v R (1971): "It is both good law and good sense that he may do but may only do, what is reasonably necessary, but everything will depend on the particular circumstances." Lord Morris went on to explain what is reasonable. It would not be lawful self-defence if the attack and danger was over and force was used to wreak revenge or punishment! But if the person defending himself is in danger, "he cannot weigh to a nicety the exact measure of his defensive action. The force used would be reasonable if he did what he honestly and instinctively thought necessary to defend himself."

In 1989, a householder was charged with murdering a burglar he stabbed when the intruder attacked him with a knife and a hammer, but the charge was eventually dropped.

In July 1990, a greengrocer, Mark Bowes, came before Cambridge magistrates charged with unlawful wounding. The prosecution said he was woken, in his flat above the shop, by the noise of a burglar stealing the till. Mr Bowes, after warning the burglar several times to stop, fired a shot-gun. Pellets hit the burglar. The magistrates refused to convict Mr Bowes.

(Might I suggest this very interesting subject, in view of the burglaries which occur from time to time could be a subject for discussion with our Community Police-person at a Parish Meeting or Council Meeting sometime!)

+ + + + +

This is just a little interesting information for the many newcomers to Thurlestone over the past few years. Going back to the late 1800s Bantham was then a busy port, with sometimes four or five vessels being 'in dock' at any one time - barges and small vessels, of course, with cargoes of limestone for the roads, coal, artificial manure, farm implements, etc., and after discharging were loaded with corn and potatoes and so forth, before sailing away duly escorted by a Pilot.

Very few people came to Bantham in those times, the sands being practically deserted (must have been heavenly!), except on a fine Bank-Holiday, when a few Kingsbridge people might make the journey, and, of course, once a year the Wesleyans came down from Aveton Gifford in a barge bringing their harmonium with them, picnicing on the Quay singing hymns. Otherwise there were few strangers disturbing this small community, and all the cliffs under Folly were little potatoe patches cultivated by the fishermen, and donkeys with panniers carried up seaweed to manure the crops.

More in September/October

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

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device... WORD PAIRS

From the list of words, take out two which go with each clue.
This will remove 36 words, leaving just one, What is it?

CLUES

- (a) A National Trust House
- (b) Two sauces
- (c) A bed cover
- (d) Two ducks
- (e) Two anagrams
- (f) Associates of 'lawn'
- (g) Two going with 'cross'
- (h) Two with Winchester
- (i) A poem
- (j) A dockland development
- (k) These go with 'milk'
- (l) A flag
- (m) A Novel
- (n) A burglar
- (o) One can eat & drink here
- (p) Two cricket terms
- (q) Another choice
- (r) Two connected to 'back'

WORDS.

- 1. Bar
- 2. Ram
- 3. Red
- 4. Half
- 5. Lost
- 6. Mint
- 7. Pane
- 8. Salt
- 9. Alter
- 10. Great
- 11. Gully
- 12. House
- 13. Mower
- 14. Rifle
- 15. Shake
- 16. Wharf
- 17. Antler
- 18. Canary
- 19. Cotton
- 20. Ensign
- 21. Gammon
- 22. Native
- 23. Rental
- 24. Scoter
- 25. Tennis
- 26. Breaker
- 27. Counter
- 28. Long-leg
- 29. Maltese
- 30. Skimmed
- 31. Bechamel
- 32. Paradise
- 33. Cathedral
- 34. Reference
- 35. Shoveler
- 36. Restaurant
- 37. Expectations

The answers are on another page in this issue.

JUST A THOUGHT:

Have you noticed how we have lost another word? Most recent loss was "gay" - a perfectly good word for something light-hearted and happy - stolen from the English language by the homosexual community to try and make us think they are what they are clearly not.

But now we are having "green" taken away and used to cover activities which have clearly nothing to do with the correct meaning. For example, the South Hams have just appointed a "Green Tourism Officer". But then I suppose they are right in a way - my dictionary does give one meaning of green as "gullible"!

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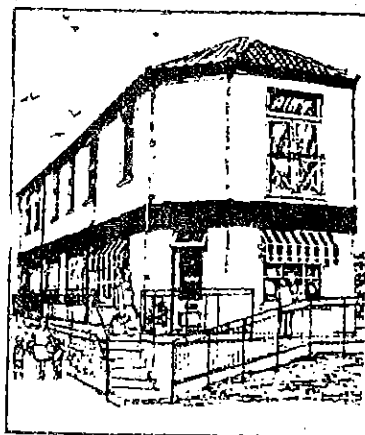
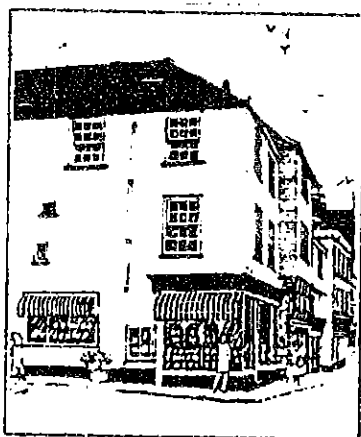
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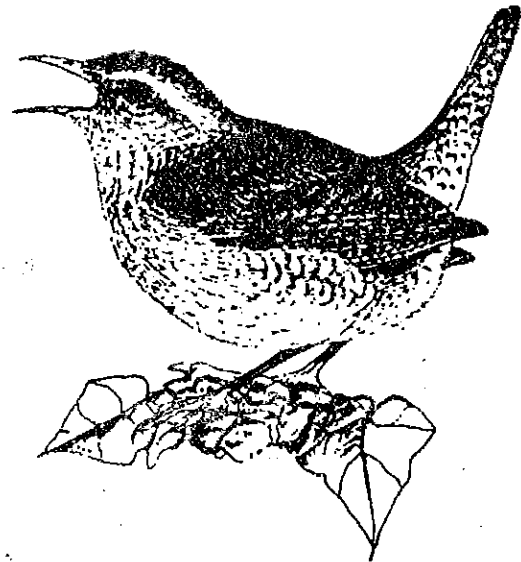
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HARRY HUGGINS



LAST YEAR, at the behest of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (the late Sir P. Scott's outfit at Slimbridge) we were invited to count Canada Geese. As you would guess from the name it is a north American species, introduced to this country getting on for 300 years ago as an ornament to gentlemen's lakes. There are several races, some quite small, maybe not much bigger than ducks, but the ones around here are large; all are handsome birds with brown bodies and black necks and heads, with white chinstraps.

