

DEC 1992 - JAN 1993

VILLAGE VOICE



NO ROOM AT THE INN.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR READERS.

STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS:

Anyone who didn't go into Kingsbridge on the afternoon of Saturday, November 21, to see the switching on of the lights and the rest of the Christmas Extravaganza missed a real treat. And missed too one of the finest displays in the whole parade, a float which not only came from our parish and was manned by local youngsters, but which was also one of the stars of the show.

The huge float from the Sloop depicted a sequence from the film "Grease". For the technically-minded it was 78 feet long, had 16 dancers aboard and another ten around it adding to the action as the floats made their way down Fore Street.

The whole float was a blaze of light. And so it should be for there were over 1,500 light bulbs aboard, sopping up the power of a 70kw generator.

Those who worked on the float included Bob Dicks, Fred Shilabeer, Derrick Doyle, Vic Adams, and David Frost. Shirley Cokayne designed the costumes. Man behind the float was, of course, Neil Girling, who couldn't be on the float on the day because he was on the main organising committee of the whole Extravaganza.

It really was a wonderful effort. And if you missed it - well better luck next year!

Founded by Dudley
DRABBLE
1982.



Cover pictures
by
LEN HUBBARD.

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HERE WE ARE AGAIN - at the end of another year and the beginning of yet another. It hardly seems possible that it was eleven years ago that Dudley Drabble - of Drabblemania fame - founded Village Voice. Even he is amazed that his creation has lasted so long! But here we are again.

And on this occasion we hope you'll forgive us if we take the opportunity to use this space to thank all those who have helped to keep the Voice in good shape for over a decade.

So, to each and every one of our regular contributors, whose loyal and astonishing output is the backbone of the magazine, our thanks.

To our circulation managers, Peter Bromfield and Mrs. Jean Hurrell, thank you for making sure all our readers get their copies. Thanks too to our retail outlets.

Thanks to our advertisers for staying with us. Their support is the only reason that residents can get their Voices free.

Thanks to Chalky and Verónica White and Alan Clifton for helping with the dreary task of collating the pages every issue. Thanks to Evelyn Snowden for her help in cutting the stencils. Thanks to everyone who has helped in other ways. And a particularly big thank-you to Len Hubbard who provides the superb front covers for each and every issue.

And finally our thanks to the Parish Council for their sponsorship and support without which the Voice would cease to speak!

A BACKWARD GLANCE

A NEW SERIES FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH REVEALING GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN THURLESTONE PARISH IN THE "GOOD OLE DAYS".

The year is 1909. The place is the New Schoolroom in Thurlestone. The date is March 29th. The time is 8 o'clock. The occasion is the Annual Parish Meeting and Mr.H.L.Jenkins of Clanacombe is in the chair.

This meeting was to be the first time that tourism was recorded as being of benefit to the parish, though of course the word "tourism" was never used.

Very early on, correspondence with the Local Government Board and the District Council about the poor state of the roads in the parish was read out. It was a matter which had been raised by the Parish Council on many occasions and everyone was clearly fed up with it. Mrl Jenkins summed it up when he said - "these continual complaints about the state of the roads are a disagreeable task, but it is necessary to the welfare of the Parish, as the visitors will not come if they cannot get about on their Bicycles and Motors". To which the Rector, the Reverend F.E.Coope added: "The existing roads, without foundations and improperly drained are quite unsuited to the increased traffic and modern requirements!" A motion to ask for an annual inspection of the roads by "a competent engineer" was carried unanimously.

This, it seemed, might not solve matters, for no sooner had that motion been passed, than up popped Mr.Sherrif with another which was promptly seconded by Mr.A.E.Stidston. Mr.Sherrif's motion showed that getting the roads into the right state to attract "The Visitors" was not going to be simple.

Mr.Sherrif's motion showed that all was far from well in the roads department of the District Council..."this meeting desires to point out that the whole of the available supply of tar intended for some miles of road has been exhausted in the repair of about one hundred yards and, as the work is now stopped for want of material, it is earnestly hoped that the Council will give directions that a further adequate supply be procured without delay".

Needless to say this motion too was carried unanimously. It was not of course to be the last time that mention was made of Roads and "The Visitors"...in fact it is a rare parish meeting today that doesn't have a lot to say on the same subject!

LOCAL TALKING POINT.

Did it really happen? Did it happen in our parish?

Someone is said to have reported sleeping sheep to the RSPCA...

Some walkers complained that certain scarecrows were "intimidating"...

A woman visitor took away a new-born calf to wash it...

John Fellowes, president of the Country Landowners' Association, says they did...But he won't say where!



In this column, VILLAGER
is concerned about..
Public roads,
Public footpaths,
Public enjoyment and
books full of memories..

OUR VILLAGES are out of control. Or decontrolled, if you prefer it. Anyway there never has been a speed limit on our streets - though all that of course may change after the next Annual Parish Meeting when every resident can have his or her say.

In the meantime the need for traffic calming grows ever more necessary. I'm particularly thinking of measures to cool down the surfers and windsurfers who rush like lemmings down to the sea at Bantham. The lane from Churchstow roundabout to the Ham grows more like a race-track with each passing day. The onset of winter makes little difference in these days of wet and dry suits.

I hear the Parish Council got a bit of a brush-off when they asked the District Council what they proposed to do to calm the board-rackers. So it's not so surprising that they'll be raising the matter again at the Local Planning Enquiry, which gets going at 10 a.m. on December 10 at Quay House, Kingsbridge. And as it's open to the general public I expect all of Bantham will be there!

AND WHILE on the subject of that sort of thing, I'm sorry to see that the public footpath to the Longstone across the golf course is to be the subject of yet another public inquiry (at the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5). I'm sorry because it seems to me an awful waste of public money as it only concerns a few yards at the Western end of this public path.

It seems that there are two objectors to Inspector J.N. Holden's modification of a year ago, which sent just the end of the path to the south of the gorse patch and then on to the coastal path by the Longstone. Now the same Inspector will hold another public inquiry to see if the path should go northabout the gorse patch. Here we go round the gorse patch, the gorse patch, the gorse patch...

THE HUGE SUCCESS of the "Raise the Roof" concert shows just how much local residents can club together in a good cause and enjoy themselves at the same time. Now I hear that a repeat

VILLAGER CONTINUED:

of "Raise the Roof" (an odd title for an event aimed at raising money for the Church organ?) is planned for next year, probably in the Thurlestone Hotel.

That's great, but I'd also like to see something similar to this year's show staged at the end of the summer to mark the Harvest Festival - a proper Harvest Supper in fact in the Parish Hall. There'd be little to change from the "Raise the Roof" format - the cider, beer and pasties could stay for a start. And if Philip and Didi King, John Delve and Reg Chapman would once again provide the entertainment then you'd have a proper Harvest Supper just like the good old days. And a proper job that'd be, me 'andsomes!

IF YOU, like me, are venerable and wise, and can remember the time when to be gay meant merely light-hearted, then you are going to be asked a lot of questions about what you remember of life herabouts in days gone by.

For the W.I. are at it again. Not content with producing the successful "Devon Village Book" a year or two ago, the Devon Federation of W.I.'s are now aiming to put together another book to be called "Within Living Memory". It is to be one a series covering all the counties. This one of course is the one for Devonshire.

Pat Macdonald is collecting the material from this area and she and her colleagues are in full cry. So stand by to be questioned. The books are divided into sections and include The Home, World of Work, Trades and Crafts, War and Peace, Health and Disease, Food and Drink, Entertainment, Childhood and School-days, Grand Occasions, Celebrations, Travel and Transport, Sports and Pastimes. It is as you can see a wide area to cover, so put your thinking caps on. Period covered is from about 1900 to 1960. Remember the night that.... Ring Pat on 560436.

POSTBAG...EXTRA...POSTBAG EXTRA...POSTBAG...EXTRA...POSTBAG EXTRA...

Dear Sir and Madam,

If human beings want the pleasures of living in an unspoilt (comparatively) area of natural beauty, then dare we suggest they also be prepared to accept the habits of its beautiful natural occupants? After all, they were here long before we arrived on the scene.

They do not have the advantage of being able to read the "Keep Out" notices some of us have around our gardens. Live and let live, and put your dustbins in a secure place!

FOUR BADGER-LOVERS (Names and addresses supplied).

P.S. Thurlestone is a 'clubbable' place. How about forming a Badger-Lovers Society? Answers through the Editors please.

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Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE:

Remember the carol which goes.."and we'll all have figgy pudding.." Well, here's how to make it.

THE Christmas Pudding evolved from a savoury dish, known as "plum pottage". It has been added to and changed over the ages, then in the 17th century figs, ginger and other spices were used.

Good tidings I bring to you and your kin - I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FIGGY PUDDING.

8 ozs dried figs	4 ozs soft brown sugar
4 ozs self-raising flour	2 ozs shelled walnuts, chopped
pinch of salt	$\frac{1}{2}$ teasp ground ginger
4 ozs plain wholewheat flour	2 eggs, beaten
4 ozs margarine	about 2 tablesp. milk
2 tablesp. clear honey	

Soak the figs in cold water overnight, then drain and chop roughly. Sift the self-raising flour and salt into a bowl, then stir in the wholewheat flour. Add the margarine in pieces, then rub into the flour until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, walnuts, figs and ginger, then stir in the eggs and enough milk to give a soft dropping consistency. Put the honey into a well-buttered $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint pudding basin. Spoon the mixture into the basin and cover the top with greased foil. Make a pleat in the top to allow the pudding to rise during steaming. Steam for two hours. Serve immediately, with either plain yoghurt or custard, Cream of course if you want a treat.

Did you know? There is a village called Christmas Pie. One of the smallest hamlets in Great Britain. It acquired its name because of the shape of the spring standpost on the village green, which was pie shaped. WHERE IS IT? Send your answer to KATE'S KITCHEN, BURWOOD, THURLESTONE, KINGSBRIDGE, DEVON TQ7 3LZ or call. First to be opened on the 18th December 1992 will win a dozen fresh mince pies.

H.R. ADAMS

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PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

Clueless Crossword

Each number represents a letter. E.g. 1 is P, 2 is A, and 3 is T. Insert these letters where their numbers appear. Identify other numbers and their letters. Each letter of the alphabet is used. When completed the top and bottom line of the grid will spell out a seasonal greeting.

2	31	15	7	7	22	17	25	7	10	13	3	21	2	13
20		14		15		7		15		10		10		3
2	26	15	7	2	24	15		4	2	6	17	2	3	15
23		17		18		1		15		15		12		6
15	19	3	7	15	21	15		7	15	9	15	20	2	6
9				7			6			17				2
13	17	2	9	13		1	15	3		15	21	16	15	7
	2		15		17	2	7	12	6		12		7	
16	7	10	15	4		3	7	22		7	12	22	2	6
12				7			22			2				2
9	2	3	3	15	7	13		15	7	10	13	3	10	17
2		2		15		20		2		9		25		11
9	15	21	15	13	10	2		3	2	16	6	15	2	5
8		15		10		21		15		12		21		15
2	9	18	25	2	1	1	22	9	15	20	22	15	2	7

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

Answers on a following page.

POSTBAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITORS,

"RAISE THE ROOF"

May I take this opportunity of thanking all those who supported our concert in aid of the Church Organ Fund. I am very sorry that many were disappointed at not being able to get tickets, though of course delighted that the tickets all went so quickly! We were sold out 12 days before the Show.

