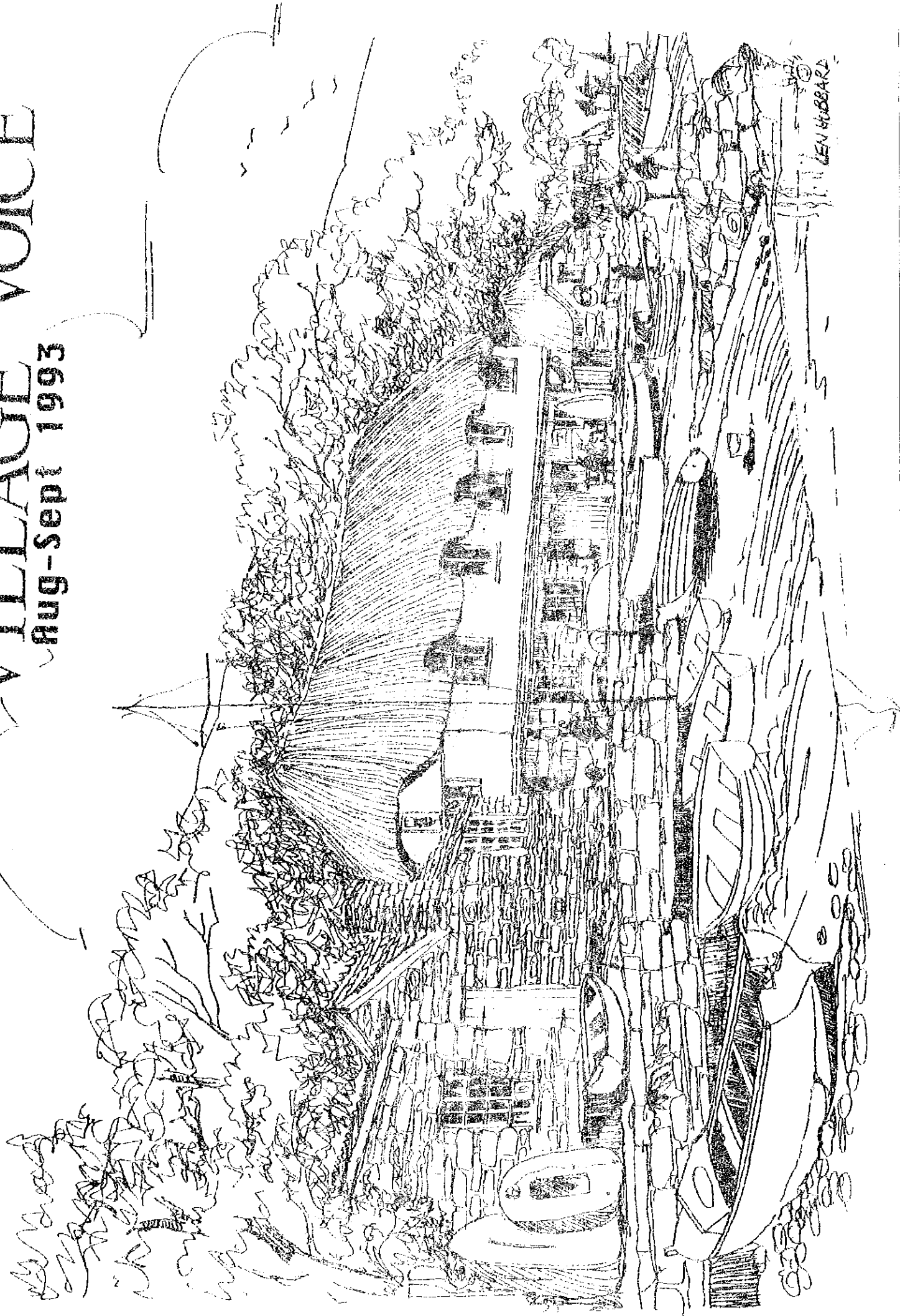


VILLAGE VOICE

Aug-Sept 1993



Founded by Dudley

DRABBLE

1982.



Cover pictures
by
LEN HUBBARD.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.

EDITED AND PRODUCED BY

KENDALL McDONALD
& PENNY McDONALD

AT

Cradles Cottage
Thurlestone.

Tel: Kingsbridge
560239

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OF ALL THE DAFT IDEAS to counter rural crime, none is dafter than the suggestion of "Parish Constables".

The name of course suggests that at last we were to get the real answer to crime in the countryside - bobbies back in the villages. But the so-called parish constable is nothing like that.

The parish constable plan being studied, so we are told, by the Home Secretary himself, would consist of appointing respected local people who would work with the police to combat rural crime. They would be elected by parish councils to oversee Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch schemes. They would have no more powers than ordinary citizens - and in our opinion would therefore be totally useless.

And with due respect to Mr. Howard, and to Country Life magazine, which apparently first put up the idea, the last thing our devoted Neighbourhood Watch schemers need is someone to "oversee" them. A watch on the Watch would cause offence, would slow down the whole procedure, and might well lead to more rural crime in a village with internal "mugging" of the parish constable!

The Home Secretary should realise that his consideration of the parish constable scheme is clearly just a publicity stunt to stop people taking the law into their own hands. He gave that away when he said: "What we want is vigilance, not vigilantism"

We have been vigilant, Mr. Howard, but it seems to have done little to help us. What we really need is not a silly scheme, but for you to do something positive - even if it is only to say goodbye!

CHURCH FETE SENSATION

An amazing total of £1900 was raised at Thurlestone Church fete on July 24. An amazing total because it rained in the morning on the stalls as they were set up, but held off for the whole of the fete in the afternoon in the Rectory garden.

BANTHAM BEST BEACH

Bantham won the Tidy Britain Premier Seaside Award for the second year running on July 9, when Councillor Derek Andrews, Chairman of SHDC, raised the flag on the beach and Bantham Surf Life-saving Club gave a super display.

SHUT THAT DOOR!

Kingsbridge Police report a spate of thefts from cars and boats in the area. Houses have suffered too. Say the police: Don't leave windows or doors open, even if you're going to a neighbour for a quick cup of coffee. And if you see anything suspicious the numbers to call are: Crimestoppers Freephone 0800 555 111. Or 0803- 841301. For emergencies it is of course still 999.

BET YOU DID'NT KNOW..

Villagers used to put honey, not jam, on their cream and scones. They called it "thunder and lightning".

Well, so says the newly-formed South Hams Food and Drink Association.

P A I N T W O R K

P R O B L E M S ?

Why not eliminate them all at once..

By installing new UPVC windows, doors and fascias.

From P.H U R R E L L

0548-560496...0548-560521...

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Looks at..

PARKING PROBLEMS...

POOPING PROBLEMS...

..AND THE PTC, WHICH
IS JUST BEING FORMED.

OH, WHAT A TISSY! Don't think there's been one like it since they dug up grandfather's grave to build a sewer. Mind you this one is about that sensitive plot of land we call the Parish Hall car park.

Seems there's been talk of raising the charge to park there to £70 per year - from a fiver! Knowing the rest of the villagers as I do, they won't get any takers at that sort of price. Anyway, when the land was given by the Yeos, it was given to the parish for the benefit of parishioners, not to rip off those not fortunate enough to have a built-in garage.

Mind you, there's been a lot of back-tracking going on and I hear that letters of apology going out to those who suddenly got back-dated demands for £35 for a half-year per car, and it now looks as though the price is back to the traditional fiver. Well, for the time being it is. But don't think you've heard the end of it. There are some who still want to increase the price because they think it will cure what they call the "Bottleneck" and raise money for the hall at the same time. The Bottleneck seems to be a new name for the Nook! The idea that increasing the price will take cars off the streets seems a bit of a contradiction to me - far more likely to produce more cars in the road and less in the car park.

Course the truth is that the police like the Bottleneck, which they call a "traffic calming measure". And another truth is that if the Hall needs money for repairs or what have you, they have only to ask some of our fund-raising ladies who'll whip them up a couple of thousand as soon as you can say raffle. And the third and most obvious truth is that any resident ought to be able to park at the Parish Hall for nothing. If anyone is to be charged for

Continued overleaf.

parking in our Parish Hall can park it ought to be those who come from outside the parish to attend events at the Hall. Come to think of it, if you charge residents to park there, why shouldn't everyone who parks there, for bridge for example, pay a fee too. It could be added to the fee for the evening..

AND WHILE UP THAT END of the village - will the three dogs' owners, who let them use the forecourt of the garage as their personal lavatory, desist immediately. Maurice Blight and Keith are pretty fed up with them I can tell you. They have to work under cars out there and changing wheels that have been used as dog's urinal is not a pleasant task to say the least.

How do they know that there are three particular dogs involved? Just think about it and I'm sure you'll see the answer.

