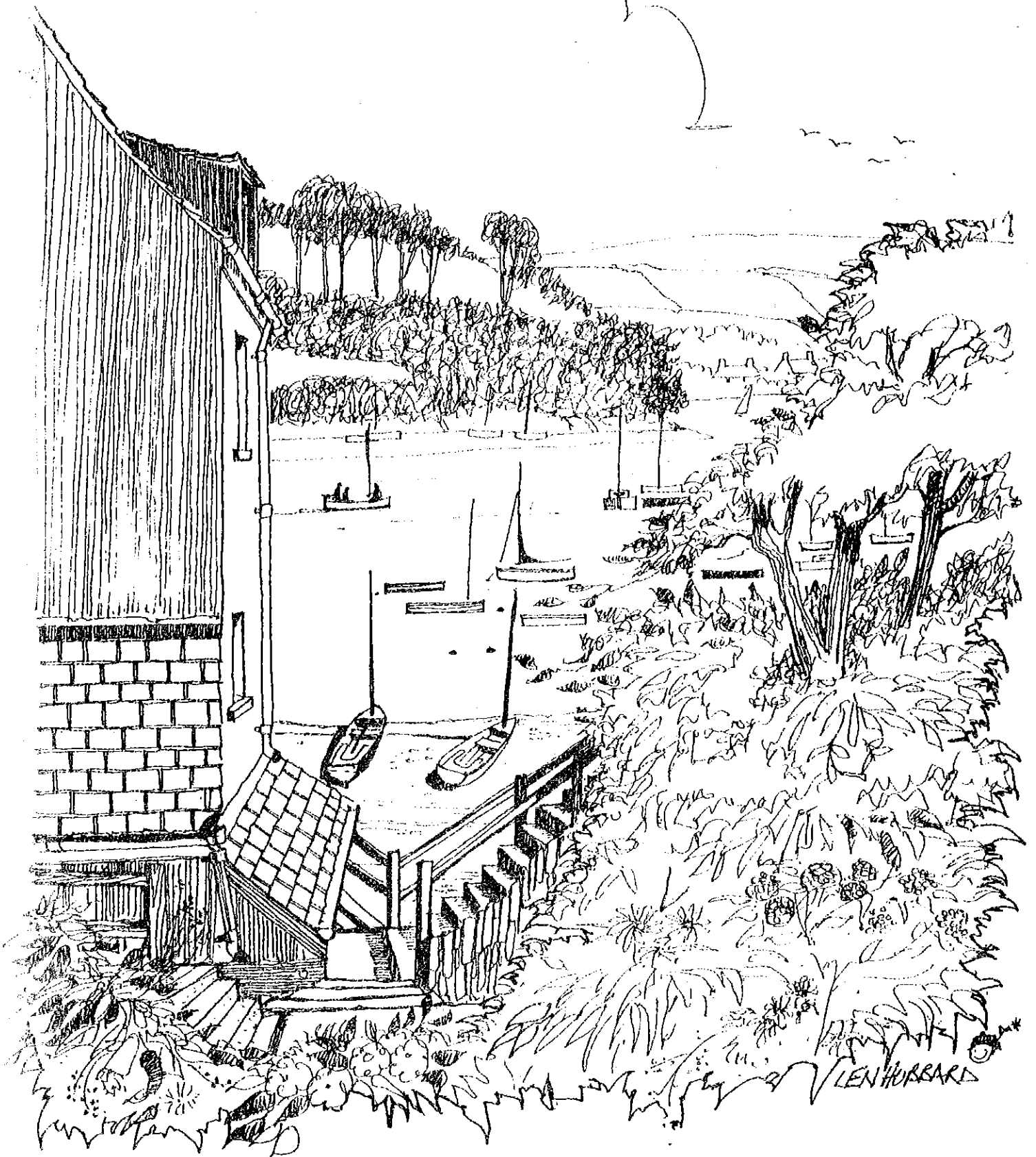


# VILLAGE VOICE

Oct — Nov

1992





Founded by Dudley  
DRABBLE  
1982.



Cover pictures  
by  
LEN HUBBARD.

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KENDALL McDONALD  
& PENNY McDONALD

AT  
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Thurlestone.

Tel: Kingsbridge  
560239

NUMBER 58. TENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION. OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1992.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAISE famous men. And women of course. For none have behaved more famously than all those Parish Councillors, past and present, who finally brought Thurlestone's waste products under control.

We congratulate all of them, not forgetting, of course, Parish Clerks. We do not forget either all those who worked just as hard but are no longer with us.

Perhaps they sent the rain slashing across Bigbury Bay to drench the suited men from South West Water who stood respectfully dripping round their chief, as he strove to turn the British equivalent of Hurricane Andrew into an opening ceremony on the beach.

And here, regretfully, it must be said that the Rector's direct line to H.Q. which he was swift to claim sent the sunshine for Armada 88 and the Marines 91, must have had an attack of the BTs because he was totally drenched with the rest of us.

But this is no time to niggle. South West Water are to be congratulated too for their actions in cleaning up the waters of all Thurlestone's bathing beaches - for it would be foolish to think that all that pollution was confined to Leas Foot.

It is, of course, difficult to match the great efforts made by those who were deeply involved, but Village Voice will make its own small contribution - and hereby promises never to mention sewage in these pages again. Well, not if we can help it!

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

WEST BUCKLAND - Peep O' Day & Rock Cottage.

Grade II.

Pair of houses. Circa early C17 with C18, C19 and C20 additions. Rendered stone rubble walls. Hipped thatch roof, gabled slate roof to front addition. 2 brick axial stacks and one small rubble axial stack.

Plan: originally 3-room-and-through-passage plan with lower end to the right. Lower room has fireplace on end wall and newel stairs behind. In front of it is an C18 wing with C19 extension in front of it. Above the lower room the house appears to have undergone a heavy remodelling circa early C20, the passage has become a stair-hall and the hall has a fireplace at its higher end. An early C20 room was added at the end of the lower room. Presently divided into 2 houses at the lower end of the passage.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 2-window front with wing projecting from right-hand end in 2 stages, the end part with a slate roof. Circa early C20 2 and 4-light casements on 1st floor. On the ground floor are 2 early C19 tripartite 20-pane sash windows with French doors to their left. To the right the thatch extends in a cat-slide to form an open porch over a C20 glazed door. The wing has a C20 porch on its inner face and a C20 plank door at its gable end.

Interior: Rock Cottage, former lower room, has roughly chamfered ceiling beams, an open fireplace with a plain slate lintel and stone newel stairs behind. Peep O' Day has some unusual reused pieces of carved timber on its stairhall including one over the door depicting the face of a woman - these are reputed to have come from a ship.

-----

Pear Tree Cottage.

Grade II

House. Circa mid C17 with late C20 addition. Stone rubble walls incorporating some cob. Thatch roof gabled to right end and hipped to new wing. Projecting rubble stack at gable end. Brick lateral stack to wing.

Plan: original cottage probably 2-room plan with room to the right heated by fireplace on end wall. In late C20 the size of the house was virtually doubled by the addition of a wing at the front of its left-hand end.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Original part of house has asymmetrical 1-window front, 2 below, of C19 small-paned 2 and 3-light casements. C20 plank door to the left. Large wing projects from left-hand end.

Interior: open fireplace in right-hand room has chamfered wooden lintel;

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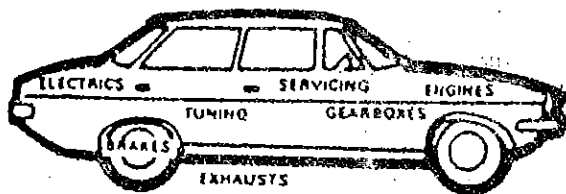
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AND CALLS FOR A STOP  
TO SIGNS IN OUR NARROW  
LANES...

DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME or are new roads signs popping up like mushrooms at the sides of our local lanes? Or is it just the hedge-trimmer exposing them after summer's gone? Whichever it is, there seem to be a sight more of them than there were a few months back. And it's time to call a halt. Let's put a stop to signs.

Let's face it, most signs are useless. What, pray, is the point of those blue-and-white jobs saying things like "Single Track With Passing Places"? If you don't spot the lane is narrow you want your eyes testing and shouldn't be driving anyway! And if there aren't any passing places ahead, the sign should really say "Long Wait Ahead".

Which brings me a subject which is bound to lead to a call for even more signs. Didn't you find it amazing, as I did, that the police were unable to use their speed testing equipment in the lanes - because they discovered when they got here that there wasn't a speed limit in force, other than the usual 60 mph. You'd have thought they'd have set up the speed trap anyway and sneaked a reading or two of the speed of some of our faster residents. But they say they didn't and I'm sure they wouldn't fib.

But one thing you may be sure of - and that's the speed with which the sign-crazed will call for 30 mph signs at the entrances to all our villages. And this despite the fact that they will do absolutely nothing to slow the traffic. Ask Churchstow who recently got signs and limits and you'll find they had no effect.

Mind you, there could be a nasty spin-off. Will it mean street lighting in all our village streets? Churchstow got away without it on their second application. Will Thurlestone have to have neon nasties? I fear the worst!





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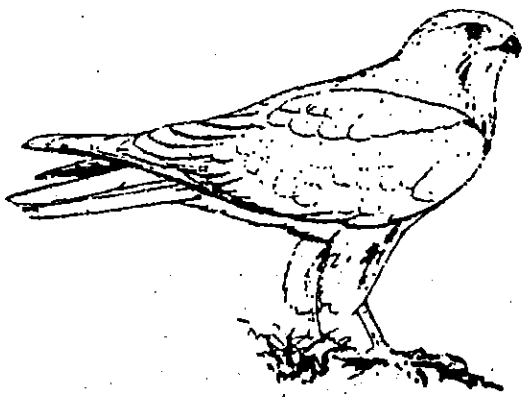
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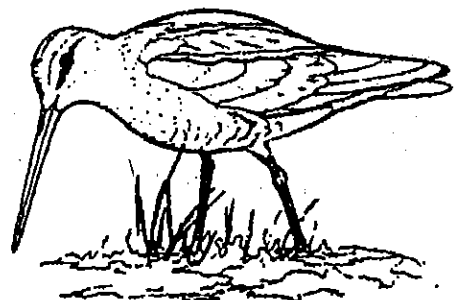
# HARRY HUGGINS

If you are going to do birding it is nice to be able to recognise what you see. You don't have to: a very distinguished ornithologist died recently - editor for years of the heavyweight "British Birds" magazine, chief editor of the monumental "Birds of the Western Palearctic" which is teetering out volume by volume, years late. His obituary in that same "British Birds" magazine commented on his evident lack of skill in identification, in other words, except on paper he didn't know one bird from another. I suppose he got away with it. But if you are going to stand on the ham with binoculars, telescope and woolly hat, gazing at birds on the cockleridge, you feel a bit of a twit if you have to admit you don't know what you are looking at.

