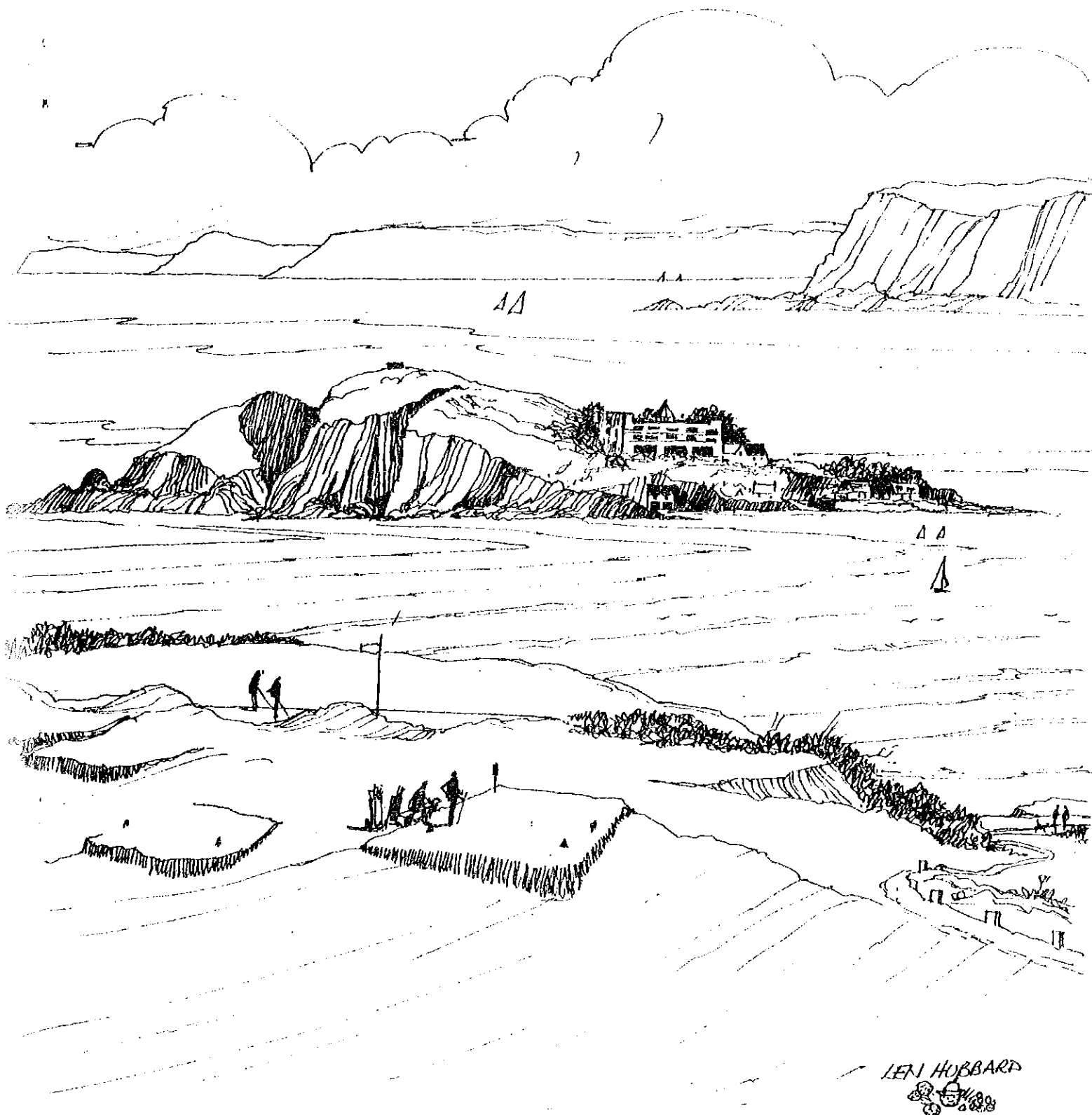


VILLAGE VOICE

February-March 1993



Founded by Dudley
DRABBLE
1982.



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by
LEN HUBBARD.

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NUMBER 60. ELEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION. FEBRUARY- MARCH 1993.

WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED that no action will be taken on speed limits until the residents of the parish have had time to discuss the whole question of road safety at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 6th.

This, of course, is what annual parish meetings are for - to discuss matters of importance to the residents of the parish, not for minor local officials to bumble on about how good they are at doing nothing.

The annual parish meeting is the time for people power. The time when we tell Thom what we want, not what they think we ought to have. The question of speeding and road safety is a time for people power.

And if, after proper discussion, the residents of this parish decide that they want speed limits in our villages, then that is what they should have. It is not up to some up-country planner, who has never been here, to decide this kind of thing.

Another subject which is bound to be aired at our residents annual meeting is the installation of 'sleeping policemen'. There is already a majority in favour of these in the parish. One can understand the apparent police reluctance to speak enthusiastically about them (we suspect it is the name they are against!), but there is not the slightest doubt about how effective they are.

And if Kingsbridge can get them put at the entrance to their two carparks, then surely we can have them at the entrances to our villages!

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, THURLESTONE, with BANTHAM & BUCKLAND

---oOo---

J A N S T E W E R IS COMING TO THURLESTONE AGAIN!

on TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd

in the PARISH HALL, at 2.30 p.m.

---oOo---

The Reverend JOHN DELVE will talk to us on:

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---oOo---

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(560453)

or any PCC member.

---oOo---

COME AND INDULGE YOURSELF and have a PLEASANT, RELAXING AFTERNOON!

---oOo---



PROPER MUDDLE some folks have got themselves into over Court Park and the names of roads that run into and around it. Main talking point seems to be Court Park Lane, which, of course, as all real residents will tell you is really Post Office Lane because in times not long past that is where the Post Office was on the corner as you turn into the village proper.

Now Post Office Lane is, at the time of writing this, a proper mess with potholes so deep that they say a brand new Range Rover disappeared in one the other day! Which has caused a lot of talk about getting the Council, South Hams, not Parish, to adopt it and so become responsible for its upkeep. At the moment the lane is a private road and I am told that if the SHDC were to consider adopting it, it has to be brought up to highway standard by the owners of the road first. And that would cost a lot of money.

At the last Parish Council meeting there was a lot of chat about this and someone raised the possibility of turning the lane into one way, down to the Mead only. The idea of this was to avoid cars turning out into the village street and causing accidents. Well, it is a nasty corner and the idea sounds good, but it isn't as simple as that.

First of all there are special rights of way, both ways, on the lane for farm traffic, and I would imagine that the owners of those nice houses in the lane might have some rights of their own.

But that wasn't all that concerned Court Park. It seems that some maps show Court Park Road in one place and some in another. Some even call Court Park Lane (Post Office Lane) Court Park Road and let it run right up to Kerse Cross! It is, as I said, a proper muddle. But never fear, our intrepid Parish Clerk, Bill Ladd, is on the trail and no doubt all will soon be revealed...

Villager continues overleaf.

VILLAGER CONTINUED.

THE MAN WHO CALLS himself my 412th cousin, Mr. Bruce Kennedy has sent me his latest book from his home in Coolangatta, Australia. Mind you, we are related in some way through the Kendall family, but 412th cousin is, I reckon, a bit of a guess.

But here I have his book 260 pages of it with pictures and he has called it "The Kendells". Yes, I know not many of us spell it that way, but the book concerns Kendalls, Kendals, Kendles and Kendells.

Bruce Kennedy's book traces the history of the Kendalls, spell it how you will, from West Charleton in 1753 to this parish and then Sherford, and then, through a Kendall who jumped ship in Port Adelaide in 1845, the action continues into Australian history with this tale of a family of pioneering farmers of the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Southern Yorke Peninsula and the Victorian Mallee. Kendall is obviously a name to be proud of. If you're a family trees and gripping stories of endurance Down Under, Bruce has sent me some order forms for anyone who'd like a copy of the book. You can get one by giving me a ring here at Cradles Cott (560239).

CALLING ALL CORNISHES. Having just dealt with the Kendalls it seems only fair to tell anyone who has Cornish in their family background that I have picked up a book all about "Cornish of Thurlestone" from a lady in Nottingham and will be happy to show it to anyone interested in the Cornish family history (and they spelled it Cornysh, Cornyshe, Cornishe). The Cornish family owned Whitley from the 15th century, not in the modern farmhouse, but the old one which used to stand nearby. The Cornishes were much involved in the building of Church House in the village and were among the earliest trustees of that building. Another Cornish, Thomas, born in 1565, bought Whitlocksworthy and part of the Barton of South Milton. Other Cornishes owned Kerse (which then apparently consisted of two houses - one will of 1666 leaves "the farther house being on the right hand of the entrie of my dwelling house" to Margaret Cornish). Other bequests included a house in Buckland. So the Cornishes were certainly deep into the parish.

LOOKING IN OLD Documents always turns up names that sound familiar but don't appear on any maps. Looking through the Cornish records has turned up "Ellwilles". Do you know where that was? - it was certainly in or very close to Thurlestone Parish. And you know those Cornishes got everywhere. They owned too "Ornamouth", presumably Aunemouth. And those living in Kerse today may like to know that it was also called Carse, Kesse, Cesse and even "Easter Kesse" in the times of the Armada.

With all these variations in spellings, is it any wonder that today we can't even decide on what to call Post Office Lane?

THE VILLAGE VOICE SHORT STORY is...

THE **BLAZE** of SUMMER by Ken Hardy

(which is the pen name of a world-famous
short story writer)



There is nothing now where the old beech tree stood at the top of the bank. On the steep slope itself one or two roots can still be seen forming a natural staircase to the stream below. The stream, too has changed; now it is dirty and bottles and rusty tins poke out of the mud.

But it was not like that a little while ago. The square suburban houses did not reach down to the footpath that runs along the top of the bank. And the wood, of which the beach was only the first outpost, was thick and well fenced...

The boy found the way to climb the big beech one afternoon in the middle of summer. By standing on the fence he could reach a strong bough, which overhung the footpath, well enough to pull himself on it. Reaching the trunk itself was easy. He sat astride and worked his way forward and upward. Every now and then he could stop to rest and the smooth bark of the beech did not make his hands dirty and dry like many other trees he had climbed.

By the time he had reached the trunk he was hidden from view and could stand comfortably on a little platform formed by the trunk where it divided into three main shoots. He tried to climb two of these off-shoots and failed.

The third was easier and after the first ten feet he climbed swiftly. Then once again he was stopped. There was only one way to get any higher and that was to climb the trunk like a monkey.

It meant letting go of all the safe handholds and shinning up - but his arms wouldn't go round the trunk. He looked down. Far below he could see, through a break in the leaves, the branch up

SHORT STORY CONTINUES:

which he had started and the footpath. The fence looked like a row of teeth.

He remembered hearing from one of his friends about the girl, who, while demonstrating that a girl could do anything that a boy could do, had fallen from a tree on to the fence. It was the same fence, but round the other side of the wood. The tree had been smaller too. His mouth went dry and he decided to give up.

But he knew he would have to climb higher. Already a voice was saying inside him "You're scared." He gripped the tree with his knees and hands, and suddenly he was scrambling upwards.

When his muscles stopped aching and he looked around, still holding tightly to a thinner, friendly branch, he was sitting on one flat wide bough with his back against the crook of another. It was like an armchair and from it, through a gap in the branches, he could look right out over a small hill to where the same stream that twinkled below flashed in the sunlight as it came out of a pine wood.