THE WORLD SEEMS to be full of organisations which are best known by their initials. A new one - the FTC - deserves the support of everyone. It's just being formed so perhaps the initials have little meaning for you, but they will, they will. The FTC? That's the Friends of Thurstone Church.

Joining the FTC will cost little, but will mean a lot. Being a member will show that you too cannot imagine Thurstone without its magnificent church. Because that's the aim of the FTC - to raise money to ensure the Church is kept in good repair and so will be there for generations yet to come.

The money raised by the Friends of Thurstone Church will be used only for the upkeep of the fabric of the Church - and nothing else. And don't doubt that the FTC is really needed - some of the routine maintenance tasks had to be skipped this year because of a shortage of money.

NOW YOU KNOW..

There I was groping my way down the village street on a dark evening in search of the pillar box when I bumped into a man on the way up. After mutual apologies, he said he was a visitor and seemed to welcome the chance of a chat.

"Why don't you have street lights?" he asked. "We were offered some, but turned them down, because we like things as they are."

"Ah, rural ambience, how interesting. You see, I am an ecologist. Do you feel that the people of Thurstone are eco-sensitive?"

"Certainly they are," I replied. "What about the Department of the Environment?" "Oh, they send all sorts of people down here to tell us what we can and can't do and who can walk where and when."

"What about Environmental Health?" "Well, one thing we lack is a rubbish tip". "I suppose you are referring to a Rural Amenities Site," he said. With that, he turned on his heels and disappeared into the darkness, presumably by then he realised I did not know what he was talking about.

The word ecology has always bothered me, especially the edo part. The Oxford dictionary helped. Apparently, eco first came on the scene in 1530 with the word economy. Eco comes from the Greek OIKOS meaning a house and NOMOS a law or rule. Thus house management and now management of all kinds. Ecology appeared in 1873 and was applied to the study of organisms of all kinds in relation to each other and their surroundings, including plants. Latterly it has been associated with man and his environment. Anyone needing a slick definition might try "the study of the spatial distribution of a population in reference to material and social causes and effects" or ecosystem for short.

I now feel I shall be in an infinitely stronger position should I ever bump into another ecologist. I never did find the pillar box that evening. N.C.O.

Double Top! Double Top!

Two Top Events for the Summer!

The First is on Thurlestone Village Green at 6 p.m. on Tuesday August 10th and is called...The Fete of the Bells.

At this event the Thurlestone Bellringers aim to raise funds for six new bell ropes which are urgently needed if the parish is to continue to hear the music of the bells ringing out from All Saints' Church. Each new bell rope costs £75.

So come to the village green, bring the family, purse and wallet, and enjoy a barbecue, stalls and sideshows, treasure hunt and raffle - and listen to the bells!

P.S. "The History of the Bells", leaflets with lucky numbers on them with a bottle of Bells whisky (what else!) for the winner, are on sale in village shops or from Shirley Pope (560172); Liz Webb (560090); Pam Brewster (560345).

And the second big event is on Friday, September 24th in the Parish Hall and is The Harvest Thanksgiving Supper.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service is at 7 p.m. in All Saints' Church and is followed by a traditional Supper. Everyone is welcome and tickets are £2.50 and £1 for children. Entertainment afterwards includes the Choir leading everyone in a sing-song.

Transport to and from the Church and Hall can be arranged. Tickets from Jim Woodrow (560206); Liz Webb (560090); Penny McDonald (560239); Joan Galloway (560453)

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THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON

SHOW NEWS

Don't forget

SATURDAY 7th AUGUST at 2.30 pm

in

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

THE ANNUAL SHOW

It promises to be a very GREEN Show this year!

Good luck to all the exhibitors and we hope all the supporters will enjoy the afternoon (the Prize Giving is at 4.15 pm).

Owing to other commitments the Secretary is, reluctantly, having to resign after this year's Show.

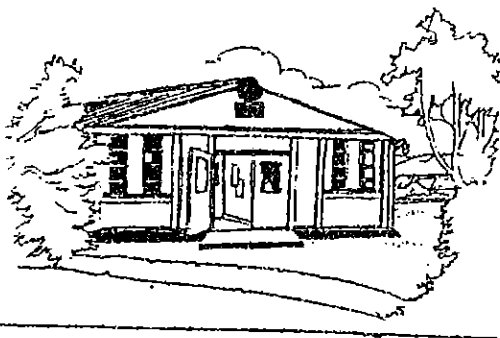
The Committee (listed below) would be delighted to hear from anybody who would like to take on this very worthwhile and rewarding task. A typewriter, whilst an asset, is not a necessity (the Schedule is held on a Committee member's word processor).

Gardening experience is not essential but you do need an abiding faith in the elements!

Dick White	560360
Pat Macdonald	560436
Alf Amess	560336
Tony Church	560661
David Coward	560792
Ben Horn	560000
Len Hubbard	560731
Evelyn Snowden	560623
Chalky & Veronica White	560236
Derrick Yeoman	560607

We look forward to hearing from you

Greenfly
July 1993



THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

WANTED!

WANTED!

WANTED!

Your support for the ANNUAL AUTUMN FAIR in aid of the Fabric of the Hall itself at your PARISH HALL on SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 1993 at 2.30pm. Please make a note in your Dairy Now!

Even if you are unable to attend we would appreciate your financial support, which I know has always been forthcoming in the past. Perhaps you would also look in your cupboards, attics, garages etc and see what you can find for our Bric-a-Brac, books, and bottle stalls etc. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Your Parish Hall Committee are at present actively considering what rent increases can be made in pursuance of our obligations as the Hall's Trustees. We appreciate at this time any increase will not be particularly welcome by any section of the community and increases will be as modest as we are able, commensurate with our duty.

One unexpected and welcome addition to our income will be a "Keep Fit" Class, to be run by Kingsbridge Community Council, for some 10 weeks commencing in the Autumn on Monday evenings, which I am certain many of you will wish to support.

John Slinger, Chairman.

ONE MAN AND HIS DOGS..

DURING ONE OF MY RECENT constitutionals round the village, I met a well-known member of the community who has two dogs. They are, he informed me, apricot poodles, a brother and sister.

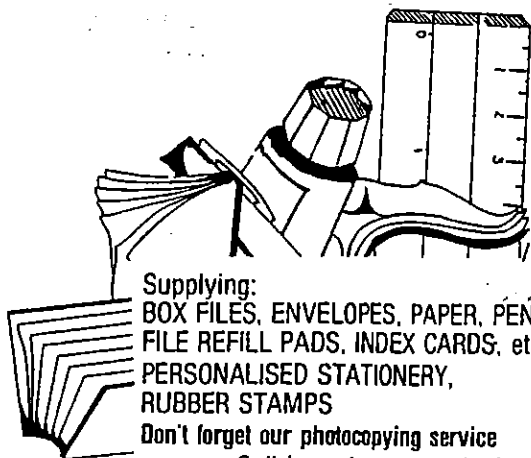
Docile and charming to human beings, including children, they are easily excited by the mere sight of another dog, upon which they ordinarily make a concerted attack. The same happens when a dog appears on television.

The introduction of Coronation Street shows a dog, so I am informed, which the poodles have always greeted with a barrage of barking. Now they can recognise the signature tune and start barking before the dog even appears. Their owner suspects that they are beginning to eye the Radio Times suspiciously. Could they possibly be checking on the date of the next instalment of Coronation Street?

N.C.O.

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V-Chairman: Mr. Derrick Yeoman

560607
Mr. John Dayment 560295
Mr. David Grose 560375
Mr. Charles Mitchelmore 560602
Mr. Geoffery Stidston 560695
Mrs. Veronica White 560236

Parish Clerk: Mr. W. G. Ladd 560686

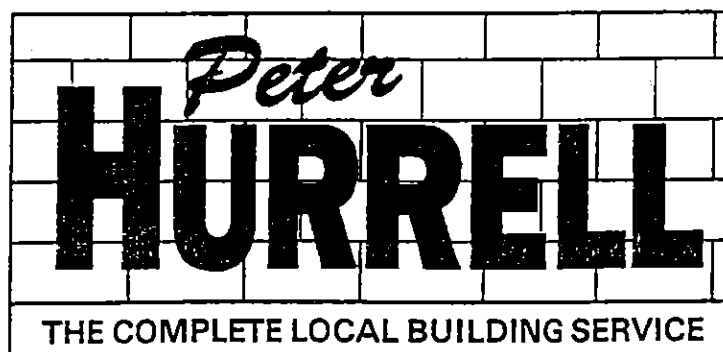
District Councillor Mr. A. R. Watson 852127