So you need a book, a field guide they usually call it, small enough to take out in pocket or haversack.

Some books set out to include every species in the whole world of some kinds of bird. One such is "Seabirds", written and illustrated by Peter Harrison. There are a few more than 300 kinds of seabirds. Fulmars, Cormorants and Gulls are some of our local ones. They are easy, they live around the cliffs, even on our rooftops. But others, Albatrosses and Shearwaters and Petrels, inhabit the open sea, many in the Southern Ocean; they come ashore only to breed and then often in inaccessible places. I don't think Peter was either a writer or an artist before he decided to do his book. And no way was he going to be a scissors and paste man - he contrived to see for himself all but about 30 of the species. Which meant giving up his employment and going off for years, all over the world, often far out into the oceans (he worked as a deckhand or a fisherman to get taken there). I always wondered what his wife felt when he announced his plans. They tell me he is married to someone else now.

"Seabirds" is a wonderful book. So are other volumes in the series - "Shorebirds" by Hayman Marchant and Prater, covering the world's waders (which the Yanks call shorebirds) and "Wildfowl" by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn, about ducks, geese and swans. These are excellent things to have in the bookcase but far too heavy to take in the field; you need something more selective.



There are loads of field guides (it seems that every expert you meet is writing one which is going to make all others obsolete - most never see the light of day). A few of them are good, many indifferent, and some awful. If you want help, ring, or better go to Natural History Book Service in Brunel Road in Totnes. I cannot recommend, we have not bought one in years, but we use "Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East" by Heinzel, Fitter and Parslow if we go abroad in Europe and places near. In this country we don't usually carry one; we are long in the tooth and know most of the commoner birds, or can find a friend to help us out. And if we do find something worth submitting to the Rarities Committee, it is a rule that one's description must be written before consulting any book.

All of the guides present a difficulty - the strange sequence in which the birds are listed. Most are in families, which simplifies things a bit, but there is no alternative to learning the sequence.

You might think why not put them in alphabetical order. It wouldn't work. Closely related species have to be together so they can be compared; for example Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveler and Wigeon are all ducks and ideally they must all be on the same page, especially the females.

We carry in the car the Mitchell Beazley Birdwatcher's Pocket Guide; it is very small, has excellent illustrations and is useful for showing people pictures of birds when we are with a group. But if you are accustomed to the normal sequence of the field guides this one is infuriating to use - the species are divided into perching birds, game birds, predators and water birds, listed in roughly ascending order of size. It is all supposed to help one find an unfamiliar bird. But I can never find anything and have to use the index.

Most of the books follow a more or less set sequence; so do the county bird reports and suchlike.

The trouble is that every so often the theorists change the sequence. When I was a kid they began it with Crows and Jays and Magpies, Swans and Geese and Ducks were in the middle, followed by Cormorants and Grebes; Pheasants and Partridges were near the end.

Then sometime in the 1970s someone called Voous thought of a new order. I should know who he was, or is, but I don't. From his name he sounds like one of those egg-headed Dutch gentlemen in little gold rimmed spectacles who have been deciding that what we know as Rembrandts were not painted by Rembrandt but were done at the same time by someone else of the same name.

He pronounced that birds, being descended from reptiles, ought to be listed in order of development, most primitive ones first. So now the sequence starts with Divers and Cormorants. You can see why for yourself - the head of a Cormorant looks pretty reptilian. Things like crows, which began the old order, are now almost last.

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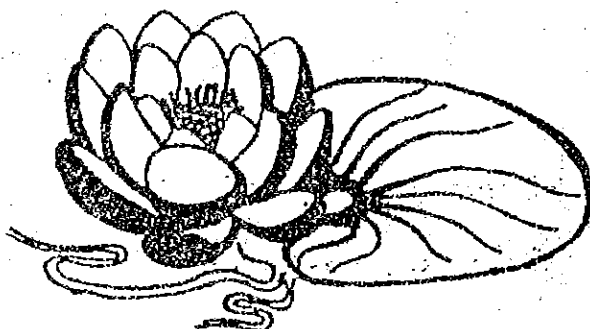
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Whether you accept this is how birds came about is up to you. If you like you can believe it all happened as described in Genesis, in I think 4004 BC according to the learned prelate of Armagh who calculated that Man was created at 9.30am on the 26th of October of that year. For the practical birdwatcher it does not matter what you believe; Gilbert White of Selborne, as a devout 18th century clergyman, would not for one moment have doubted the literal accuracy of the description of the Creation in Genesis and he was one of the finest field naturalists ever.

Or you can accept that all present species, including you, came about by development out of other species in accordance with Darwin's theory of natural selection.

Recently a couple of Americans, Sibley and Munroe, have made an exhaustive study of the relationships of birds according to their DNA, which is the coding in every cell of an animal which makes it the species it is.

Folks who study DNA have told us our nearest relative is a Chimpanzee. This is not to say we are descended from chimps, no way, but at some time in the past we and they shared a common ancestor. It is a bit difficult to credit when you look at some glamorous creature in a bikini on the beach. It is easier to believe when you see us members of Probus club tottering out of the hotel after lunch. But do not worry, if you go back a bit further you will find you share a common ancestor with a dogfish and a cockroach, and the ultimate great grand parents of all of us were a couple of blobs of jelly. So they say.

All this is theory and has no relevance for the ordinary birdwatcher standing with his binoculars on the coastal path; except that the DNA merchants have propounded yet another sequence in which to list the birds. We are told that future books will follow this.

And we poor birders have another indignity to suffer. They are going to change a lot of the English names of the birds in the Western Palearctic, which is the British Isles and Europe, a big chunk of Asia, ditto of Africa and some Middle East as far down as Kuwait. It is not all to do with Americans, not by a long chalk, but they are involved, because they speak a language not dissimilar to ours and have some of the same birds. The folks who decide these matters are still arguing over some names; one such is what the Yanks call a Red Phalarope. They must see it in breeding plumage when it is red. We call it Grey Phalarope because when it gets to us it is in grey winter plumage. Just occasionally you will find one, a tiny grey wader, bobbing about in the waves near the golf clubhouse.

There are some birds about which we and the Americans have for the moment agreed to differ, since neither will give way. What they call loons we call divers (you used to be able to see one off Leasfoot sometimes, in the good old days when we had a sewer outfall). And what we call a skua, a piratical thing like a gull, they call a jaeger.

But in a way you can see the point. Some years back we went with a birding party to the Isles of Scilly. It included an American gentleman who had just retired from being the boss of the Audubon Society, the yank equivalent of our RSPB only bigger.

It included also his wife, the only person I have ever met who could continue to talk while breathing in. One day we saw some ducks and he asked what they were. Teal, we said. "But wha-art sort of Tee-ull?" "Just Teal, we only have one" In the States they have three- Green-winged Teal (almost like ours, not quite); Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal. To clarify matters, it is proposed now to call ours "Common Teal" - obviously a committee clarification if ever there was one.

Our name-changers don't intend to go as far as the Yanks did. They changed the mellifluous sounding Baltimore Oriole to Northern Oriole, on the grounds that it was not found only in Baltimore. We are still going to talk about Kentish Plover, although you would be lucky to find one in Kent just now, and Dartford Warbler, so named because it used to live on Dartford Heath. I doubt whether you could find a heath there now, still less a warbler. But do not despair - if you go to Starehole valley, just inland from Bolt Head and hang about for a long time you might well see one - they are often there, but they skulk, and there is plenty of herbage to skulk in.

However, for genuine outstanding stupidity I don't think you can beat the proposed re-naming of the Fan-tailed Warbler. This is a very small stripey brown thing with a broad rounded tail; you find it dancing about on waste ground with scrubby vegetation beside half-finished hotels in Majorca. They intend to call it Zitting Cisticola. Try enunciating that when you have had a couple of glasses of sangria!

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LO

GOLFING DOUBLE:

CONGRATULATIONS to Jenny and Derek Roberts of Pearse's Farthing, Thurlestone on becoming women's captain and men's captain of Dartmouth Golf Club. They are the new club's first captains.

HOMEFIELD.

At their last meeting the Parish Council considered a planning application for "Homefield Farmhouse" and Shop to be converted into six flats. The Council raised no objection except that reasonable access must be provided.

BROWN BUNGALOW.

At the same meeting the Parish Council also did not object to the demolition and rebuilding of the Brown Bungalow in Court Park Lane, subject to keeping the ridge levels low and drew attention to the preservation order on the oak tree in the garden.



# I remember...

JOHN DAVENPORT, of The Thatches, Thurlestone, spurred on by Neville Oswald's piece in the last issue of Village Voice, remembers his boyhood in Thurlestone. He is now 80.

Neville Oswald's nostalgic and entertaining piece about Thurlestone in the 1960's has jogged my memory of personalities and occasions of 40 years earlier; of my boyhood in the 1920s.

The stalwart and friendly figure of "Farmer" Broad as he was known to me. He let me milk his cow, took me to Kingsbridge Cattle Market and enabled me to skip some school by catching ringworm in his barns.

James Coombes, Jock Foale's predecessor and mentor, with his famous golfing instructions "pivot on the 'ips and fer-ling at the ball" (Pivotting and flinging not so easy now!)

Voysey, then the young 'boots' at the Thurlestone Hotel, with whom I played ball in the village street.

Sunshine and her delicious cream teas at the Club.

Piper the head waiter at the Hotel who, despite a splendid stomach, could kick the 'Armada' beam in the Village Inn. Miss Cartwright who travelled to her Thurlestone holiday by tricycle. Osman at the garage, who on Saturday mornings, set up a chair and cut one's hair - kept short in those days. Sir Michael O'Dwyer, an imitation of whose unique golf swing was my party piece.

The annual Fancy Dress dance at the Hotel, when we all processed up the Village Street to the oohs, aahs and giggles of a large audience.

The Kingsbridge Cricket Club dance in Stidston's barns where some home-made cider was found and from which Col. Trant, the mahogany-faced Club Secretary had, it was alleged, trouble in finding his way home.

No golf on Sunday mornings - the caddies were on duty as church choir. The second hole, a 'bogey 3', ran parallel to the wall at the back of the 1st green and provided plenty of golf balls to the inhabitants of Lockslea.