He sat there for some time until a grey squirrel scabbled in sudden fright as it ran along a neighbouring bough, saw him, and leapt away. A shower of old beech-nut husks and torn leaves fluttered slowly down as the squirrel raced away.

When the squirrel was out of sight the boy eased himself into a more comfortable position, took out his penknife and began to carve his initials and the date on the branch beside him.

The letters were nearly finished when a shout from below made him look down. A young girl stood on the footpath, but she was not looking up at him. He could see only the top of her head from his perch, but he knew who it was and that she was calling for him.

"Jim-mee." She shouted twice more, but he did not answer. There was no gate into the wood, but one of the fence palings could be moved. She slipped through the gap and started down the bank into the wood. He waited until she was out of his sight and then started cautiously back down the trunk to the ground.

The boy slithered slowly down the part with no handholds, then moved faster and finally dropped from the low bough to the ground inside the fence. He turned and set off after the girl. Despite the fact that she was his girl- and his first - he did not tell about his armchair in the tree when he caught up with her.

After that he always waited for her high up in the beech. She called him before entering the wood, but did not wait. He overtook her each time before she had gone far.

They would play on the banks of the stream, building harbours of stones, or holding races with pieces of branches as boats.

As the days passed he carved another set of initials under his own. The summer ended and beech-nuts littered the ground at the top of the bank. The boy went back to school and the beech tree swayed in the high winds of winter. The branches rattled together, but the initials were carved deeply, and when some of the bark peeled away, they remained.

VILLAGE VOICE SHORT STORY CONCLUDES:

The next summer, on the first day of his holidays, the boy climbed up to his armchair. The girl would not come home from boarding school for another week, but each day he waited in the beech.

When she finally came she seemed somehow more confident. She called once and then sat down on the edge of the footpath to wait, instead of entering the wood. Slowly the boy climbed down.

He did not climb the beech for a week after that and the girl never came there again. Then one afternoon he pulled himself quickly into the beech and climbed swiftly. Within a minute or two he had reached the carved initials and began to hack at them.

Chips of freshly cut wood littered the top of the bank that evening and, high above, a white blaze on a bough caught the chilly evening sunlight.

The beech crashed down the next winter. Most of the roots on the bank gave way and it fell across the stream. The men who came to cut up the fallen tree never noticed the mark on the bough - it was already grey and weatherbeaten.

LATE EXTRA LETTER TO THE EDITORS.....POSTBAG EXTRA..

DEAR EDITORS,

Friends of St.Luke's Hospice will be delighted to hear that one of the rooms in the new extension, now being built, will be named "Thurlestone".

Valerie Olliver, the Matron/Administrator, has written saying that this action is "...a way of thanking the community of Thurlestone for the tremendous effort and time spent over the years raising funds for St.Lukes". The extension is due to be completed by June next.

I can report that Teddie, Mrs.Renee Bonell's dog is still everybody's pet at Turnchapel and cares for the patients by regular rounds to raise morale: in fact he was approaching a nervous break-down because of overwork. He is now taken home each night by one of the staff and is back to form,

Our next money-raising event is planned for 8th May in the Parish Hall. See you all there.

Yours sincerely,

TERRY WOODROW.

For more letters to the Editors
see "POSTBAG".

LOCAL NEWS FROM THE WI.

The Annual Meeting in November proved more hectic than members anticipated when they were visited by voluntary county organiser Pat Barr, who divided members into groups and had them all working hard on planning programmes! Outgoing President Tricia Millman and joint Secretary Anne Grose were given very warm 'thank yous' from the members for their enthusiasm and unstinting work whilst they were in office. Pam Brewster is the new Secretary and Joan Reece remains the treasured Treasurer.

In December the Christmas lunch party was enjoyed and Connie Hughes and her helpers were thanked for providing the delicious meal. The habitués of Rene's Bar were again called upon to provide the cabaret with a special guest appearance of Rene himself (a.k.a. R.H.), who enjoyed the attentions of the amorous waitress (who shall be nameless to keep a sense of propriety).

The January meeting was the first chaired by new President Win Cousins, who thanked members for the confidence they placed in her saying "I will do my very best to make the coming year a happy and successful one for the WI". Janet Frazer was welcomed as a visitor.

Rosemary MacKay tried to enthuse members into producing goods for the large Area Exhibition at Malborough on 1st April next. Anne Grose gave a reminder of the date of the Parish Hall A.G.M. which is on 15th March and hoped as many members as possible would attend. It was hoped to have two members racing in the Parish Hall Pancake Race on 23rd February. There would be a Women's Health & Fitness day at Ivybridge Leisure Centre on 4th March to include swimming, relaxation, aromatherapy, short mat bowls, having a go on a trampoline, archery, yogo, step aerobics, etc. as well as general health and fitness guidance. £1.95 pay at the door. Gardening Days would be held at Bickton College on March 30th and April 1st.

Members had waited 18 months for the return visit of Eric Wallis (the Walking Policeman) so that he could pick up his story from Bude to Plymouth. The wait was worth it!

Scissors/craft knife, ruler, pencil and Uhu (or similar) would be required at the February meeting when Len Hubbard explains the intricacies of paper sculpture.

A warm invitation is extended for you to join us as a visitor on the second Thursday of the month, 2.30pm at the Parish Hall.

DEVON SPEAK

Not only local grockles were baffled by the words used at a recent meeting in the parish. We noted that some old villagers scratching their heads too. So hands up all those who know what a...

B U D D L E H O L E ...is

All right, all right, we'll put you out of your misery - it's the word all true Thurlestonians use when they talk about the drainage holes from road to field. So there!

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

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

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

Your copy is delivered to you by our volunteer distributors. In Thurlestone, this is dairyman Peter Bromfield, and in Bantham and West Buckland, Mrs. Jean Hurrell.

Extra copies may be bought from local newsagents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morley at the Village Stores.

There is also a subscription service, which already sends copies to readers all over the country at an annual cost of £6, which includes postage.

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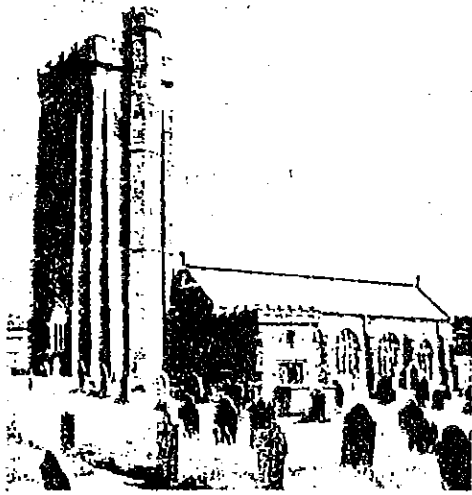
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Nr. Kingsbridge.



The Rector Writes

Souls or Bodies? - A novel way to finance Social Security.

With dentists opting out of the National Health Service, and cases continually cited of medical technology being available but unaffordable under the N.H.S., - which seems to me to be an inevitable situation with ever-increasing scientific and medical marvels available at every-increasing cost and with an ever-increasing population hoping to benefit from them. There is simply not enough cash to go round, to say nothing of cash for the homeless and the jobless.

Perhaps we should look back 400 years or so, and we might get a clue for raising the cash although I don't think it would make the government very popular and it certainly would not make the Churchwardens very popular, although sadly, I think it would raise an enormous sum of money!

Let me explain; lying in bed recovering from a bilious attack recently, I took my own advice, and for a literary treat, I read through all the small print at the front of the Book of Common Prayer - (although I used the enlarging facility on my photo-copier to make the reading somewhat easier). I was really looking for something to do with the principles of Anglican worship about which I was writing in the church magazine and having read through the "Preface", "Concerning the Services of the Church" and "Of Ceremonies", all of which I commend to you just for the magnificent English, if for nothing else, - having read them and since I was laid up in bed for a few hours, I next turned my attention to "An Act for Uniformity..." The Act of Parliament in the time of the first Elizabeth which authorised the Book of Common Prayer and having read the list of dire punishments for the Clergy who failed to conform ranging from fines - and the unit of currency was The Mark! to deprivation of the income of their benefice for one year - i.e. no wages! and on to "life imprisonment", which meant imprisonment for life! I then went on to read the punishment for parishioners, laid down by Parliament, for failure to attend publish worship and I am printing that small part here.

..... and all and every Person and Persons
inhabiting within this Realm,..... shall diligently
and faithfully, having no lawful or reasonable excuse
to be absent, endeavour themselves to resort to their

THURLESTONE AND SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

On SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY at 2.30 pm in THURLESTONE PARISH HALL we are holding a GRAND JUMBLE SALE. Teas will be available and there will be a Raffle.

Says Pat Macdonald: PLEASE turn out your cupboards and let us have any good quality jumble and help us keep the Show an annual event.

Jumble can be delivered to the Hall after 10 am on the Saturday morning or the following will be happy to collect:

Evelyn Snowdon (560623) South Milton
Pat Macdonald (560436) Thurlestone
Veronica White (560236) Thurlestone

Says the Committee: thank you Pat, the Jumble Sale Organiser par excellence, and thank you one and all who will support us.

Greenfly
January 1993

THE RECTOR CONCLUDES:

Parish Church... upon every Sunday, and other days ordained and used to be kept as Holy-days, and then and there to abide orderly and soberly, during the time of Common Prayer, Preachings, or other Service of God there to be used, and ministered; upon pain of Punishment by the Censures of the Church, and also upon pain that every Person so offending shall forfeit for every such Offence, twelve Pence, to be levied by the Churchwardens of the Parish where such Offence shall be done, to the use of the Poor of the same Parish,

I guess the twelve pence of four to five hundred years ago would have been about an average weeks wage. In today's terms about two hundred pounds for each occasion each person failed to attend Sunday worship!

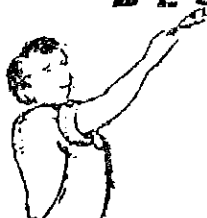
As I said, -a novel way to finance social security and the social services.

Yours sincerely,

Peter S. Stephens.

Without fear of fines or punishment for failure to do so, you are of course all most welcome to be present at either of the churches of the United Benefice - Thurlestone and South Milton and those Visitors who are non-Anglicans, but communicant members of their own churches are most welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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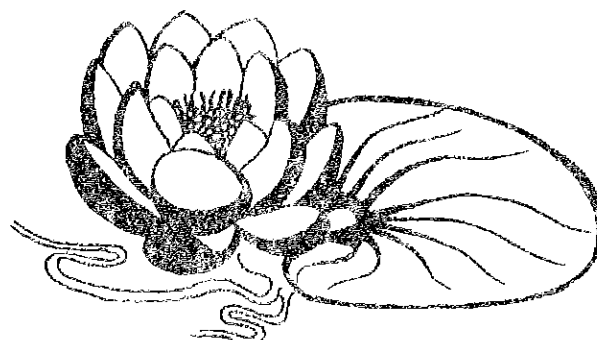
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PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER

ADD - A - GRAMS

STARTING WITH one letter, add a letter and re-arrange if necessary, to solve the clues given. Numbers in brackets show the number of letters in each answer.