They are very successful breeders and from being quite rare they have become much, much commoner - when you drive up the M4 (I say you, we don't, if we can help it) you see hundreds if not thousands of them in the meadows from about Reading onwards. They reckon the UK population is now around 60,000 birds, peanuts in human terms (there are far too many of us) but quite a lot for birds. They eat farmers' grass and foul the land; although they are not particularly aggressive, it could be that they harm Mute Swans, which as a species are struggling, by pinching the best nesting sites. They are totally protected by law, which means you are not supposed to shoot them, which in turn means that people do but not so many.

There have been protests about their presence in some of the London parks; maybe they are fouling the ground where people want to take their dogs. One authority resolved to deport them. They rounded some up - don't ask me how - put them in a van, and released them 40 or 50 miles away. It didn't take an ornithological genius to predict the result. In fact, they were back before the van.

So there has been clamour for some to be shot; for this to be done lawfully English Nature, or whoever decides these things, would have to take the species off the protected list. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust was asked to arrange a countrywide count, to find out if the problem was all over or purely local. As our share of the counting we were allocated the Erme valley.

Piece of cake, we thought; no trouble at all, soon get that done. I know the Erme rises up on the moor, but we thought there would not be too many geese on the Red Wire, where the map says it begins. We have never been there and have no intention ever to go. So we decided that for our purposes the Erme valley was from the A38 at Ivybridge to the sea.

It was all to be done at the end of June and beginning of July. Birds have to change their feathers every so often, because they wear out. Most sorts moult their flight feathers two at a time, one in each wing, so that while they are getting new ones they can still fly, though maybe not quite as well as usual. But wildfowl, geese and ducks and the like, lose their flight feathers all at once, with the result that for a few weeks they are grounded. Perhaps for wildfowl "watered" would be the better word. Female ducks, which have camouflage plumage anyway, are looking after lightless youngsters at that time and their inability to fly makes little difference to their rather hazardous existence - if foxes and minks do not get them they are in danger from their own over-amorous drakes. The latter, when moulting flight feathers, lose what for most species is flamboyant plumage, grow a cryptic one like the females', and hide away among the vegetation.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, in their instructions, told us that Canada Geese do not hide away so much at this time, but they collect together in bigger groups than usual, old ones and their young of the year, and are then "relatively easy to count". Ha Ha! They may gang together in the Thames valley and at other places where the Trust people see them. But not in the Erme valley they don't!

We had high hopes of a flock on the meadow beside the A379 just where the road crosses the Erme - it is a few yards before you slope off to the right when going to Ivybridge. We had noted a bunch of 30 odd there during the previous winter (subsequently a friend saw a mob of 150 nearer the sea). When we looked at the end of June there was one pair of Canadas in the meadow, with one/some goslings. But the grass was about two feet high and although by the kindness of Mr. Mildmay O'White we have permission to walk about on the drives of the Flete estate, of which this meadow is a part, that permission does not extend to trampling about in his grass looking for geese. And despite three outings we found none between the A379 and the sea. The east side of the river was especially difficult. There are a lot of ponds by what used to be the mill; the quickest way there is to leave the car near the A379 and walk through the woods. There is no road, and we are not allowed to take the car on to the estate if there were one. But we had to cross a field, and that had a bull in it. I am aware that every farmer, well, nearly every farmer who has a bull maintains it is as gentle as a kitten, would not hurt a fly etc. Maybe, but I have been chased by some of these gentle bulls. I cannot run as fast as I used, and anyway the presence of Lisa dog always rouses cattle. You can poke young bullocks in the ribs with the tripod you carry for the telescope, but not bulls. So we had to walk miles from somewhere near Kingston, only to find the ponds had never a goose.

For the bit from the A370 to Ivybridge we snooped from roads and footpaths. A little more success - a family of 8 geese on the trout ponds at Ermington. And those were all we did find.

The gentleman who runs the trout farm told us there were over 200 birds in the valley, nesting by peoples' ponds. So to find any more ourselves we would have to visit every house and farm which might have a pond, say we were counting geese and may we count theirs.

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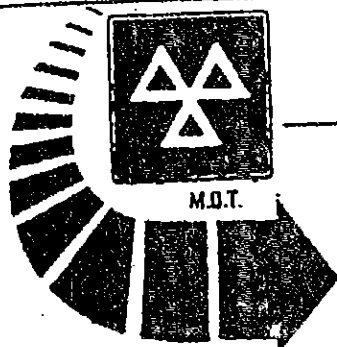
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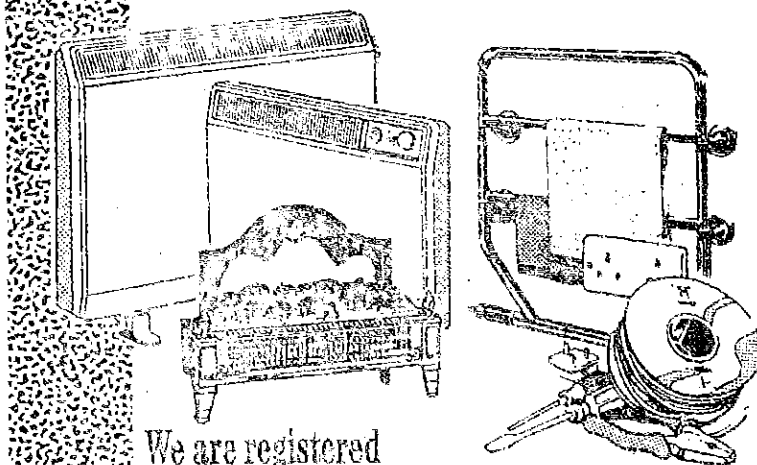
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Now if someone came to my house and said he wanted to count birds I should assume he was trying to sell something, or was a roving tax inspector, or burglar, and tell him to leave, fast. We assumed that anyone on whose door we banged would do the same, So we gave up. Round one to the geese.