County Councillor Mr. Simon Day
Plymouth 691212

South Hams District Council
All Departments: 0803-864499

Kingsbridge Police Stn. 852326
Kingsbridge Health Centre 853551

Parish Emergency Officer 560607



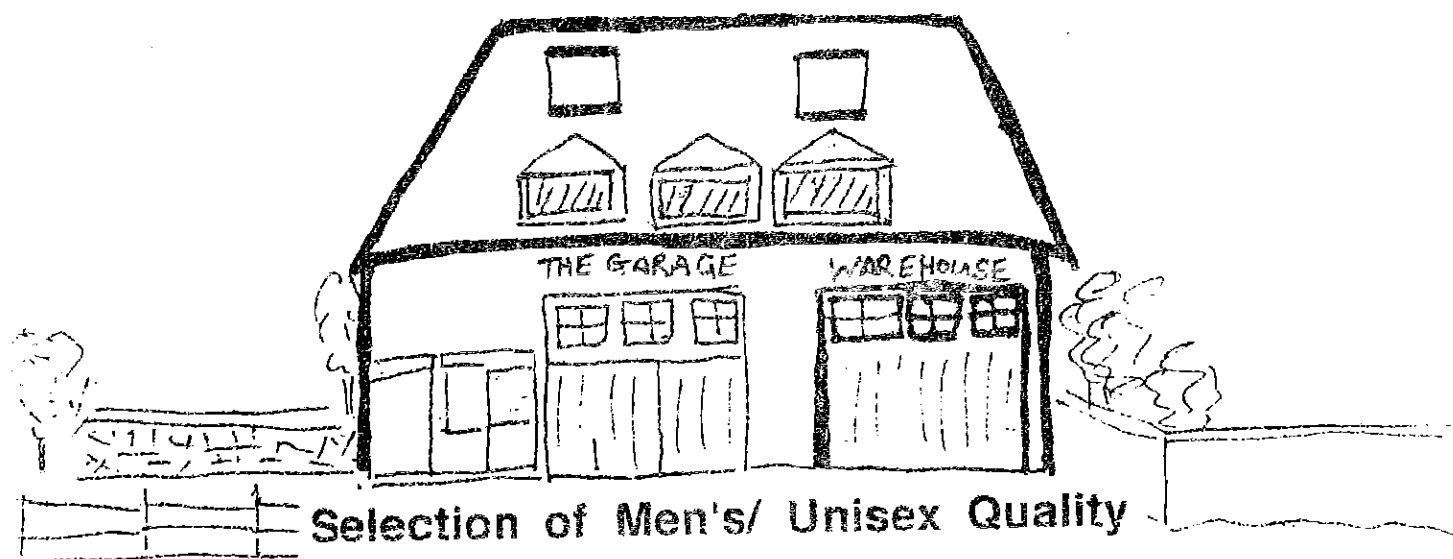
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Here we have the little man on the SOUTH WEST WATER publicity card advertising their offer of help with drain and water problems - not free you can be sure! - May I suggest to them their best help to everyone would be a reduction IN THEIR HORRENDOUS.BILLS - which might put a smile on their customers faces too!

ooo00ooo

JUST A FEW PERSONAL THOUGHTS AND REPORTS : : : : : :

Drabblemania Weather Forecast

What July and August were unable to boil, September and October will be scarcely able to fry. September rainfall tends to be extremely low or extremely high, leading to drought or flood. A kestrel hovering low over the ground indicates showery and blustery weather to come. He is anxiously hunting for mice before the weather deteriorates, and when rooks and gulls twirl high in the sky it's a certain sign that a gale is nigh.

ooo00ooo

WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT - 'STRUCTURE' OR 'SERVICE' ?

Since 1979 it has been reported, this government has initiated and carried through parliament more than 50 items of legislation directly affecting LOCAL government STRUCTURE and we are constantly seeing the government dealing with LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE offering little or no benefit to LOCAL government SERVICES. I am certainly not alone in considering the 1975 changes in local government produced by the Edward Heath government has proved something of a disaster for LOCAL government, and the present proposals of the present government to get rid of County Councils and produce greatly enhanced District Empires are certainly going to cost a great deal of a scarce commodity - money - and offer no discernable benefit to the services operated by LOCAL government. It appears that Local will be ever more remote.

ooo00ooo

OMENS IN THE HOME (5)

There are, of course, many omens of good luck and bad luck to be observed :

Continued in Part II overpage

OMENS IN THE HOME continued: If a saucepan falls unexpectedly from a kitchen shelf it means unexpected visitors would soon arrive. (not one would hope a doctor !) More seriously, if a girl finds two spoons in her saucer it is a sure sign that she would be courting or 'spooning' with the man of her desire!

Plants or weeds which attach themselves to the walls of a house should never be dislodged or up-rooted. They have come there for sanctuary where they could flourish as long as they were not disturbed.!

ooo00ooo

I LIKE IT !

Sing me a song of the old ways, tell me a tale of the past
Of the time when England was mighty, and everyone thought
it would last.

When men raised their hats to the ladies, and ladies wore
dresses and skirts,

And children respected their elders, or received a sharp tap
where it hurts.

When lovers were pleased to get married, and made do with
the little they had.

Kept out of debt and were happy, and the young ones knew
their Dad

When parents showed by example, the ways and means to get
by through hard work and honest endeavour.

And today those rules still apply.

E.A.Lampard

ooo00ooo

AN. 'EXPERT' TWITCHER . . .

is trying to forget the time when an excited announcement
broadcast on CB radios led to bird watchers flocking to his side in a
field on the Isle of Scilly. Only when scores of telescopes were
focused on the object of his attention was it realised that the rare
Nighthawk was in fact - a cowpat !

W.M.M 3.5.93

00000000

HOW THEY TITTERED and how they chaffed, How my brothers and my sisters
laughed, When they heard the lawyers declare - Granny's only left you
the old arm chair ! Just a little song which described the plight of
an unfortunate soul. The words however, contain a certain warning: they
make one aware of the importance of making a Will. In the World of 1993
there are quite a number of couples living together very happily as
(in legal terminology) Co-habitees. If there is no Will the surviving
habitee has no automatic right to any estate - it would pass to the
family of the deceased. Similarly, if a married and separated person
(but not either divorced or separated by decree of Judicial Separation)
lives with another person as co-habitee, then not only does the surviving
co-habitee not have an automatic right to any estate but it would pass
to the spouse - even though they were no longer living together! If you
now want to make a Will - you should get the help of a solicitor -
trying to make a Will on your own is like trying to pull your own teeth
out - full of uncertainty !

ooo00ooo

If bees crowd into a hive it's a sure sign of storm and rain

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Ploughman's
Lasagne Verde
Jacket Potatoes
Cottage Pie
Fish Pie

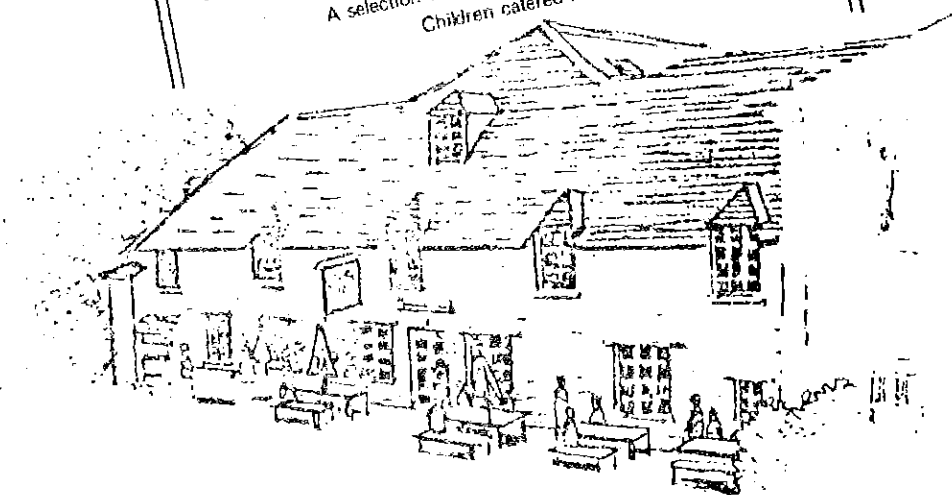
EVENINGS

Prawn Cocktail
Home-made Soup
Smoked Salmon Pate
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Chicken Kiev
Lasagne Verde
Grilled Cod
Scampi
Selection of Salads

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+ + + + + M I L K + + + + +

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

W H O S E J O B ? ?

This is a story about four people whose names were EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it, but nobody did it.

SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was everybody's job.

EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realised that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.

+ + + + +

RADON GAS

There has been some rather startling comment in the local media with a headline: "It is more dangerous to live in the Westcountry (meaning Devon and Cornwall) than in Chernobyl in Russia."

I must say that I think that is utter rubbish, but I must admit to being surprised that only a small percentage of householders took advantage of the free test offered by the Department of the Environment. The Drabblemania home was put through the test over a period of three months. It was simple and caused no inconvenience and you are advised the result one month after the test period. Radon Gas is measured in bequerels and the advised action level is a measurement of 200 bequerels. We came out at 81. After all breathing Radon Gas over a period of years is stated to be the cause of lung cancer.