The first puzzle is started as an example

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Fifth letter of alphabet (1) B
that is (2) IB
Frozen water (3) ICE
Quote (4)
In a moment or in a (5)
Pertaining to love (6)
Circle or set of persons (7)
Private or confidential (8)
Act of concealing (9)</p> | <p>B. Five hundred (1)
Doctor (Abbr) (2)
A colour (3)
Expensive (4)
Flat part of stair (5)
Deserted (6)
Dressed (7)
Repeated (8)
Give up to the proper
authorities (9)</p> |
| <p>C. A junction (1)
7th note of octave (2)
Consumed (3)
Kind of duck (4)
Not fresh (5)
Large fortified building (6)
Springy, flexible (7)
Weather conditions (8)
Early so-called scientist (9)</p> | <p>D. A submarine - boat (1)
Ancient city (2)
Regret (3)
Undaunted (4)
Break out (5)
Cartoon bear (6)
Delight (7)
Opening (8)
Act of going away (9)</p> |

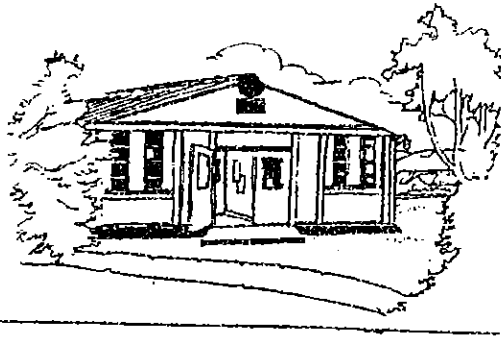
Answers on a following page

NICE PLACE WE'VE GOT HERE...

Those of us who have chosen to retire to this delectable part of the world, usually take a little time to accustom ourselves to local conventions. As an example I would like to cite a recent occasion when a parishdner telephoned the police to inform them that she would be away for a few days and requested them to keep an eye on her house.

Whilst giving her name and address a charming lady at the other end of the 'phone exclaimed: "Oh dear, I have spilt the coffee!" "Mop it up" the parishdner replied.. "It's all over the place.." "In that case, take your time and mop it up thoroughly and phone me back in about ten minutes!" Which she did.

N.C.O.



THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

THURLESTONE, BANTHAM AND BUCKLAND

PANCAKE RACES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd at 10.30 a.m.

OUR SECOND pancake race for the ladies and a FIRST for the MEN. Come rain or shine the run will be from the Old Rectory to the Village Green. This time it will be taken at a SLOWER PACE with COMPULSORY STOPS on route to toss the pancake.

There will be a head start for the OVER 65's.

The men's race will precede the ladies.

We hope you will give the race the same excellent support which you gave in 1991 BY-

1. ENTERING the race. The skill of tossing the pancakes is more important than the running.
2. BOOKING the date to support the runners en route.

The best vantage points for watching this sensational struggle will be from the raised path opposite Bromfields shop or at the final point by the Church.

It is hoped that all clubs, associations, shops, hotels will be represented as well as those competing as individuals.

Runners need only to provide a pancake pan with a base measurement of approximately SEVEN INCHES. Pancakes will kindly be provided for this base size by the Thurlestone Hotel.

Names of entrants to reach the following by SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY to ensure a pancake is reserved for you:

Mrs Joan Mackenzie (560671); Mrs Jean Yeoman (560607); or
Mrs Mollie Oswald (560555)

The organisers can take no responsibility for any accident or injury occurring during this event.

COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE INN
AFTER THE RACE.

The Christmas Tea Party proved to be a success and all the tickets were sold. We are very grateful to all those who exhibited their paintings. It gave the residents great pleasure to see the skilled talent we have in the village.

Reminder for your diary - the Parish Hall AGM will be on Monday 15th March at 7.30pm This is your chance to have your say.

Joan F. Mackenzie.
Chairman (retiring at the AGM).

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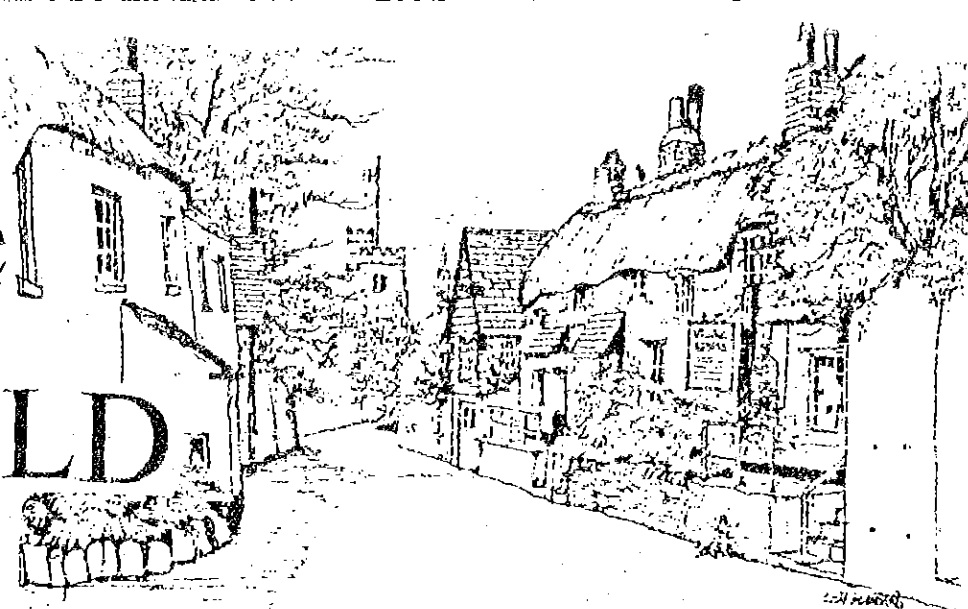
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Neville OSWALD reports



CHARLES KINGSLEY'S GREAT historical novel *Westward Ho!* with its detailed description of Barnstaple Bay and of the triumphs and tribulations of life at sea gives a vivid insight into an aspect of Devon's history that is not easily obtained from textbooks. It describes such memorable characters as John Oxenham and Salvation Yeo and ends when the blinded Amyas Leigh returns home after a long absence to be greeted on the Quay at Bideford by his mother and taken to their home in Northam. It is a story of simple people together with an accurate account of the environment in which they lived and worked. For occasional readers, it is a pleasant exercise in history. Other authors have written similarly; for example Blackmore explored Exmoor in *Lorna Doone* and Williamson based his tale of *Tarka the Otter* upon the Torridge. Is such a formula applicable to Thurlestone, short of having a professional writer who is prepared to study the background? Well, we have some good history books, especially Hoskin's *Devon*, and well kept parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials going back to 1559. It should be possible at least to imagine that a diary was kept by somebody in the village many years ago.

Notes from the diary of John Lidstone:

I was born in Thurlestone in 1600; the son of John and Elizabeth Lidstone, and was duly baptised in the village church at the age of two weeks; thus my name was added to the many Lidstones and Moores and Hardys that then lived in the parish. My parents were married here in 1575 but, being unable to read or write, marked the register with a X.

Our family included six small children and so, with no more than two bedrooms and a living room in our cottage to share between us, I was apprenticed to a nearby yeoman farmer at the age of seven, in whose house I lived until I was 16. Fortunately I was well fed and cared for, which was by no means always the case. The yeoman's wife taught me to read and write, along with her children and two other apprentices, mainly in the long dark winter evenings.

1618. As a farm labourer I had a limited amount of freedom and sometimes went down to Kingsbridge on market days. There, I was able to view girls of my age from a distance, but I was mainly interested in going further afield. In the alehouses there were men looking for sailors but, following the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603, the navy at Plymouth was allowed to rot and ventures overseas almost ceased, except for the East India Company and attempts to colonise Virginia.

Indeed, the age of the great Devon sea captains was ending, Drake having died from a tummy upset in the West Indies four years before I was born and Raleigh having been executed in the Tower of London in 1618.

I was not impressed by the prospects at Plymouth but was fascinated by the thought of cod fishing off Newfoundland which was then booming, with Devon sending out up to 10,000 men each year mainly from Dartmouth and Plymouth. I walked over to Dartmouth one spring and had no difficulty in finding employment in a vessel that sailed two months later. Cod were plentiful that year and the journey home was uneventful despite the hazards of sudden storms and affrays with French fishermen and, the greatest danger, attacks by Barbary muslims from North Africa who lay in wait in the English Channel and at the approaches to ports on the Continent to which the cod were likely to be taken.

1625. I enjoyed several trips to Newfoundland and was able to set aside enough money to acquire a cottage with a smallholding in Buckland and to marry my dear wife Sarah. Now, I am worried about my brother who was pressganged into the Navy a year ago, just after the outbreak of war with France, and has not been heard of since. I resolved to go to Plymouth and set sail in a small merchant vessel from Bantham shortly before Christmas. The scene that greeted me at the Barbican appalled me. Over 20,000 soldiers had just returned from Cadiz, which they had failed to take. They were starving and threadbare and many of them had mutinied. They had brought home with them ship-fever or typhus (due to their infected body lice) from which over 1,000 of them died, and passed it on to the civilian population of the town causing at least another 1,000 deaths. The mayor was doing his best with insufficient funds to house and feed them, but many had to remain in their infected ships and fend for themselves as best they could. Others roamed the countryside where they lived off the land, some perishing when nobody was willing to approach their stinking bodies. Meanwhile plague had started in London during the previous summer and had reached Exeter in the autumn. By Christmas it was just beginning in Plymouth (and would account for another 1,000 deaths in the next 6-9 months).

I soon abandoned any hope of finding my brother and returned home.

1645. The Civil War has now been going on for three years, with the whole of the county except Plymouth under the control of the Royalists. Garrisons have been established in many towns including Modbury where there was a fortified camp for the express purpose of collecting food from the countryside for the troops besieging Plymouth. We all much resented the cavalier way in which soldiers regularly came to Thurlestone demanding grain and livestock and so, a couple of years ago, I joined a miscellaneous force of 2,000 local men which overran the Modbury camp with, reportedly the loss of 100 lives. Of course, this did not stop marauding troops appearing from time to time perhaps to loot and ransack as the spirit moved them but, as we were not directly involved in the fighting, we were not seriously inconvenienced by the war, though there was much excitement when Prince Maurice and his Royalist army camped at Whitley Farm in the coombe there while marching on Dartmouth just before Christmas in 1643.

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October 19; November 30
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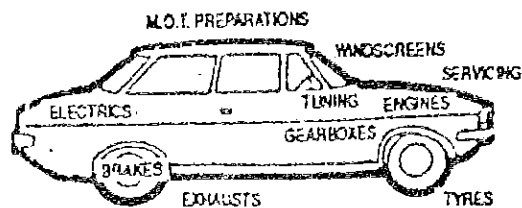
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NEVILLE OSWALD CONCLUDES:

1670. I begin to feel my age. Our children have grown up and left and lifting a sod of earth is just a little more difficult each year. Yet we have prospered since the Civil War ended 15 years ago. Despite wars with Holland and Spain and an uneasy relationship with France, expansion of the colonies in North America has progressed, as has trade with India and the Far East. For these, a massive shipbuilding programme has been undertaken at Plymouth. For the people of Thurlestone, it has meant a ready market for their farm produce and almost unlimited opportunities for those who seek adventure.

(In the next issue the Lidstone diaries continue)

THURLESTONE

PROBUS CLUB

Two very interesting and differing talks have been heard since the last issue of Village Voice. On November 13, Tony Porter, owner of the Burgh Island Hotel gave us an enjoyable talk on the history of Burgh Island, his redevelopment of the hotel and his future ideas.

On December 11, Eric Wallis, who was a Seargeant in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary before his retirement, gave a talk on his fund-raising walk for charity around the Devon and Cornish coastline. It was well illustrated with some excellent slides and interlaced with many amusing stories. He covered half his journey in the time allowed - taking us from Plymouth eastwards to Lyme Regis, then north following the Devon boundary to the coast and then west to Clovelly. We look forward to the rest of his journey sometime during 1993.