I think I am safe in saying that the evening was a great success, and a great treat for Thurlestone. For this I have to thank first and foremost Didi and Philip King for agreeing to put on the concert and for all the time they gave beforehand in the organisation, rehearsals etc. Also very grateful thanks to Alan and Leonie Thomas who, as complete strangers to me and the Village, came all the way from Brighton to take part.

It was good to see and hear John Delve - or should I say Jan Stewer? - again, and to him and Reg Chapman our very sincere thanks also.

The evening raised £450.50, plus a very kind donation of £50.

JOAN GALLOWAY, Thurlestone.

DEAR EDITORS,

These six maxims were on the wall of King George V's study in Buckingham Palace. I have them printed in a small frame and thought your readers might like to see them. So here they are:

TEACH me to be obedient to the rules of the Game.

TEACH me to Distinguish between Sentiment and Sentimentality admiring the one and despising the other.

TEACH me neither to proffer nor to receive cheap praise. IF I am called upon to suffer let me be like a well-bred beast that goes away to suffer in silence.

TEACH me to win if I may, if I may not win, then above all teach me to be a good loser.

TEACH me neither to cry for the Moon nor over spilt milk.

DOROTHY M.M.COLE, West Buckland.

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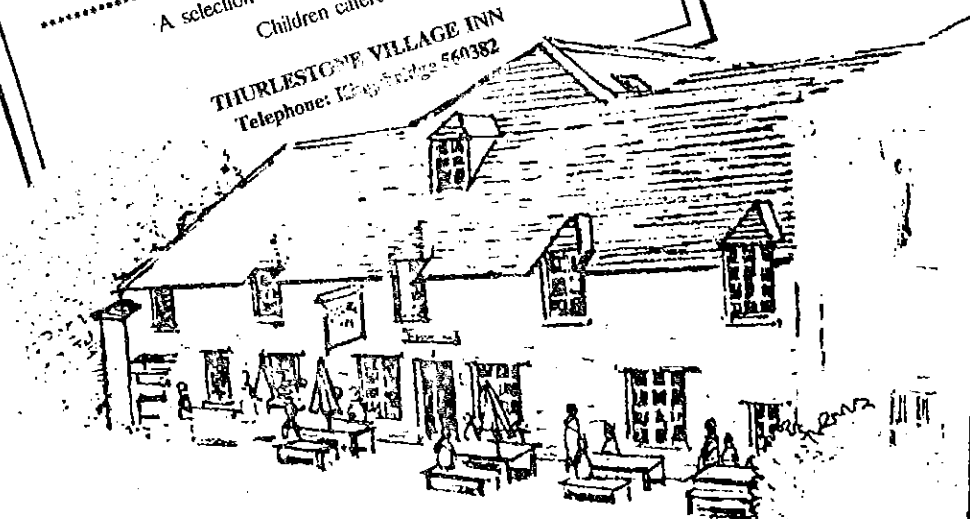
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SHORT STORY...

One of Britain's most famous short story writers has kindly given his permission for Village Voice to print one of his stories in each of the next six issues. At his request his real name is being withheld and the stories will appear under the pen-name of KEN HARDY, but some of our readers will no doubt soon guess the author's real identity.

And here is the first in our new series



SANCTUARY

by
Ken Hardy

THE BOY crept through the dark, sleeping house. He shivered slightly as he opened the back door and stepped into the garden. The grass was cold and wet with dew beneath his bare feet. At the bottom of the garden under the overhanging trees, the river looked dark and cold although the sun had risen. Once away from the house, the boy threw off the furtive look of his exit and approached the water almost eagerly. The hollow plop of his dive sounded muffled by the mist that still remained over the water. In almost complete silence the boy swam slowly, and the current slid him on his way downstream.

A mile farther down, a small rocky islet split the current in two. Trees had somehow grown amongst the moss-covered rocks and hung over the water, making a green wall around its tiny shores. Inside this curtain of leaves, sunning herself and her young on a rock, lay a female otter. For years she had raised her young on this islet, returning year after year when she knew her time was near.

Once, because of heavy floods and strong currents, she had nearly failed to reach it in time, but something drove her on until, hardly able to move, she had dragged herself and her heavy body into the small hole that had been her sanctuary for so long.

VILLAGE VOICE SHORT STORY CONTINUES:

Since then the islet had come to mean complete safety for her. In peace, with her mate lying on a nearby rock cleaning himself carefully, she lazed in the sun while her cubs played around on the miniature shore. The scent of man came to them on the morning breeze and the dog sniffed curiously. Neither moved and, as the scent grew stronger, seemed to almost be waiting.

The boy drifted down onto the small island and drew himself quietly out of the water. His brown body gleamed as he pushed through the curtain of leaves which surrounded the islet. The boy moved slowly forward and lay down softly in a patch of sunlight near the otters. The cubs played around him, the female still lazed on her rock and her mate took one look and, as if satisfied, went on with his toilet.

The boy's heart almost turned a somersault in delight. He had never been allowed as near the cubs as this before, and he slowly stretched out a hand to stroke one of them. To his surprise and delight there was no warning sound from their mother, and he stroked the tiny creatures, who promptly formed a new game around his hand.

The boy had for years gone as close to the otters as they would allow and each year had been allowed a little closer. Last year they had let him on the islet for the first time without diving out of sight. Soon he had come to know the exact time to get to the sanctuary to see the cubs, who he thought were nicer than their parents.

An hour or two later the boy pushed his way out of the trees and slipped into the water. He swam slowly out of sight up the river. The sun grew hot and the otters drew back into the hole, which served as the cubs' nursery.

Next morning the boy came again, but this time swimming swiftly and apparently heedless of the noise he made. Away in the distance the barking of dogs could be plainly heard. The otters could be, and were uneasy and kept away from him as he reached the island. The female of the pair had heard dogs in a pack and knew what it meant. She led her cubs into the hole that led to safety and did not reappear. The dog otter sat still at first and then moved restlessly up and down along the shore. The yelping and barking came closer and closer and finally stopped on the bank opposite the island.

The boy, peering out from the trees, could see the dogs running to and fro on the band of mud at the foot of the bank. Soon the men appeared among the trees on both banks carrying long poles with iron tips.

A tall red-faced man started to urge the dogs into the water and to give instructions to his men. The boy stepped out from the trees and shouted to the tall man.

VILLAGE VOICE SHORT STORY CONCLUDES:

"Father!"

"David! What are you doing there?"

"Helping you, Father."

Out of the corner of his eye, the boy saw the dog otter slip into the water.

The red-faced man was shouting again

"David, have you seen the otters, they're round here somewhere?"

"They went down river a few minutes ago, Father"

The hounds moved off down-stream and very soon the outburst of excited barking told that they had found the scent of the dog otter who had a good start and was swimming strongly for the estuary. The cries soon died away in the distance, and all was quiet again on the islet and the banks.

A long time passed and the boy sat on a rock with his gaze fixed on the entrance to the otters' hole. Time seemed to go very slowly, and doubts came to the boy. Perhaps there was a back exit to the otters' nursery and she had slipped out of it with her cubs. That would mean he had set the dogs right on to the scent of the mother, hampered and slowed down by her young. There had been a great deal of barking. Maybe that had happened.

However, the mother and her cubs appeared and set his mind at ease. She seemed restless, as the male had seemed before he left, and moved towards the water and then returned time and time again. The young otters were delighted to be out again after hiding away and played happily as before. Their mother had none of their light-heartedness and grew more and more restless as the afternoon wore away. The boy seemed to catch her mood and began to feel miserable.

Several hours later, a very tired and bedraggled dog otter dragged himself from the water and lay panting while his mate went nearly frantic with joy.

The boy swam slowly home, smiling to himself and completely happy thinking of the next morning.

PUZZLE CORNER - THE ANSWER:

1:P; 2:A; 3:T; 4:F; 5:U; 6:L; 7:R; 8:Z; 9:N; 10:I; 11:Q;

12:O; 13:S; 14:J; 15:E; 16:B; 17:C; 18:D; 19:X; 20:W; 21:M;

22:Y; 23:K; 24:G; 25:H; 26:V.

THURLESTONE

PROBUS CLUB

Tony Blackler's talk in September was most informative and judging from the questions at the end gave grounds for thought, particularly in the present climate of low interest rates and unstable equities.

The golf meeting was, as usual, a great success with the weather helping to make it an enjoyable occasion. No doubt some members thought they were robbed while others felt it their lucky day - but isn't that so with all sport. The Golf Club looked after us well at lunch with a number of non-playing members joining the hardier types.

In December Eric Wallis, ex-'Met' Inspector, will be talking on 'Coastal Walks'. There will be no meeting in January as the hotel is closed, unless members wish for alternative arrangements to be made. In February, it is hoped that Nathan Prince, a Sub-Mariner, will talk of his experiences in the Navy.

The Ladies Evening was confirmed for February 16.

D.M.Yeoman 560300.

S.O.S..S.O.S..S.O.S..

Joan Galloway would be grateful for any 12oz or 1lb jam jars (with lids if possible) which she needs urgently for her annual marmalade-making spree - proceeds go to the Church (see full page advertisement in this issue). Joan will collect the jars - please ring 560453.

NATIONAL CHILDRENS HOMES.

Another splendid result from the annual coffee morning, writes Pat Townsend, as I was able to send £393.50 to NCH after a very happy morning on October 24th.

May I thank my very loyal helpers and supporters and indeed anyone who gave in any way; without you all it would not be possible.

I should also like to record my thanks to the Parish Hall Committee for making the Parish Hall such a pleasure to use.

The Devon Heritage Coast Service are giving a slide show and talk about their work on Monday, February 1st in the Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.



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

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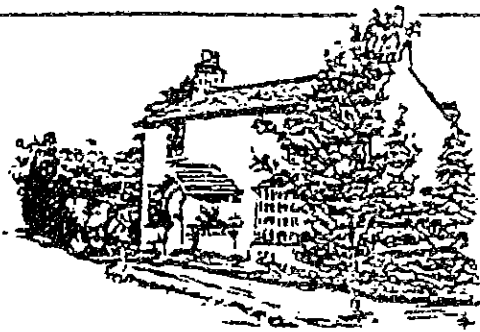
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Drabblemania

and it can be naughty !

Trying to excuse the appalling state of our economy by pointing out that there are 14 million people unemployed in the European Community and economies right across Europe are troublesome doesn't seem to say much for the Community, does it?

+ + + + +

There is no room for sweeping denunciations or trenchant criticisms in dealings of a world whose falsehoods and veracities are separated by so very thin a barrier was said by Bishop Stubbs (1825-1902). It would not seem there has been much change over the past 90 years !

+ + + + +

I read in a Report that family doctors are to be targeted in a national campaign to highlight the plight of victims of brittle bone disease. It aims to cut the annual £640 million bill for direct treatment costs of the 'almost epidemic' osteoporosis which affects more than two million people which currently results in a bone fracture every ten minutes in Britain, or 40 premature deaths daily.