+ + + + +

I SPENT THE MAY BANK HOLIDAY in hospital. I went in when I was 83 and three days later came out feeling 93 ! I have a little more to face up to through July, so I must say I thought these lines by Patience Strong very appropriate. LIFE CANNOT BE ALTERED BY WORRY. If you get to the end of your courage and feel there's nothing much more you can do - try folding your hands for a moment letting God's guidance get you through. Just let the Good Lord take over - you'll find that things change when you pray ! I hope to be contributing to the September October issue.

+ + + + +

Please overlook errors and omissions !

This country is built on coal and surrounded by fish. Only an organising genius will ever create a shortage of either !!

CLUELESS CROSSWORD

NO CLUES ARE GIVEN, but each number represents a letter. For example, 1 is P, 2 is A and 3 is T. So begin by repeating these letters where these numbers appear in the grid. Identify other numbers with their letters and when finished the diagram will resemble a normal crossword. Each letter of the alphabet is used. The answers appear on another page in this issue.

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

REFERENCE GRID

[illegible]

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WALNUT ETC;
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AND SPICES,
PULSES
SWEETS, SALCOMBE ICES
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DOG CAT RABBIT - DRIED
AND TINNED. WILDBIRD SEED
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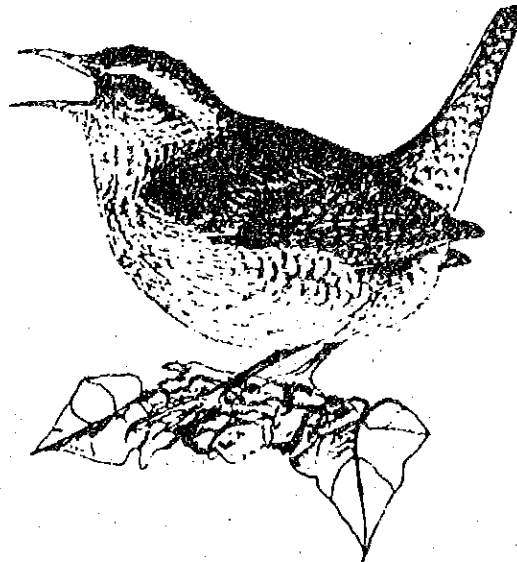
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HARRY HUGGINS



IF YOU DO bird-watching reasonably seriously it is a good idea to keep a diary of what you see. My wife did ous for as long as I was still going to the office. Not working, well, not more than was downright essential. That lot was going to have to barn my pension soon, and they might as well start now. So delegation was the word, wherever possible. Some things could not be passed on, like telling Joe Soap, the punter with champagne tastes on a beer income, that he had got to take his hand out of our till. But others, arranging for travellers' cheques, or sending £5 to a favourite nephew in Australia, they were different. So the ploy was, when someone wanted to do one of those, to say "We'll ask Miss So-and-so to join us. She knows more about it than I do" (which was probably false) "and she's much better looking" (which was undeniably true). Word soon went round and they came for tete-a-tetes with Miss So-and-so without intervention on my part.

But whey they put me out to grass my wife did the delegating, at least as far as the bird diary was concerned. She could not say she had married me for better or for worse but not for lunch, because fortune had smiled and we had been able to take that repast together for much of my working life. But at least the diary was something I could do.

It grew from the relatively simple notebook she had kept to a fairly full record of what we see, whether on a definite expedition or just out of the window, with a note of the weather and anything else which might seem important. Of any unusual bird there is a description written before reference to books, lest what we have read might make us think we have seen some detail which we have not. Sometimes there is a sketch of a bird; maybe a bit of newspaper is stuck in - a weather map from the Daily Telegraph, and if remembered the Telegraph summary of the month's weather. There might be something out of the local paper, for example the long article about Ken Partridge, the railway worker at Plymouth who cleans the oiled birds, or the photograph of the warden of South Milton Ley with the unfortunate cygnet which was hatched in an incubator.

Then there is an index card for each species, essential for sending in our annual onslaught to the county recorder for inclusion in the Devon Bird Report. This shows place, date, number and any comments. Keeping it is a bit of a chore, but if you want to refer back to a bird seen maybe years before, to look at a card is far quicker than ploughing through the diary.

HARRY HUGGINS continues:

There are now those who do it all by computer. Naturally they say it is wonderful. As Miss Rice-Davies might have said, they would, wouldn't they. But this old dog is not trying any new tricks.

There is the problem that the record is never complete because we put in only what we see, and in fact not all of that. When we did counts for the British Trust for Ornithology, of breeding birds and of birds seen in winter, we did record everything, and we said, when we had finished those surveys, that we would go out once every three months and make a note of every single thing we saw. That was one of the good intentions the road to hell is paved with. What we do is haphazard, depending on where we feel like going on any one day, what area we think needs to be looked at, where we would like to eat lunch, and so on. And we record only what takes our fancy. So that very common birds usually get left out - Rocks, Magpies, House Sparrows.

A year or two back we went to a lecture by a young gentleman who had been employed on a contract by the RSPB to research the decline of Cirl Buntings, now found only along a small strip of the South Devon coast. I think he cost £45,000 over three years, which worked out at about £450 per pair of birds; a bit less in fact because he found a few pairs which we locals had overlooked. He said that Cirl Buntings had become established in Britain only in the last 200 years. George Montague, working at Kingsbridge in the early part of the 19th century, found it, or more accurately distinguished it from Yellowhammer. The lecturer said it did not exist in Britain in the mid 18th century because Gilbert White of Selborne made no mention of it. Maybe then, as now, it was not found in Hampshire where Gilbert White did his thing. Perhaps he missed it, or did not distinguish it from yellowhammer. Unlikely, this last. He was the first to show that what had been called Willow Wren included in fact three species, which we now know as Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Wood Warbler. They look almost identical, though their songs are very different. So surely if it was there he would have found Cirl Bunting, especially as he had no hesitation in having those little things shot so he could study them closely. His being a good devout clergyman made no difference. He would not have such things killed were he alive today. But time and ideas were different then.

But one realises that in 200 years' time people might say there were very few Magpies, or House Sparrows, in Devon in the late 20th Century because Huggins recorded only a very small number. Whereas, in fact...

A problem in days of yore was to know when to do agricultural and horticultural things, when to sow, etc.

To refer again to Gilbert White, in his recent biography Richard Mabey said that White started his Garden Kalendar in the hope that if he noted down when the first migrant birds turned up and the first wild flowers appeared, this might give clues to the dates when crops should be sown.

We still look for indicators of this nature. When you walk on Dartmoor you tread on a tiny yellow flower with four petals - Tormentil, a Potentilla. They used to reckon that when this started to bloom it was time to put the cattle on the moor.



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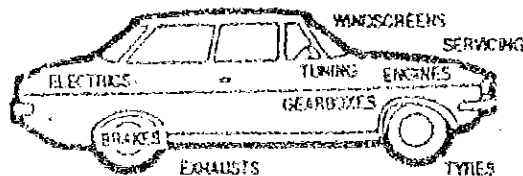
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Then take shallots. You set them on the shortest day and they are ready on the longest. They say the ancients set up standing stones for making astronomical observations and that Stonehenge, erected in 3,000 BC give or take a few hundred years, was for observing the summer solstice. There has been much talk of forgotten religious rites which took place there. Rubbish - it is patently obvious they built it to tell them when to harvest their shallots.

There is a saying "Oak before ash, going to be splash". Ash before oak, going to be soak". There may be a scientific basis for that - if late winter and spring are wet, making the ash come into leaf early, it often goes on being wet - as this year.

Less sure on a scientific basis is the saying "Where parsley grows the wife is the boss" - out into the garden then, fellows, and check. You can always use weedkiller.

Bearing in mind Gilbert White's Kalendar I have been looking through our index cards to see whether any sort of pattern can be seen in the arrival of birds here in Thurlestone.

The winter thrushes, Fieldfare and Redwing, show no pattern at all. We surmise they come here to avoid wintry conditions to the north. In most years we see some. In about one year in five there is none; although in the case of Redwings even though we see none we hear them - thin "seeps" after dark, usually on thick misty nights in November. These are their contact calls, to keep in touch as they fly. We never know whether there are two or 2,000 and they must go straight over the Channel on their way south. In February 1991 around Thurlestone there were 100s if not 1,000s of both these species. Came wind and rain from the south west on the 22nd and next day all had gone. To the north, we assumed, although we did not know for sure.