I recall that in August there were private bathing tents on Yarmer and woe betide any unauthorised user.

Did I witness, or was I only told of, the young men who took a cow into the hotel lounge? (Were Dickie May & Ralph Burton-Fanning among them?). Dr & Mrs Burton-Fanning (Daphne Douglas Robertson's parents) motored from Norwich in a remarkable old car. Vivian Marshall's father and formidable Mother at the original Leaside and so many people & things, more, but that is enough.

Where my memory has failed who is there to correct me?



# "When God Created Mothers"

"Lord," said the angel, touching His sleeve, "Come to bed now."

"I can't" said the Lord, "I'm near to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when ill, can feed a family of seven on a pound of mince and get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower"

"It's too soft," the angel sighed.

"But tough," said the Lord. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only think, but reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the cheeks.

"There's a leak," he pronounced. "I told you, you were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear" "What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride!"

"You're a genius!" said the Angel.

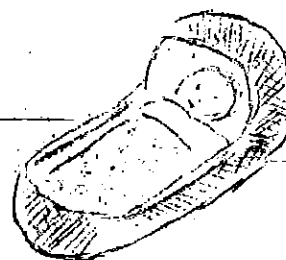
WHEN GOD created mothers, He was in the sixth day of overtime, when an angel came to Him and said,

"You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one!"

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specifications on this order?" "She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 180 movable parts, run on black coffee and left-overs; have a lap which disappears when she stands up; a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands!"

The angel shook his head slowly and said, "SIX pairs of hands? No way."

"It's not the hands that are worrying me. It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers need. One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks "What are you doing inside there?" (although she already knows); another pair at the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know; and of course, one pair in front that can look at her loved ones and say 'I love you and understand you' - without so much as uttering one word"



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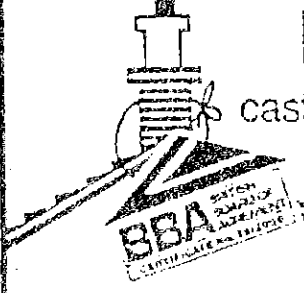
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# Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE:

There are apples everywhere, so here's what to do with them.. Or you could, of course, pickle your husband!

What to do with an abundance of apples? Make lots of puree and put in the freezer for pies and sauces, or you could make chutneys and jellies.

This recipe has a slightly eastern flavour:-

3½ lbs cooking apples (peeled and cored weight) & chopped.  
2 ozs Seedless Raisins.  
2 cloves of Garlic, crushed.  
2 ozs chillies, chopped or 1 tsp Chilli powder.  
2 ozs fresh root ginger, peeled and grated.  
4 ozs mustard seed.  
8 ozs dark brown sugar  
1 pint Malt Vinegar  
4 ozs cooking Dates, chopped.  
1 lb. Onions, chopped.  
1 tbsp Ground Coriander

Put all the ingredients into a large pan. Bring to the boil, cover, then simmer for about 1 - 1½ hours, stirring occasionally till the chutney has thickened. Spoon into warmed pots and cover at once with waxed discs and airtight lids. Makes approx 5lbs.

Delicious with either hot or cold meats or poultry and gives a good set.

4 lemons, 4 lbs. cooking apples chopped, 1 pint water, ½ pint white wine vinegar, approx 4 oz mint or mixed fresh herbs, Sugar.

Grate the lemon rind, squeeze the juice and chop the shells. Put in a saucepan with apples, water and vinegar. Bring to the boil; cover the pan and simmer gently for 1-1½ hours, until pulpy. Strain overnight through muslin or a jelly bag. Measure the liquid and put in a saucepan. Add 1 lb sugar for each 1 pint. Heat slowly until dissolved then bring to the boil and boil hard to setting point. Stir in the chopped mint or herbs and leave for 15 minutes before potting. Pot and cover in the usual way. Makes approx 4 lbs.

OR You can try my special recipe: How to preserve a Husband:-

Be careful in your selection. Do not choose too young. When once selected, give your entire thoughts to preparation for domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in a pickle; others are constantly getting them in hot water. This makes them sour, hard to get along with and sometimes bitter. Even poor varieties may be sweet, tender and good by garnishing them with patience and well sweetened kisses. Wrap them in a mantle of charity. Keep warm with a steady fire of domestic devotion. Thus prepared they will keep for years.

## PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

OUR RESIDENT PUZZLER  
ASKS IF YOU CAN  
SOLVE THE CASE OF THE  
MISSING LINKS..

Can you find the missing link between these pairs of words by willing in the space in the bracket? Each word has four letters. For example tithe (barn) owl.

1. Premium ( ) age
2. Non ( ) like
3. Swans ( ) cast
4. Rambler ( ) Mary
5. Broad ( ) away
6. sandal ( ) pigeon
7. Slep ( ) board
8. Imp ( ) rain
9. cuckoo ( ) ado
10. Powder ( ) adder
11. o ( ) span
12. Be ( ) o
13. Apple ( ) wheel
14. Char ( ) mine
15. brandy ( ) shot
16. second ( ) cuffs
17. check ( ) lot
18. half ( ) gammon
19. pad ( ) yard
20. in ( ) on

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

BYRON ROGERS, one of the finest feature writers of the British Press today, wrote this article for the Daily Telegraph. It appeared in May this year under the headline "When a town is murdered, what hope for its people?"

Local residents will find this article strikes a lot of chords. Which is why - with Mr. Rogers' kind permission - Village Voice reproduces it today...

AN OLD gentleman I have known all my life, as I write this, is recovering from injuries inflicted last week by burglars. John King Morgan, aged 91, and probably the oldest working pharmacist in the country, suffered a broken nose and a black eye when he was attacked in his rooms above the shop in King Street, Carmarthen.

There is nothing new about assaults on the old in contemporary Britain; they are, after all, the easiest of targets. But what is significant about this assault is that it took place in the centre of a county town with a population of 15,000, and nobody heard. It is significant because it was inevitable.

Mr King Morgan and his brother, also a pharmacist, live above their shop, as their father did. They can remember a time when just about every shopkeeper in their street did so. They are now the last. Within five minutes' walk there was, until recently, a grocery shop above which an old lady lived, also the last in her street. She was attacked twice in two years, and within the last year alone there have been three fires in the town centre of Camarthen. One destroyed the offices of a building society and the local RAFClub and did £1 million worth of damage. Two of the fires remain unexplained.

Three men are believed to have been involved in the attack on Mr King Morgan and, with luck, will soon appear in court. But nobody will charge the others who made possible the assault; the councillors of Carmarthen District Council, its planning staff, and all those distant businessmen into whose hands over the past 20 years there fell the destinies of a small town. These are the men who brought in the supermarkets, and multiple shops, and presided over the new pedestrian-ised precincts. Between them they killed the town centre. The policies they followed, and the new stores, closed the small shops that had always had families living over them. The irony is that this happened in the time of the one prime minister to have been brought up over a shop, also of a chief executive of the local district council who was raised about his father's shoe shop in the street in which Mr King Morgan lives.

When nobody lives in a town centre, a process starts by which it ends up like downtown America; a bustling place till the sun goes down, when secretaries are escorted to their cars, and anything can happen in those deserted commercial canyons where the shadows fall; You might think this fanciful, but it is happening in almost every "developed" town in Britain, for there is nothing unique about Carmarthen.

You see it in the gangs of drunken teenagers, lurching from pub to pub (in Carmarthen they even queue for admittance at weekends). Girls rush shrieking through the streets and the atmosphere is like that following the sack of a town, except that it happens every week in Carmarthen. The old and the middle-aged know nothing about this, for the town centre is a no-go area, as it is to the police. The rubbish piles up, take-away containers litter the streets, for whose streets are they now?

When I was young, I knew the people who lived there. Now the centre is a thing apart from the rest of the town; it belongs to Etam and to Freeman, Hardy and Willis. You can do anything there, for it is nobody's responsibility. It is just a trading post surrounded by car parks, and could be anywhere - even the middle of a moor - except that it happens to be where it is.

Anything that might impede traffic in its rush to this place has been pulled down. A grand old Victorian school went to make way for a car park; the cost of buying it, and of demolition, meant that each parking space cost £5000. They pulled down a terrace to make a mini-roundabout, where four roads meet, and there is no pedestrian crossing; there are only two such crossings in the whole town, so the place is a race track, and a nightmare for the very young and the old.

You don't need tanks and artillery to destroy a town; you do it with a vote in committee, and that is deadlier. For example, when the tanks and artillery are gone, men will rebuild Kabul; they will never rebuild Carmarthen, for they have taken away its past.

There is always a reason why a town should be where it is. In Carmarthen it was the river, and then the bridge and quay, which guaranteed its survival. But the three-lane carriageway was driven between the town and its river and then the demolition began. For what was the town for after that? Not for its inhabitants, the Heath-Walker changes in local government having handed it over to strangers in an enlarged district Council.

And not for pressure groups either, for this was never a beautiful town. It was just a place where people had lived, the oldest continually inhabited town in Wales. The winding alleys in the centre, the Roman and medieval street plan, the sudden narrowing of a street to show where the town gate had been, the Georgian front and the Victorian brick, these things had continuity; they showed how its inhabitants had adapted the town to their needs, and each had a human dimension.

Then the human dimension was destroyed. A Tesco supermarket was built on the site of the medieval friary in the middle of the town, a development so out of scale that the whole town became its suburb, and its red-brick bulk dominates the landscape. The town centre died then, just as the town will in its turn, for this is Caerteresco now.



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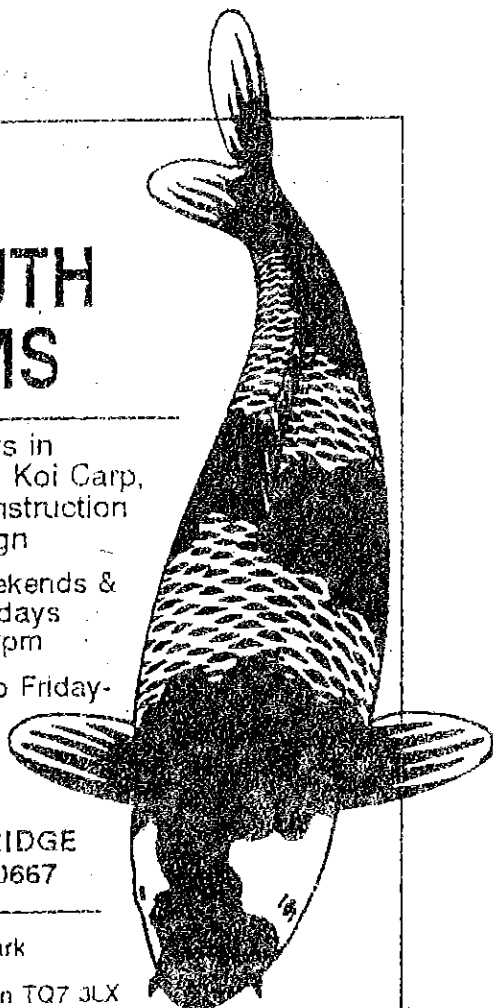
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Elsewhere, a few people have realised what is happening, and a woman called Anne Petherick has founded the Living Over the Shop project to entice people back into the deserted centres of small towns. Ledbury, in Hereford and Worcester, has committed £100,000 to this.