Our next meeting will be on February 12 with the AGM on March 12. Don't forget the Ladies Evening on February 16 at the Cottage Hotel.

D.M.YEOMAN 560300.

ANSWERS TO PAT MACHIN'S ADD-A-GRAM:

- (A) - E/IE/ICE/CITE/TRICE/EROTIC/COTERIE/ESOTERIC/SECRETION.
- (B) - D/DR/RED/DEAR/TREAD/RATTED/ATTIRED/ITERATED/EXTRADITE.
- (C) - T/TE/ATE/TEAL/STALE/CASTLE/ELASTIC/CLIMATES/ALCHEMIST.
- (D) - U/UR/RUE/PURE/ERUPT/RUPERT/RAPTURE/APERTURE/DEPARTURE.

A BACKWARD GLANCE

THIS SERIES IS COMPILED FROM OLD DOCUMENTS OF THE PARISH.

The notices went up in the villages on January 6, 1882. They were all the same - "A public meeting will be held at the Church House Thurlestone on Monday the 9 instant at 3 o'clock P.M. to consider the steps to be taken in reference to recent closing of the Road leading to Yarmouth Bay. All persons interested in maintaining the ancient rights thus invaded are invited to attend"

Each notice was signed:

COURTENAY ILBERT
ROBERT CAMPBELL

The minutes of the meeting on January 9, 1882 in the Church House, Thurlestone, show that it was packed when Mr. Courtenay Ilbert took the chair "and explained the object for which the meeting was called".

"There were present" says the Vestry Book:

Mr. Shath Square
Mr. Harry Square
Mr. W. R. Ilbert
Reverend P. Ilbert
Mr. Willoughby Ilbert
Mr. Donald Ilbert
Mr. Ricketts
Mr. White (of Whitley)
Mr. George White
Mr. John Sherriff (of Buckland)
Mr. Browse
Mr. Pepperell
Edwin Cuch
John Snowden

Mr. Sellick
Woodford
Putt
Peter Hard
William Snowden
Edward Foot
Richard Foot
Burgoyne
Richard Clarke
J. Putt
Mr. Bunker
Mr. Fox
and others

A resolution was moved by Mr. Robert Campbell and seconded by Mr. John Sherriff: "That the recent attempt to close the road leading over Yarmouth Warren to the sea is an invasion of our ancient rights and ought to be resisted by all lawful means and that a committee be appointed for the purpose of giving effect to the above resolution."

Mr. Shath Square spoke in opposition, Mr. John Sherriff in favour. And Mr. Shath Square, apparently furious about the whole thing then objected to the proceedings of the meeting being entered in the Vestry Book. But in the end the resolution was carried without opposition. Then a committee of Mr. Robert Campbell, Mr. John Sherriff, Mr. White and Mr. Courtenay Ilbert were appointed to deal with the matter and given power to add to their number if required.

But what they did and what happened next does not appear to have been serious enough for another meeting to be called.

VILLAGE GOSSIP

We hear, but can hardly believe it, that one of the area's finest gardeners was recently bitten by a rabbit...

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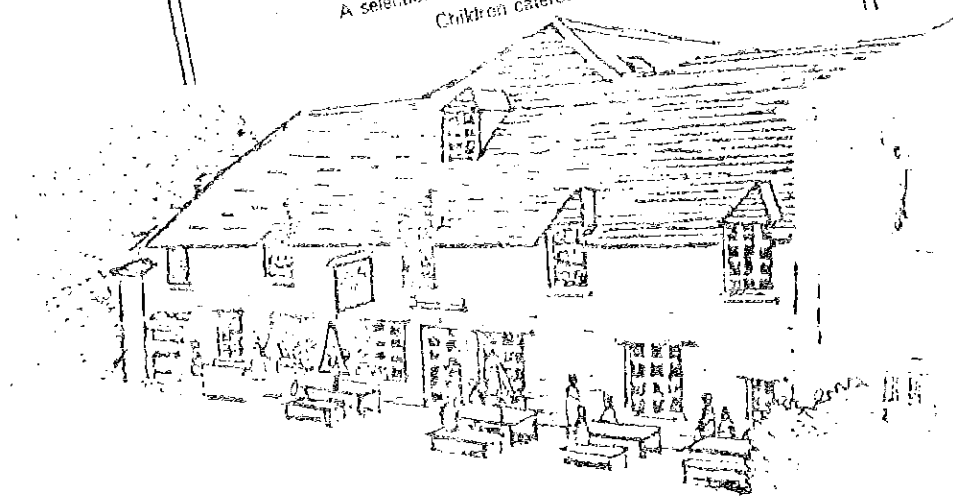
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Grilled Cod
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Selection of Salads

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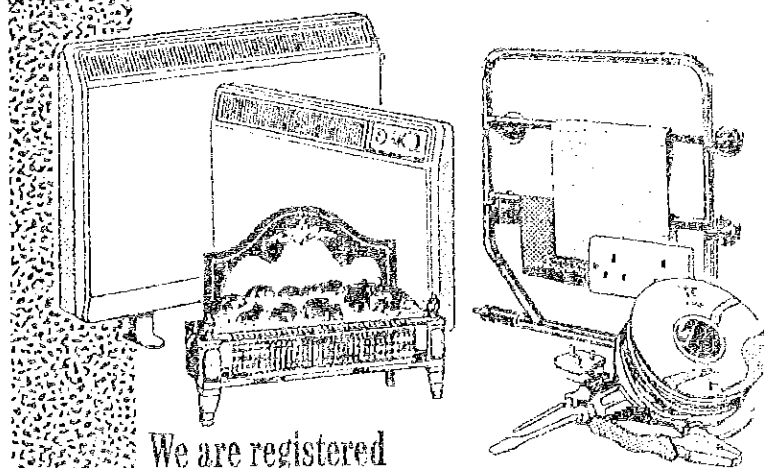
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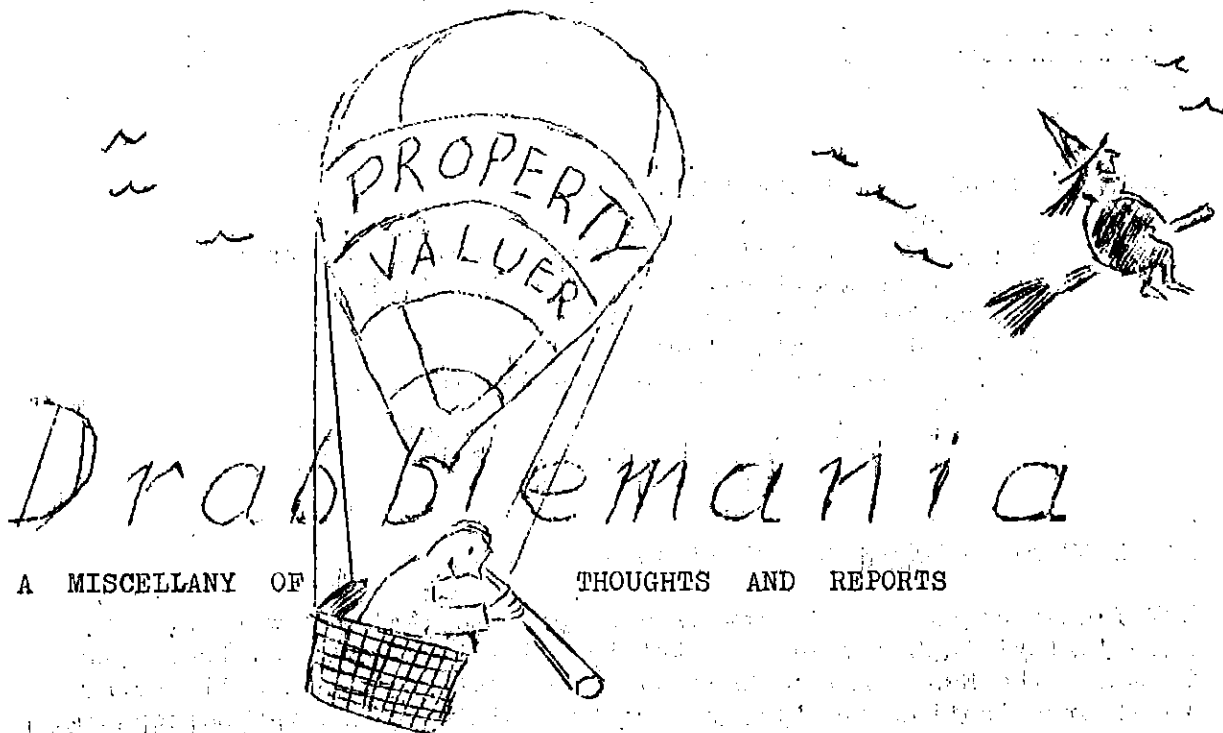
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A MISCELLANY OF THOUGHTS AND REPORTS

THIS COUNCIL TAX

'Which? Magazine' reported in December: "The valuations have been carried out by the Inland Revenue Valuation Office, either directly or by contracting out to local valuers or estate agents. These firms were paid in England, on average, only £1.58p for each valuation - the lowest payment was around 20p per property! This led to the jokes about 'second gear' valuations, with agents valuing houses from the comfort of their cars. The Inland Revenue says that the quality of the valuations has been tightly controlled."

On that basis I think they might just as well have done whole areas from a balloon! ... The procedure for appealing is just as outrageous!

+++++

INSTRUCTIONS ON AUTOMATIC HAND DRIER

Shake off surplus water, insert hands, one above the other. Drier will start on entry and stop after removing the hands!

+++++

A RECENT STUDY of 34,000 AMERICANS

...found that those who ate nuts five times a week - which is fairly common among vegetarians - halved the risk of heart attack. International studies have shown for some that vegetarians have considerably less incidence of most illnesses, including bowel disorders, all cancers, kidney and gallstones and certain types of diabetes.

Well, I have seen no statistics that vegetarians survive any longer than non-vegetarians - but perhaps someone can tell me differently?

+++++

GREETINGS TO 1993. Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the Earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously to mistrust her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple. Whoever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?

MILTON

PTO:

THE WORLD TODAY - AS I SEE IT. . . .

Look around - God's Plan made a hopeful beginning,
But man is spoiling his chances by sinning.
Let us trust that the story
Will end in God's Glory,
But, at present the other side's winning.

Anon

+ + + + +

IT IS QUITE PROBABLE YOU DON'T KNOW

BUT I have checked my Gazetteer and verified that you will find the name 'Ugley' in Essex and 'Nasty' in adjoining Hertfordshire. Now it seems the Essex ladies have no option but to call a well known local organisation the 'Ugley Women's Institute', and the Editor of the local newspaper recently fulfilled a long held hope when he was able to headline a wedding - 'Nasty man marries Ugley Woman'!

+ + + + +

THINK ABOUT THIS

An acre of average pastureland is said to contain an estimated 360 million insects, of which springtails - wingless leaping insects - are the most common. Although fewer than one million species have so far been classified, the actual total could be far greater. At least three quarters of the known animal species in the world today are insects - and there are more than a million insects for every man, woman and child. Together, the world's insect population is estimated to weigh twelve times as much as the human species. If one were to believe in reincarnation - the mind boggles!