W.M.N.Z 5/10/92

+ + + + +

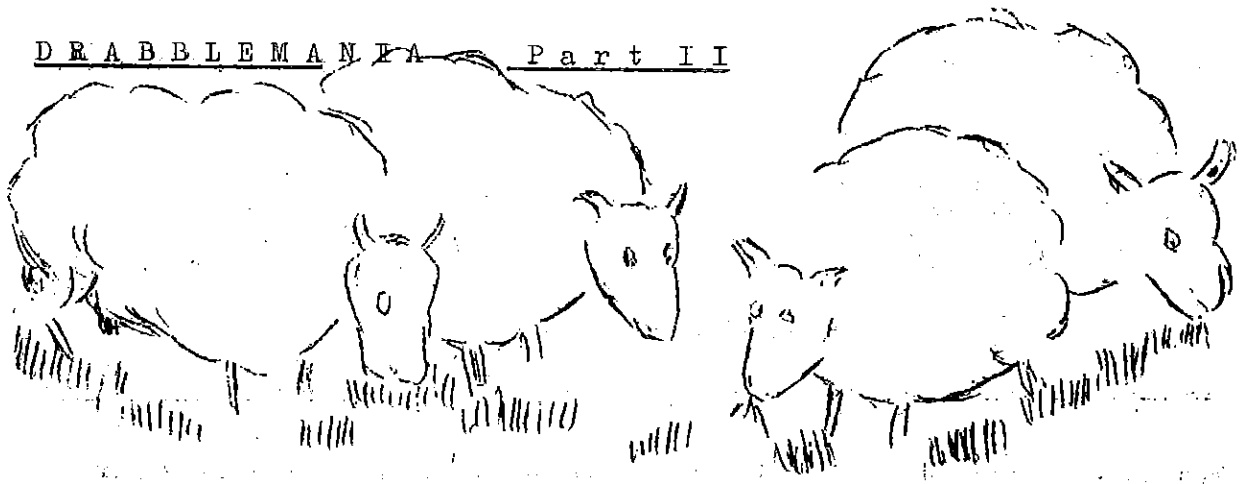
No doctor has yet identified the terminal phase of the sickness the Greeks called 'Nostalgia'. No one dies of it! Almost all of us will die with it ! Those of us who have lived through the appropriate time can be nostalgic over many things. The village where we were born and brought up. By gones can carry us away in reveries about such an endless number of things - a Village Jumble sale can bring back memories of mother with an enormous hat fixed on her hair by two large hat pins, and buttoned up boots. Nostalgia will always be with us as the years creep (rush) by - which means we have been fortunate enough to live long. Who, with advancing years would be without it?

+ + + + +

OMENS IN THE HOME (2). Many housewives believe that it is decidedly unlucky to turn over mattresses on a Friday since this will also turn one's luck awry. In addition, if one examines newly spread sheets on a bed then certain creases will inevitably be found on them; If a diamond shaped crease is apparent then this signifies that the occupant of the bed will soon be undertaking a long journey - while small square shapes in the sheet signify that the occupant of the bed will enjoy a period of good fortune in the very near future.

+ + + + +

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A dimly-seen sweet hawthorn lane
Until sleep came;
I lingered at a gate and talked
A little with a lonely lamb.
He told me of the great still night,
Of calm starlight,
And of the lady moon, who'd stoop
For a kiss sometimes;
Of grass as soft as sleep, of rhymes
The tired flowers sang;
The ageless April tales
Of how, when sheep grew old,
As their faith told,
They went without a pang
To far green fields, where fall
Perpetual streams that call
to deathless nightingales.
And then I saw, hard by,
A shepherd lad with shining eyes,
And round him, gathered one by one
Countless sheep, snow-white;
More and more they crowded
With tender cries,
Till all the field was full
Of voices and of coming sheep.
Countless they came, and I
Watched, until deep
As dream-fields lie
I was asleep.

WILLIAM KERR

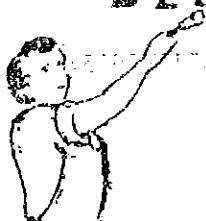
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+ + + + +

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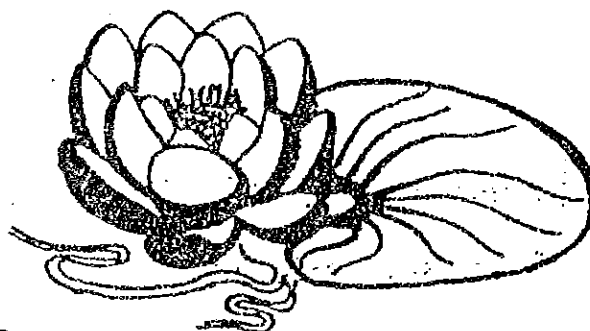
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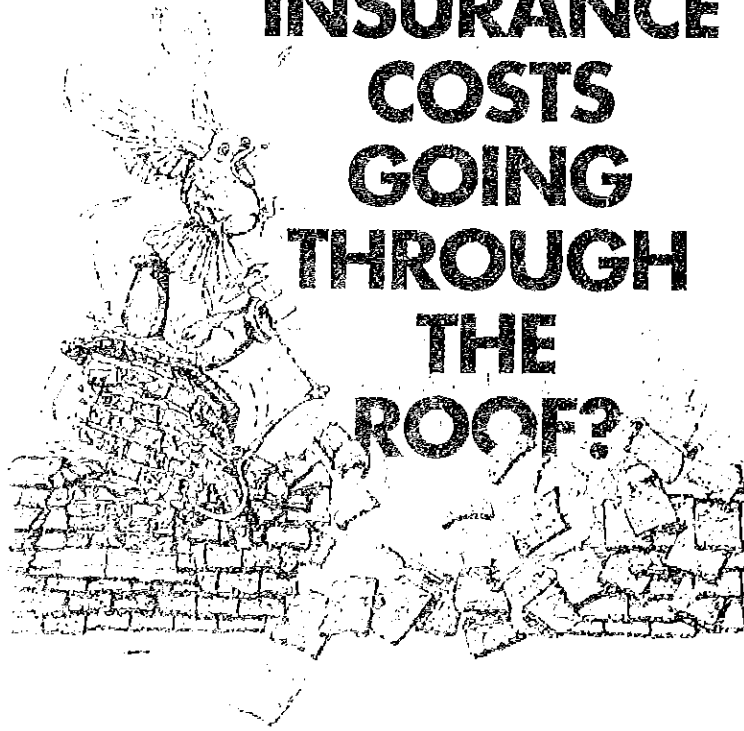
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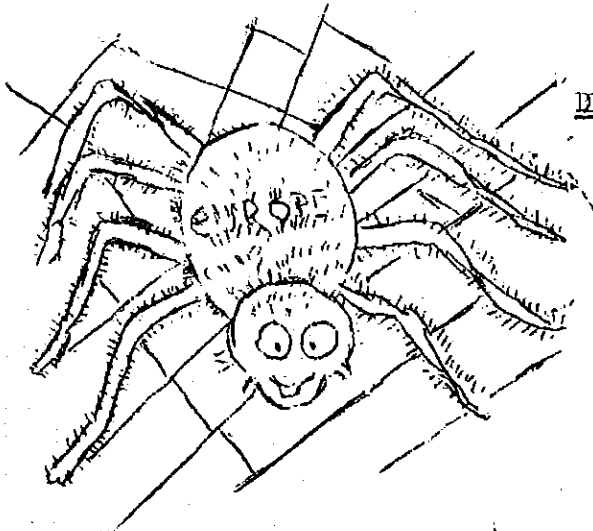
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DRABBLEMANIA Part III

WHY do so many people lack the enthusiasm for our Country joining the European Community? Do they fear the "come into my Parlour theme . . ." would see the ultimate end of British Independence for which we have fought so valiantly over the centuries?

Are all the leaders of our Country no longer possessed of the national pride which has, for so long seen the nation through boom - slump - plague and war ?

+ + + + +

WHEN SOMEONE says 'There'll be the Devil to Pay' , they actually mean that serious trouble lies ahead. This is another saying that originated from a practice connected with seafaring, the correct full version being: 'the devil to pay and no pitch hot'. The 'devil' is the name of the beam between a ship's keel and the first range of planks laid on its bottom. To 'pay' is to cover with pitch. When a ship was laid on its side for repairs, work to stop up (caulk) and pay the seams had to be accomplished before the tide turned, but if no hot pitch was ready for the job and the repairs were not carried out in time, the ship could be caught with its 'devil' exposed, and take in water. The tide would be turning and there was still the 'devil' to pay, so serious trouble lay ahead.

+ + + + +

IN NELSON'S TIME, when His Majesty's ships were in harbour. ladies were allowed to sleep on board. The sailors were required to get up at the usual hour, but the ladies might please themselves. A nice problem of discipline thus arose. A solution was found in the fact that the ladies wore their stockings in bed, while the men slept barefooted. If all the sailors did not appear punctually on deck, it was necessary for the Boatswain to search for defaulters. He went along the bunks calling out "Show a leg! show a leg!". The owner of a bare leg was promptly dealt with; but any leg wearing a stocking was allowed to return where it came from, and doubtless the Boatswain would apologise to the lady in nautical terms. I expect things are a little different nowadays !!!

+ + + + +

May I wish everyone a VERY HAPPY AND CHEERFUL CHRISTMAS . This is the last issue of 1992 and will also be the first issue of 1993 - so a HAPPY NEW YEAR also. I feel rather like Oscar Wilde wrote in 1891 - I don't desire to change anything, in England except the weather !

+ + + + +

I am always very happy to receive items for inclusion in this column ..

January is Marmalade time

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The Rector Writes

"This Christmas give
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Church".

DEAR FRIENDS,

When I last penned a note to you in the Oct/Nov "Voice" I looked forward to the possibility of the General Synod of the Church of England passing legislation which would remove the present barriers, within our church, to the ordination of women to the Priesthood. I also looked forward to having lady Deacons as the Preachers at Thurlestone and South Milton Harvest Festivals. Both those things have now come to pass. Of the latter many have expressed themselves well pleased.

As to the matter of Ordination of women to the Priesthood this, it is anticipated will now come about after the necessary legislation has made its way through both Houses of Parliament and received the Royal Assent.

That legislation in the form of a "Measure" will be sent to Parliament with the overwhelming support of the church! Don't be deceived by the quite accurate statement that the Measure only just scraped through by the narrowest of margins. It is entirely true that in the General Synod, voting by Houses - i.e. House of Bishops, House of Clergy and House of Laity it only hung on two votes in the House of Laity - but, and it is a very important but, that was two votes over the self imposed 2/3rds majority required. The House of Laity therefore carried the motion with a 67.3% majority which in the House of Commons would be considered a very very comfortable majority indeed, as the events of the last few weeks have demonstrated. In the other Houses the majorities were even larger - Clergy over 70%, Bishops 75% - and all that on top of a massive expression of support across the church in the lower Diocesan and Deanery Synods.

Those who have worked hard and prayed hard about this issue - many for twenty years, will feel relieved and satisfied, but not without some feelings of sadness and anxiety for those who no less sincerely and no less conscientiously held the opposite viewpoint. The Church of England has existed for much of its life, stretching back over at least 16 centuries, both in and out of Communion with Rome, with a wide range of accepted beliefs, and practices and it must be the prayer of all of us that the "Cope" of Canterbury will prove sufficiently large and welcoming as to be able to contain those of opposing views even on such an important issue as this undoubtedly is.

THE RECTOR CONTINUES:

That will be possible to a large degree I believe if the same degree of reasoned argument, courtesy and care is accorded those in opposite camps as was so manifest in the debate at Westminster.