Not Carmarthen. There is black humour in its destruction. Like the fact that the architect who first planned its redevelopment is now believed to be in Spain and sought by the South Wales police. Still there was the sanctuary of the chemist's shop in King Street, its door brass gleaming, the liquids yellow and purple in the great glass jars, just as they were when I was a boy. And now....this. Historians love to cram a process into a single incident. I think in years to come I shall look back on an attack on a very old gentleman as the day my town died.

---

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LO

#### S.O.S FROM HOPE COVE.

The Friends of Hope Lifeboat House is the name of a new organisation dedicated to buying the old Hope Cove lifeboat house and turning it into maritime history heritage centre. They have taken on a mammoth fund-raising task because the money needed for the old building on the shore at Inner Hope is £65,000 - and that is less than the price it might otherwise fetch.

Opened in 1878, the Hope Lifeboat House was given by the Freemasons of England in acknowledgement of the safe return from India of HRH The Prince of Wales. The station has housed four lifeboats, which saved 64 lives from the numerous local shipwrecks. The station was closed in 1930 when the motorised lifeboat in Salcombe took over from the Hope Cove boat which was only powered by sail and oar. Prominent in those Hope lifeboat crews were the Jarvis family, who bought the building from the RNLI for use as a boat and fishing store. And because of the latest proposition the Jarvis family, who would like to see the old lifeboat house continue to serve the village as a maritime centre, are offering the building to the village at a lower price than they might get if it was to be put to other use.

The Friends of Hope Lifeboat House have launched an appeal to raise enough money so that they can ask for a grant for the rest, and so preserve the building for the future. They are approaching various organisations such as the Freemasons of England, but suspect that the bulk of the money may have to come in the first place from local subscriptions. Donations should be sent - or handed in at - to the Post Office, Hope Cove.

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# POSTBAG

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Though it is not Village Voice practice to use anonymous letters, the following letter was so concerned about speed in the villages that the Editors decided to make an exception.

DEAR EDITORS,

Yes, you are quite correct in your piece about speeding in the last edition (August-September) - it is often the locals and owners of holiday homes speeding through the village. So holiday-makers follow suit.

What's the fastest time for the stretch between Court Park and Post Office Lane... Somebody knows. I can imagine a driver thinking to himself: "Let's see if we can make it a treble today and frighten some pedestrians as they step out of the cut through (Court Park), then some more outside the garage, and then of course there's the school...but if we don't make it by then, don't worry there's always somebody walking down the village..."

Well, that's how it seems. And it's not just the top end of the village. There's the other end - coming up the hill towards the Church around the bend and along by the raised pathway..

Don't let the police waste their time trying to monitor the traffic, the odd ones they stop won't make any difference. They'd have to be in the village from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for at least four weeks to make it worth while, but it wouldn't last. Let them get on with fighting crime.

Slow down! Let's retain the steady village life. Or do we want Pelican crossings! We know who the real speedsters are and so do they. So slow down!

But if speeding continues, the only answer is not single, but double, staggered, sleeping policemen at 9-10 positions throughout the village. They will be cheaper in the long run than wasting police time. I am not suggesting that the sleeping policemen should be arranged so that exhausts would get caught on them, but built slightly higher in the middle so that the driver's side would always go over twice.

Even I would find this an unhappy solution, but what a difference it would make to our traffic in the future.

I leave it with you.

"NODDY" of Thurlestone.

Editors' Footnote: The above letter was postmarked "South Devon" and contained a plan showing the positioning of the author's double sleeping policemen. They were sited as follows: 1, Before Court Park coming down the village; 2, before the cut through; 3, before the School; 4, before Post Office Lane; 5 between the Pumphouse and the Village Stores; 6, before Broads; 7, before the Farm; 8, on the curve by the Village Green; 9, at the end of the Village Green.

# THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON

## SHOW NEWS

The 1992 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Committee Room of the South Milton Village Hall at 8 pm on FRIDAY 16th October. ALL residents of South Milton, Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantham are very welcome.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LET US KNOW HOW THE SHOW CAN BE IMPROVED

PLEASE COME

The date of the 1993 Show in Thurlestone Parish Hall is SATURDAY 7th AUGUST. Last year the Hall was (almost) overwhelmed by the profusion of the record breaking entries in the Cut Flowers & Pot Plants Classes. We hope, with your help, to be able to repeat this performance again .....

For those of you who missed the results of this year's Show in the Gazette we reproduce them below but before we do so we would like to congratulate Paul Gunning on his repeat performance of winning the 'Landscape or Still Life' painting Class in the Handicraft Section. Paul is not only an artist par excellence he is also a dab hand at model making (coming first in that Class as well) and a budding chef - although he made the error of his life by entering the same Class as his Mother. Oh well, he won't be making that mistake again .....

The results of this year's Show held in the Village Hall, South Milton, on Saturday 1st August are as follows:

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Section A - Vegetable & Fruit Cup (Amateur):      | D Coward                        |
| Section B - Vegetable & Fruit Cup (Open):         | M Orr                           |
| Section C - Cut Flowers & Pot Plants Cup:         | Mrs S Chapman                   |
| Section D - Senior Children's Cup (9 - 15 years): | Miss J Anderton                 |
| Section D - Junior Children's Cup (5 - 8 years):  | Master R Luscombe               |
| Section E - Home Economics Cup:                   | Mrs D Amess                     |
| Section F - Handicraft Cup:                       | Mrs D Amess                     |
| Section G - Flower Arrangements Cup:              |                                 |
| Joint:  | Mrs S McKillop / Miss A Jenkins |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Cup for South Milton Exhibitor with highest number of points: | Mrs D Amess       |
| Cup for Thurlestone Exhibitor with highest number of points:  | D Coward          |
| Yeo Cup (Best Amateur Vegetable):                             | L Jeffery         |
| Wray Cup (Best Open Vegetable):                               | M Orr             |
| Chapman Bowl (highest number of points rose classes):         | M Orr             |
| Marshall Cup (Best rose bloom):                               | M Orr             |
| President's Tankard (best fuschia):                           | Mrs S Chapman     |
| White Cup (Best Entry - Senior Children):                     | Miss J Anderton   |
| Yeoman Cup (Best Entry - Junior Children):                    | Master R Luscombe |
| Doris Tyler Trophy (Set Recipe):                              | Mrs D Amess       |
| Doris Jackson Trophy (Sewing):                                | Mrs D Amess       |

### Certificates of Merit:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Section A - Vegetable & Fruit (Amateur): | L Jeffery         |
| Section B - Vegetable & Fruit (Open):    | M Orr             |
| Section C - Cut Flowers & Pot Plants:    | Mrs S Chapman     |
| Section D - Children (9 - 15 years):     | Miss J Anderton   |
| Section D - Children (5 - 8 years):      | Master R Luscombe |
| Section E - Cookery:                     | Mrs D Amess       |
| Section F - Handicrafts (Art):           | Master P Gunning  |
| Section F - Handicrafts (Sewing):        | Mrs D Amess       |
| Section G - Flower Arrangements:         | Miss A Jenkins    |

### First Prizes:

Section A: D Coward (11) L Jeffery (3) G Wilkinson (2)  
A Jordan (2) Mrs D Amess Miss A Jenkins  
Mrs J Reece T Church

Section B: M Orr (7) D Coward (4) J B Horn (4) T Church (2)  
Mrs A Grose (2) R Rogers

Section C: M Orr (5) Mrs S Chapman (5) Miss A Jenkins  
Mrs C Parkin A Jordan T Church Miss E Snowden  
Mrs J Reece

Section D: Kelly Luscombe (3) Jenny Anderton (2) Robert  
Luscombe (2) David Anderton Paul Gunning  
Miss A Kucyj

Section E: Mrs D Amess (3) Mrs A Grose (3) Mrs L Gunning (2)  
Mrs F Bromfield Miss A Jenkins Mrs P Macdonald

Section F: Mrs D Amess (3) K Turner (2) Mrs J Yeoman  
Mrs L Gunning Mrs D Harvey Paul Gunning  
Mrs V White R Reece

Section G: Miss E Snowden Miss A Jenkins Mrs H McKillop

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Prize Winners and to thank all exhibitors and helpers without whom the Show would not take place.

The Annual Plant Sale next year will take place in Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 22nd May, but there will be no Jumble Sale in 1993.

And so just to recap: the 1992 Annual General Meeting will be held in South Milton Village Hall at 8 pm on Friday 16th October, and the 1993 Show will take place in Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 7th August.

Greenfly  
September 1992

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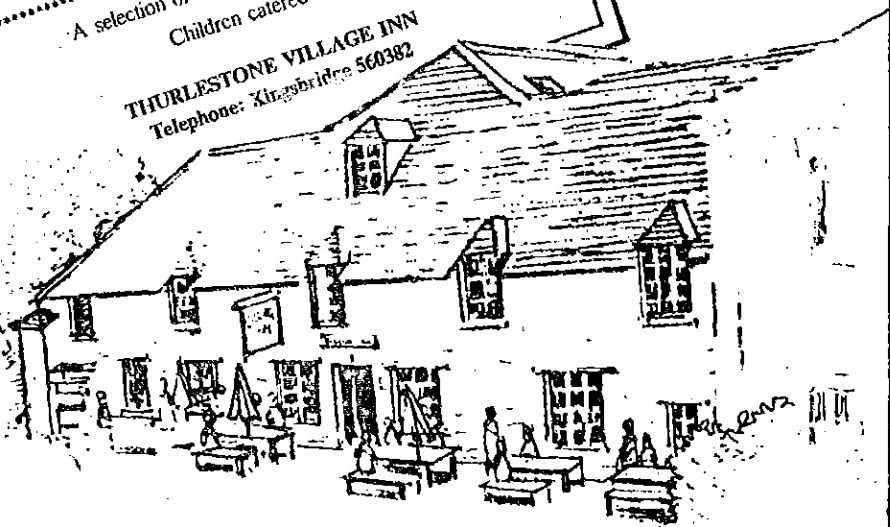
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- ADVERTISEMENT -

# **CRIME PREVENTION KEEPS EX-POLICE OFFICERS BUSY!**

Public awareness of the problems of increasing crime, is keeping a company of ex-Police Officers very busy in South Devon and the South Hams this year.