Maybe someone else found some in other places; we have not been told, which is par for the course - you spend a lot of time doing these researches but few of the people who commissioned them ever bother to tell you the results.

There was a pair of Canadas in the valley here at Thurlestone for much of the last spring. They are probably too young to breed yet, but no doubt they are prospecting for the future - it looks ideal, with rushy vegetation beside a slow-flowing stream. Sometimes there have been more than two, and once we counted seven. Very likely in a few years' time there will be 50. The book says they eat grass, and rice, and sugarbeet. I suppose they consume some of Farmer Stidston's grass. Maybe one day he will grow rice and sugarbeet.

One goose turned up in Milton Ley, with the Mute Swans. People feed the latter, and it jumped on the band waggon. We suggested to the warden that he ought to shoo it away, because Canada Geese could well interfere with the swans, which were nest building. He did not think that was necessary; the cob could deal with any emergency which arose.

But the goose got a mate, although they did not attempt to breed, and the swans' nest met with disaster.

I am not sure whether this was to be laid at the door of the geese, but am told someone saw them on the swans' nest and the eggs of the latter had certainly been tumbled out.

Swans are pretty daft. There is a pair which newts every year on the saltings beside the Erme estuary. And every year a spring tide floats the eggs out. You can see them there, only a foot or two away from the nest; but the pen does not have the wit to nudge them back in. Likewise at South Milton. When the warden came along the eggs were out of the nest, stone cold.

Even so, all need not be lost. When we lived in north Essex my wife found a clutch of Mallard's eggs, scattered about a salt marsh by a very high tide. She gathered them up and took them to her friend the skipper of the lifeboat who was a power among the local wildfowlers. Don't worry, it is far better to have a strong organised group of wildfowlers who go after only a few species and keep away the cowboys than it is to have indiscriminate shooting with people popping off at everything. He put the eggs in an incubator, all hatched, and most of the ducklings were reared, to be released and presumably shot in due course.

But those eggs were fresh, the duck had not begun to sit on them, and as they were still just whites and yolks they could stand cooling.

The swan's eggs in the ley were near to hatching; at that time chilling will kill the chick inside the egg just as if it were already hatched. Sorrowfully the warden took them to Jill Davies at Malborough (the lass to whom we take oiled birds). She put them in her incubator, and as no doubt you saw in the Gazette to everyone's amazement one of the four hatched, but the cygnet lived for only a few days.

Looking at the photographs which the gazette took of him (or her, I don't think you can tell) he looked pretty poorly from the start, which was hardly surprising. Jill would have reared him if anyone could - she is a dab hand with lambs, and puppies, and piglets, and chicks, to say nothing of sundry productions of her own.

You say, when he hatched, why not return him to his parents. But it does not work like that. For one thing they had abandoned the nest. For another, the pen recognises as her own young only things which emerge from those round objects she is sitting on in the nest. And the cygnet could not know her; he imprints on the first thing he sees when he comes out of the egg and as far as he was concerned his mum was Jill. So, I fear, round two to the Canada Geese.

We saw round three a few days later. On those mud pies which Eagle Developments have been making in the valley below the Mead there was a fox snuffling about - maybe there were mice in the piles of earth which were being dumped. There were two geese nearby; with much honking and flapping of wings they made foxy run for his life. No wonder Canada Geese are successful!

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

Some 30 members at the June meeting listened to a very interesting and enjoyable talk by David Morris on his experiences as an Airline Pilot. Although it was obvious from what he said that the characters which abounded in the post-war era have long since gone, it was felt generally that for the well-being of today's passengers, peace of mind and confidence in the crew were paramount. And the mourning of the disappearance of such characters was more nostalgia than a wish that they return.

There will be no meeting in August, but on September 11, Tony Blackler will be discussing his job as a Financial Consultant.

October will be the annual Golf Meeting, organised this year by Bob Drummond (560630). So if you missed the July meeting, please give him a ring if you wish to compete or, as a non-player, just attend the lunch, as it is customary to announce the pairings at the September meeting.

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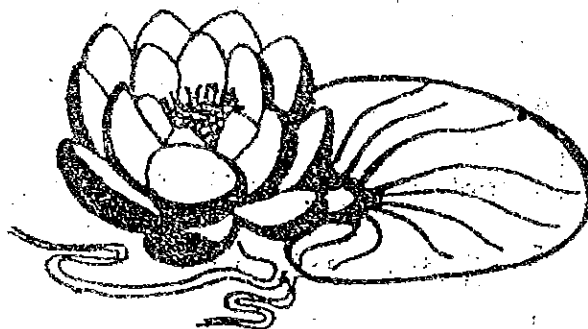
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Neville OSWALD reports



MEMORIES OF Thurlestone some 30 years ago, when our family started to come down regularly during the summer holidays, seem to become increasingly vivid with the passage of time, even if the details alter or are embellished by fabrication. Above all, I remember several characters at the Golf Club who, regrettably, are no longer with us. Between them, they set a style for the place and easily absorbed the droves of visitors who arrived in July and August, many of them of whom were their relations and friends.

As often as not, newcomers were welcomed by the admirable Jimmy Blyth who was usually to be found in or near the bar dispensing drinks or encouraging discourse on any subject under the sun. Punch Stanier, the president, a gaunt and rather formidable figure, knew everybody and went out of his way to greet visitors. He had the facility for making arbitrary decisions when they were needed; for example, he was the man who decided whether the tennis courts were in a fit state for play, a matter of some importance with 50 or more members waiting to start. These two, Punch and Jimmy, instilled a benevolent authority and were ably supported by Lieut. Colonel 'Tommy' Clark Thomas the secretary and the indefatigable John Batchelor the steward, each of whom was a character in his own right.