+ + + + +

THE WORST STORM

in British history was probably the Great Storm of 1703, and it was calculated from reports from all over the country that around 8,000 people died, many of them on board the twelve men-o-war wrecked on the Goodwin sands, and the Eddystone lighthouse disappeared without trace. A tornado travelled a record distance over England in 1950 - one hundred miles in four hours. I was driving towards Leighton Buzzard in the late afternoon and was astounded to see 'things' flying in the air when I was about 6 miles away. I learned that it was mainly corrugated iron roofing sheets, many hundreds of slates, haystacks, cows being drawn upwards and popped down in adjacent fields, and I was told chickens outdoors being stripped of their feathers! Many of you can remember the freak flood which struck Lynmouth in North Devon when 30 people died and 300 rendered homeless. It was an incredible sight. The 'Big Snow' we had in 1962/3 when there were no buses between Kingsbridge and Plymouth for around three weeks. The storm in 1974 which washed down the link road to South Milton at Link's Court - may I recommend some very interesting reading in "Weatherwise" by Bill Foggitt (Pavillion - paperback £4.99). Just the thing for a dirty day !!

+ + + + +

PTO:-

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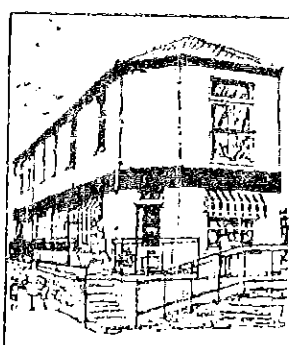
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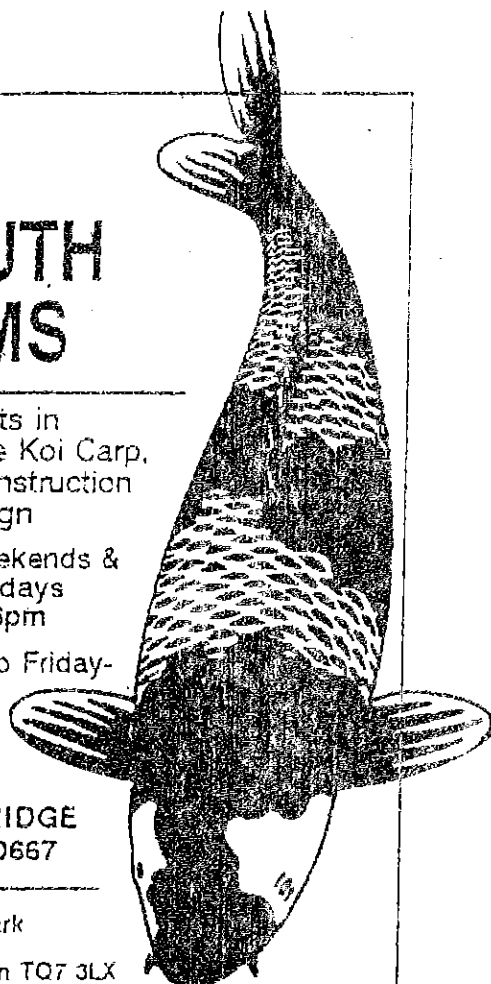
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I see it reported (WM News 2/11/92) that Art and Design students at the University of Plymouth's Exeter Campus are being given the chance to view Madonna's controversial new book 'Sex' - the £25 a time top seller featuring nude pictures of the 'super' star and top catwalk model Naomi Campbell - to help students in their 'research work'.)!

+ + + + +

FIRST WOMAN: "Imagine! He forgot his brother-in-law's name.

SECOND WOMAN: "Oooh, I don't know. It wasn't until I married my first husband that I realised he had false teeth.!"

+ + + + +

"Like the good subservient Europeans we have now become we are now complying wholeheartedly by ploughing up the ancient Kent orchards so that we may have the dubious pleasure of eating French 'Golden Delisous' apples instead of our traditional varieties and planning the further destruction of this ancient and beautiful county in order to construct the high speed rail links to the tunnel connecting us to the 'mainland' to facilitate the import of foreign produce, illegal immigrants, terrorists, drugs and rabies."

(Brief-extract from 'Save our Shires' - Stephen Fenn in the Winter edition of "This England"!)

+ + + + +

OMENS IN THE HOME (3): BEWARE THE MISTLETOE. This gem should have been in a pre-Christmas issue. However, save it for a future time. In many ancient religions the mistletoe was regarded as a sacred plant. The Druids believed that a sprig of mistletoe, fastened above a doorway, would ward off evil and enhance the hospitality - and fertility - of the household. Hence the Christmas custom of kissing under the mistletoe. But, to the Norwegians the mistletoe was a baleful plant, because it caused the death of Baldur, the shining god of youth. Baldur's death was the signal for the Battle of Ragnarok - the Norse equivalent of Armageddon.

+ + + + +

Someone referring to the finishing touches of the human hand in polishing certain optical instruments has said that the mother's hand in the family is the great polisher. It keeps little faces and hands clean, it keeps little dresses and knickerbockers tidy, it closes holes over knees and toes, it fills hungry mouths with wholesome food, it tucks in the sleeping children at night and keeps out the cold. It soothes weary limbs to rest. It binds up cuts and burned and bruised fingers. It holds the cooling draught to fevered lips. It gently closes the eyes that look upon the sun no more. The mother's hand polishes the minds and characters of her children. Her finger points out the letters of the primer, the page in history, the ideal to be attained, the far off goal to be reached, the rocks to be shunned and the whirlpools to be avoided.

(From an entry in an old parish magazine of 1895)

+ + + + +

A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other.

Dickens

END

Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE:
Cold days mean
Stews...
Casseroles...
and
Hot Pots.

"WHEN ICICLES hang by the wall, And Dick the shepherd, blows his nail, And Tom bears logs into the hall, And milk comes frozen home in pail..." That's when a good rich beef stew would be most appreciated!

Basic ingredients for stews, casseroles and hot pots are always much the same, but a change of herb, vegetable or stock can transform the flavour. This one is a favourite of ours during the winter months.

Beef in Beer:

- 2 medium Onions, peeled and chopped.
- 2 Carrots, peeled and diced.
- 2 small Turnips, peeled and diced.
- 2 ozs Mushrooms, washed and sliced.
- 3 tablesp. Cooking Oil.
- 1 lb Braising Steak, cubed.
- 1 tablesp. seasoned Flour
- 2 tablesp. Tomato Puree
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint dark Beer (I use Guinness).
- Salt and freshly ground Black Pepper to taste.
- 1 teasp. dried Thyme.
- 1 Bay leaf.
- 1 level tablesp. Demerara Sugar.

Sweat the vegetables in 2 tablesp. of the oil for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and place into a casserole. Toss the meat in the flour and fry till brown with the remaining oil. Place on top of the vegetables, pour over the beer mixed with tomato puree, herbs and sugar. Cook, covered, in the oven for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Remove the bay leaf, taste and adjust the seasoning.

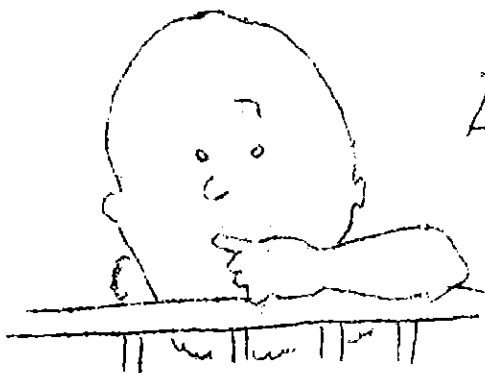
Oh, no, not there!

On a recent occasion I was invited to a champagne reception to meet the new Devon representative for a London firm of auctioneers. About a hundred people turned up, not a single one of whom I could recognise, although most of them seemed to know each other. I approached a rather impressive-looking man and the following conversation took place:

"Who are all these people?" I asked.

"They come from all over Devon, mostly the north, I think", he replied.

"I come from the South Hams". "Oh, I don't think there is anybody from there!" The impressive-looking man then walked away.. NCO.



DID YOU THINK ONLY BABIES NEED CALCIUM?

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While it is well known that calcium is essential for growing children it is not often appreciated that calcium is essential for adults too.

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Insufficient dietary calcium can lead to problems in later life.

Continual loss of bone can eventually lead to osteoporosis. This is a condition characterised by weak and brittle bones that have a tendency to fracture after only a slight fall or knock. Women are said to be more at risk (especially of slim build) and by the age of 60, one in four may show signs of osteoporosis.

Milk, hard Cheese and Yogurt are rich sources of calcium. For those on a diet, the lower fat milks and half fat hard cheeses are also excellent sources.

The Department of Health's latest review of the energy and nutrient requirements for the U.K. (Dietary Reference Values) was published in 1991, where it is shown that 11 to 18 year old teenagers require 1000mg. and adults from 19 plus - 700mg - which is the recommended daily amount considered high enough to meet people's needs.

(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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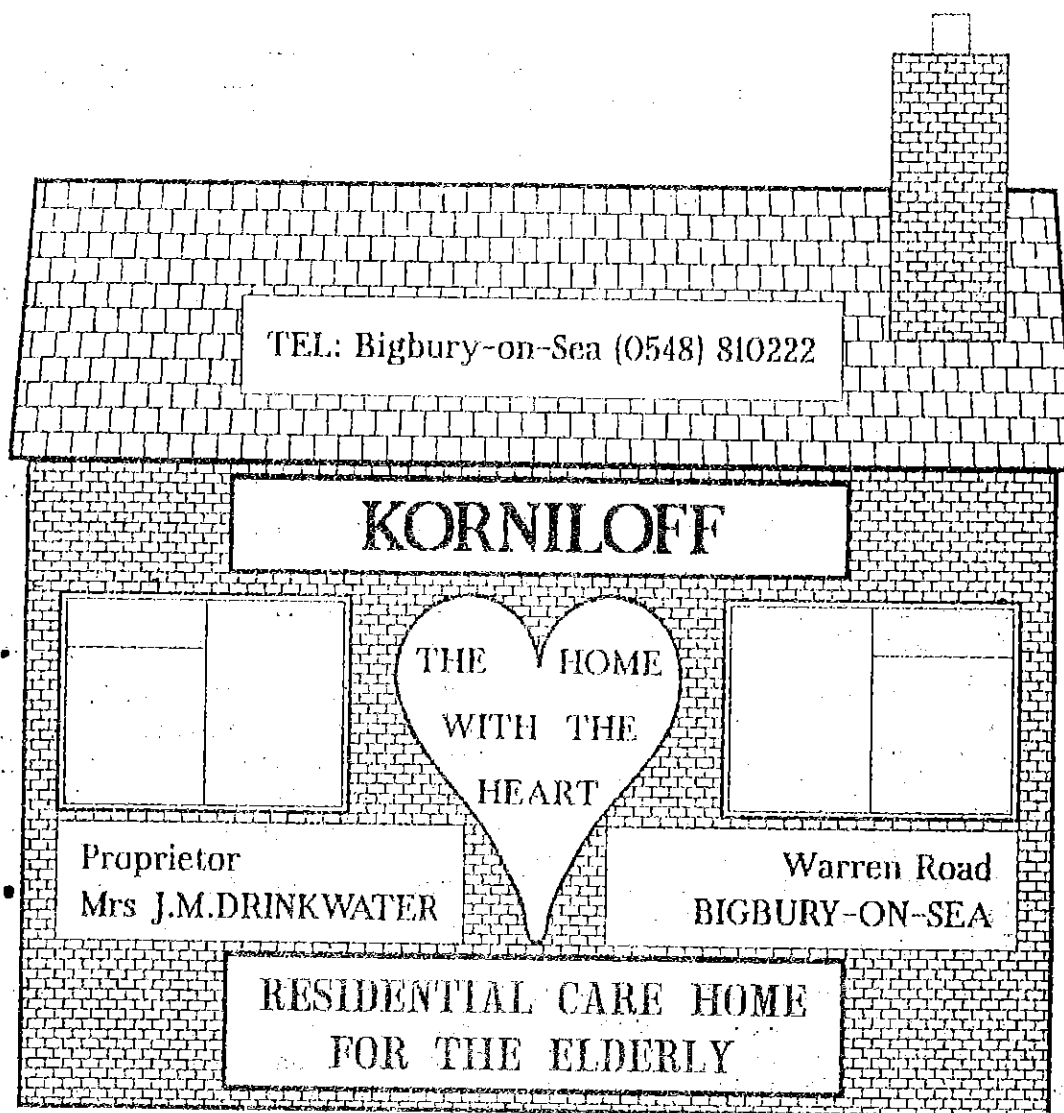
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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

BY THE TIME YOU read this, we will be well into the season of Epiphany and the Christmas of 1992 will seem to belong to a distant age. Yet, as I write, on December 18th, we are all engaged in seasonal activities. The school carousel of services, plays, lunches and parties are over and the family Christmases are about to begin. People often question the amount of time Christmas activities consume in school and the character of the Christmas which is painted. To put a brake on Christmas activities would be like trying to reverse an avalanche - it assumes a momentum of its own and seems to sweep all before it. Nevertheless, in these moments of reflection at the end of term, it is worthwhile trying to review what kind of an impact it has made and whether the great humility as well as the glorious Majesty of the seasons of Advent and Christmas have made an impact on the life of the school.