"More and more people and organisations are turning to us for help with their security problems," said John Casson, Managing Director of Securewest, himself a former Devon and Cornwall policeman.

Securewest has been established since 1987. The Company will only employ ex-police officers supported by a few ex-prison officers. "It is only those who have left their Force with exemplary references and who have the right attitude towards a tactful approach to the public, who will be considered for employment," said the Company's Personnel Manager, Beverley Brown.

## **High Standards Succeed**

The Company's main principle is one of a professional approach to crime prevention. "I view a successful contract on the least number of incidents that have occurred," said John Casson. "This is achieved by my security officers' diligent and experienced approach. I am proud to say that

the Company has never lost a contract through inefficiency; in fact, the majority of our new contracts are awarded by recommendation."

This year alone, the Company has recruited a further 30 security officers to support its existing team. "Crime, both petty and organised, can strike at anybody's property," he said. "My security officers are deployed to a variety of contracts from arrested ships to commercial property, hotels, shops and conferences. This year, we are even patrolling public areas, including Parks and Car Parks for Torbay Borough Council."

## **Concern**

In the absence of regulatory control, anybody, even someone with a criminal record, can operate a security company. "This is one of my greatest concerns," said John Casson. "People should be very careful when appointing a security company to protect their property, only those who can prove their credibility should be considered."

With the police force under increasing pressure, John Casson sees a busy future for his professional Company.



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Please come and Support the Pearson Playgroup, which is a  
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---

BE PREPARED!

The Malborough and South Milton Guide Company,  
which includes some Thurlestone girls, is desperately in  
need of a Captain.

If you are aged 18 or over and feel able to give some  
of your time each week to help these girls, then please  
contact the District Commissioner, Pauline Cole, on  
0548-561831 and she will be able to provide you with details  
of the training, help and support that is available. If you  
cannot help, perhaps you may know of somebody else who would  
be interested. Thank you for reading this.

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SPEED LIMITS

The Parish Council has put back  
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speed limits until after the  
Annual Parish Meeting to enable  
parishioners to have their say.

COFFEE MORNING

The National Childrens Home  
Coffee Morning will be held in  
the Parish Hall at 10.30 a.m.  
on October 24.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, THURLESTONE

THE VILLAGE PRESENTS

# "RAISE THE ROOF!"

A grand musical evening in aid of the Church Organ Fund.

on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st

in the PARISH HALL, at 7.30 p.m.

---oOo---

With West End Musical Comedy stars

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---oOo---

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---oOo---

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Jim Woodrow, Higher Furlong, Warren Rd. (560206)  
Joan Galloway, Edens, Warren Rd. (560453)

---oOo---

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---oOo---

SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS.

IT'S NOT OFTEN that the West End comes to Thurlestone - usually it's very much the other way round! But "Raise the Roof", the grand musical evening in aid of the Church Organ Fund on October 31st, is very much a West End star-studded affair,

For example....

Leonie Jessel's West End career began with the musical Free as Air and was followed by Hurrah for Daisy at the Bristol Old Vic. There followed a succession of shows in London's theatreland, amongst which were Most Happy Fella, The Music Man, Blitz by Lionel Bart, and the fantastically long-running Charlie Girl with Anna Neagle and Derek Nimmo. After this came The Ambassadors with Howard Keel, and the brilliant show Company by Stephen Sondheim. Her many television appearances have been in such series as Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'em, Edward VII, Lily Langtry, Upstairs, Downstairs.

Alan Thomas has also had a most successful career in London's West End. His shows included Candide by Leonard Bernstein, Crooked Mile, Most Happy Fella, The Music Man where he was one of the well-known group The Square Pegs, then came the role of Freddie Eynsford-Hill in My Fair Lady at Drury Lane's Theatre Royal. Next came Charlie Girl and Kismet with Dolores Gray. His television career has included the much-acclaimed drama Wood Demon, and also parts in Dad's Army, Churchill, The Two Ronnies etc.

Leonie and Alan are married to each other and went to Spain for three years and became well-known concert singers throughout Southern Spain. However, they decided to return to England just a few months ago.

Didi King is better known in the theatre as Doreen Croft. She began her career dancing in the ballet with an opera company. She also played Principal Boy in pantomimes with among others Morecambe & Wise and Felix Bowness of Hi di Hi fame. Her West End shows have included The Music Man with Van Johnson, How to Succeed in Business with Billy de Wolfe, Little Me with Bruce Forsyth, Charlie Girl, Fiddler on the Roof with Alfie Bass where she played the Matchmaker. Then came Gone with the Wind at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, where she played Scarlett O'Hara's mother, Ellen. Her many television roles have been in such diverse shows as Just William with Diana Dors, and By The Sword Divided, a Cromwellian drama series. There were also comedy roles with Terry Scott, and June Whitfield, Julia McKenzie, Yes Minister with Paul Eddington. Series roles have included The Bill, and The Floater with the late Richard Beckinsale.

Reg Chapman is a well-known resident of Thurlestone. Some years ago he ran his own dance bands. He is an accomplished Saxophone and clarinet player. He studied with Ted Lewis the father of the famed Harry Lewis who is married to Vera Lynn. Reg, in addition to his own bands played with many well-known recording orchestras.

## SHOW NEWS..SHOW NEWS CONTINUED:

Philip King is an Associate of the Trinity College of London. His work as a musician has taken him all over the world including France and South Africa. For a time he played in the orchestra on board the Capetown Castle liner. His West End Career included Little Me and Peter Pan in his capacity as Musical Director and Conductor. When the Black & White Minstrel Show started at the BBC he joined it. He played the piano and did some of the musical arrangements; this series ran for 21 years and Philip stayed with it through. In between he did other shows including The Morecambe and Wise comedy series. His favourite show came however, when he was asked to be ShirleyBasaey's pianist at the Prince of Wales theatre. This ran for a season there and he enjoyed it enormously. He has also played for cabaret at the Caledonian Suite, the Cockney Pride and Verrey's Supper Club. Philip's career has also included acting on the films and television. He has had featured roles in Julius Caesar with John Gielgud, Ken Russell's Music Lovers with Richard Chamberlain and Glenda Jackson, and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang with Dick van Dyke.

---

## ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Those looking forward to log fires, should be getting their wood supplies in now - and should remember the words of this old rhyme:

Beachwood fires burn bright and clear,  
Hornbeam blazes too,  
If the logs are kept a year,  
To season through and through.

Oak logs will warm you well,  
If they are old and dry;  
Larchwood and pinewood smell,  
But the sparks will fly.

Ash is good, so is yew,  
For warmth through wintry days;  
But poplar and willow too,  
Take long to dry or blaze.

Birch logs will burn too fast,  
Alder scarce at all;  
Chestnut logs are good to last,  
If cut in the fall.

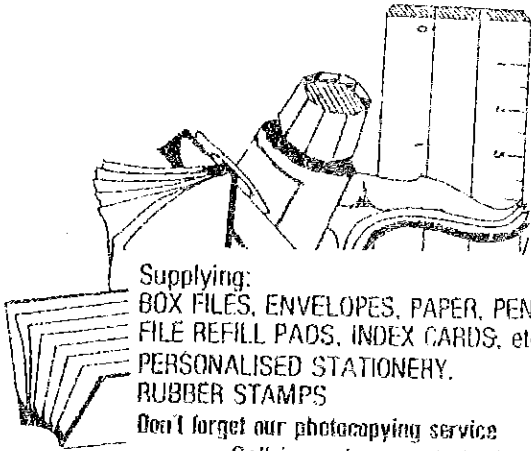
Holly logs will burn like wax -  
You should burn them green;  
Elm logs, like smouldering flax,  
No flame is seen.

Pear logs and apple logs,  
They will seent the room;  
Cherry logs across the dogs,  
Smell like flowers in bloom.