Many of us, I know, have expressed the view that we wish our M.P.'s would learn the lesson of courteous debate so well demonstrated at Church House, as the confrontational style in the House of Commons is in danger of bringing the mother of Parliaments into disrepute, to say nothing of Democracy itself. Shouting down the opposition is no substitute for reasoned and logical debate, and I for one was very grateful to the General Synod for giving us such a wonderful example of high level debate.

The necessary voting has now taken place, the legislation will soon be moving along its route towards the Royal Assent and I have no doubt that sooner or later the Church of England will have women priests.

I close with some words of scripture which I believe to be all important. I call them the "Gamaliel Principle" (You can find out why by reading Acts Chap 5, especially verses 38 and 39.)

"If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought, but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God".

This is a wise counsel and should appeal to our nation, for in general we are great pragmatists - "if it works it must be right!" At least now we have the decision. I hope we will be content to leave it in God's hands and await His judgement, which in the end, of course, is the only judgement that matters.

PETER S. STEPHENS.

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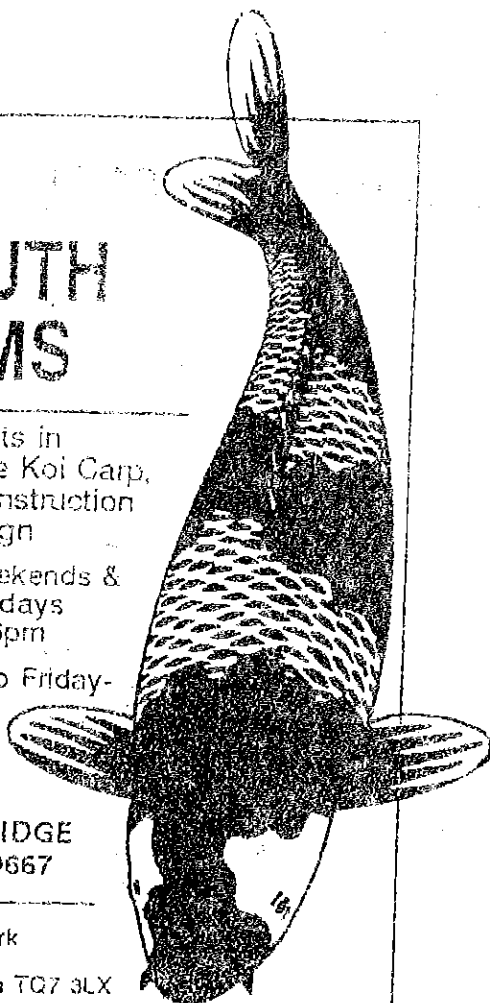
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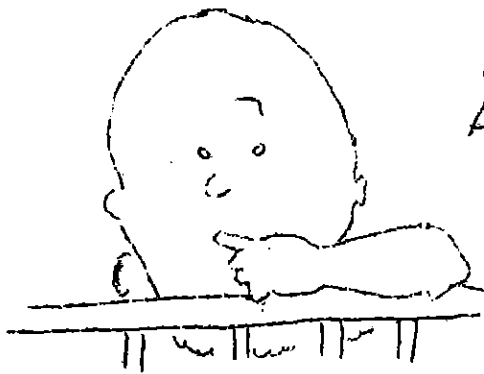
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(Source of this information: 'Calcium how much do you need?' issued by the Nutrition and Education Department, Milk Marketing Board. (1992)

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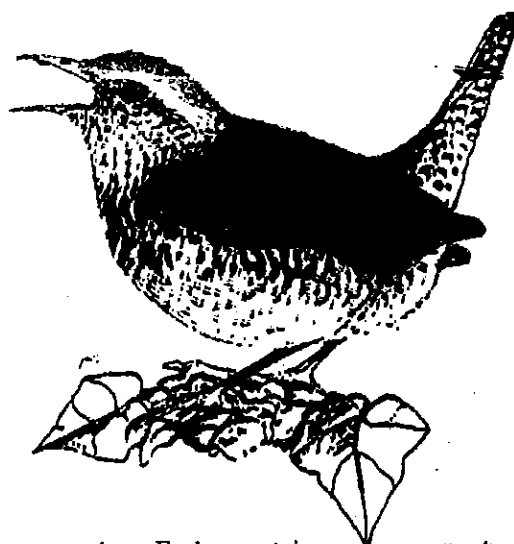
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HARRY HUGGINS



I met a friend in Kingsbridge car park. Exhaustion was not the word for it; how she could drive a car, or even stand up, neither she nor I knew. She and her husband had just come back from an organised birding tour of Israel. That country does not spring at once to mind as a good birding place, but it is. European, Asian, and Africa birds overlap, and just as Egyptians, Hittites, Assyrians, Macedonians and all sorts, biblical and otherwise, stamped backwards and forwards across it, so it is the great flyway for birds migrating from Europe and Asia down the Red Sea into Africa. And back. You tend to think of it all as desert, but it is not. There is a lot of varied habitat and in a fortnight they covered nearly all of it - up at 4am every day to drive on to the next place, birding all the way, arriving at a Kibbutz or somewhere after dark.

One of the party was an American, female, credited with having seen more species than any other living person - 7,166 to date, or close on 90% of the kinds of birds in the world. It hardly bears thinking about. The most dedicated twitcher has not achieved 500 species in the British Isles yet. Our friend Duggie decided to make a Devon list in 1992. I have not heard the outcome yet, but he will have done well to exceed 200. The lady had just come from a tour in South America and was off a day or two later to Madagascar. Tough isn't the word for it! But Joan says she is very sweet, not only sees the birds but knows all about them (what a thing it is to have a mind like a card index, or I suppose we say a computer now) and is helpful to other birders as well, which a good many twitchers are not.

In Israel she was with an organised tour. She does that when she can - it means that travel and stopping places are arranged for her, and there are leaders who know where to find most of the local birds.

But she must twitch by herself sometimes. And she must be better at it than we are. The dream of every twitcher is to find, by himself, a first for the Western Palaearctic. It happens. We have a friend who each year does a week's stint on Lundy. They usually set him to do something soul-destroying like chopping down rhododendrons, a rampant pest. That he does it is proof of his good nature, because I am sure they don't pay him. But he doesn't have to do it from dawn until dusk and for some of the time he can bird. In 1990 he found an Ancient Murrelet, a very small guillemot-like thing which unaccountably had strayed from its proper haunts in the north Pacific. A most surprising first for the Western Palaearctic. But usually a twitcher is going to see a bird about which his friends have told him, or he has heard about on Birdlines (0891-700222) or Birding South West (0891-884500). And of the birds we hear about, we

HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUES:

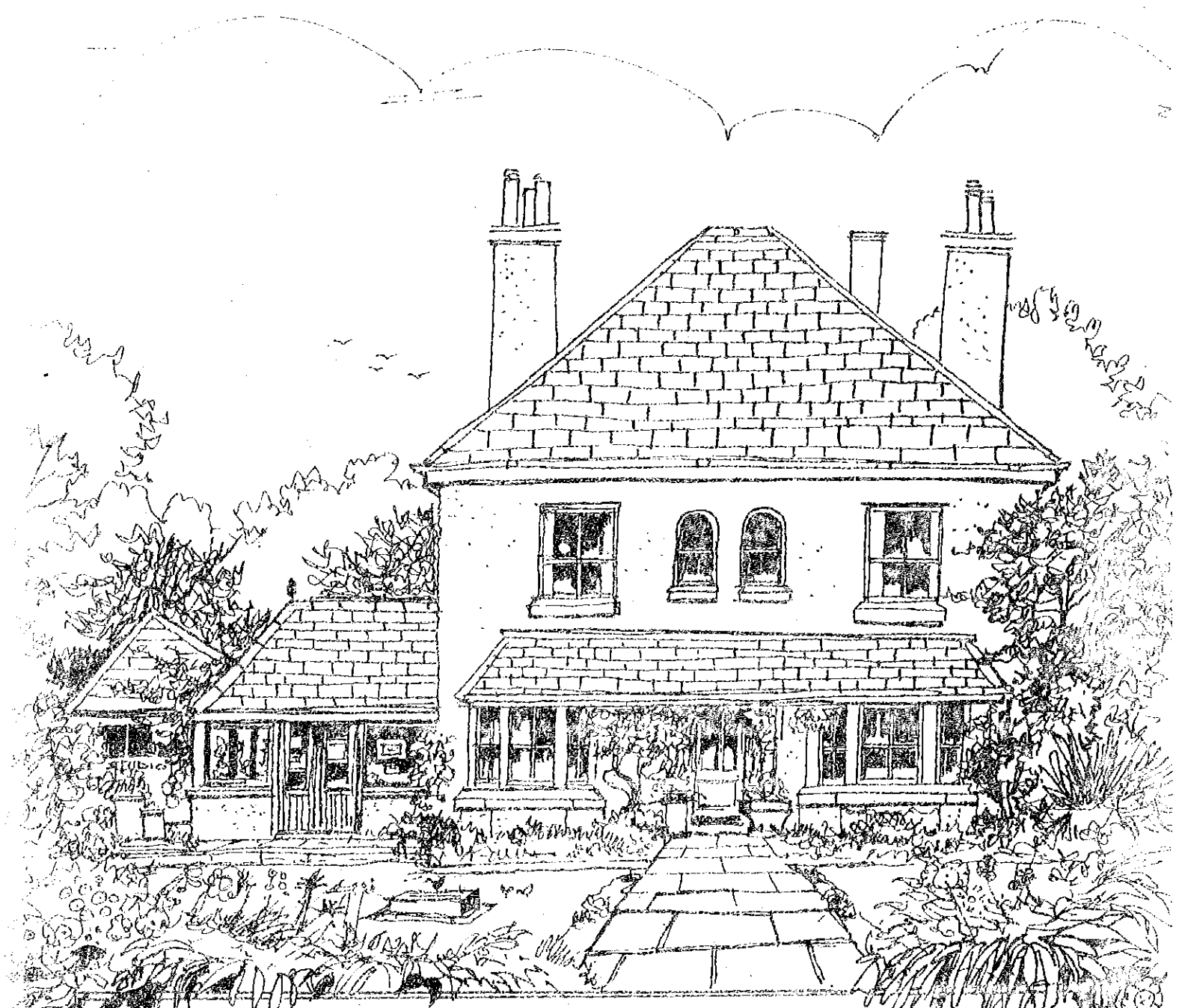
reckon we are lucky if we see one in three - in the case of the other two usually the bird has gone before we get there; sometimes we cannot even find the place. So we confine our twitching to the South Hams, feeling that results of expeditions further afield are too meagre to justify the time, petrol and general frustration.

I should say here there are certain rules to be followed when birding. One, you never stray from public rights of way - roads, footpaths, etc - unless with the permission of the landowner. Two, you never ever beat bushes to drive birds out. Some twitchers do these things, and get us all a bad name, just as some footballers do things - "bringing the game into disrepute" they seem to call that. And golfers; you can make out a case that they are the most anti-social of the lot. Not for what they do on the course, what they inflict on one another there is a matter for them and no one else. The antisocial bit is the spray of lethal projectiles they hit out of the course. Standing by Farmer Stidston's gate and looking inland for birds we have seen any number of golf balls winking at us from beyond where they put the pipe that takes our muck to Milton; the other day there was one on Leasfoot Beach, just above low water mark.