For me, and I believe for many, the highlight of Christmas in school is the carol service. This year the service, held in Thurlestone Church, was relatively simple (no costumes or tableau), consisting of carols, readings and orchestral pieces, but was, thanks to the dedication of the staff and the sensitive response of the children, extremely effective. Every child in the school was involved in the playing of some kind of musical instrument so it was truly an event in which all children were involved. At the end of the service £95 was collected and this has been sent to relieve starving children in Somalia.

We like to think that children are particularly aware at this time of the year of the suffering of others; with this in mind, two brothers, Joe and Charlie Clift, organised a bring and buy sale to raise money for the treatment of river blindness in Africa. They organised the labelling, advertising, collection of materials and arranging the school hall and have so far raised £75, with the possibility of more to come. The emptiness of a Christmas where all is celebration and no concern for the plight of others, was well made.

Nevertheless, we have been able to celebrate; after a dismal dress rehearsal on Monday morning, the children were in sparkling form for both evening performances for our school concerts. The youngest class produced "The Magic Snowman", the middle class a cantata called "Follow the Star" (written, by the way, by the glass teacher) and the oldest children performed a traditional mummers' play, with some non-traditional characters making cameo appearances. Altogether, the end of term has been tiring but exhilarating and we hope that the high point of the festivities have focused as much on the spiritual as the material.

Alun Williams
Headmaster.

POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE...POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE...
POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE...

First let me introduce myself. I am Dean Sharp and I was appointed (temporary) Thurlestone Area Community Constable at the end of October.

Like Sally Strickland before me I am a newcomer to the Police Force having just completed my two year probationary period in Kingsbridge for the first six months of which I was tutored by Paul Shepherd!

I was born in Peterlee, County Durham, and moved to Cornwall at the age of fourteen where I attended Penryn and Falmouth Schools. Following my schoolboy ambition I joined the R A F in 1983 as an Avionics Technician. I pursued this career for seven and a half years travelling all over the U K and it was whilst in the Air Force that I met my wife Amanda. We have a little boy, Daniel, aged three.

In November 1990 I joined the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary having become bored with life in the R A F and was duly posted to sunny Kingsbridge. Unfortunately I am due to move to Newquay about March time but although my stay with you is to be a short one, I hope it will be pleasant and helpful.

I know you will be pleased to learn that the Thurlestone / Bantham / West Buckland area has a very low crime rate compared to the rest of the Kingsbridge area. This is in no small part due to the Neighbourhood Watch schemes currently in operation in the Parish. Even if you have not had reason to call the police, the fact that Neighbourhood watch signs are displayed is often a good deterrent.

When I recommend that a Scheme is needed on Main Street (Thurlestone), witness the recent break in at the Post Office I am, in fact, only reiterating Paul Shepherd's suggestion of less than a year ago. So please, if anyone is prepared to start such a scheme, please contact me at Kingsbridge Police Station (852326) and I will be only too pleased to help.

Meanwhile should any of you see or hear anything strange or unusual, no matter how trivial it may seem, please do not hesitate to contact the police - day or night. It is often the trivial that catches the criminal!

I would like to finish by wishing you all a Happy (and crime free) New Year.

Dean Sharp
Community Constable
January 1993

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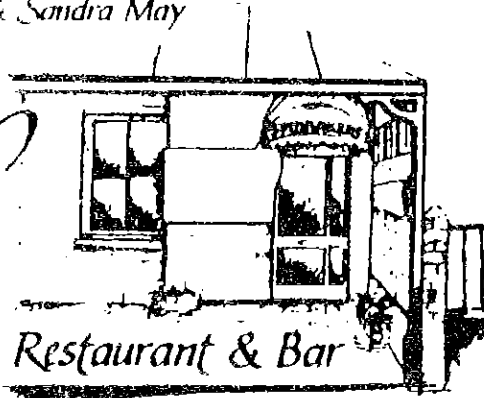
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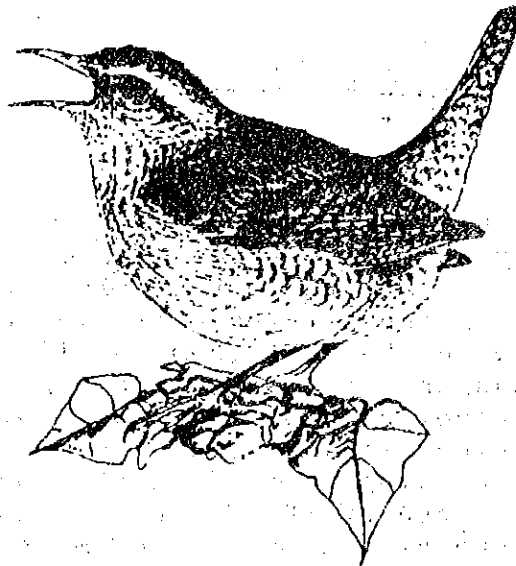
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HARRY HUGGINS



IT SEEMS A STRANGE thing to spend a fortnight's holiday, or at least some of it, thinking about the editor of this esteemed publication, but that is exactly what we did, last November.

We went to Eilat, one of the places where he is wont to dive. It is at the southern end of Israel, where it touches the Red Sea. There is coral, and the exciting fishes which go with it. Wrecks, too, I wouldn't wonder.

Even we went below the waves. Not the real way, with wet suit and aqualung like Kendall McDonald. We paid our shekels, walked along a pier, down a spiral staircase and into a huge circular room where we could goggle out at the fish and they could goggle in at us. Not as exciting as Kendall's way, but better for one like me who has a rooted objection to getting his feet wet.

We went for the birding. Most of the spectacular migration into Africa had gone by; you have to spend the best part of a couple of months there to see all of that. But there were still stragglers and there were many birds which spend the winter there.

If they crowded animals like they packed us into the flight from Gatwick, the RSPCA would prosecute them. The food on the aeroplane was all approved by the Rabbi. We did not admire his taste - of all the foul meals we have eaten on charter flights this was the foulest, except one, and that was on the flight coming back. Odd this, British aircraft, supplied at Gatwick, passengers gentiles to a man, but everything strictly kosher, not that this necessarily made it so awful - I think cheese-paring by the airline was the reason for that.

The hotel was four star. Innocently, I used to think stars were allocated for service. One thinks of the noble four star establishment in whose shadow we dwell, and of the feeling of well-being it exudes when one goes through the door. No way, it all depends on bathrooms, and colour TVs and such. The Shulamit Gardens in Eilat had private bathrooms, colour TV, which we did not use, a refrigerator, which we did, and air conditioning whereof we were very glad, for not only was it hot, but the clatter helped to drown the racket from the disco at the King Solomon hotel a quarter of a mile away.

Continues

HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUES:

But no feeling of comfort and well being, it was like living in a railway station. After four days we were the oldest inhabitants except the staff. Most people were on tours and stayed overnight. Schoolchildren stayed a little longer. They packed them into coaches and brought them to Eilat to see the Israeli heritage; on occasion there must have been three or four hundred of them. The management explained that having them helped the cashflow when things were slack. I commend the thought to Messrs Grose, should bookings ever fall off, but warn them that Israeli hotels have a large staff of security guards armed with tommy guns. They were nice kids; the climate being what it was they were fed out of doors, by the swimming pool; boys slept on one floor and girls on another, and if they brought ropes to climb from balcony to balcony, well, boys and girls will be boys and girls!

I should explain that the Great Rift valley, through which the birds fly, begins somewhere in Syria and ends far south in Africa. South of the Dead Sea it becomes the Aravah desert, a salty, low-lying plain almost devoid of natural vegetation. Westwards is Sinai, with mountains and the frontier with Egypt. To the east are mountains in Jordan. Where the desert reaches the sea is Eilat and three or four miles east lies the Jordanian port of Aqaba. There is no proper frontier with Jordan, just a cease-fire line running through the middle of the desert, with barbed wire and constant patrolling by soldiers. They gave us odd looks when we stood by the wire with telescopes and binoculars, but did nothing. We were told it would be different after dark.

When the Israelis seized the area, forty odd years ago, there was almost nothing where Eilat now stands. In biblical times it was a port called Ezion-Geber, where the Queen of Sheba is said to have landed on her way to an assignation with King Solomon. I hope she had plenty of paperbacks to read, it must have been jolly boring being carried in a litter through all that desert.

The seafront with its monster hotels is just like any on the Costas or Tenerife except there is no-one selling timeshare! Inland are a lot of little shopping arcades which intrigued us; despite being so new they are full of the grubby little shops we remember in the Mile End Road of our youth.

Pervading everywhere was a smell of sewage. We didn't notice it after the first week which meant that we must have smelled like it. I wondered why when we got home even more people than usual seemed to go to the other side of the road when they saw me coming!

We all read long ago that the Israelis were making the desert bloom. They were, and are, to do which you need water. The average annual rainfall in Eilat is half an inch. That does not fall every year of course. We were told it had not rained for three years, and might not for as long again. Then there might be ten inches in a few many hours.

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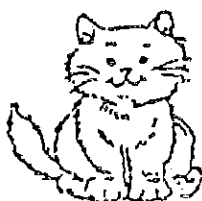
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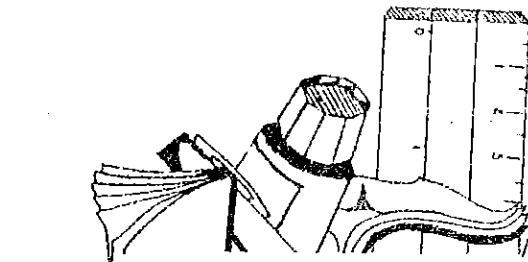
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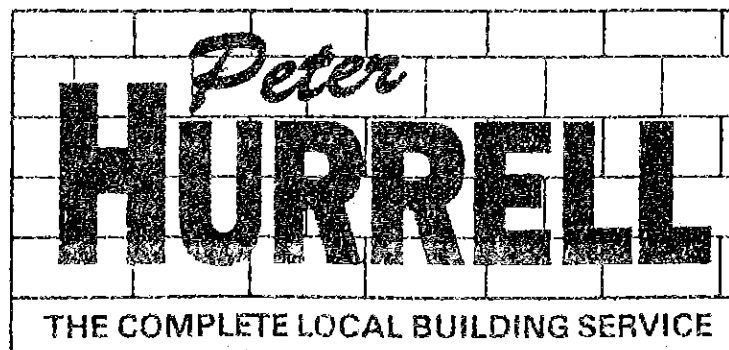
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HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUES:

To create all this blooming, they pipe in water from the north. It is far too precious to use on the fields the first time round. So they "recycle" it. I do not know what they do to it, very little, to judge by the smell. Then they use it to water the parks (by our hotel there was a pleasant one which produced some good birds); they put it on such roads as are not yet tarred, to stop the dust blowing about, and they put it on the crops.