Tommy was a short tubby man with a bright red face. He had a ready chuckle but, in addition, had a sharp tongue for young members if they stepped out of line. He had a fairly rigid daily routine, starting with his official duties up to about 11am. Then, weather permitting, he set off in his car and drove at high speed all over the course. Nobody really knew why. Maybe he was out to chase sluggards or, as he maintained, to see whether there were any 3 or 4 balls out on days reserved for singles and foursomes. My impression was that he sought no more than a breath of fresh air; certainly, he put the fear of God into the beginners.

On returning to the club house he embarked on his usual tippie - Sherry - until lunchtime. I cannot remember how he spent his afternoons.

Jock Foale, the professional, was a kindly man and everybody's friend. In the summer he kept a large board listing the starting times for golf. They were in 3 colours: one for bookings after 6pm for the following day, the next after 8am on the day of play and the third at leisure.

With the best times available at 8am there was a general exodus from houses and hotels all over Thurlestone before breakfast each day by players wanting to get their names down; as often as not, we queued up outside his shop, waiting for opening time. The system, inconvenient though it may have been, worked pretty well.

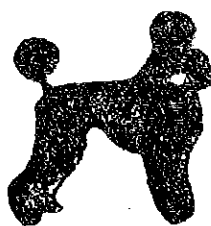
Golf clubs, of course, do not run themselves; they depend much upon the many volunteers who devote countless hours to the club year after year, often with little credit in return. One such was Betty Ord from the time she took it upon herself to mow the greens during World War 11 (because there was nobody else to do it) until she became an accomplished golfer and County Captain. Thirty years ago, she pretty well ran the ladies' section or, at least, she was always consulted before any important decisions were taken. Then there were Charlie Bevell and Len Jeffery who between them organised the Artisans' Club which incidentally supplied the club with some of its best golfers.

Dottie Clark Thomas, the secretary's wife, was able to apply her military background to controlling the dozens of excitable children who assembled twice a week for the tennis tournament, after which they invaded the clubhouse for their ice cream and lemonade.

Tony Clark, who was then chairman of Clark's Shoes, owned the house and bungalow opposite the Sloop. He was a keen golfer of limited ability. Although one of the mildest of men, he seemed to have a knack of becoming involved in incidents, perhaps because some forceful people thought they could get the better of him. One day, he invited me to join his four and we took up our positions on the first tee alongside about 30 others, including the sociable Arthur Webb, a director of the Distillers who was always willing to hold court with anybody who was prepared to listen to him. When, in due course, Tony went to collect our ball from the rack, he was aggressively challenged by an important looking stranger who asserted that he was next off the tee, seeming to imply that perhaps the rules of golf had not percolated down as far as Thurlestone. Tony calmly told him that our four had played golf for many years and that they knew the rules as they were applied down here, but that as he felt so strongly about it, he had better go off first. I did not like the way this unwelcome stranger spoke to Tony so, when he went to tee up, I stood as close to his ball as I reasonably could. By this time he was thoroughly steamed up and beginning to shake. All he could manage was an undignified lurch at the ball, which he topped. I will never forget the look in the 30 odd pairs of eyes that watched, in silence, as the ball slowly trickled down the slope for about 20 yards and then came to a dead stop.

When Tony was less agile than he had been, he was in the habit of using the ladies' 9th tee, to avoid walking up the hill to the men's tee. On one occasion, no sooner had he driven off than a lady came charging over from the 8th fairway to tell him he had no right to use her tee. As might be expected, Tony gracefully apologised. Was he in the wrong? I do not know. Surely a fully paid up

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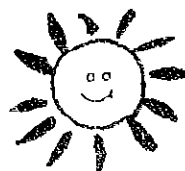
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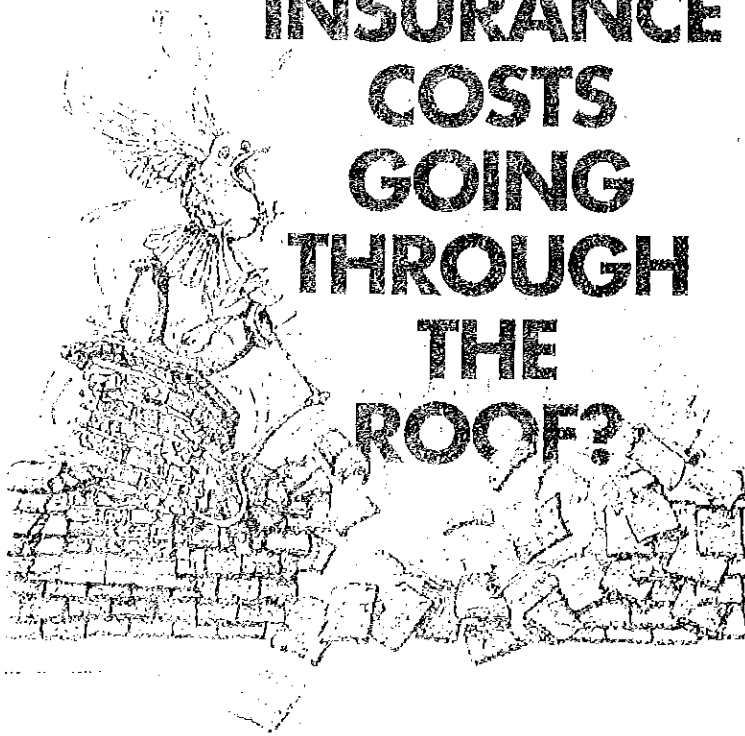
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member may tee up anywhere off the greens in a friendly game, with the consent of his playing partners. Now that I have taken to using that tee, I habitually look over to the 8th fairway to see how the land lies: when in doubt, I think of Tony and tee up just alongside the tee, where there is plenty of room for a level stance.