The first Swallows appear during the first couple of weeks of April, maybe a day or two before, and once, at Wembury, we saw one come in off the sea (they fly by day) on the 11th March. These are just precursors, and whether any of these remain in Thurlestone for the summer I do not know. If you go to the car park at Start Point at around ten in the morning at the end of April you will see the main numbers arriving, having left France at dawn.

House Martins turn up at any time during April - there were some once at Slapton Ley on the 16th March, poor miserable things in wind and rain.

We hear the first Willow Warblers sing when they arrive in the first two weeks of April - a thin but beautiful little song in a descending cadence of minor chords. It is a useful thing being a songbird, because then you have two voice boxes and can sing chords!

Chiffchaffs, close relatives of Willow Warbler, start to sing in about the last week of March. We think these are arrivals, but cannot be sure because we have a few Chiffchaffs all winter. There are those who say these latter birds never sing here, but leave us to return to eastern Europe where they breed. But they might pipe up

HARRY HUGGINS CONCLUDES:

when possible contenders for territory get here. If someone wants an interesting project there is one here, provided you have a lot of patience, because there are very few birds, and you need a British Trust for Ornithology licence to catch and ring them.

Among other things our diary tells us that in about one year in two there are strong easterly or north-easterly winds during the early part of May. Such conditions do nothing for the flowers in the garden. But they drift to our coast hundreds of Bar-tailed Godwits, like Curlews, but a bit smaller and with straight bills. Normally they would come in farther to the east as they most north to Scandinavia and Russia to breed. In 1984 we saw hundreds, and we cannot have seen them all.

Once there were Avocets, struggling northwards against a near gale. This year it was Terns, Common and probably Arctic. We saw over 100 on one day, off Leasfoot Beach. Often birders refer to these as Commic Terns, because they cannot tell one from the other. They are much the same size, Arctic has shorter legs than Common, which is no help if they are flying. Common has a black tip to its red bill, whereas the bill of Arctic is all red - a feature you cannot see at any distance. The experts say you can always tell them apart because Arctic has all translucent flight feathers but Common has just a small translucent patch. All I can say is that their eyesight, or imagination, is better than mine.

If you ask what useful conclusions I have drawn from all these records, the answer is of course none. Nor, as far as I can tell, did Gilbert White, except that he went on to write the series of letters which later became The Natural History of Selborne, and 200 years after his death has turned into a minor industry.

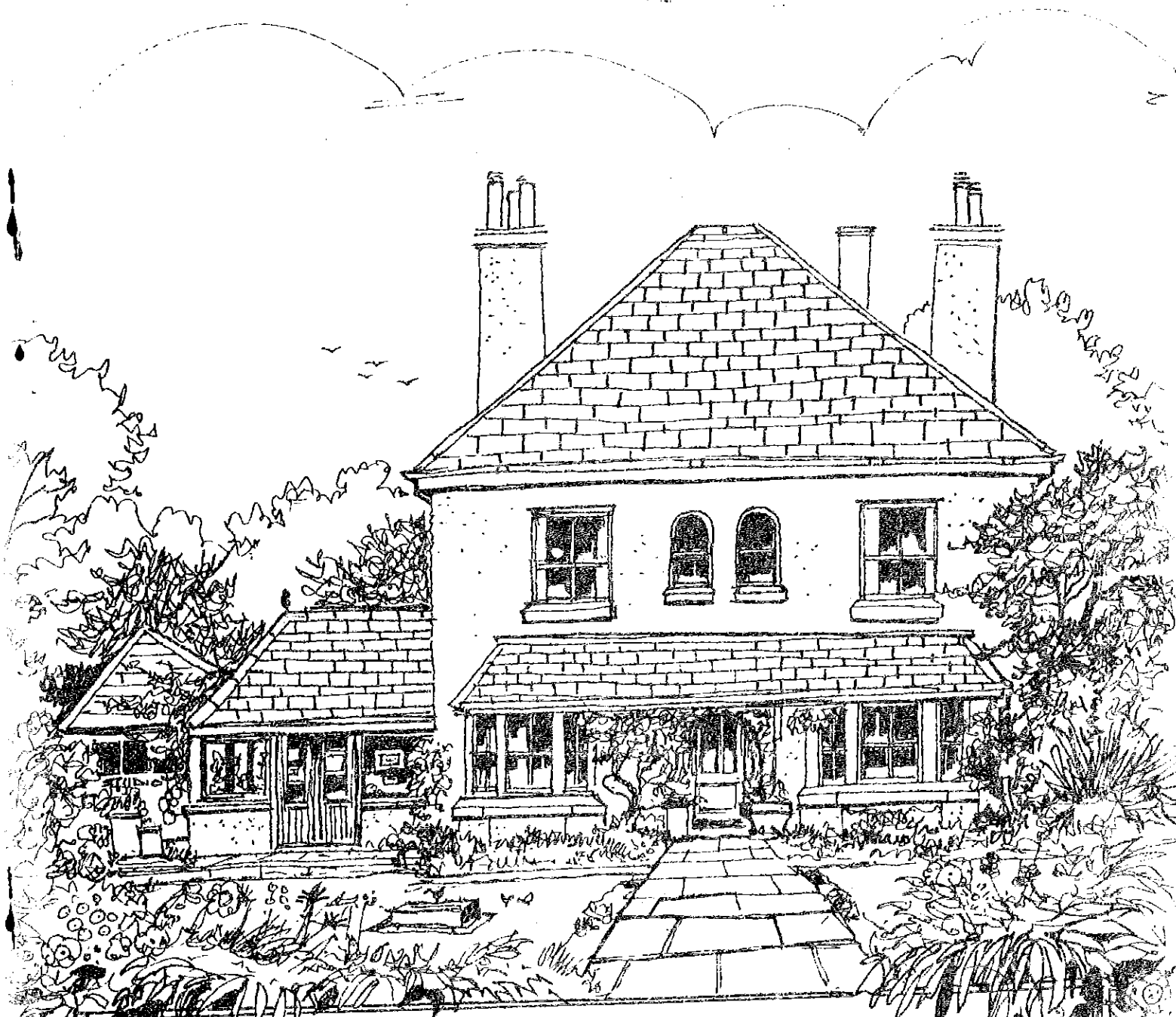
LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..

ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE.

THE FINAL FIGURE raised towards the new Day Centre at the Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall, just exceeds £1,000. This includes two generous gifts received subsequently - a splendid effort and thanks to all who helped and supported it.

Recently a group from Thurlestone visited the new extension and presented a picture of our village painted by Mrs. Anthea Sharman. The Matron who received the picture thanked the residents of Thurlestone warmly for their generous support over many years - the kind of support on which the existence of the Hospice depends.

TERRY WOODROW.



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The Village Voice Short Story

Rand's

Last

Lap

is by

Ken Hardy

The police sergeant shouldered his way up the path against the wind. Pieces of frosted snow broke away where his feet had loosened them and whirled away into the darkness.

"Come in, Sergeant," said Guy Rand, and as the sergeant stepped inside half the gale came in with him, making the light in the hall swing violently.

He thought as he had at other times when he had been in the room that a man like Mr. Rand would surely have one of his trophies on display - or at least a picture of him handling a racing car in one of his great Grand Prix triumphs. 'Course he was retired now, but you'd think there'd be something in the room to show how famous he had been.

"Now then, Sergeant," said Rand, "what brings you to me on a night like this? Will you have something to keep out the cold for a start?"

"No, thank you," said the Sergeant and added rather suddenly as Rand moved over towards the sideboard, "and I'd rather you didn't have one either - not until you've heard what I have to say, that is.." Rand stopped with open surprise on his face.

"You see sir. It's like this. About half-an-hour ago I was at my house when a call came through from Mount Carnon - you know the place - 'bout sixty miles from here, the place with that big new hospital. Well, it seems the hospital have contacted the police there and asked them to get on to us"

"I still don't see what this has got to do with me not having a drink," said Rand.

"Half a moment, sir," said the Sergeant. "I'm coming to that. Well it seems that the hospital have got a little girl in there that needs a blood transfusion pretty desperately. She'll die if she don't get it. It's a rare group she needs and the only one they know of in the county is right here in the village. Tom Thatcher - you know, the man who works for Mr. Appleby. Well they'd just finished telling me all this when the line went dead.

"The wires are down. I shouldn't wonder with all this wind. I didn't have time to tell 'em that Tom Thatcher is in the cottage hospital with a broken leg. He fell on that roofing job up at the Old Barn. Anyrate I got Doctor Williams as quick as I could. He says Tom Thatcher ain't fit to travel but he's taking a couple of pints out of him, seeing as this is an emergency like. And now all we've got to do is to get it to the hospital"

The glass in Guy Rand's hand dropped to the floor. To the Sergeant's surprise his voice had a definite shake in it. "And you want me to drive it there!"