Sunbird was the outfit we went with. Their usual tours are expensive, very good, and far too strenuous for us. But to a few of the real birding hotspots, Eilat, Hong Kong and one or two others, they do what they call a Sunbirder, a kind of half and half. They arrange flights, b. and b. in a hotel, a leader (more than one if there are a lot of punters), and very important, information on what to see and where to see it. Vital, this last. Otherwise you could go with Thomson and I expect pay a lot less than Sunbird charged (I haven't dared to find out). Each evening there is a log-call, when people get together to say what they have seen. Each day you can do your own thing - bird, swim, lie on the beach, or at extra cost, (considerable) go out each morning with the leader in his minibus.

Leaderwise we were lucky - we had Killian Mullarney, a bird artist of some repute, a charming fellow (well, isn't he Irish?) and an excellent birder.

The first week we went out with him. Mornings only it was supposed to be; we set off at six thirty, soon after dawn, and returned two-ish. It got dark at five, which left little time for private excursions.

For the second week we rented a car. Each time we closed a door it reminded us we had to buy a new dustbin when we got home, but it went and it had air-conditioning; there was an almost instant blast of cold air, most comforting in the heat of the desert.

On our own we worked a different routine - out at dawn, about six, back for breakfast at nine, then off again until late afternoon.

Much of what we covered was within sight of the hotel. Soft of us to want a car, no, not in the heat, and carrying binoculars, telescope and camera. Just behind where all the hotels are is a huge complex of salt pans, with the local sewage works somehow mixed in. I suppose they are separate. But it does not look like it, nor does it smell like it. I do not know how they mine salt in Siberia, and I believe that on the east coast of England they used to evaporate it by throwing chunks of red-hot metal into pools of seawater. In these hot countries they just run the sea into shallow lagoons and let the sun do the necessary. Sometimes they move the water from lake to lake; the net result is that it gets saltier and saltier until it solidifies, when they scrape it up with a bulldozer. It is all just right for little shrimps and things to breed merrily; the birds love it and so do the birders. There were always twenty or so Greater Flamingos standing in the middle, with Redshanks and Greenshanks and Grey Plovers. There was the odd Marsh Sandpiper and some Greater Sand Plovers - two species not unknown in England, but very rare here. It does not do to think about what goes into the salt.

Continues

HARRY HUGGINS CONTINUES:

Killian had been there twelve times before and knew where to look. Each morning he drove us to the beach for seabirds - White-eyed Gulls, and Cory's Shearwaters. Then all round the salt pans, and after that up into the mountains or through the desert.

A place he loved and we came to dread was K33, not really a place at all, just a featureless stretch of desert beside the main road to Jerusalem with a sign reading Kilometre 33 (from the Egyptian border). We feared it because of the heat and lack of shade and nowhere to spend a penny (not that one wanted to, we just sizzled up), but there were good birds, different sorts of wheatears, strange warblers and a Hoopoe Lark, bigger than our Skylark, with longer legs and a long drooping bill, I would have gone to Israel for that alone, that and the two Imperial Eagles which flew over.

To return to Eilat, next to the salt pans was a stinking canal, with shallow sides and clumps of reeds. In it we saw Bittern, very rare in England, Black Stork, just a vagrant to England, Little Crane, a ditto vagrant, and once the resident Barbary Falcon was standing by it. That is like our Peregrine, but more gingery. It must have eaten so much it could not move because the crows were pulling its tail.

Between the canal and the frontier with Jordan were the fields of a kibbutz. That is where the melons grew, there was sweet corn which shot up a good four feet in the couple of weeks we were there, and a lot of plastic tunnels. Provided we did not get in their way the kibbutz people seemed quite complacent about our driving around the tracks between the fields.

Nearby was a shed where ornithologists were ringing birds they netted among some scrubby bushes. They did it mostly in the hour or so after dawn when the little things they caught were most active and we went along each morning around that time to see what they had bagged (literally, because each bird was kept in a little cotton bag until they ringed it). They had Reed Warblers, Chiffchaffs, Stonechats, all species we have here in Devon, but these had summered far to the east. Commonest were Bluethroats. This is a bird of eastern Europe, a close cousin of our Robin; the male has a little blue bib with either a red spot or a white spot in the middle of it, depending on where he comes from. Bluethroat has a strange fascination for British birders for whom it is a mega-rarity. I know of at least one beautiful friendship which dissolved because one twitcher did not tell another that there was one at Prawle.

On our last morning the ringers at Eilat were more fascinated with a bird the like of which they had never seen before. They weighed it, gazed into its eyes to see what colour they were, measured every feather and could hardly bear to let it fly away. It was a Dunnock - look out of the window and you will see one on the lawn. Dunnocks do not migrate, everyone knows they are hatched, live and die all within the space of a couple of back gardens, yet here was one which had flown down to Israel.

No way could we enthuse about the hotel, and you would not call Eilat a gastronomic paradise, but the birding was wonderful and above all we revelled in the bright light which made the colours of even the dowdiest species look brilliant. We hope one day we may go back; if we do, and visit the underwater observatory, we hope we will see Kendally swim past the window.

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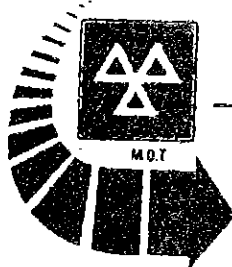
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LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING - Work is now due to start on the homes for local people at Sea View Road in 1994-95.

TENNIS COACHING - Junior tennis coaching clinics for all levels of play will be held at Thurlestone Golf Club tennis courts over the Easter school holidays. The clinics will be taken by Lawn Tennis Association Coach Rob Short.

The groups will be based on six players and the cost per session is £2 for club members and £3 for non-club members. Players will be able to play doubles before and after their session. A free assessment and enrolment day will be Saturday, March 27th between 10 am-11 am (9 years to 12 years) and 11 am to 1 pm (12-18 years). Short coaching sessions will be held at Malborough Village Hall during the Easter holidays too. For further details: Lindsey Fletcher on 0548-560157.

POLL TAX FIGURES - There were 610 houses in the Parish, of which 141 were holiday homes. Another 36 are rated as businesses as holiday letting cottages, hotels and guest houses.

There were 709 personal Community Charge payers in the Parish.

LEAS FOOT TOILETS - An electricity supply is to be laid on at the Leas Foot toilet block from the summer. After that it is hoped the toilets will be open all year round and for 24 hours.

GAS FOR THURLESTONE? - British Gas have completed their survey and are expected to produce figures for the costs involved for each household if they wish to have gas connected very soon. They are to pass over these figures at a meeting with Thurlestone Parish Council.

PARISH PRECEPT FOR 1993-4 - The Parish Council voted unanimously not to increase this and to hold the same amount as last year.

PARISH COUNCIL MEET - 23rd February in the Wardroom at the Sloop - at 7.30 p.m.

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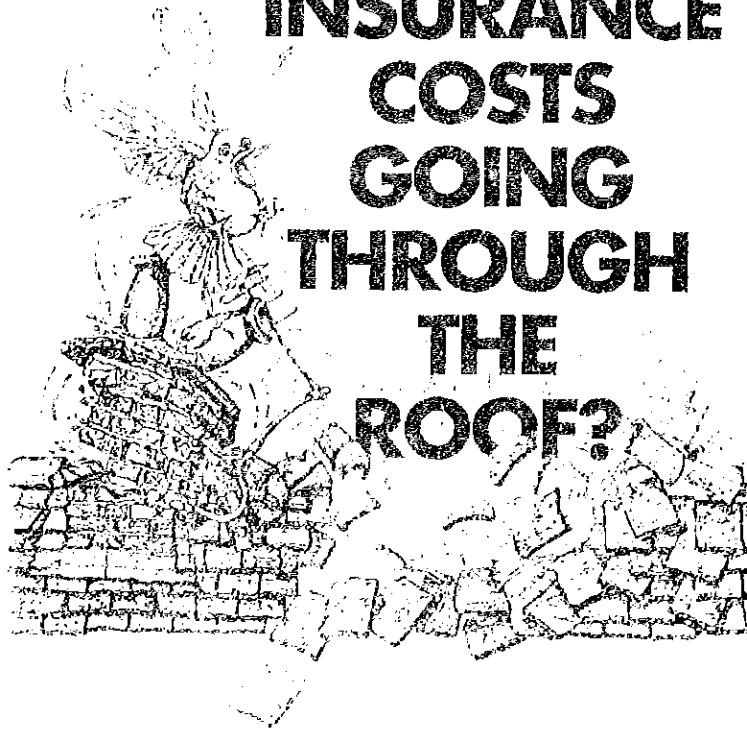
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POSTBAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITORS,

I was interested to read the little verse about shutting the gate in Drabblemania. It is a very long time since I heard it.

I was taught this by Farmer John Broad, almost sixty years ago, I suppose. His version, recited in his deep South Hams dialect, went:

Be ye man or be ye woman,
Be ye early or be ye late,
Be ye goin' or be ye comen,
Be ye sure ye stake the gate.

I think this better than the version you quote, and I have no doubt is the original version of this old Devonshire exhortation.

A.P. HAMMICK,

YELLOW SANDS, THURLESTONE.

P.S. There was a reference to the Church House in a recent Village Voice, and I wonder if I am one of the last connections with its building on land gifted to the parish by the then Rector, Richard Worth, in 1538. My direct ancestor Johannes Pildytch was named as one of the rector's 'veros et legottimos attornatos', together with Robert Tabbe, in the Deed of Conveyance. My late mother was a Miss Pilditch. My schoolboy Latin translates the words as 'true and lawful attorneys', though I would be glad of a more scholarly translation. I have always supposed that attorney here means witness, but I would like a second opinion.

DEAR EDITORS,

The Choir and friends of Thurlestone Church would like to thank all those who participated in the carol singing round Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone, and also to everyone who gave so generously. We have been able to send £100 to help children in Somalia.

LIZ WEBB,

THE OLD MILL, WEST BUCKLAND.

DEAR MADAM EDITOR,

I don't know about you, but I am pretty fed-up with all this Kingsbridge Hospital and Health Centre nonsense.

Why can't they just leave things alone? I am beginning to believe that the Devil really does make work for idle hands.

KENDALL McDONALD,

CRADLES COTTAGE, THURLESTONE.

More letters overleaf.

MORE POSTBAG...YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITORS CONTINUED:

DEAR SIR AND MADAM,

I would like to take the opportunity of commenting on the road traffic problems you refer to from time to time.

When I was Parish Clerk, I recall a Parish Meeting held under the chairmanship of the late Mr. Peter Grose, in which the traffic problems were widely discussed. The meeting, as I recall it, agreed with the Chairman that to impose a 30 m.p.h. limit on the village roads would merely indicate "You can travel at 30 miles an hour here". The Police representative at that meeting indicated that they would not be able to police lesser signs - such as 10 m.p.h or 20 m.p.h. - and unfortunately "sleeping policemen" were not then permissible.