These recollections, trivial though they may be, belong to an age that has now gone. Yet for some of us they are the essence of those comparatively carefree years when so much seemed to depend upon booking a starting time or "getting a ball in" on the first tee.

ANSWERS TO PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER:

a) 8-2; b) 6-31; c) 27-7; d) 24-35; e) 17-23; f) 13-25;
g) 29-34; h) 14-33; i) 32-5; j) 18-16; k) 15-30; l) 3-20;
m) 10-37; n) 12-26; o) 1-36; p) 11-28; q) 9-22; r) 4-21....
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OUR QUIET VILLAGE

I awoke early this morning
A cat must be prowling
The neighbours dog is barking
The rain is splattering,
But the birds are singing.

The tractor comes trundling
The Farmer starts shouting
So the cows start bellowing
As they go in to be milked.

The cars begin travelling
and motor bikes roaring
As people set off to work.

Milk bottles start rattling
Doors start slamming
As children come running
The school bus is arriving.

Indoors now, the frig is humming
The radio blaring
Washing machine rotating
Telephone ringing,
Budgie twittering,
Shall I start singing?

WINNIE MINGO.

Kate's Kitchen



THE Warm sunny days and balmy evenings of June were perfect for devotees of barbeque style cooking. Hopefully the coming months will bring more sunshine, to dine al fresco.

This recipe for Summer Citrus Chicken, can be cooked either on the barbeque or in the oven conventional method.

Marinade.

serves Four.

1 tbsp Olive or Cooking oil)	
1 tabsp thin Honey)	
Juice & finely grated rind of 1 Lime)	
" " " " " 1 Large Orange.)	
1 teasp. Ground Cumin)	Mix together.
1 " " Coriander)	
Seasoning to taste)	

Place four chicken boneless breasts in a shallow dish and pour over the marinade. Leave for at least 2 - 3 hours, but overnight is best.

Cook for approx 25 minutes, basting and turning occasionally. Any marinade that is remaining, put into a small pan and cook for approx 2 minutes, and spoon over the chicken when serving.

Serve with baby new potatoes, green salad and a raita of grated cucumber, chopped fresh mint in thick yoghurt. Also a Carrot & Raisin Salad made as follows:-

2 Large grated carrots, 1 oz. Raisins, 1 Large Orange.

Take all the skin & pith from the orange and cut into segments using a sharp knife (do this over a dish to catch all the juice). Pour approx 1 tablespoon of boiling water over the raisins in a small bowl. Extract any juice from orange pith etc. Pour off water from raisins and add to the juice. Allow to stand 5-10 mins, then put carrot into a shallow dish and add the orange and raisins.

MEALS ON WHEELS: A Caring Village.

As the organiser of the Meals on Wheels rota for Thurlestone I thought you'd like to know that we have 28 people who do the "rounds" here for a very few people. It is nice to know how much the deliverers care and watch over those few. The numbers will inevitably vary up and down, but it is a service all gladly do. If this is the means whereby people can stay in their own homes, we hope it will always be available. ROSEMARY MACKAY.

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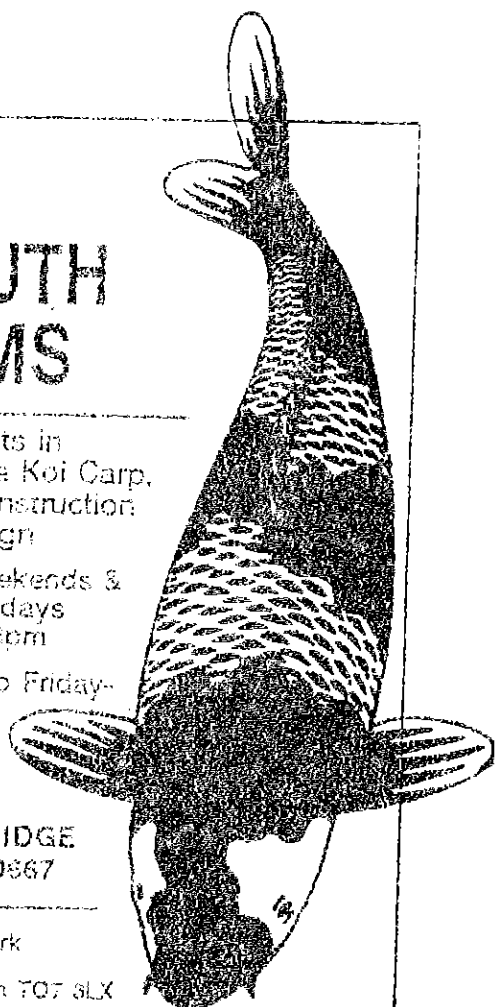
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PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION INQUIRY

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN DEVON

Council Chamber Plymouth 10.30 am 10th June 1992

The downstairs was full and the upstairs three quarters full when Assistant Commissioner John Victor Williamson, Barrister-at-Law from Manchester, opened the proceedings five minutes late. He apologised for the delay, caused by television cameras. [The Inquiry was the subject of a Newsnight Special on BBC 2 the following evening].

The Assistant Commissioner assured those present that he had no connections with the area apart from having visited it on holiday. He then asked how many present were from the South Hams. It was as though with one accord the entire chamber raised its hands. Said the Assistant Commissioner: 'I was warned about you. My colleagues told me I was mad to take on this Inquiry'. But those 'in the know', who had been at Exeter for the first part of the Inquiry (officially to last two days), were not fooled. The Assistant Commissioner had dealt with them in one morning. It had all been over by lunchtime of the first day.

'I do not wish to hear from anybody who was already submitted a written representation' he said. 'On the otherhand if he has anything he wishes to add to his representation then I will gladly hear him. But I do not intend to listen to endless repetition. We are here to do a job of work and if we have to work late, believe you me we will stay as long as it takes. But this Inquiry will end on Friday'.