"Well, sir, there isn't much doubt that you've got the fastest car for miles around here... I can't ring anybody 'cos the lines are down. And seeing as how you're who you are "

"You know what you're asking, Sergeant? There's a flaming gale blowing out there. The roads are inches thick in ice. It's impossible"

"It would be for an ordinary driver"

"Damn it, man, I'm just an ordinary driver" Rand checked himself - "At any rate the blood won't keep"

The Sergeant looked at him in real bewilderment. Guy Rand, one of the most famous racing drivers in the world, was going to refuse.

"Doc Williams says the blood will keep all right. He'll fix that"

The low sleek car tobogganed rather than braked to a halt outside the Cottage Hospital. As he waited for the package to be firmly jammed in the seat beside him Rand felt real fear growing inside his stomach. Ice! The one thing he had always been frightened of since Cortini died.

Don't think about it. Think about a little girl dying because two bottles of red fluid couldn't be found in time.

Twenty minutes later the fear had faded. This was just like the old days. The lights bored along the road and bounced upwards off the shiny surface. He had his old touch back now.



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He was half-way round the bend and starting to accelerate away along the straight when he saw it - a thick black line across the road. For a moment his foot moved instinctively towards the brake then driving sense stopped him touching it. The fear leaped back into him again. This was it. This was why there were no telephone lines. The tree lay square across the road.

Rand braced himself for the crash that was bound to come. Then his heart pounded even faster. There was just a chance. The tip of the tree stopped just short of the far edge of the road.

He aimed the car at it and pressed his foot down gently on the accelerator. At the speed he was travelling there was just a chance that the top-most twigs would be too thin to stop him or throw him off course.

The tree loomed enormous in the headlights. A branch zoomed straight at him. Rand's neck disappeared into his shoulders. The car struck, hesitated and tore through. The windscreen disintegrated. Metal tore and tangled. A blow on his forehead slammed him back in his seat. But he was through.

Rand spat something out of his mouth and felt something warm and stinging on his forehead as he corrected the skid and shot on through the night. He was humming to himself now as he used to. Cortini. He'd catch Cortini this time. The wind whipped tears from his eyes. Goggles. He must get some more goggles. The exhaust note spat and rocketed around the car now.

Monte Carlo said the signpost. Nearly home now. Only Cortini to catch and he couldn't be far ahead. There was the last straight. There was the man with the flag waving it for him. Only it wasn't, suddenly it was a policeman jumping back from the roaring bonnet. And there was something else.

Just as it had been that time before; Cortini's body lying in the icy road and no chance of stopping.

They had said he should have been able to stop last time. Well now he'd show 'em.

Rand swung the wheel hard over and braked just enough to start the tail spinning. And as the "Keep Left" sign swam into view he remembered enough to fling his body sideways over the precious bottles of blood.

Vaguely Rand heard voices, recovered enough to make sure they understood about the blood and then sat there in the wreck of his car.

A young constable bent over him "You all right, sir?" he asked anxiously.

The big man with the gash in his forehead seemed only half able to hear him. "Did I run over him?" he said weakly.

"Run over who, sir?" said the constable. "There was nobody in the road sir. Just a heap of sand. That's what saved you. You went right into it."

As they lifted him out and put him into the second ambulance, the first went clanging away with the parcel from his car. The noise of the bell seemed to rouse Rand for a moment.

"You see" he said to the ambulance man, "you see I couldn't have stopped whatever I did, could I?"

"Of course you couldn't," said the man. "Now you lie down and rest"

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

Public footpath across Thurlestone Golf Course to Long Stone Point.

The Department of the Environment's Inspector confirmed on 25th May, 1993, the Order made by Devon County Council in 1990 that the footpath close to the northern boundary of Thurlestone Golf Course between Public Footpath No.4 and the Sea Coast Path (Public Footpath No.3) above Long Stone Point is a Public Footpath, subject to the modification which the Inspector formerly proposed. The Modification, now confirmed, defines the western end of the public footpath route to follow the southern edge of the area of gorse and heather referred to in the Inspector's decisions, rather than the northern edge shown on the Order Plan.

Extracts from the Inspector's conclusions regarding the objections made to his previous decision include:
Thurlestone Golf Club. 24. Final conclusion about Thurlestone Golf Club's objections - I have reexamined all the evidence put forward at the Inquiry and I have considered with care the whole of the written evidence forwarded by the golf club in response to my proposed modification. I am satisfied that none of this evidence is of sufficient weight to cause me to change my conclusions set out in my letter of 4 March 1992; and that it provides no justification for my refusing to confirm the Order, modified as I proposed, and this is my final conclusion on the the objections of Thurlestone Golf Club.

Major EGM Pearce. 25. Having been struck by a golf ball himself, I can understand Major Pearce's concern about safety. But I can only repeat what I said in my letter of 4 March 1992, namely: that safety is not a relevant material consideration to presumed dedication. By the same token, whether the claimed path is necessary, is not a relevant material consideration either. I therefore conclude that none of Major Pearce's objections can be upheld.

Mr.JDG Stocks. 26. I am satisfied that my interpretation of the legal aspects of the case is correct. And danger and convenience are not relevant material considerations. I therefore conclude that Mr.Stocks' objections cannot be upheld.

DECISION. 27. I have carefully considered all the objections put forward following the advertisement of my proposed modification and I have concluded that none of them can be upheld. I have therefore confirmed the Order subject to the modification which I formerly proposed. J.N.Holden, Inspector.

Further details of the Inspector's decision confirming the Order may be obtained on application to the undersigned, Thurlestone Parish Clerk (0548-560686)

W.G.Ladd, Clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council.



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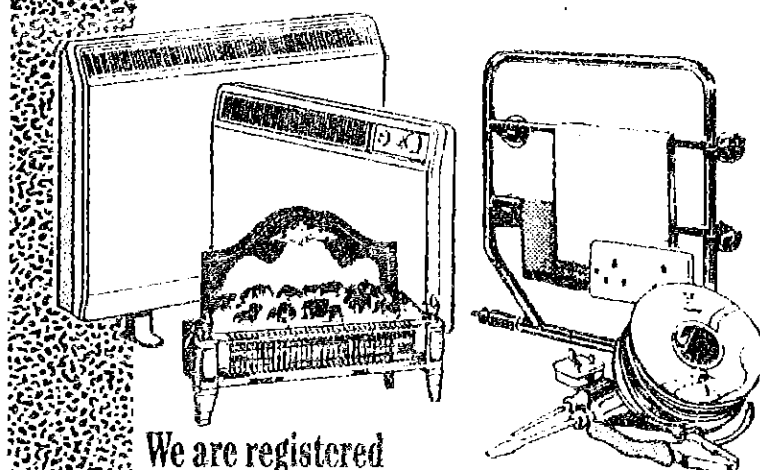
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I remember...

ETHEL SNOWDON, now 86, who was organist at All Saints Church for 50 years, having taken over from Miss Olive Fellowes who lived at The Croft, S. Milton, lives in South Milton with her daughter Evelyn. Before her marriage she was an Edgecumbe.

She was born in Plymouth - her mother had married a policeman, and they lived in a house at Lipson, Plymouth - but remembers long holidays in Thurlestone with her grandmother who was Mrs. Anne Toms, the Thurlestone infants schoolteacher and widow of ship's captain Samuel Toms who was drowned at sea. Mrs Toms lived in the house in the village street now called "High Corner", next to today's Home Cottage.

Ethel Snowdon has a remarkable memory for detail. For example, she remembers Mrs. May Chandos-Pole of Thatchways (then Toy Cott), a relative of Lord Churston who was Patron of the living of Thurlestone at the time. Lord Churston's cousin was the Rev'd Yarde-Buller - a shortwhile Vicar of Thurlestone before moving to a living at Dean Prior, Nr. Buckfastleigh. Mrs Chandos-Pole was Thurlestone's "Lady Bountiful", letting her garden be used for many events with the children of the parish showing off their maypole dancing, holding special teas to celebrate her birthday and Empire Day; giving generously herself, and generally master-minding many a good work. Mrs Chandos-Pole, recalls Ethel Snowdon, always wore a hat, "in fact only took it off when she dressed for dinner! She always wore the same style of clothes and my mother used to make her evening cloaks for her, always like a clergyman's alb

"Lord Churston's sister married Prince Aly Khan and I can always remember Mrs Chandos-Pole showing me the wedding present she was giving her - a magnificent pearl necklace in a long narrow box"

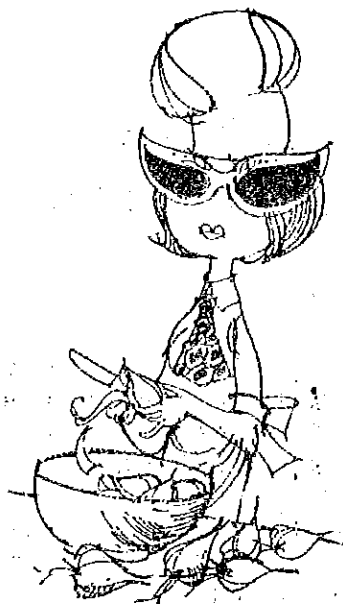
"In Mrs. Chandos-Pole's later years, my mother used to make special net collars for her - four inches deep - to cover up the wrinkly skin of her neck. The net came from Harrods, was skin-coloured and was held up by four bones. The seam was disguised with a rope of little pearls and a ribbon went right round under her chin. The collar was made so that it was held down with tapes tied around the waist. When my mother could no longer make them I took over. Four at a time she had to have them. It meant a lot of very tiny stitching."