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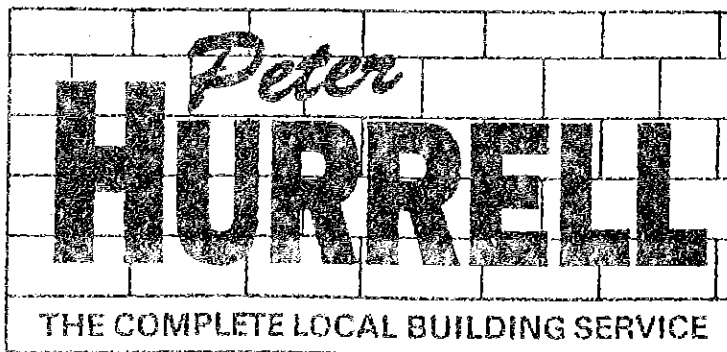
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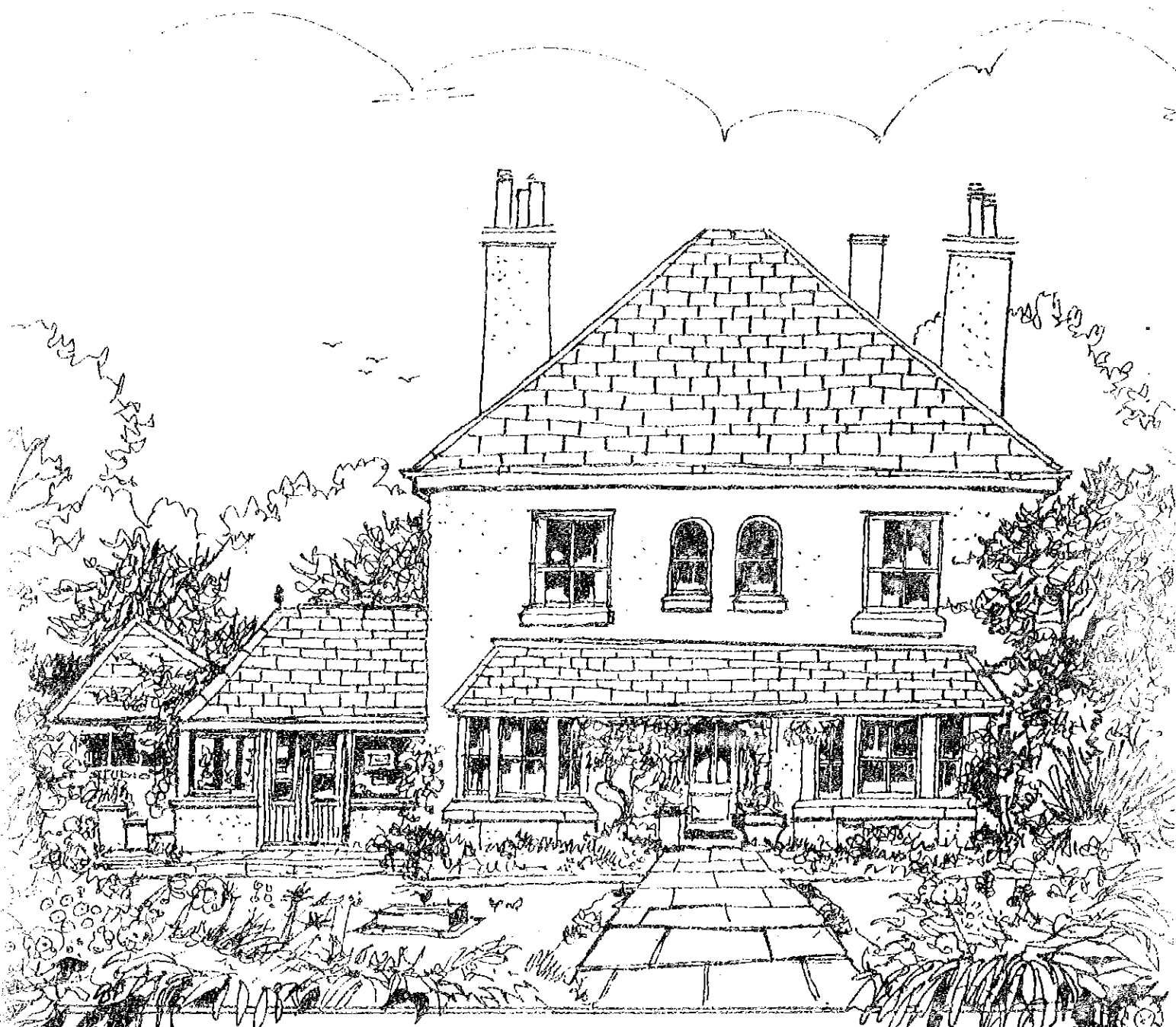


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# Drabblemania

A MISCELLANY OF THOUGHTS  
and REPORTS

---

In Spring I look gay,  
Deck'd in comely array,  
In Summer more clothing I wear:  
When colder it grows  
I fling off my clothes,  
And in the winter quite naked I appear.

I am a Tree.

+ + + + +

IT IS REPORTED: English Heritage chiefs have listed Marchwood Power Station, Southampton, for preservation more than a year after it was blown up ! I suppose they can't get it right every time.

+ + + + +

ALTHOUGH the Royal College of Surgeons of England only received its first Royal Charter on March 22 1800, its origins reach back much deeper into our history - back to the Guild of Surgeons of London of the 16th century and to the Company of Barber Surgeons founded by Henry VIII in 1540. The drafting of the 1800 Charter itself proved "a somewhat delicate matter", but the result had a fine, a stirring ring: "That the aforementioned Royal College shall henceforth be entrusted with the . . . promotion and encouragement of the Art and Science of Surgery."

Both the art and science have known many changes but the precept remains as true today as when it first received the Great Seal that March day of 1800. So much, however, for the encomium. What has it meant in practice ? How has the precept survived the centuries and, of more importance, does it still have validity or has the Royal College become trapped by an image of the past ?

The answers to such questions can only be found in the College's record not merely in improving standards of surgery but also in pioneering research into a wide range of medical problems. Patently, it is difficult to quantify the phrase 'the standards of surgery' for, in everyday practice, there are few yardsticks by which to measure the skill and humanity of a surgeon save by the confidence that ordinary people have in his skill when they place that most precious of all commodities - their lives - in his hands.

My wife - at 82 - was fitted with an artificial hip joint in August and progresses well. I felt this small tribute appropriate.

+ + + + +

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

If the Government do go ahead and adopt the Maastricht Treaty wholeheartedly, I understand under Article A (1) of the draft Treaty on European Union designation each one of us will be designated as "a citizen of the Union. I see it suggested that we might find ourselves termed Euroslavians. ! !

All our historical records reveal.

We've fought for our freedom with courage and zeal.

A Federal Europe? Never, no never

Would a true Englishman agree to this ever !

+ + + + +

If asked to describe a typical English village, the chances are that many would come up with a very similar picture: pretty thatched cottages set around a village green, overlooked by the tower of an ancient church, and just a stone's throw away from a friendly pub. . . the whole, of course, situated amidst rolling green fields and approached by winding country lanes.

I have discovered a fascinating book by a Richard Muir, who argues that such an idealised vision of English village life is a relatively modern one, and one which, in his opinion, hides an artificiality and an emptiness brought about by the historical severing of the ties between village people and the land, a bond which in former times gave a village its heartbeat, its life and its reason for being.

Richard Muir begins his examination of how the English village evolved, way back in the mists of time, searching out archaeological evidence to discover how our early ancestors lived and then travelled gradually through history to show the important developments that led to the village we know today. Along the way he paints a vivid picture of what life in a mediaeval village was like, with its complex society of freemen, villeins, cottars and other rigidly defined groups, cemented together by bonds of obligations and duty. The importance of the complicated open-field system in forging a close relationship between villagers is discussed, as are the roles of the church and the powerful local magnates who could create or destroy villages as they wished.

Villages have suffered in different ways at various times throughout history: The wholesale destruction of settlements to make way for profitable pasture, and during the Tudor period, the 'emparking' of their properties by the owners of the great English houses which led to neighbouring village sites being gobbled up and their residents forcibly removed; and, most disastrously of all, the Enclosures of 1750-1850 which reallocated land from the traditional intermeshed strips into private blocks, making the rich richer and many of the poor destitute.

This is a book providing plenty of 'food for thought by anyone fortunate enough to read a stimulating work. 224pp hardback

"The Villages of England" by Richard Muir (Thames & Hudson

£15.95

+ + + + +

Yes, dogs do do 'it' in country lanes - so do horses, a drove of cows, flocks of sheep and all too often I would say nothing beats a farmer with overlaid slurry and manure spreaders. Watch where you tread, indeed !

MORE:-

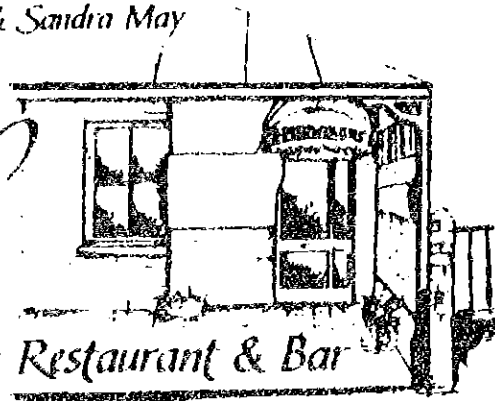


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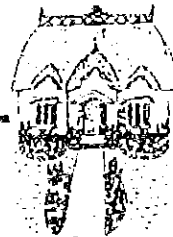
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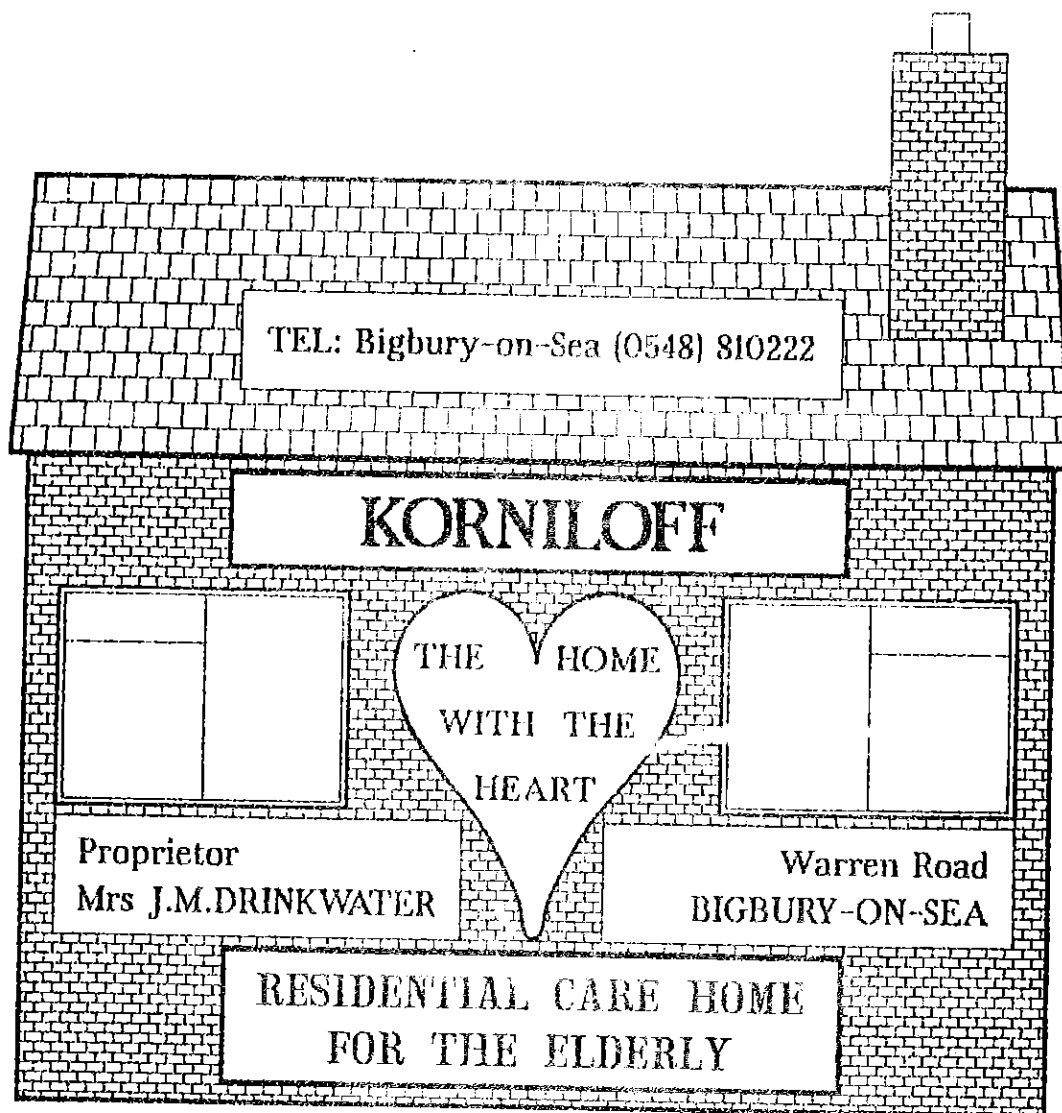
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DO YOU HAVE AN UMBRELLA ? Surprisingly, in spite of our notorious climate, the umbrella (from the Latin. 'umbra', meaning shade) is not a British invention. It originated in China, as long ago as the twelfth century B.C., where as a parasol than an umbrella - it was carried principally as a sign of rank. Umbrellas first appeared in Europe during the Middle Ages as part of the ceremonial regalia of the Doge of Venice and of bishops and popes. Even now the Pope is sometimes seen to carry two umbrellas, as symbols of his apiritual and earthly influences.