At this point the Assistant Commissioner announced he would start with the South Hams whereupon a young man in a grey suit representing Plymouth City Council, jumped up, and having introduced himself immediately proceeded, with the aid of an inept witness, to blind the Inquiry with complicated figures derived from the Poll Tax Register, and finishing up with a detailed exposition about Plymouth Bus Routes. All this incurred the displeasure of the Assistant Commissioner who allowed him to continue until the coffee break, after which he indicated that he wished to hear from the members of Parliament in order to enable them to return to 'that other place' with as little inconvenience as possible.

Miss Emma Nicholson (Tory MP for Torridge and West Devon) rose and impressed upon the Inquiry that her constituents are people and not figures [cheers and clapping] drawn up to satisfy a 'numbers game'. She drew further cheers when she said that the proposed moves would help the 'predatory City of Plymouth' take more rural land.

David Jamieson (Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport) followed and urged the Commission to leave the Plymouth boundary as it is and realign the city's three seats using 'natural' boundaries such as the A 38.

/cont

Could we be hearing this? The Honourable Gentleman agreeing with the Honourable Lady and vice versa? As the Honourable Gentleman pointed out this was probably the only time they would be in complete agreement. The Honourable Lady concurred, reminding him of the Three Line Whip on Northern Ireland that evening.

As lunchtime was rapidly approaching the Assistant Commissioner decided to move his goal posts and he invited the Devon County Council to comment on their written representation. This task was performed by a very proficient, charming and attractive solicitor from the Legal Department. The lady was already known to him having appeared before him at Exeter earlier in the week. There followed an impressive and professional presentation on behalf of the County Council.

After lunch it was the turn of the South Hams and the chamber was buzzing with anticipation. The serried ranks of South Hams supporters remained in position directly opposite him, but they had taken on board his earlier warning and only about a third of those present raised their hands when asked for a second time how many wished to speak.

A microphone had been installed during the lunch break. [There had been several 'silent' speeches during the morning]. The Assistant Commissioner was in turn, encouraging, stern, sympathetic, understanding and even gently humorous, as the various representatives from Town and Parish Councils, local branches of the South Hams Conservative Association, local History Groups and various non-aligned groups addressed the Inquiry. There was a considerable amount of clapping and verbal encouragement. Nearly all the County Councillors spoke: it was unfortunate ours was absent at the Chief Police Officers Conference in Eastbourne - particularly as his Ward could be rent in twain.

In the interval between lunch and tea the Assistant Commissioner had expertly dealt with the South Hams and for the final session of the day only about a third of the original number returned to the Chamber to hear the South Hams District Council's lawyer submit an excellent representation. Which left the representations on behalf of Torbay and Plymouth for the following day.

There were lots of those 'in the know' willing to part with their expert knowledge in the coffee/lunch/tea breaks. Some said that the Inquiry was a total waste of time and money as the Boundary Commission had already made an irreversible decision. Others said they had known of exceptional cases where the Inquiry had reversed the Commission's intentions.

All we can do is wait. Twelve months? twenty-four months? And keep our fingers crossed.

Veronica White
July 1992

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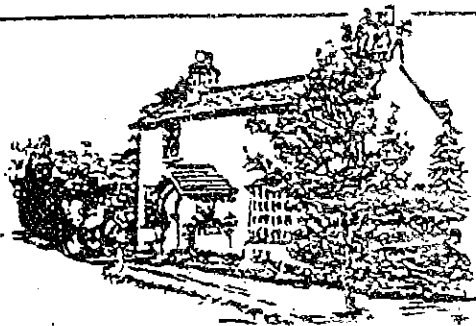
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SECRETS OF THE SAFE

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

THE THRILL of handling the old papers from the safe is not just their age. Nor is it the glimpse of authority which all the little red seals of magistrates and churchwardens dotted on them provide. Many of the papers are now unreadable. Vital names have disappeared with the paper they were written on. One sheet is just a collection of holes.

But what is most exciting is the way that the names you can decipher of people from the past come alive. Many of the papers from the safe are statements made on oath by Thurlestone residents. You can discover from what is written - and sometimes what is struck out - a great deal about the people who walked the tracks and lanes of this parish all those centuries ago. Of course, each old document raises more and more questions the longer you read it. Where for example in 1803 was Thurlestone Mill, run by High Hardy? And was there another Mill in Thurlestone? Or was Hugh Date, described as a Thurlestone miller, a partner with Hugh Hardy?

Many of the earlier documents are concerned with the Poor Law and the Laws of Settlement of 1662. These said that any stranger to the parish who had no prospect of work within 40 days, or did not or could not, rent a property worth £10 per year, could be removed from the parish and sent back whence he or she came. If you wanted to settle in Thurlestone Parish you had to ask for a hearing from local Justices of the Peace. And if you just wanted to be a casual and help bring the harvest home, well you had to have a certificate from your home parish guaranteeing to take you back when the job was complete.

All this produced a lot of documents and there is a thick roll of them among the papers from the parish safe. As the newcomer who couldn't keep himself and his family was a charge on the parish, no one held back from getting what amounted to a local deportation order from the local magistrates as quickly as possible. Thurlestone churchwardens and the parish overseer of the poor were no exception.

So out, for example, in July 1762, went Richard Hodge - all the way back to Malborough.

Out - all the way back to Deal, Kent - went John Carter, his wife Mary and their two children under seven called John and Mary in June 1764.

Out went John Beer in 1776 and with him went Ann his wife. Local J.P's Benjamin Trist and John Wills decided South Pool was where they really belonged.

Mind you, just because you had a local name it didn't necessarily mean that you wanted to say in the village. Take Earle Yeoman (a good Thurlestone name if ever there was one). He tried to settle in Malborough, but the Churchwardens and the Overseer of the Poor of Malborough weren't having it and complained to George Seale and John Wills, two of the local Justices of the Peace on April 3rd 1777, about the Yeoman family becoming a charge on their parish. The magistrates agreed with them and Earle and his wife Amy and their son Philip

who was 12, were dumped back over the parish boundary into Thurlestone to rejoin the other Yeomans who had been here since the early 1500s. All this shuffling of the Yeomans is quite puzzling for there was a long established branch of the Yeoman family in Malborough. But back Earle had to go.