NOW THEY ARE, and if anyone needs convincing take a trip up Derriford Road, Plymouth, to Nuffield or Derriford Hospitals. A modified version of what you find there would end all speeding in all villages. No police would be needed in attendance - just adequate road indications and signs.

If DCC Highways have no money to spare, perhaps the Parish could apply for funds to cover the cost if there were a majority in favour. I rest my case.

DUDLEY DRABBLE,
SOUTH MILTON.

Editors' footnote: The Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday, April 6 is to discuss speed limits and traffic before a decision is made. All are welcome to the meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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

If you're interested in ships and the sea, then a South Devon Heritage Coast Service Walk on February 7 is the one for you. Entitled "Wrecks and Rescues" this is a walk along the cliffs near Hope with some of the Coastguards responsible for offshore and cliff rescue work. Dave Clark and Ray Staff are the Coastguards who lead this walk, and tell you about all the wrecks and rescues.

They will meet you at Bolberry Down (SX 688384) at 10.30 a.m. and return you there at 3 p.m. Bring a packed lunch or enough cash to buy one at a pub in Hope Cove. The walk includes a visit to the Coastguard Station.

The walk is graded as "Moderate" and will cost you £1 and 50p for children.



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Every day, one of our fully equipped mobile patrols visits various houses and commercial properties in the Thurlestone, South Milton and Bantham area.

If you are concerned about leaving your house or holiday home for long or short term periods and would like a daily or weekly visiting service, please do not hesitate to contact us without obligation at the address shown in the below advertisement.

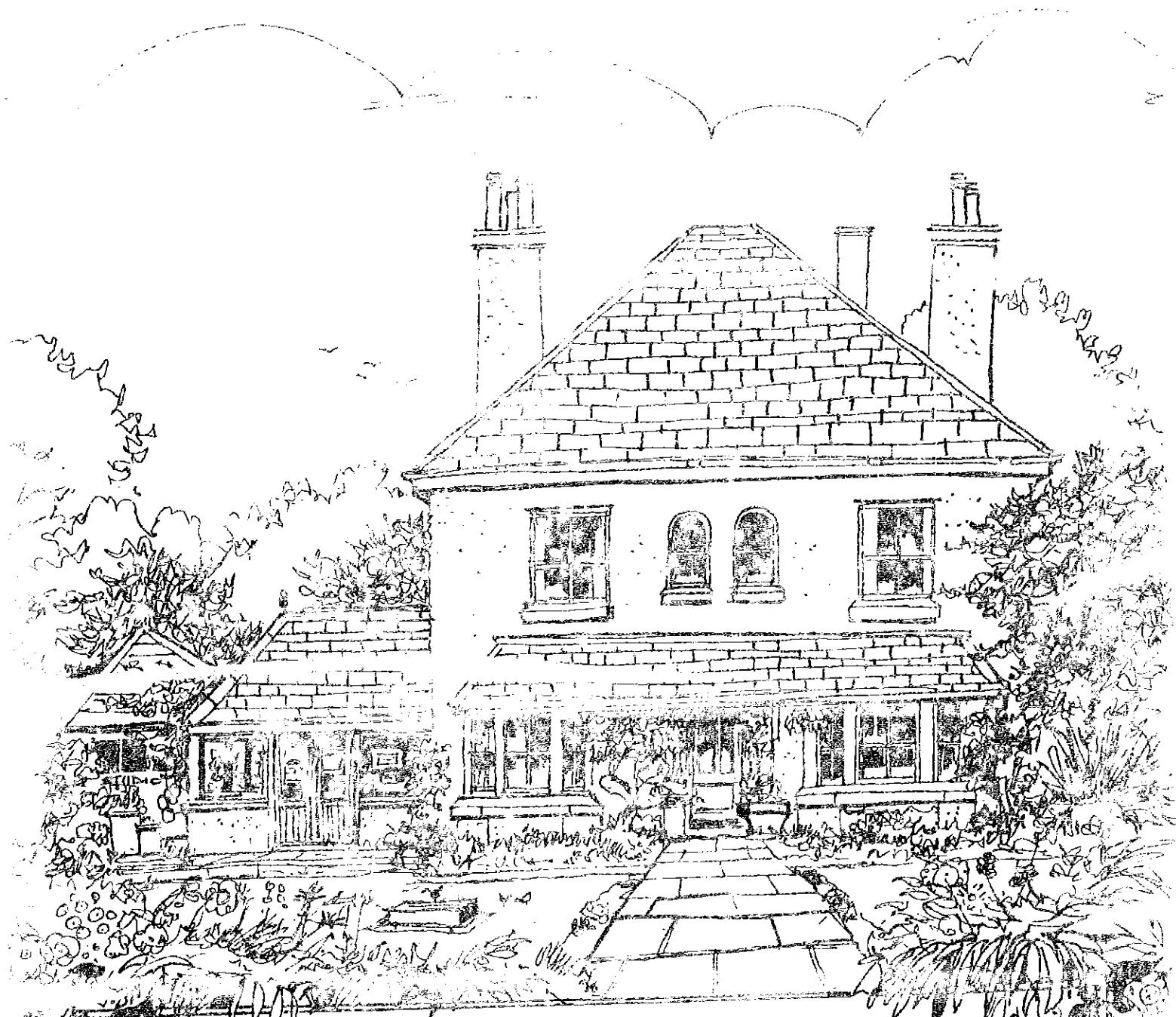


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CONCLUDING THE VILLAGE VOICE GUIDE TO THE OLDEST HOUSES IN
THE PARISH AND WHY THEY ARE "LISTED":

THURLESTONE VILLAGE - Nos 1, 2 & 3
Church Cottages (formerly listed as
1, 2 & 3 Church House)

Grade II

Row of 3 houses formerly church house and poorhouse. Possibly dates from 1536 according to documentary evidence, altered probably in C19. Slatestone rubble walls. Gable ended slate roof. Rendered probably rubble, axial stack with brick shaft and 2 brick gable end stacks.

Plan: the building seems to have functioned both as church house and poorhouse and Copeland thinks that the left-hand end was the church house as it projects at the rear and contains a winding staircase. Now the property is 1 and 2-room cottages.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 4-window front of circa C20 and 2 and 3-light casements, some in original chamfered stone window openings. Towards left-hand end are the two C20 stable type doors to Nos 1 and 2 with a similar one to No 3 to the right of centre. Two-thirds of the way up the front wall is a rough string course and it also has a rough plinth. A rubble buttress with 2 offsets at left-hand end has a freestone shield on it carved with the arms of Nicholas Ayshford, one of the joint patrons of the building.

Interior: inaccessible at time of survey but a description of the building in c.1960 by Copeland mentions wide stone stairs, a corbelled oak beam, plain plank screen and open fireplaces in left-hand end cottage with no such features visible in the others.

Source: Devonshire Church Houses - G.W.Copeland. T.D.A 1960

Bay Tree Cottage and The Nook
(formerly listed as The Nook and No 2
The Nook).

Grade II

Pair of cottages. Mid-later C17 extended in C18. Plastered rubble and cob walls. Thatch roof hipped to left end and gabled to right. Axial brick stack.

Plan: not entirely clear. probably both cottages have 2 rooms, the inner one of each heated by the axial stack which divides them. Left hand end is recessed and probably an C18 addition.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 4-window front. C19 casement to left on each floor and late C18 or early C19 20-pane horizontal sliding sash to right of centre on 1st floor. C20 2-light casement to its right and 3-light one below. Left-hand ground floor window is in a C17 ovolo-moulded wooden frame. To its left, in recessed section, is C20 panelled and glazed door. Lean-to porch, with doorway now blocked to left of centre. C19 4-panel door to right of centre with plank door immediately beyond it.

Interior: inaccessible at time of survey but may be fairly unaltered.

Continued overleaf

WEST BUCKLAND - May Cottage.

Grade II

House. C17 probably altered in C20. Rendered rubble walls which may incorporate some cob. Thatch roof gabled to left end and hipped to right. Projecting rendered rubble stack with brick shaft at left gable end, similar stack not projecting at right-hand end.

Plan: originally 3-room-and-through-passage plan, lower end probably to the right. Hall heated by front lateral stack now blocked off. C19 outshut added in front of left-hand room.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 1 window front, 4 to the ground floor of C20 small-paned 1 and 2-light casements. C20 gabled porch to right of centre with glazed door. In front of left-hand end is a C19 outshut and immediately to its right is the truncated projecting lateral stack.

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

Clematis Cottage and Court Cottage.

Grade II

Pair of Cottages. Circa early C18 with later and C19 additions. Plastered rubble and cob walls. Hipped thatch roof. Axial brick shaft on rendered rubble base.

Plan: Clematis Cottage to the left has 2-room plan. Court Cottage has one room at the front divided from Clematis by the axial stack and one room in an unheated wing to the rear, added circa later C18. C19 or early C20 outshuts built at rear.

Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 3-window front 2: 1 of C19 small-paned 2-light casements, C20 single light to left on ground floor. C19 plank door to left of Clematis Cottage with half-door in front and slate hood over. Court Cottage to right has C20 part-glazed door. Wing behind right-hand end.

Interior: inaccessible at time of survey.

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FEBRUARY.

Tues	16th	Ladies Evening, Probus. Cottage Hotel
Wed	17th	Tramp walk. Combe/Aveton Gifford/Hatch Bridge.
Sat	20th	Horticultural Show Jumble Sale. Parish Hall 2.30pm
Tues	23rd	Thurlestone Parish Residents Fancake Races. Start 10.30am
Tues	23rd	Parish Council Meeting, The Sloop Inn, Bantham. 7.30pm
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 10.30am
Mon	15th	Parish Hall A.G.M. Parish Hall 7.30pm
Wed	17th	Tramp walk. Capton/Tuckenhay/Cornworthy
Tues	23rd	John Delve at the Parish Hall. Cream Tea 2.30pm
Thurs	25th	All Saints Fellowship "The Mau Mau and All That" Barbara Holloway. Rectory Barn 2.30pm
Tues	30th	Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

APRIL

Tues	6th	Annual Parish Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm
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
Thurs	6th	County Council Elections. Parish Hall.
Sat	8th	Friends of St. Luke's Hospice. Coffee Morning, Parish Hall
Tues	11th	Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm
Wed	19th	Tramp walk, Moors foothills
Sat	22nd	T & S.M. Horticultural Show Plant Sale Parish Hall.
Thurs	27th	All Saints Fellowship. "Musical Tea-Party" Rectory Barn 2.30pm

JUNE

Wed	2nd	Tramp Walk. Ivybridge/Moors foothills
Wed	16th	Tramp Walk. Norsworthy Bridge/Moors.
Tues	22nd	Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

JULY

Wed	7th	Tramp walk. Horrabridge/Moors foothills
Wed	21st	Tramp Walk. Hexworthy/Moors
Tues	27th	Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

AUGUST

Wed	4th	Tramp Walk. Moors.
Sat	7th	T & S.M. Horticultural Show. Parish Hall;
Wed	18th	Tramp Walk. Dart Valley/Moors

SEPTEMBER.

Wed	1st	Tramp Walk. Horrabridge/River valley
Tues	7th	Parish Council meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm
Wed	15th	Tramp Walk. Burrator Reservoir.

OCTOBER.

Wed	13th	Tramp Walk. Coastal Path
Tues	19th	Parish Council meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

NOVEMBER.

Wed	10th	Tramp Walk. Local countryside.
Tues	30th	Parish Council meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

DECEMBER.

Wed	8th	Tramp Christmas Walk, Pickwick Inn.
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