Having said all this, harass a rare bird is exactly what my wife did, late last September. Though not intentionally. She and Lisa dog were gardening. Lisa was bored and to entertain her my wife thrashed some shrubs in the hope of driving out a rabbit which Lisa would then chase in her futile fashion; she enjoys this and neither the rabbit nor anyone else come to any particular harm. But this time out shot not a rabbit but a little brown bird. Lisa sprang after it, but stopped as soon as she realised it was no rabbit. It was a Wryneck, a small brown woodpecker, maybe a bit bigger than a sparrow. They used to breed over most of England and were known as the Cuckoo's Mate because they arrived from Africa each year at about the same time as Cuckoos do. But none breeds now in England (we cannot blame farmers for that, their decline began long before herbicides and pesticides were invented); we see them now just as very rare passage migrants, there are usually one or two around these parts each September and they cause a great stir among birders.

Like many birds, Wrynecks have favourite and traditional stopping places. One is the area of the tennis courts and the first few gardens in Ilbert Road. If around September the good folks who live there see me peering over the hedge, I am not looking to see what they are having for breakfast; not am I trying to watch the ladies of the household sunbathing. I am looking for Wrynecks. Foggy, rainy weather is best. That makes them delay departure overseas until it clears.

Next afternoon the phone rang - a friend at Aveton Gifford to say her husband had seen an American wader in the river, he had gone off to look at it again and would we come to see if we knew what it was. So it was leave everything and dash to the tidal road. As we



Len and Kate Hubbard
invite you to come and browse
at

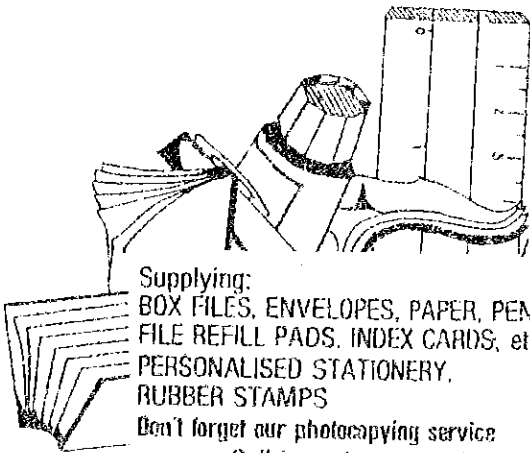
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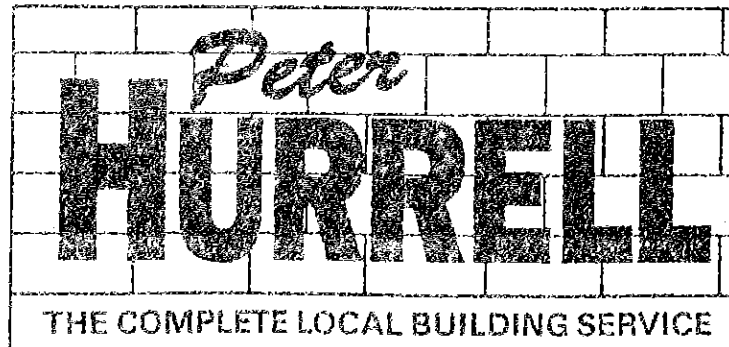
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HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUES:

drove along my wife saw something unusual standing on a stone in the river. We could not stop, cars milling in all directions, it was like the M 25, the first fine Sunday after about six wet ones, but when we got to the car park at the Bigbury end we got out and looked back through the telescope. The bird was still on its stone, about Redshank size, but paler. Its legs were longer than a Red-shank's would be, and they were bright yellow - a Lesser Yellowlegs, from America. We had seen one in almost the same place eleven years before. We went back with the camera to get nearer but it went and we never saw it again.

So back to the car park to commiserate with ourselves and hope it might reappear. Looking across the river my wife perceived something like a Dunlin, which is the commonest small sandpiper we see- you can find them in hundreds by the quay at Kingsbridge sometimes. But this was bigger than a Dunlin, and through the telescope we could see a pattern on its back like a Snipe would have. It had a dark bib, ending abruptly on its breast where the light underparts began. Its legs were not black, like a Dunlin's, but a greeny khaki colour. A Pectoral Sandpiper, also from America. To our joy, while we were watching a father and son from Bigbury came driving by. Father is a very keen birder, son is a fanatic. We dragged them from their car and son, who had seen Pectoral Sandpipers before confirmed our identification. So back then to our friend in the village to enquire which bird he wanted us to look at, the tall one with the yellow legs or the short one with khaki legs. He had not seen the Yellowlegs, but had found the Pectoral Sandpiper; of course he knew perfectly well what it was but he would not tell us in advance, wanting us to go to it with open minds.

The Lesser Yellowlegs was reputed to have been here at Thurlestone next day, somewhere in Geoffrey Stidston's swamp. We saw birders looking from the road and we stood for ages in pouring rain at the bottom of the Mead but failed to find it. The Pectoral Sandpiper was still there a couple of days later, looking like a different bird, for whereas on the first occasion it was tired, hunched up and depressed, by now it had rested and fed; it was scampering about so fast we had trouble in keeping the telescope focussed on it. When we went again it had gone.

We wonder how these two waders got to Aveton Gifford. They must have flown from America. It seems unlikely that they came together. But there was one of each species on the Isles of Scilly a month or so before, not on the same island, nor at the same time. Those birds might have flown on to us. Or Aveton Gifford might have been first landfall for our birds. Yellowlegs breeds over much of Canada and Alaska and winters in South America. Pectoral Sandpiper nests in the high arctic, on the northernmost land there is, and winters likewise in South America. Some of the birds migrating south get caught up in Atlantic depressions. In the few days before we saw our birds there was a stream of depressions in

HARRY HUGGINS CONCLUDED:

the north Atlantic - the weather maps showed two at a time for two or three days. Now in the southern sector of such a depression the wind blows west to east at up to 80 miles an hour in the open ocean. A bird flies downwind if it can; these waders, with their long sickle-shaped wings would fly at 30/40 miles an hour, maybe more. So with a ground speed of well over 100 miles an hour, riding one depression until they overtook the one in front and then riding that, they would be across the Atlantic in not much over 24 hours, well within their capabilities. So perhaps when we saw them they had just arrived in Britain. We will never know.

We still had excitement to come.

Only a few days later we were sitting in our car on Bolberry Down, drinking coffee. Normally you park facing the sea. Not us, we park looking inland, hoping to see birds flying about over the big stretch of set aside farmland near the Decca aerials. Drifting towards us from inland we saw a big brown bird. Buzzard, no, its wings were too long and narrow. Harrier, no; its tail was too short and it did not have a yellow head as a female or juvenile Marsh Harrier ought to have. Nor did it have a white rump, so it could not have been a female or immature Hen or Montagu's Harrier. Not more than 30 feet above the car it turned into the east wind and looked down at us. It was just plainish brown, without any distinguishing pattern. It held its tail spread for much of the time, and that looked as though it had been chopped straight across at the end - when closed it was slightly forked. A Kite, yes, but not the rare Red one, which breeds sparsely in Wales, and which they hope will one day nest again in Devon. No, a Black Kite, far, far rarer. We have heard tell there is one pair breeding at a secret place in Britain. Otherwise it is a bird of warmer climates - look around the rubbish dumps! They do see them here occasionally, but they never stop in one place so the twitchers cannot catch up on them. This was the first time we had been lucky in this country. It drifted down the cliffs and out to sea going south; we watched it until we lost it in the mist.

When we got home the phone rang. "We have been trying to get you all day, there is a Greenish Warbler at Bolt Head". "Oh, sorry, we have been at Bolberry Down, watching a Black Kite" Gulp at the other end of the phone!

We went next day for the Greenish Warbler, a Chiffchaff like thing from the Baltic and places east. But we had not found it for ourselves and we did not find it then. Our usual twitching luck had returned and our purple patch was over.

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..

The Christmas decorations for the Parish Hall have all been made by the members of the RISING GENERATION.

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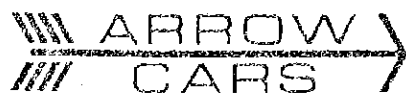
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Neville OSWALD reports



When I WAS VERY YOUNG, I regularly walked in a School crocodile to Sunday morning prayer at St. Sidwell's church in Exeter. I remember little of the services but will never forget the hot summer days when one or more of us usually fainted during the service. Recently, I went back to see the church I knew so well and found that it had been gutted by the German air force in World War II. The interior has been rebuilt in what I suppose is an 'open plan', similar to St. Andrews in Plymouth, with plenty of seats but not very much character.

Who was St. Sidwell? Her name first appears in records in the 11th century when she was buried outside Exeter, 'a gentle virgin who though innocent was killed by her father's hired men, but Almighty God afterwards showed many miracles at her tomb.' Both her tomb and a nearby well (named after her) were regularly visited in the following centuries by pilgrims seeking cures for their ills. Her likeness can now be seen in 20 church screens and windows in Devon and Cornwall.

These Celtic saints are a bit of a problem. Their names keep cropping up in various parts of Devon. When a church is dedicated to one of them, it is often hard to find out when the dedication took place and, indeed, whether the saint ever visited the place. These difficulties have now been reviewed by Professor Nicholas Orme of Exeter University in his book entitled Nicholas Rosecarrock's lives of the saints in Devon and Cornwall. (Rosecarrock was a Cornishman, born in about 1550, who wrote a detailed account of British saints on the evidence that existed in his time). Difficulties remain, but the saints have an historical value in telling us something about Celtic Christianity in Devon.

The thought of itinerant missionaries wandering along the lanes and byways of Devon for a thousand years surely stirs the imagination. They came mainly from Brittany, Wales and Ireland and had become part of the local scene by about the year 500 AD. They meditated in their primitive oratories and started to build little monastic establishments, but none could equal the community at Tintagel in Cornwall which flourished between about 500 and 800 AD. Some who ventured inland will have seen Exeter (Isca) on a hill with its Roman walls; others may have met priests coming down from the Celtic monastery at Glastonbury. Most of them tended to explore the estuaries, especially in North Devon around Bideford and Hartland. In the south, they entered the Dart and founded an isolated church on the rocks at the entrance; they went on past the Start to

NEVILLE OSWALD CONTINUED:

raise a chapel on the headland at Prawle. What they thought of Thurlestone may be imagined; as late as 1086, when William the Conqueror organised the Domesday Book, it comprised no more than a few scattered farms and they had been ravaged by marauding Irishmen shortly before.

Churches dedicated to Celtic saints hereabouts are few in number, far less than in Cornwall. Perhaps the best known is St. Petroc's within the precinct of Dartmouth Castle where a religious foundation, perhaps a monastery at first, has existed at least since 1192. Petroc was probably the son of a Welsh king who renounced the throne on his father's death and assumed a religious life along with 60 noble retainers. He spent most of his life in Cornwall, where he eventually became one of its best known saints, and had a dozen churches in Devon dedicated to him, including Dartmouth and South Brent.

Winwaloe is another saint with a local connection. He was born in Brittany in about 800 AD, the son of a nobleman, and was given to St. Budoc to be brought up as a monk. Budoc was the son of a Breton princess who was falsely accused of infidelity and cast into the sea in a barrel in which her son was born before the barrel was washed ashore in Ireland. Budoc became a priest and, later, archbishop of Ireland before returning to Brittany as head of a monastery. Winwaloe prospered under his care, becoming a monk and miracle worker. Some 50 churches and chapels were dedicated to him in Brittany, together with half a dozen in Cornwall. In Devon, he is still remembered as the patron of East Portlemouth.