We know a little about Earle and his branch of the family. And it makes it even more puzzling that he was deported back to Thurlestone when his father David Yeoman was from Malborough and had married Charity Snoden (Snowden today?) a Malborough girl, on February 18, 1727. Earle was the sixth of their seven children.. Young Philip would appear to have been none the worse for changing homes for he died aged 78 on Sept 5th 1843 and is buried in the graveyard at Thurlestone.

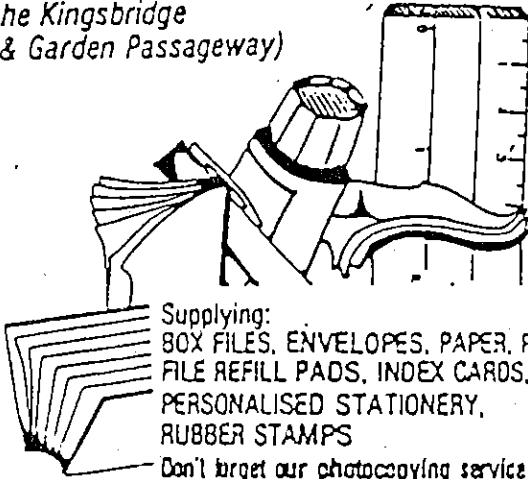
But not all those moved out of the parish took it lying down. Mary Putt for one. In 1793, Judge Abraham Hawkins was careful to stick a little piece of waste paper over the wax of his seal after he had examined Mary Putt about what she was doing in Thurlestone without a certificate of settlement. Whether he or his clerk actually did this to stop damaging the "deportation" document we shall never know but the specially cut little square of paper is still there stuck to the red wax seal of the order of Feb 20, 1793 amid the faded brown ink recording Abraham Hawkins' decision that Mary was to be taken out of Thurlestone and delivered to the Churchwardens of Aveton Gifford and they were to provide for her. And it is probable that Hawkins, known for his strict decisions, thought that the end of the matter. But he had reckoned without Mary Putt. For 2 years later on April 24, 1795 he found Mary standing before him once again. She was back living in Thurlestone and, apparently not the least bit frightened of him; asked him for a legal settlement certificate - for Thurlestone!

Another piece of paper covered with similar faded writing records Mary Putt's evidence on oath of Why she was sure she belonged to Thurlestone despite the judge's earlier ruling. She said she "had heard and believed that she was born in the parish of Thurlestone where her parents were legally settled" She went on to say that she had lived with her parents there until she was 24 and had then married John Putt, who "informed her" that he served his apprenticeship with Mr Harris in Aveton Gifford and lived at several other places as a Servant". About two years ago she was removed from Thurlestone to Aveton Gifford as the place of her husband's last legal settlement. But now she was back in Thurlestone and wanted to stay there and that was why she was trying to get a sworn settlement certificate. Mary was right. Church records showed that she was born in Thurlestone on April 4th, 1768 to Andrew and Anne Hardy and that Mary Hardy had indeed married John Putt in Thurlestone Church when she was just 24 on April 10, 1792. They had a child, a son who died when he was only 3, but whom Mary, obviously proud of her Hardy maiden name, had christened "James Hardy Putt". Hawkins had no choice. She got her legal settlement certificate. And she was obviously quite a woman was our Mary, for where the clerk had written "The Mark of...." for her to place an illiterate cross, the words are boldly crossed out and underneath is the signature "Mary putt". She failed to make a capital "P", but I bet she impressed old Hawkins no end!

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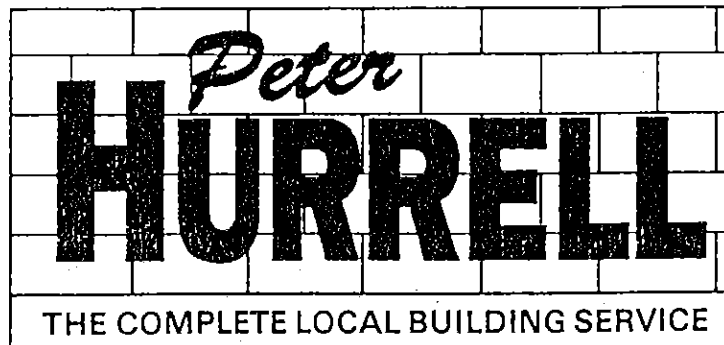
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LOCAL NEWS FROM THE W.I.

DESPITE NOT getting further than the first round in the Village Quiz, those participating all agreed that it had been good fun! £170 had been raised for the Kingsbridge St. John Ambulance Brigade as a result of Mr. Peter Hurrell's "Old Thurstlestone" slide evening and two earlier speakers who had waived their fees. By popular agreement this has now been topped up from funds to £200.

Warm good wishes were passed to Betty Sanders who would be marrying at the end of July. Alice Foster was congratulated on her flower arrangement successes at Devon County Show. Mary Johnson was lucky in the draw for the bursary to Denman College...and is thinking about using it on a "Golf for Beginners" course. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Joan Hillyar, Evelyn Spear and Marjorie Thexton, all of whom were in hospital.

Nine members were off to the D.F.W.I Summer Celebration at Blundells School, Tiverton. An outing to Morwellham Quay on Sept 24th, in which families and friends could join, was in prospect while early in November there would be a day at the Northcott Theatre - behind the scenes in the morning and a special performance of the Merchant of Venice in the afternoon.

Nearer home, Veronica White urged members to support the village Horticultural Show on August 1st and Kingsbridge Show collective entry at the beginning of September. A cake stall would be the W.I's contribution to the parish hall autumn fair at the end of September.