It was the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries before the umbrella began to be used as protection against rain. They were ungainly contraptions, made with cane frames covered with leather or oiled silk. They were, as you may imagine, extremely heavy, and the few ladies who first used them in London, had to have a strong manservant walking beside them to hold their umbrella over them. At this time umbrellas were used mostly by clergymen. Their parishes provided one for use during funeral services, when they had to stand bareheaded by the graveside in wet and snowy weather. Later in the eighteenth century, umbrellas began to be made from whalebone and heavy silk. These were slightly less cumbersome, and some London coffee houses started the custom of keeping them for hire to their lady customers, when the weather changed unexpectedly. Few ladies carried umbrellas of their own - as that was taken to mean they could not afford to keep a carriage. And no man would have been caught dead with an umbrella, until one James Hanway started the fashion in 1750. When he first walked through the streets of London, the sight of a man using an umbrella so incensed some citizens, that they shouted insults - and several went as far as to attack him, poor fellow. But the British weather triumphed, and many men soon followed suit.

Georgina Mackie

+ + + + +

OMENS TO OBSERVE IN THE HOME. (1): A large moth entering the home at night time is a good sign everywhere, since it means that a solution to a problem in the home would be solved. The bigger the mmoh, the bigger the problem that would be solved soon.

+ + + + +

Eric: My wife says if I don't give up golf, she'll leave me.

Ernie: That's terrible

Eric: I know - I'm really going to miss her.

(Morecombe & Wise Joke Book)

+ + + + +

The following is an extract from a letter of a 28 year old man -  
in the W.Morn. News :

"The youth of today have degenerated because of the manner in which the youth of yesterday have been bringing us up, educating us and running the nation's affairs. I am bound to say that on all counts the generation of the 30s and 40s have failed, and it will be up to my generation in twenty years time or so, who have to salvage what is left of this great nation of ours.

Once we had an Empire and now nothing; once we had a respected Army, Navy and RAF, now this is under threat; once we had safety, now we have insecurity; once we had nationalism and patriotism, now we are not allowed to feel this for fear of feeling persecuted; once we had a unified kingdom, now we have the threat of devolution and separatism; once we had a nation and now they want to give it away. We will be the leaders of tomorrow and we will not leave such a shameful legacy for our children or their children." Do you think he talks sense or nonsense ?

END

# Police Voice

I am sorry we missed the last issue but we have had a very busy summer in Kingsbridge. This time I thought you might be interested in learning the results of the Speed Checks carried out by the Traffic Department, Plymouth, on the Bantam Road, Thurlestone Main Street and Court Park Hill.

Following a request from the Parish Council the above checks recently took place - but the results are not necessarily what you expected.....

In order to monitor speed there must be a Speed Limit in force. The Traffic Officers found none other than the National Speed Limit of 60 mph. They also considered that because the lanes are narrow (as are all the roads in the area - with one notable exception) this gives a false impression of speed. This they believe to be the real problem.

The Traffic Officers stated it would be virtually impossible for vehicles to exceed speeds of over 30 mph on certain sections where it is only wide enough for one vehicle with passing places. For these reasons the Traffic Department were unable to use their Speed Monitoring Equipment in the Parish.

The Parish Council are aware of the results and, I believe, are going to try and get Speed Limits installed on the worst sections, like Churchstow Parish Council have on the A379 in the centre of their village.

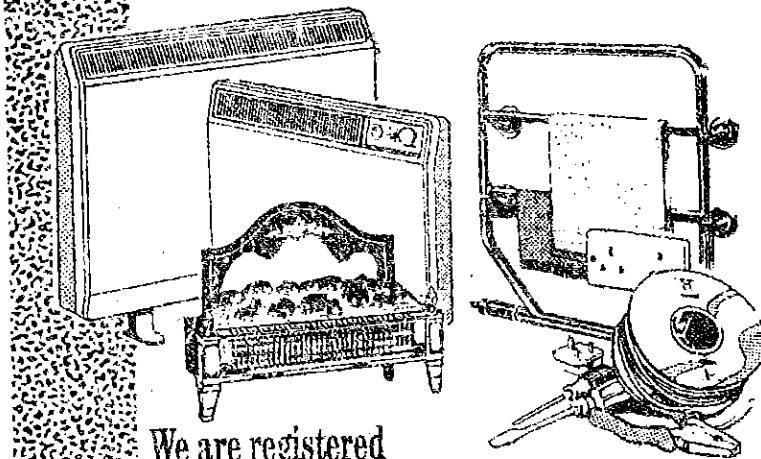
Paul Shepherd  
Community Constable  
September 1992

What Paul has not mentioned is that he passed a Promotions Board held at the end of August and that although he is looking after us once again it will only be temporarily as when an appropriate vacancy occurs he will be off and this time permanently.

Wherever it is it will definitely be their gain and our loss and I know that, on behalf of the Parish, I can extend to him our sincere congratulations and wish him the very best for the future.

Veronica White  
September 1992

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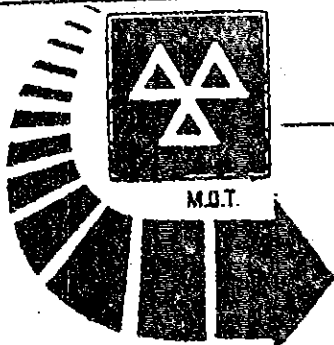
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# Neville OSWALD reports



ANYONE WALKING round to the back or north side of our church will come across a narrow strip of grass at the end of which is an impressive line of four tombstones. They commemorate various members of the Perraton family who died in mid-Victorian times and behind them, at a respectful distance, are three rows of Squares. Then there is an open stretch of grass alongside which, propped against a wall, is a collection of gravestones with illegible inscriptions. How did all this come about? Why is there an open stretch? Who were the Perratons and Squares and why were they buried in the least attractive part of the cemetery?

Presumably the open stretch formerly accommodated some of the stones now lining the wall; on the other hand the Perratons and Squares may have wanted the place to themselves. Being influential people in the parish and having decided that they wished to be buried as near the altar as possible, they would have been in a position to stake their claim.

Looking through the parish registers back to 1650 we can learn a lot about the Perratons or Pirratons and the Squares or Squires. The first mention of a Ferraton is in 1689 when one married a Thurlestone girl. There are 35 entries altogether up to 1856 when the last of them died. The Squares are much more numerous with no less than 169 entries between 1660 and the death of the sole survivor in 1949. Thus, both families were well represented in mid-Victorian times. What did they do?

In the Kingsbridge library there is a copy of the massive Billings Directory and Gazetteer of Devon dated 1857, round about the time when the headstones already described were being erected. Mr. Billings devotes the best part of a page to Thurlestone and lists the names and occupations of 37 parishioners of whom most were farmers, although three were shoe-makers. Richard Pirraton (sic) was a farmer who, with his connections by marriage to the Squares, was probably a man of some consequence. Three generations of Squares are recorded. First there is old Tom living at The Cottage, the splendid yeoman's residence immediately and above and alongside the Bromfield's shop where the Hines now live. Then there is Henry Roe at Clannacombe; he ran a timber yard that occupied most of the present main car park down by the water in Kingsbridge. Finally Henry Roe junior, a farmer, lived at a "farm" which I cannot identify. He probably looked after the extensive property in the parish that the Square's owned.

For centuries, Thurlestone people were buried in their cemetery as a matter of course. Indeed from the beginning of the parish registers in 1559 up to 1950, no less than 2,253 men, women and children had burial services in the church, almost all of whom were subsequently interred (figures since 1950 are unreliable because they include many who were cremated afterwards). Most of the headstones have now disappeared and of those remaining any more than a hundred years old are likely to be in a dilapidated state. Yet, walking up the path from the lytch gate, we may see many memorials from the recent past bearing names that are well known in the parish and vicinity. Burials are now continued in a field to the west of the church. Thus, for individuals, the graveyard still provided for a respectful farewell and a visible token that may be cherished; at least for a time. Indeed a well filled cemetery is an accepted part of the village scene in England.

To those of us who spent most of our working lives in a city, this glimpse of the Perratons, Squares and others poses questions to which there seem to be no easy answers. Who should be buried in a churchyard and where and why? If everyone were given a grave considerable stretches of the countryside would be needed to accommodate them. As it is, town dwellers may be allotted space miles from their former home and friends, perhaps somewhere they never visited during their lifetime. Some churches have no graveyard at all. Of course, cremation is now an alternative, with busy crematoria conducting as many as a dozen burial services on an ordinary working day and thereby going a long way towards keeping the size and numbers of cemeteries within bounds.

What of the future of our cemetery? There will continue to be people who wish to be buried there, for example villagers who have known the place all their lives and others who have an affection for the church quite apart from any religious beliefs they may have. Certainly any change in current practice would provoke a storm. I remember a few years ago visiting the ruins of the church at South Huish with its few ancient gravestones covered with brambles. A plan put forward to repair the site caused such an uproar among local people, who would not tolerate interference with the graves of their forebears, that it was soon abandoned.

It is not for me to advocate any alteration in a practice which has existed for centuries and will continue indefinitely. Yet I wonder whether, in the past, the villagers of Thurlestone were right in giving so much prominence to their dead. Their legacy to anyone entering the church is first a lytch gate, erected to accommodate coffins before burial services, followed by a long path lined with headstones and memorials. How much better it would be, surely, if there were a plain and easily maintained lawn leading up to the porch, which might promote feelings of expectation rather than sadness.