Rosecarrock describes in detail, in so far as it is possible to do so, the lives of some hundred saints who had connections with Devon and Cornwall.

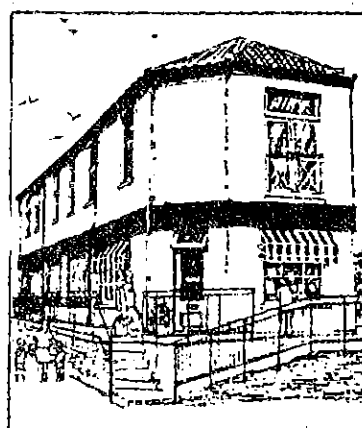
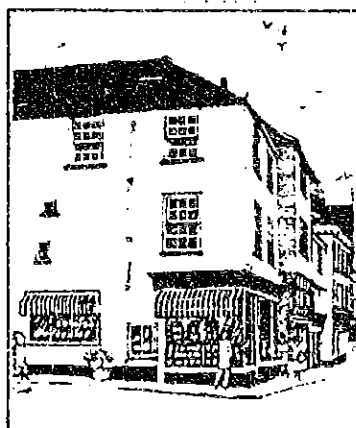
Some were of royal or noble birth, but most have left no trace of their origins. For the most part, they led uneventful lives; occasionally, perhaps aided by the passage of time, their stories verged on the fanciful. For example, a legend developed in the 11th century to the effect that St. Ursula, daughter of a king in Britain, set off with 10 other noble ladies in eleven ships, each containing a thousand virgins. They sailed to Cologne, went on a pilgrimage to Rome and then returned to Cologne where they were martyred by the pagan Huns. Subsequently, the feast of the Eleven Thousand Virgins was widely observed on October 21 in churches, including the cathedral in Exeter where in addition a chapel, a guild and a hospital were dedicated to them. Rosecarrock' embraced the legend devotedly.'

These rather nebulous figures from the past give some substance, however incomplete, to the way Christianity was brought to the south-west. Rosecarrock spent many years trying to separate fact from fancy. He knew that some unworthy people had started cults within the church, whilst others had invented 'saints'. These he dismissed, recognising only reputable saints who had been officially canonised or who had for long had churches dedicated to them. He affirmed the supremacy of faith over reason in religion and the importance of saints as examples of faith. As such, they deserve to be honoured.

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LOCAL NEWS FROM THE WI.

WE DON'T MEET in August, so when September comes there is a lot of catching up to do!

The visit to Blundells School at Tiverton for the county's "Summer Celebration" had been enjoyable. Congratulations were given to Veronica White who had been elected to the Plymouth and District Community Health Council. She would be a very useful contact, as the National Federation were currently looking into the concern women were expressing about mixed sex hospital wards, and people who wished to complain are being directed to their local C.H.C. representative. No members at Thurlestone WI appeared to be unduly worried about the prospect of sharing a hospital ward with a member of the opposite sex but, if they are, they now know to whom to talk! Alice Foster was also congratulated on her flower arranging successes at the Kingsbridge Show. The village school was pleased with the £30 donation to their carpet fund.

Members had enjoyed visiting Morwellham Quay in company with Cornish members, and the coffee morning to raise funds for staging the large Area Home Economics exhibition at Malborough next year netted £78.

The series of three first aid classes (sponsored by Thurlestone WI) which concentrated on cardiac resuscitation, had been well attended, well tutored by St. John Ambulance, and very informative.

Alex Sawyer told fellow WI members how she 'paints' her flower pictures. They are not done with brushes and pigments but with needles and silks. She told an absorbing story of how she started her hobby and the techniques she uses - first sketching the live flower, transferring the drawing onto fabric (usually silk) building up the subject by using the finest of silk threads, into a magnificent finished masterpiece.

The October meeting was soon upon us, and this gave us the opportunity of hearing another excellent speaker - Ruth Murray, the expert on, and champion of, badgers. When she and her husband came to farm in Devon some 30 years ago, knowing nothing about 'badger digs' she attended a local one purely out of curiosity. She came away feeling very unhappy with what she had seen. That was the start of a continuing crusade to try to put an end to the cruelty to which many of these animals are subjected to by man. She has become well known nationally for her devotion to badgers and now runs a shelter specifically for them at her home on Dartmoor.

Pat Macdonald.

Police Voice

In previous issues I have been telling you all that it was likely I would be going to another Policing area in the near future. Well by the time you read this I will have been at Crownhill Police Station in Plymouth for six weeks - with the rank of Sergeant.

Obviously I am delighted that the Chief Constable has promoted me, however I am very sad to have left Kingsbridge and in particular responsibility for the beautiful villages of Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantham.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you ALL for the kindness and enthusiasm you have shown me over the past 6½ years and, specifically, I would like to thank those of you involved with the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes for the boundless energy you have put into the successful running of the schemes. Also to the members of the Parish Council for their help and support.

At the time of writing no one has been nominated for the the responsibility of policing your Parish. WPC Sally Strickland has now been given the mandate for Aveton Gifford and Loddiswell. I sincerely hope someone is appointed soon and continues the good liaison I had with you.

With best wishes to you all and again thank you.

Paul Shepherd
October 1992

THURLESTONE AND SOUTH MILTON

SHOW NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting held in the Committee Room of South Milton Village Hall on 16th October 1992 the following were elected to the Committee:

President:	R D White
Vice Presidents:	Dr N Oswald Mrs P Macdonald
Chairman:	B Horn
Vice Chairman:	D Coward
Hon Secretary:	Mrs V P White
Hon Treasurer:	A Amess
Committee:	Messrs T Church L Hubbard E G White D Yeoman Miss E Snowden

In his report the Chairman gave special thanks to the Editorial Staff of Village Voice for their help and cooperation throughout the year, and to residents who worked behind the scenes on Show Day.

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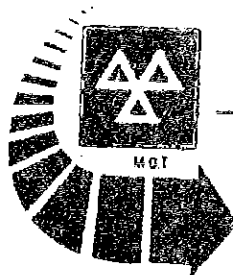
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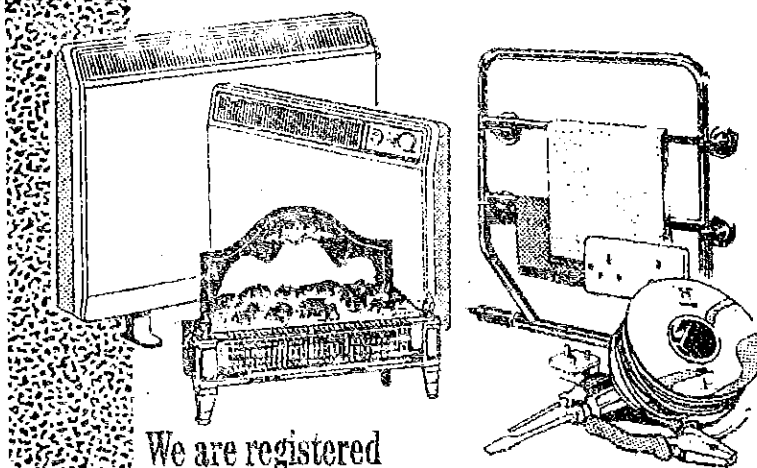


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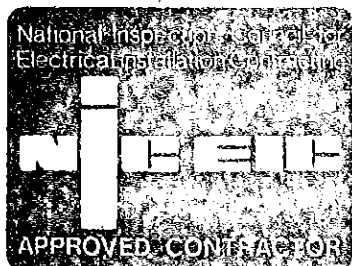


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HEAT

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The Meeting remembered with sadness, Mr Jack Thomas, who died in September. He had been a founder member of the Society in 1979.

The Treasurer, in presenting his report, endorsed the balance of £364.77p as satisfactory. However, with ever increasing administrative costs (Insurance alone now exceeds £100 per annum) the A G M overturned the decision made at the Post Show Meeting and decided to hold a Jumble Sale in 1993 after all. This event, as always, will be organised by the expert, Mrs Pat Macdonald, and further details will be forthcoming in a future edition.

The Committee have finally agreed, after much deliberation and albeit very reluctantly, to take action on what YOU, the members, we think, have been trying to tell us for the past few years. And that is to cancel Section G - The Flower Arrangements.

The crunch came this year when there were no entries in two Classes and only six entries were received for the other three Classes and we felt obliged to ask the Judge if she was prepared to judge so few exhibits.

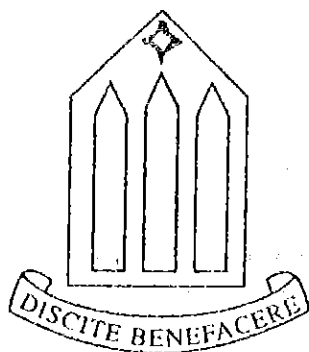
We don't think the steady fall in the number of entries is due to the difficult growing conditions in recent years, or to the increased number of opportunities to enter other competitions. After each Show we receive comments ranging from 'boring' and 'uninspiring' through to 'too ambitious'. Being a small Show we are unable to offer the variety of Classes necessary to cater for all standards of Flower Arranging.

We think we have got the message right: that you are trying to tell us to axe Section G. But if we have got it wrong PLEASE TELL US. But remember, if you convince us we have read you wrong, we will need proof at the Show on 7th August 1993.

After the last Show a South Milton member asked if it would be possible to receive advance notice of the Handicraft Classes (Section F) to enable exhibitors to prepare their entries. In future the details will appear in the February issue of Village Voice.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and productive New Year!

Greenfly
November 1992



ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

IT IS AT this time of year that teachers begin to plot their own demise; for now that half term is over, now that we have drifted elegantly through the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", the real frenzy begins. We approach Christmas with its plays, parties, concerts, services and general multi-coloured mayhem. From now on until mid-December, primary school teachers all over the country will be straining every sinew to marry the demands of the National Curriculum with the message of the angels. We, of course, will be no exception and have a full programme of activities and all those in the local community are welcome to come to our carol service at Thurlestone Church and to our concert. Full details will be given nearer the date. As a church school, we are conscious of the way Christmas has become debased into an almost totally secular event, yet it is the idea of celebration that enables us to lift Christmas from the levels of pure self-indulgence. So that when we sing and paint, act and wear fancy hats, we do so not merely to satisfy our own whims, but as a celebration of a unique event in time and space. And never far from our thoughts (for the greatest celebration has reflective moments) are those for whom Christmas will be a time of isolation, poverty or melancholy. This places a very real moral burden on the part of the school; to enrich the child's sense of joy in the celebration of Christmas whilst also helping him or her to understand why some people may not be celebrating.

During September we took some younger children (some as young as six) on a residential trip to the Start Bay Centre in Slapton. They spent two nights away from home in unfamiliar surroundings (though one or two had visited the centre before) and although the children were given tasks to do both during the trip and after their return to school, the real purpose of the weekend - and its most enduring feature - was as a social experience. Although some of the children may have been considered rather young for such an experience, as an exercise in co-operation and good-will between children, it was one of the most successful events in the school calendar. Next year, during June, a more ambitious scheme will take place. We are currently planning a residential week at a youth hostel in Dolgellau, N. Wales; this will be for children aged 9-11 and, as far as I can discover, it is the first of its kind from Thurlestone. Since this will be during school time, the children will be expected to produce a detailed folder of work during their time away and parents will have an opportunity to view their children's work but, as with the weekend trip to Slapton, the real benefits of the experience will be the way in which the trip shapes hearts, minds and attitudes.