The South Hams area home economics new list of day schools was available through Rosemary Mackay. (Whilst on the subject of home economics, has any member got the Institute's copy of "On With the Show" lurking about at home? Someone borrowed it and hasn't returned it, and it is needed urgently. Think hard, and look carefully on your bookshelves - it must be somewhere!)

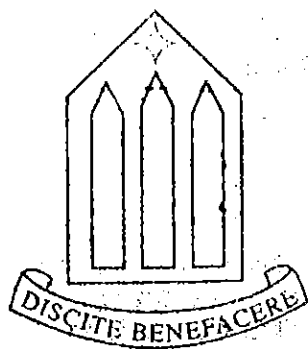
Following the recent mandate given to the National Federation after the intermediate general meeting at Bournemouth, members voted in favour of writing to local health authorities urging that more funding be given to research into endometriosis, a disease of women.

Anne Grose reported on a useful W.I Information Evening which she had attended at Stokenham.

Both the June and July speakers gave skilful practical demonstrations of their respective crafts - Rachel Sanders with flower arranging and Heather Trippas with wood carving.

President Tricia Millman said that the September speaker would be Alex Sawyer on Needle Painting, and in October Ruth Murray would be talking about Badgers.

Message from the President: We do not meet in August, but if you would like to come along as a visitor in September - or to any of our meetings on the Second Thursday each month, 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall - you will be made most welcome.



ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

MANY OF YOU will know that we have been attempting to improve the interior of part of the school by trying to obtain sponsorship to replace the existing flooring with heavy duty carpet. At the school's recent summer fair one lady from the village described herself as "... a carpet sceptic, ready to be converted" I pondered on the idea of a Euro-Sceptic and decided that a carpet sceptic must be a truly formidable creature. When the need to replace existing flooring was identified, we decided to link it with a plan to upgrade the school's library. We also thought that the present flooring (which has been down since 1974) needed replacing with high quality material which is specifically designed for schools, offices and workplaces, is inviting and will remain attractive for many years. The present flooring is very worn and, in one classroom, has almost ceased to exist.

I simply do not believe that children can be encouraged to care for their learning environment when they see it neglected and deteriorating. I understand that some people, when they first heard of the sponsor a square yard of carpet scheme, thought that I was seeking to indulge in reckless extravagance; I believe, however, that a tour of inspection would convince anyone otherwise. Beneath the flooring is solid concrete and it is quite beyond the means of the current school budget to rectify the situation.

Nevertheless, after an uncertain start, we have had encouraging support for the scheme and I would like to thank the following organisations and individuals who have generously supplied sponsorship (some of whom have no direct contact with the school):- Mr & Mrs DLuke (South Milton), Barclays Bank (Kingsbridge), Village Voice, Thurlestone Golf Club; Mr & Mrs Dent (South Milton); Mr & Mrs Chadwick (Thurlestone); David Frost Electrics; Mr & Mrs E.G. White (Thurlestone) Mr & Mrs. Humphrey (Slapton); Thurlestone & West Buckland W.I.; Mrs A. Grose (Thurlestone), M. et Mme. Pignaneau (Paris!) If there are any others who wish to support us, we would be delighted to hear from you - there are still plenty of unfilled squares on our plan!

On July 11th a summer concert was held at All Saints' School. Three musicians from the Exeter area performed to a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience and the concert contained a rich variety of classical arias, early songs by Purcell and Dowland, piano solos and poetry. The number of people attending, though just respectable, was disappointingly small and this was due, I am sure, to the fact that we had only a short time to publicise the event. Nicholas Gardiner, the pianist, is prepared to perform in future concerts at Thurlestone and I wondered whether anyone from the wider village community is prepared to serve on an informal ad hoc committee that would be responsible for organising and publicising future summer concerts.

I am sure that these events enrich the cultural life of the local community and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has an interest in these concerts. ALUN WILLIAMS, Headmaster.

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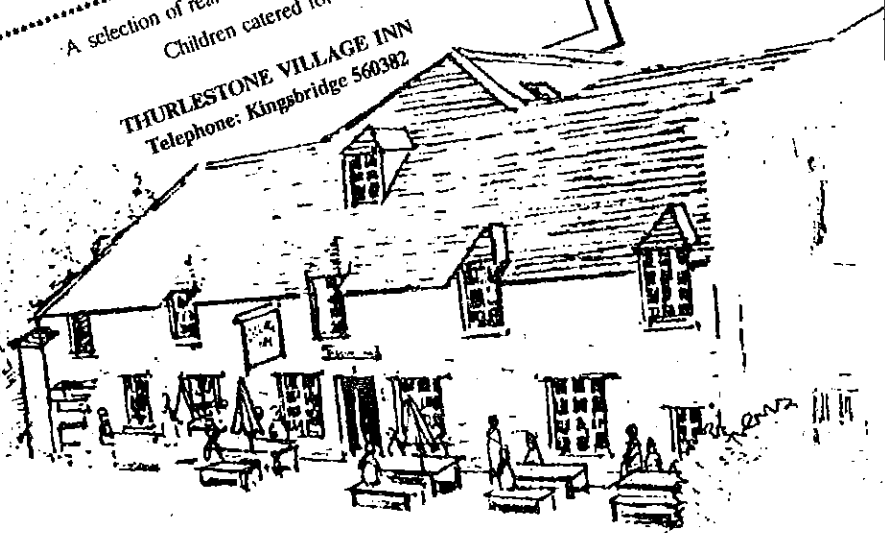
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MENUS AND QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

THIS IS THE ONE YOU MUSTN'T MISS...

THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE FOR 1992.

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.
Tues 22nd Fashion Show Boutique 144. Kings Arms, Kingsbridge.
Frid 25th Harvest Supper, Rectory Barn.
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 14th NSPCC Fund Raising Bridge Evening (Mrs Kerswell 852412)
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.
Sat 19th A Christmas Tea Party. Thurlestone Parish Hall.

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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