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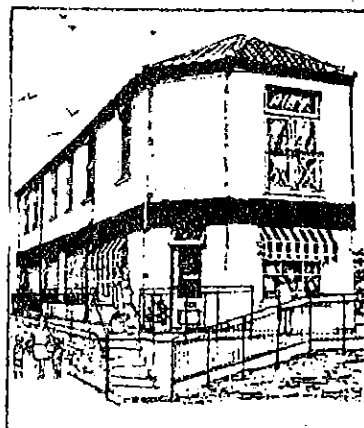
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# Talking About

REACHING 70

Eric Williams thinks  
aloud about three score  
and ten.

I WAS 70 recently. Three-score years and 10; the allotted span. Someone told me: You are in God's Waiting Room. As a Christian I always thought I was.

It's a privilege to grow old. Think of the millions denied this pleasure.

Ever been to a war cemetery and let your eyes sweep over the uniform row of lives pruned in their prime?

When I was 20 I was told by a dockside fortune teller in Bombay, in 1941, that two things would happen to me. I would soon have an unpleasant accident, and I would die happily in my bed surrounded by my family.

A few months later I was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic, rescued by a Canadian Corvette, and I have spent the intervening years gratefully eyeing my comfortable bed.

Celebrating one's 70th birthday - which we did memorably - doesn't mean that one is over the hill, although the view becomes a little clearer, and the perspective more finely focussed.

I look back, around and ahead with greater freedom.

One can be more honestly objective during one's 'anec-dotage'. More inclined to say 'Sorry, but No'.

Now I'm retired no-one's going to fire me - except with enthusiasm or inspiration. And I like this. A shame that more people didn't dare to say 'No' to Robert Maxwell.

At 70 you have a sharper sense of values, because if you have tried to learn from experience you can more readily distinguish the fine from the phoney. And say so. Look again at politicians' promises. Watch out always for the power struggle. There are three main motivations; money, power and love, and these produce constant tensions.

Don't think that being a senior citizen brings much privilege. Certainly not in Britain, where older people seem to be scrapped more readily rather than treasured. Go to China and see how they respect their elders. In Britain we often elbow them out of the way, although many retired people have more security during a recession.

I get angry at the way in which we often elevate greed and selfishness to an award-winning art, when it should be a matter for shame.

There is plenty of food for everyone - yet half the world goes to bed hungry and wakes up starving.

Some 1.8 billion world neighbours have no fresh water to drink and 2.4 billion have no proper sanitation, which causes needless disease and deaths of millions of children every year.

There are 60,000 homeless families in Britain. How can we expect a stable society without every family having a home?

Yet our construction industry struggles desperately.

There are millions unemployed throughout Europe - but no shortage of work to be done. Merely jobs.

Do things have to be this way? More than ever I'm convinced they don't.

The planet can provide enough for everyone, and we can keep the peace in a world of difference -if only we want to enough. To do this means giving up something; often letting people have their own back. Paying fair prices for Third World products, for instance.

Look back at last year's pace of change. the Gulf War threat; re-organisation of Eastern Europe; the sunset of Apartheid; the new Russian revolution; strengthening of the United Nations as a force for peace.

Just think of what we could achieve to make a better world for everyone, by caring enough to share a bit more.

We'd all feel a lot happier - and I could look forward to my 71st birthday and the year 2,000 with even greater excitement and hope.

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#### THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB.

At the time of going to Press our September meeting was still in the future, so the reaction to Tony Blackler's talk about being a Financial Consultant, considering today's climate, is still unknown. But as reported in the last issue of Village Voice, we are holding our annual Golf Meeting as usual in October.

Our next two speakers are still provisional, but it is not anticipated that any change to our programme will be necessary. In November, Tony Porter - Hotelier from Burgh Island - will be entertaining us, followed in December by Eric Wallis, an ex-Police Inspector from "The Met" talking about Coastal Walks.

It is hoped at the September meeting to obtain agreement from members about the Annual Ladies Evening in February '93, and final details can then be announced in November.

D.M.Yeoman 560300.

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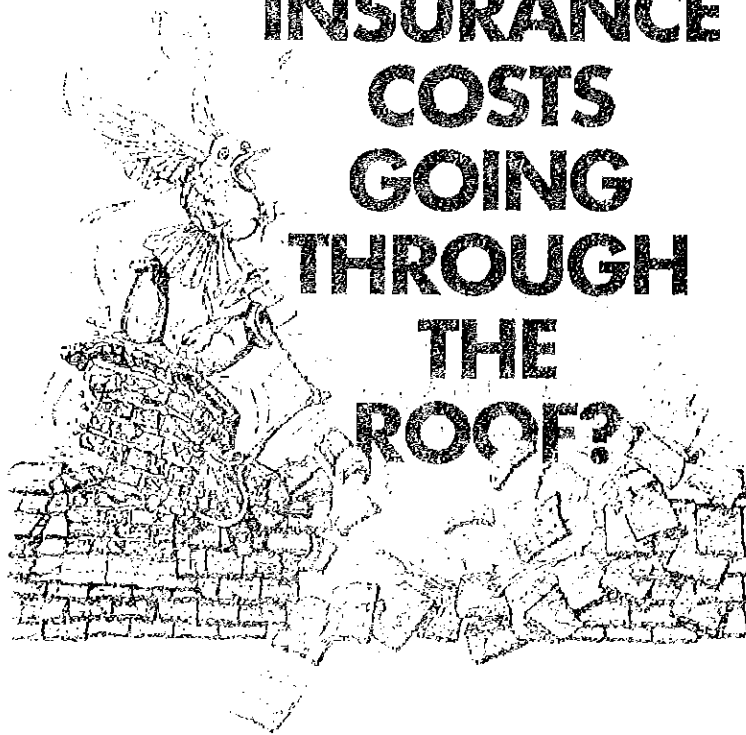
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# The Rector Writes

When the Second Vatican Council - you remember Pope John 23rd and all that - when the Council had finished its deliberations, the Roman Catholic Church seemed set for so much change (much of which happened before Rome was gripped by a somewhat fierce conservatism again) - but before that happened, during the heady period of change some of my Roman friends enjoyed telling me of a little tale that was doing the rounds:-

Pope John was asked, so the story goes, whether with all the changes that had been introduced, did he think it likely that by Vatican 3, the bishops would be bringing their wives with them? To which he is reputed to have replied "By Vatican 3 I think it likely that the Bishops will be bringing their husbands with them!!!" Judging by that yardstick (or perhaps, I should now say metrestick), Vatican 3 must be a very long way off indeed.

I was reminded of that little story recently when for the first time in my ministry I enquired of our special preacher (for the Friday Harvest Thanksgiving at both churches in the benefice) whether or not they would be bringing their husbands with them.

The Vatican joke envisaged women bishops. We do already have women bishops in some parts of the Anglican Communion. In the Church of England we do not, nor do we have women Priests, however during the currency of this edition of Village Voice that situation may change, or at least the possibility of having women priests may change. It is a decision - whichever way it goes it will be a painful decision for some - but it is a decision that will be taken by the General Synod at its November group of sessions.

There are, however, three Holy Orders of Ministry received in both the Eastern and Western branches of the church - Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and the Church of England has admitted women into the third Order for several years past, and it is from this Order of Deacons that our Harvest preachers come to us this year. The Reverend Ruth Waring - Parish Deacon of Tavistock will preach at Thurlestone on 25th September, and The Reverend Peggy Salmon on October 2nd At South Milton. They are two from about 65 per year who are ordained as stipendiary (women) deacons, as against about 290 men made Deacon each year, but the latter nearly all go on to be ordained priest - an office presently denied to the women.

Currently there are about 1,080 women Deacons engaged in parochial work, about 70 of whom have charge of parishes, and well over 200 in "section ministries" i.e. teachers, hospital or prison chaplains etc.

Also in addition to the 65 women deacons ordained to the stipendiary ministry an approximately equal number are ordained as non-stipendiaries - i.e. those who continue to maintain themselves, from personal resources, usually secular employment.

So things have changed a very great deal in the Anglican Communion throughout the period of my ministry. Possibly, there will be women priests in the Church of England within the next year or so. I would anticipate that there certainly will be by the turn of the century and who knows by the Lambeth Conference after that perhaps - I only say perhaps, some of the bishops may have their husbands with them!

-----

November as well as being a month of decision is also the month of memories:-

"We will remember them" - sadly it has seemed to me that less and less are troubling to do that even on Remembrance Sunday as year succeeds year. Maybe that is inevitable as the years pass so do many of those who served in the war - it does, however, seem to me to be important that the young people and the children even, should be taught something of that for which men and women were prepared to die.

I hope to see you all on "Remembrance Sunday" (November 8th) for the Services of Remembrance.

9.30am South Milton

11.10am Thurlestone.

Peter S. Stephens.

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PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER - THE ANSWERS:

1. bond 2. such 3. down 4. rose 5. cast 6. wood 7. dash 8. rest
9. pint 10. puff 11. wing 12. came 13. cart 14. coal 15. snap
16. hand 17. mate 18. back 19. dock 20. tend.



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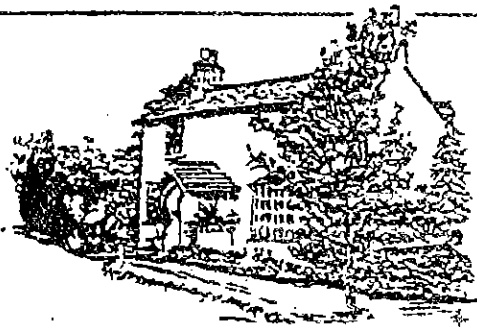
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THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE FOR 1992.

OCTOBER.:

Wed 14th Tramp Walk. Easy, Coastal from East Portlemouth.  
Tues 20th Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Hall.  
Sat 31st N.S.P.C.C. Xmas Bazaar, Market Hall, Kingsbridge.  
Sat 31st Raise the Roof! Musical Evening. Parish Hall 7.30pm

NOVEMBER:

Sat 7th Pearson Nursery School Table-top Sale at Parish Hall.  
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 7.30 pm Parish Hall.  
Sat 5th Thurlestone Conservatives Christmas Bazaar.  
Wed 9th Tramp. Christmas Walk from Totnes.  
Sat 19th A Christmas Tea Party. Thurlestone Parish Hall.

\*\*\*\*\*

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