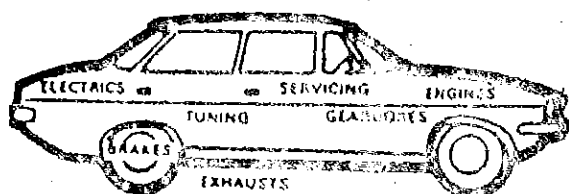
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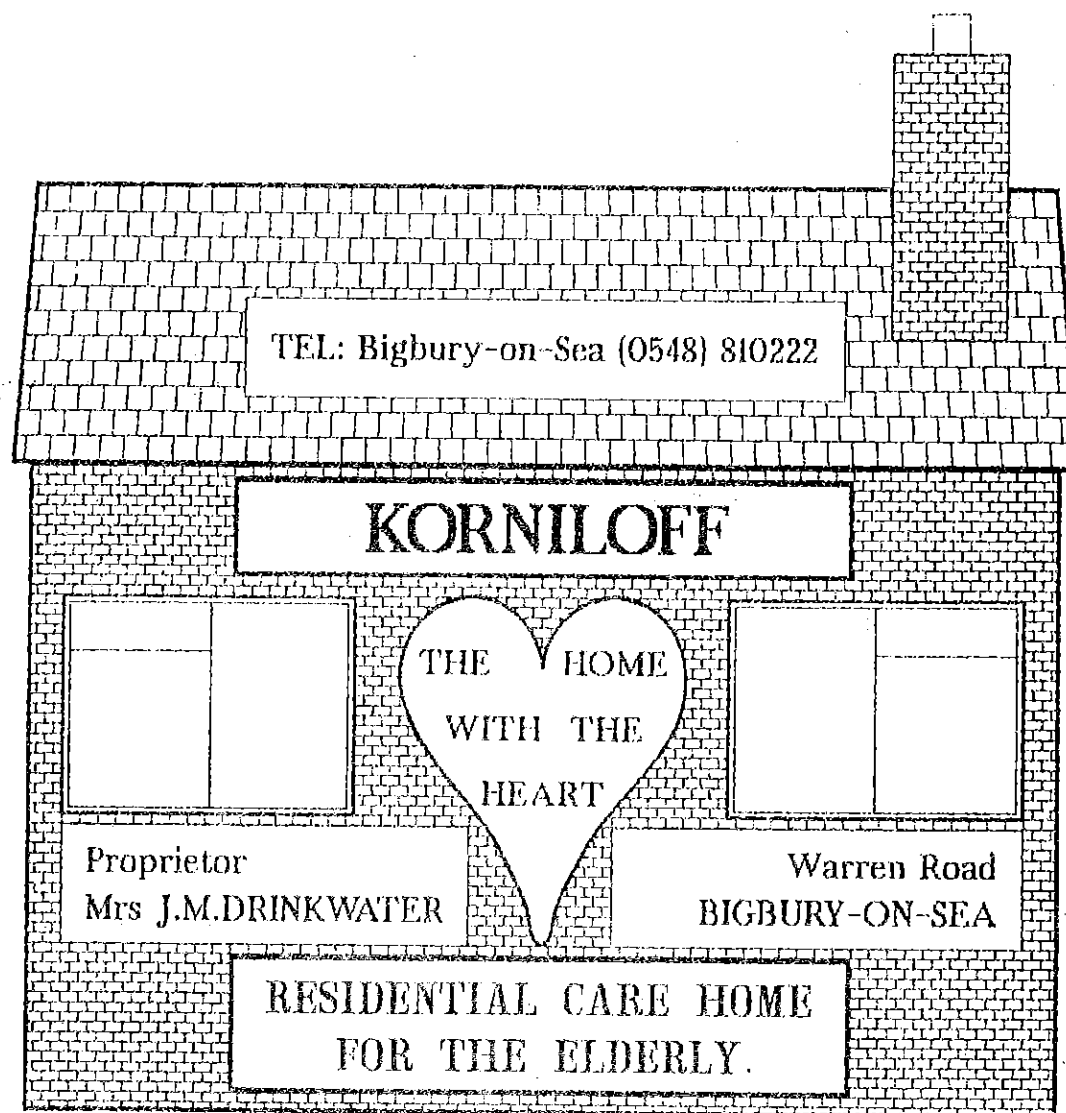
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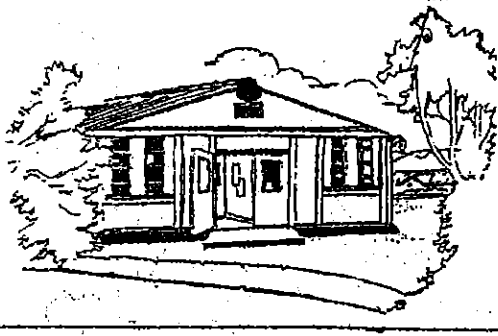
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THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

AS 1992 COMES to an end, the Management Committee thank all those who have supported, donated, rented or given their time towards the upkeep of the Hall. Residents seem well pleased with the improvements of the entrance hall with the new carpeting, notice board, the easier opening of the inner doors and a more cheerful look. Our annual fair held in September raised the excellent sum of over £700, for the already specified project of improving the ladies cloakroom. This will be the last of the inner hall improvements.

Overheard by a speaker - 'Wonderful to enter a village hall mens cloakroom that is clean and has no spiders or other nasties!'

Thank you Lindsey Fletcher for once again giving the hall your full support with your Jumper Sale plus coffee - an event now much looked forward to by the residents. This gave us the excellent donation of £68.

PANCAKE RACE TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 10.30am.

FOR RESIDENTS OF THURLESTONE, BANTHAM AND WEST BUCKLAND.

Are you getting fit for our second pancake race??

As well as individuals it is planned, as before, to have representatives from all within our area. The OVER 70's will get a head start. The menfolk felt left out last time so it is hoped they will also be there for their own race. This will be followed by coffee at the Village Inn.

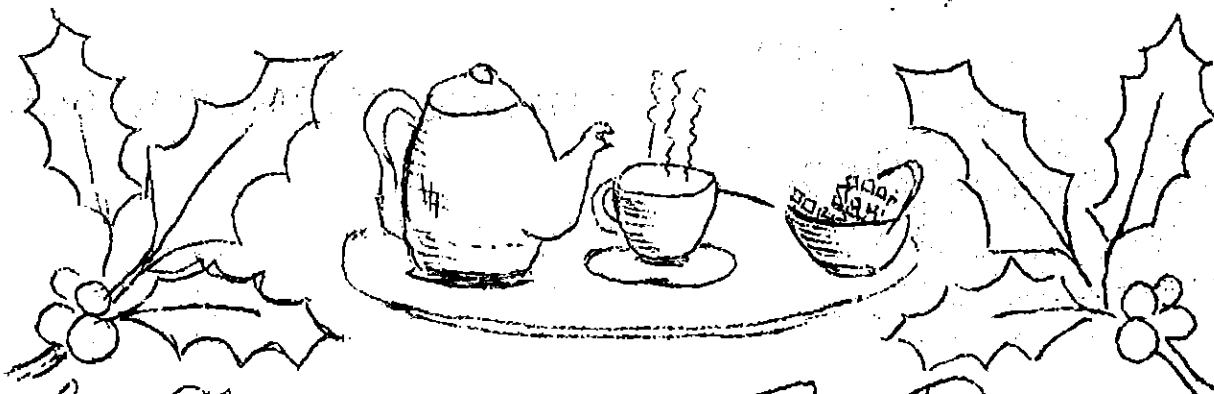
Fact sheets will be issued in January.

NOTE THE DATE PLEASE - AND PLAN YOUR RUN.

Note for your diary 1993 - Parish Hall A.G.M. MONDAY 15th MARCH
at 7.30pm.

The Management Committee and I wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and enjoyable year to come in the Parish Hall.

Joan Mackenzie - Chairman.



A Christmas Tea Party

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER - 3.30 p.m. - 5.30 pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Now is the time to give yourself a break from shopping and cooking

COME with your family and friends to join us for tea - sandwiches, scones and Christmas cake and enjoy viewing the paintings and drawings of local amateur artists at the mini ART EXHIBITION - PLUS the "Younger Generation" work done during the year, which includes special Christmas decorations in the hall.

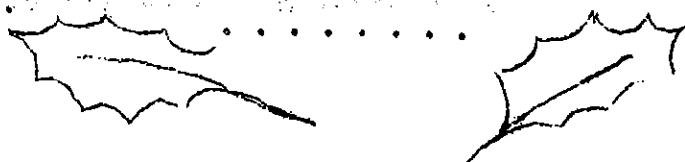
During tea there will be a 'CHIT CHAT' with Mrs Mary Taylor of Somerset who has many home economic and gardening hints to pass on to you.

Tickets will be £1 and can be obtained through the W.I., Bowls Club and the Bridge Clubs, or Mrs Mollie Oswald 560555, Mrs Joan Mackenzie 560671 or Mrs Jean Yeoman (The Post Office).

.....
ARTISTS: Have you sent in your application to have a picture hung on the 19th December? It is not too late to enter - please contact 560671 now.

Do you know of any artist who may not receive Village Voice? Please let them know about the event.

.....
If any resident is in need of transport to enable them to come FOR TEA - please let any of the Committee know.



Talking About

TRAMP. (Thurlestone Ramblers)

ANNUAL NEWS LETTER.

WALKS LEADERS: Pam Brewster, Dennis Birlo, Susan Dwyer, Bob Nicholls, Stuart Reynolds, Ron Savage, Derek Yeoman.

1992, our 5th year of guided walks, has been very satisfactory in every respect. The programme contained 15 walks, has had an average attendance (at the time of writing) of 14; this is an ideal number and two more than last year.

We are very sorry to have lost the services of Fergus Mackenzie who has been one of our leaders for the last 4 years, but now wishes to devote more time to his many other activities. We thank him very much for all his help and we hope to see him on our walks whenever he is able to attend.

We welcome three new leaders - Pam Brewster, Dennis Birlo and Susan Dwyer. Pam has already led one of our walks in the Burrator area, and Dennis and Susan, who operate as a team, have already surveyed three new walks which will be included in next year's programme.

Quite apart from the regular walks, we have been very busy surveying and developing interesting new walks. Our established repertoire lists 70 walks, all of them good, and many excellent. There are:

- 17 local countryside walks.
- 10 coastal walks
- 10 riverside walks
- 5 walks on the foothills of Dartmoor
- 28 walks on Dartmoor.

In addition a further 12 walks are under investigation.

Turning now to our 1993 programme, which will be printed in this issue of Village Voice, this contains 17 walks (2 more than last year). This comprises a walk every month with additional walks in the summer months. It contains:

- 4 River Valley walks
- 4 local countryside walks
- 3 walks on the Southern foothills of the moors
- 5 walks on Dartmoor
- 1 coastal walk.

It may be noted that the venue for our walks tends to be more and more on and around Dartmoor. This is only to be expected as we search for new walks within an ever bigger radius; we all enjoy the pleasure of exploring new territory. Quite apart from that, Da:

furnishes us with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of superb walks of great variety and interest, with splendid views from the high ground. All of which compensates for the one hour travelling time.