"Mrs Chandos-Pole was a very generous woman and well liked in the village, but she was a terrible snob. She wouldn't sit in the body of the church with other people. She had a special chair in the rear vestry in one corner so she could look out through the screen. When the new screen came it was blocked in and it was terrible she couldn't sit there any more. So where could she sit, because she wanted to see all and not be seen? Chairs were put out for her, but none suited. Finally she settled right at the back where the organ is now, behind the door"

Mrs Chandos-Pole died at the beginning of October in 1939.

Continued overleaf.

Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE:

Try this
one for
a tangy
and a
spicy
taste!

APRICOTS WERE brought into England around the 16th century. They were grown in the walled gardens at Hampton Court and used in the Royal kitchens to give a new and exciting flavour to meat. This recipe, using lamb, loin or chump chops, has a slightly tangy and spicy taste.

4 Lamb Chops (Loin or Chump)

Salt and Pepper to taste, plus a pinch of Ground Cumin

8 ozs Dried Apricots

$\frac{1}{4}$ teasp. Cinnamon

$\frac{1}{4}$ teasp. Coriander

$\frac{1}{4}$ teasp. Ground Cumin

Slice of Lemon peel

Cold weak Tea.

Soak the apricots for around four hours or until soft in the weak Tea (overnight if preferred). Trim the chops of all fat. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and the pinch of cumin and grill until cooked to your liking. Drain the apricots and put in a saucepan with enough water to cover and add the lemon peel, cinnamon, cumin and coriander. Cover and cook slowly until tender. Pass through a sieve, or liquidize after removing the peel. Pour over the chops and sprinkle on some fresh chopped coriander or parsley.

I REMEMBER continued from previous page.

Another of Ethel Snowdon's memories of Thurlestone concerns the village tea-room. This was at the front of Snowdons (now Pearse's Farthing), and she remembers it well, not so much because her husband's Uncle Ern and Aunt Emily lived there, but for the tin-roofed tea-room they operated in the front garden. The tea-room did a roaring trade with cream teas for the visitors, who could either sit inside in the front room or just outside under the tin roof across the pathway.

Teas were handed out from the front room window to those sitting at the tables in the "extension". The Snowdons finally gave up the tea-room when they got older and running it became too much for them. Much later the structure was pulled down.

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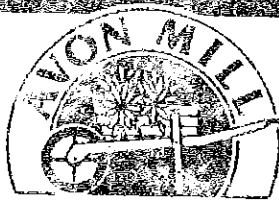
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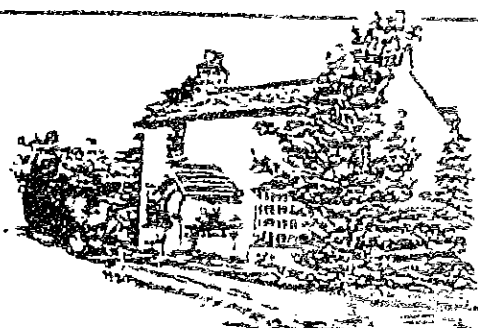


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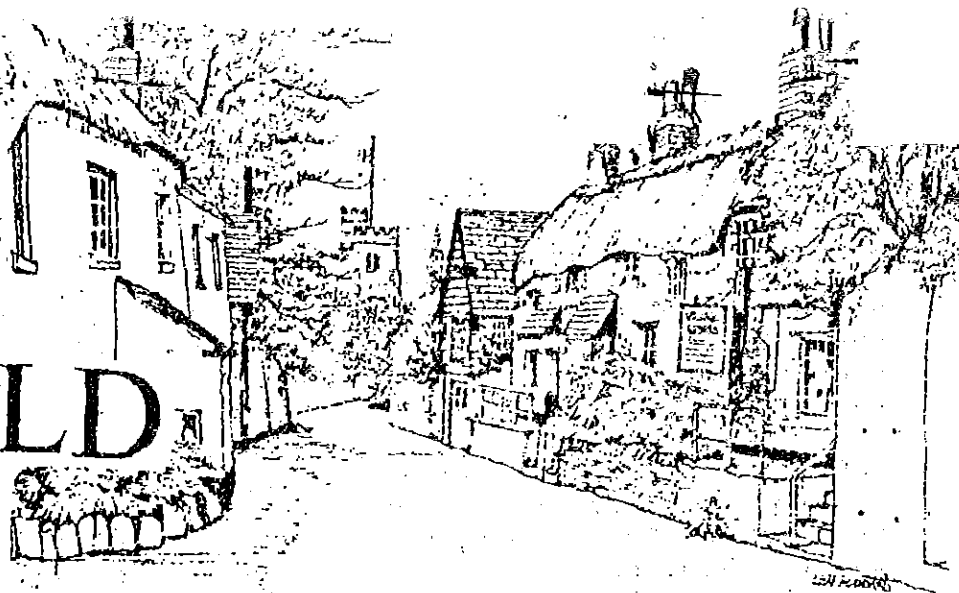
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Neville OSWALD reports



MY FATHER DIED in 1870, leaving me to continue the Lidstone diary. Now, 10 years later, I have recorded some of my thoughts upon our way of life in Thurlestone.

1880. During the past 20 years we have had a new landlord. The Courtenays (Earls of Devon), having owned most of the parish for generations, sold the manor and their estates in 1859 to the Trustees of Mr. Samuel Brunskill, a prosperous Exeter tailor who reportedly 'clad most of the County Gents'. Samuel lived for a time in Buckland Tout Saints (where in due course he was followed by his son and grandson as they inherited the property) and then moved to Somerset where he acquired a pack of staghounds. The Brunskill Estates preserve, as far as they are able, the amenities of the parish and ensure a reasonable water supply and sewage disposal for the farms and many small holdings and allotments that comprise most of the parish.

We are beginning to feel the benefits of the introduction of Robert Peel's national police force. A county force armed with no more than truncheons is now available to keep order and quell disturbances in their early stages.

The hamlet of Buckland, lying in a narrow valley, has for many years been the home of the main cider press for the parish. Old Moore is still there with his butcher's shop and his slaughter house alongside, as his forebears were before him. A visitor peeping into one of the cottages might see large pans of simmering milk which, when cooled, are crusted with thick clotted cream.

Bantham boasts a row of old fishermen's cottages, a coastguard station, a smithy, a bakery, a shop and an inn (Sloop) where white ale is made. Paddle steamers from Plymouth regularly call for passengers; sloops and barges bring coal, lime, farming equipment and fertilisers to the quay and take away farm products, chiefly corn and potatoes. The salmon pool at Jenkin's Quay usually yields 6 to 12 salmon a day during the season but at 10 to 12 pence a pound finds few local buyers, who are more interested in the rest of the catch, especially bass, which sell for twopence a pound.

There are very few visitors to the beach at Bantham, although some come over from Kingsbridge on Bank holidays. Once a year a party of Wesleyans board a barge at Aveton Gifford and float down on the ebb, alighting at the quay where they picnic and sing hymns to the accompaniment of their harmonium. 'Otherwise, no strangers disturb the community.'

1890. The reverend Peregrine Ilbert, a member of a well-known local family, has been rector here since 1839. He has seen his 8 children grow up in the rectory, which he progressively enlarged to accommodate them, so that now it is the most elegant building in the parish. With benevolent authority, he ministers to packed congregations on Sundays,

The church, which his daughter Helen has described, is very plain, whitewashed all over including the granite pillars and on the walls are large printed texts, the largest frame of all containing the names of the churchwardens who had put it up.