We plan next year to increase our flexibility by ensuring that, whenever a Dartmoor walk is scheduled, the leader will also have available a local alternative walk, if the weather is unsettled.

We should like to take advantage of this news letter to thank Mrs Bromfield and Mrs Morley for allowing us to display our walks notices in their windows.

We look forward to another good year and wish all our members Happy Rambling in 1993.

Stuart Reynolds.

Walks Programme for 1993

Walks Leaders:	Pam Brewster (PB)	560345
	Dennis Birlo (DB)	856134
	Susan Dwyer (SD)	560648
	Bob Nicholls (BN)	560876
	Stuart Reynolds (SR)	560643
	Derek Yeoman (DY)	560300

General information

1. The rendez-vous for all walks will be Thurlestone Village Hall car park (TVHCP)
2. There will be walks on the third Wednesday of every month except Oct. Nov. Dec when the walk will be on the second Wednesday.
3. There will be additional walks on the first Wednesday of May, June, July, Aug and Sept. 17 walks in total.
4. Walks reminder notices will be posted up in both the Post Office and the Village Stores 9 days before the walk. These notices provide both the details of the walk and the time of the rendez-vous at TVHCP. Many thanks to Mrs Bromfield and Mrs Morley for giving us this valuable service.

TRAM WALKS PROGRAMME.

1. 20th Jan. A local walk in the Malborough/Hope Cove area. DY
2. 17th Feb. A local walk from Loddisell west to Combe, South to Aveton Gifford, return via Hatch Bridge.
3. 17th Mar. A local Walk. Capton, Tideford, Gitcombe, Tuckenhay Bow Creek, Cornworthy. SD & DB
4. 21st Apr. Dartmoor Foothills. Newbridge, Buckland Bridge, East Webburn river valley to Cockingford, Dunstone Down. Return via Jordan, W. Webburn river valley to Ponsworthy, S. to Mel Tor, Dr. Blackalls Drive to Aish Tor, river Dart valley to Newbridge. S.

5. 5th May. Moors foothills. From South Brent north along the Avon valley to Shipley Bridge, South West over moors to Ball Gate, then Glascombe Corner and Spurrells Cross. East to Owley, SE to Lady's Wood, Return NNE to South Brent. RS
6. 19th May Moors Foothills. Start from Casey Town car park (Whitchurch). Follow lane and footpath NE to Windy Cross. Follow Grimstone and Sottridge leat SW to Monkswell House, NW to Middimore, then to start. SD & DB
7. 7th June. Moors foothills. Start Ivybridge. NW to Pithill farm, West across Hangar Farm to Sherrell Farm. Follow footpath to Blatchford Manor (permission) and through grounds to Cornwood. Return West to New Barn and Hallfarm. Go south about 1km to join the Erme Valley which is followed to South to start.
8. 16th June Moors. Start from Norsworthy Bridge (Burrator). Go ESE over Cuckoo Rock to Eylesbarrow tin mine. NNE to Siwards Cross, follow Devonport leat west to Raddick Hill. Return to start via Leather Tor Bridge.
9. 7th July. Moors foothills. Start Horrabridge. Follow footpath NE to Sampford Spinney. Footpath SE to Ward Bridge (over Walkham River) NW to old railway line to point 263. NW to Holewell Farm. Follow footpath SW to start. DB & SD
10. 21st July. Moors Walk. Start Hexworthy. Follow miner's track round Down Ridge to disused mine (Henroost). Cross Ter Hill WSW passing two crosses marking the ancient monastic path, and continue to Misery Cross. Descend W to Swincombe River and Childes Tomb, North to Whiteworks. Return along the Wheal Emma leat, high on the south side of the Swincombe Valley. SR.
11. 4th Aug. Moors Walk. Start Nattor Farm (545 East/823 North). Follow the River Tavey through the Cleave (gorge) to its junction with Rattlebrook. Follow Tavey SSE to junction Western Red lake. Go South over moor to join track going south to pass to west of Lynch Tor. Follow this track, which veers west, to Coffin Wood. Thence by footpath and track to start. RS
12. 18th Aug. Dart Valley/Moors foothills/Moors. From Newbridge follow west bank of River Dart to Sharon Pool, ascend NW to high level footpath which leads to Vennford dam. Go west to join the Holne Moor leat which is followed for 1 km to intersect a footpath leading NW to Dartmeet. Return across Yar Tor Down to Rowbrook and thence on minor road to Bel Tor Corner. Go south to Mel Tor and return via Dr. Blackalls Drive, Aish Tor and the west bank of the Dart.

SR

13. 1st Sept. River Valley Walk. Start from Horrabridge (Bedford Bridge). Follow Walkham river to its junction with the river Tavey. Cross the Walkham and follow the Tavey soon turning SE on path to Berra Tor. Go SW to Hatch Mill and return East on a footpath to Buckland Monachorum (good pub - Drakes Drum). Return across open moorland to start. DY
14. 15th Sept. Circumnavigation of Burrator Reservoir. Start Norsworthy Bridge. N to Leather Tor Bridge. West along minor road to Lowery Cross. SSW over Gannadon Down to Meavy (Royal Oak). Return via Lovaton, Footpath to Sheepstor Village, footpath skirting Sheeps Tor to the west. PB
15. 13th Oct. Coastal Path plus countryside. Start Dunstone Cross (796 East/404 North). Follow path and minor road North to Mattiscombe. Footpath SE to Sunnydale. Coastal path to Hallsands (Pub). Return west to Higher Borough, NNE to South Allington. North to Dunstone Cross. BN
16. 10th Nov. Local Countryside.
am. Start East Allington. Walk east on footpath via Combe to Wallaton Cross. North then East via America Wood to Abbotsleigh. North to Blackawton (Normandy Arms).
pm. SW to Washwell, then Seecombe. NW to Hutterleigh. SW to Hingston post, and thence to Pitt Farm. Turn south and return on footpath to East Allington.
17. 8th Dec. The Christmas Walk.
Local Countryside and river valley walk.
am. Start Bigbury on Sea. NW on footpath to Mount Folly, E on footpath to Hexdown, Villa Crusoe. Follow the Avon Valley NE then back to west to Lincombe then N to Bigbury. Take footpath NE to tidal road then NW to Foxhole. Glimb hill SW to Easton and thence to Pickwick Inn at St. Annes Cross.
pm. By minor road west to Okenbury, footpath to Mount Folly, then back to car park.

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

PEARSON PLAY GROUP.

The Pearson Play Group thank everyone who gave so generously and supported the Craft Fair.

The total amount raised, including the proceeds from the Grand Prize Draw, was £468.



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DAD END

'Go to father', she said
When I asked her to wed.
Now she knew that I knew
That her father was dead,
And I knew that she knew
What a life he had led.
So she knew that I knew
What she meant when she said
'Go to father'.

Contributed by P.E.

DON'T MISS THE EVENT OF THE YEAR - CONSULT
THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE.

DECEMBER.

- Sat 5th Thurlestone Conservatives Christmas Bazaar,
Thurlestone Hotel.
- Wed 9th Tramp. Christmas Walk from Totnes.
- Thurs 10th Planning enquiry into alterations to local plans
affecting Thurlestone Parish. Quay House. 10 a.m.
- Thurs 10th School Carol Concert. Thurlestone Church 6pm.
- Fri 11th Probus Lunch. Thurlestone Hotel.
- Tues 15th Thurlestone School Concert
- Thurs 17th All Saints Fellowship. Carols. Thurlestone Church.
- Sat 19th Christmas Tea Party. Parish Hall 3.30-5.30pm
- Sun 20th Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. Thurlestone Church 11.10
- Sun 20th Carols at The Sloop. 8 pm
- Wed 23rd Placing Figures in the Crib of Christmas (especially for
children) Thurlestone Church 4.p.m.
- Thurs 24th First Communion of Christmas. S. Milton Church 10.30pm
Thurlestone " 11.45pm
- Fri 25th Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion; 11.10am All Family
Worship, followed at Noon by shortened Holy Communion,
Thurlestone Church.
- Sun 27th Holy Communion 8.am; 11.10am Carols and Reading.

JANUARY 1993

- Tues 5th Public Inquiry into Western end of Longstone Public
Footpath across golf course. Parish Hall 10am.
- Tues 12th Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Wed 20th Tramp Walk. Malborough/Hope Cove.
- Thurs 21st All Saints Fellowship "Scotland the Brave" Ian C. Young.
Rectory Barn 2.30pm

FEBRUARY.

- Mon 1st Devon Heritage Coast. Slide Show & Talk. Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Fri 12th Probus lunch. Thurlestone Hotel;
- Tues 16th Ladies Evening, Probus. Cottage Hotel.
- Wed 17th Tramp walk. Combe/Aveton Gifford/Hatch Bridge.
- Tues 23rd Thurlestone Parish Residents Pancake Races.
Start 10.30am
- Thurs 25th All Saints Fellowship. "Dartmouth - a history"
Rectory Barn 2.30pm.
- Thurs 25th NSPCC Bridge Evening. Thurlestone Hotel.

MARCH.

- Sat 6th NSPCC Jumble Sale. Parish Hall.
- Fri 12th Probus AGM. Thurlestone Hotel.
- Mon 15th Parish Hall AGM, Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Wed 17th Tramp Walk. Capton/Tuckenhay/Cornworthy.
- Thurs 25th All Saints Fellowship. "The Mau Mau and all that"
Barbara Holloway, The Rectory Barn 2.30pm

APRIL

- Fri 2nd Probus Lunch. Thurlestone Hotel
- Wed 21st Tramp walk. Dartmoor foothills.
- Thurs 22nd All Saints Fellowship "Well, what do you know?"
The Rector's Quiz. Rectory Barn 2.30pm

MAY

Wed 5th Tramp Walk, Dartmoor foothills.
Fri 14th Probus lunch, Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 19th Tramp Walk, Moors foothills.
Sat 22nd T & S.M. Horticultural Show Plant Sale, Parish Hall.
Thurs 27th All Saints Fellowship. " A Musical Tea-Party"
Rectory Barn 2.30pm

JUNE

Fri 11th Probus Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 2nd Tramp Walk, Ivybridge/Moors foothills.
Wed 16th Tramp Walk, NORSWORTHY Bridge/Moors.

JULY

Wed 7th Tramp Walk, Horrabridge/Moors foothills.
Fri 9th Probus lunch, Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 21st Tramp Walk, Hexworthy/Moors

AUGUST.

Wed 4th Tramp Walk, Moors.
Sat 7th T and S.M. Horticultural Show, Parish Hall.
Fri 10th Probus Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel.
Wed 18th Tramp Walk, Dart Valley/Moors.

SEPTEMBER.

Wed 1st Tramp walk, Horrabridge/River valley.
Wed 15th Tramp Walk, Burrator Reservoir

OCTOBER.

Fri 8th Probus at the Golf Club
Wed 13th Tramp Walk, Coastal Path

NOVEMBER

Wed 10th Tramp Walk, Local Countryside.
Fri 12th Probus lunch, Thurlestone Hotel

DECEMBER.

Wed 8th Tramp Christmas Walk, Pickwick Inn
Fri 10th Probus Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel.

DON'T LET YOUR DATES CLASH...GET YOUR EVENT ON THE ONLY LIST
WHICH MATTERS IN THE PARISH.

DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE
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AS POSSIBLE. DON'T DELAY. RING TODAY.

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