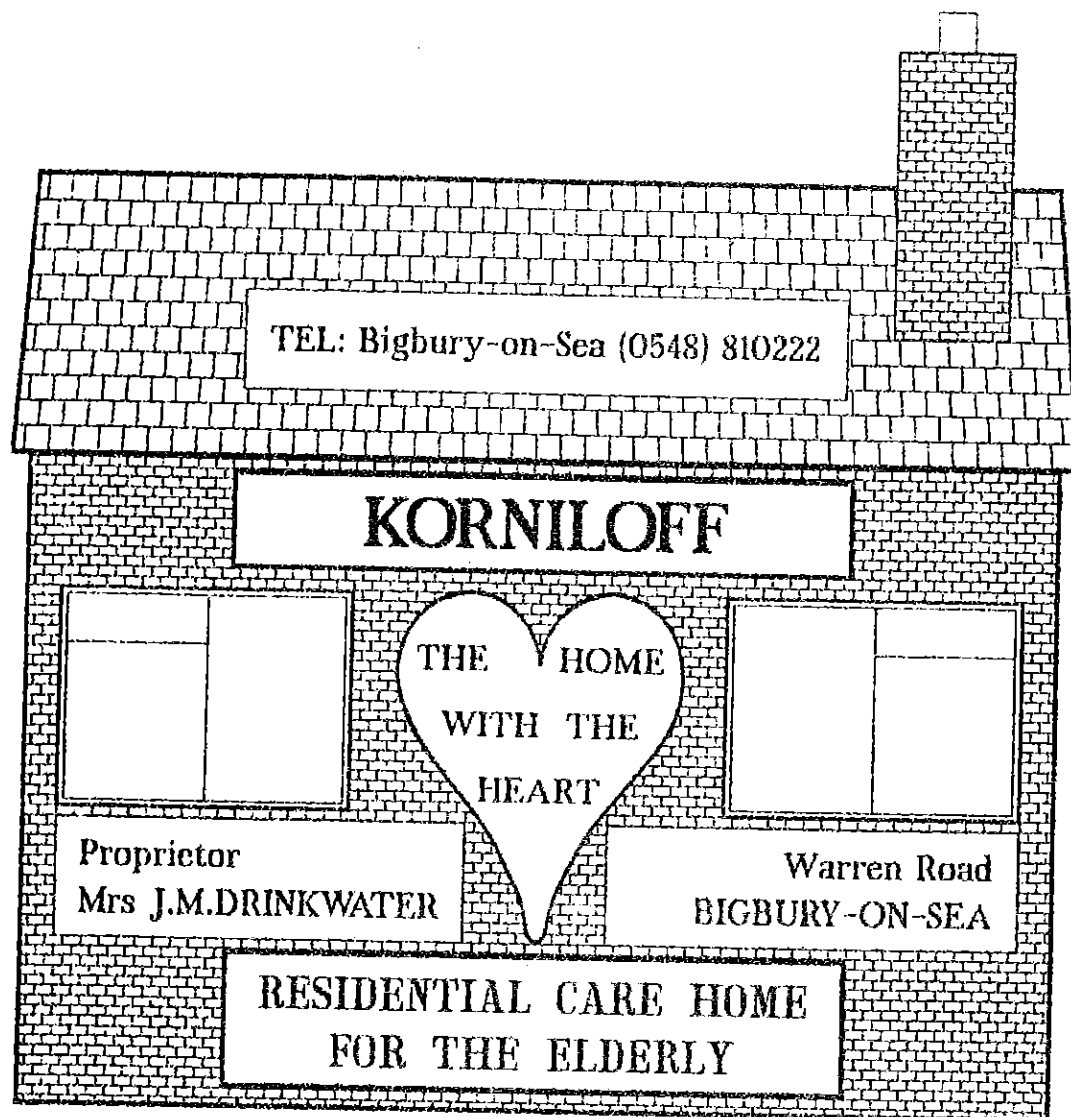
The choir and musicians formerly occupied a spacious rather insecure gallery in the west wing with the obese farmer who played the bass viol seated just above the strongest supporting pillar. On a memorable occasion, the clerk, sitting importantly below the pulpit, announced the anthem 'Who is the King of Glory repeat Who - who - who is the King of Glory?' to be followed by a loud whisper from the gallery 'Pass the rosin, Jim, us'll show 'em who be the King of Glory'

With the passage of time the choir dwindled and the instruments wore out. For a while, the choir was replaced by shrill voiced school children, but soon they were removed to the safety of the chancel and the gallery has now been taken down.

1900. Up to 1894, the parish church council managed our affairs. Then, in that year, the Local Government Act ordered new parish councils, to supplement the county and district councils. As might be expected, this caused much controversy, with landowners and the church feeling that they were being deprived of responsibilities that had been theirs for centuries. Much debate centred on the disposal of the church's Vestry Book, with the minutes of meetings back to 1827 and containing details of, for example, housing, roads, rates, water and sewerage, all of which were to pass to the new council, leaving the church with the village school, church house and various charities.

Eventually, the Devon County Council was called upon to adjudicate and ruled that it should be kept by the new parish council in the iron chest it had bought for the purpose.

The new parish council with several members who also serve on the church council and with a common chairman, has excited little interest. Now, 6 years after its formation, it rarely attracts as many as half-a-dozen people to its quarterly meetings, which are, mainly taken up with attempting to keep highways and byways clear for traffic, especially those leading to Kingsbridge. The old rector died in 1894, having served the parish for 55 years. He was followed, in 1897, by the reverend Frank Coope, an old Harrovian with a small private income, who was determined that his children should be brought up in a large country parsonage by the sea.



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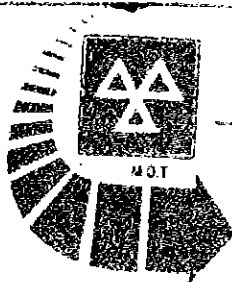
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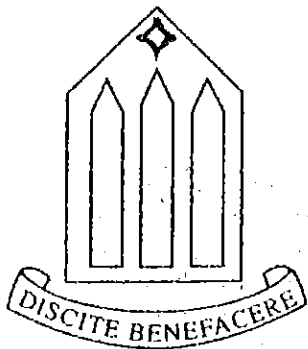
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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

SINCE MY LAST article for Village Voice in the spring term, we have been very busy in school; substantial building work has been carried out and we have also been exploring new areas of the curriculum which we believe have been of benefit to the children.

Many of you will have noticed the extension to the old school office. This has created a brand new office and is already making the administration of the school more straightforward. It also means that our new secretary, Mrs Cherry Bell, can work without the constant irritation of interruptions by the headmaster (who can always be relied upon to find her some fatuous task for her to do - especially when she is in the middle of something really important). I would also like to thank the many parents and friends who have contributed plants which have added pools of summer colour to the front of the school. In addition, we have bought some hanging baskets which have broken up the single shade of magnolia along the front and sides of the building.

Inside the school we have completed our renovation of the school library; new shelves, furniture and interior decoration have created a most attractive and interesting use of what had been a rather small and limited space. We have also - with enormous support from individual donations - managed to carpet two of the classrooms and the library area. The working areas have been enormously enhanced because of these simple but necessary improvements. Those who have contributed to the internal upgrading of the school have been thanked individually, but I would like to place on record our very real gratitude to the individuals and organisations who, by their generosity, have made these improvements possible.

Very recently, I organised a week's residential trip to North Wales. We stayed at a youth hostel near Dolgellau and, in spite of the vagaries of the English/Welsh weather, managed to carry out a full programme which involved visiting castles, and ancient monuments, canoeing on the River Dyfi, travelling down slate mines in Blaenau Ffestiniog, a tour of the Centre for Alternative Technology, a trip on the narrow gauge Tal-y-llyn steam railway and an afternoon on a Welsh hill farm. Two former teachers helped me to run the trip and we took eighteen children from the top of the school. As well as the benefit derived from learning and working together in a contrasting environment, we all enjoyed the social experience of this valuable residential week. I might also add that the children were a real pleasure to take.

While we were away in Wales my two colleagues organised an art/craft week for those children who remained in school. Although I was not able to see the children working on their individual projects, the

quality of work that resulted is very impressive; they had expert tuition in water-colour painting, pottery, collage, three dimensional modelling and observational drawing. At present the school is full of what was created in three or four very short days. We are hoping that it will remain up for the few remaining weeks until the end of term and that those who wish to see it will avail themselves of the current opportunity.

Finally, I would like to appeal to the lady who telephoned me about the use of hand chimes in school to contact the school again. Unfortunately, her name and telephone number were misplaced, but we are grateful for her interest and would like to hear from her. I am hoping that she reads Village Voice!

Alun Williams,

Headmaster.

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

A COFFEE MORNING in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCD) was held on June 10th in one of Thurlestone's lovely gardens at the kind invitation of Mrs. Eileen Worthy. She was one of the original members of the Thurlestone and Kingsbridge Branch and indeed started it some 15 years ago.

Despite threatening clouds, the rain held off and the Committee wish to thank all who so generously supported the occasion and contributed almost £300 to this most deserving charity.

MOLLY OSWALD.

THE THURLESTONE SCHOOL FAIR on Saturday, June 26th raised £675.

THE WINNERS of the Village Quiz on May 18th were the Friends of Thurlestone School "C" team. It was, in fact, a School Staff team, consisting of teacher Graham Palmer, school secretary Cherry Bell, and classroom assistant Sally Styles.

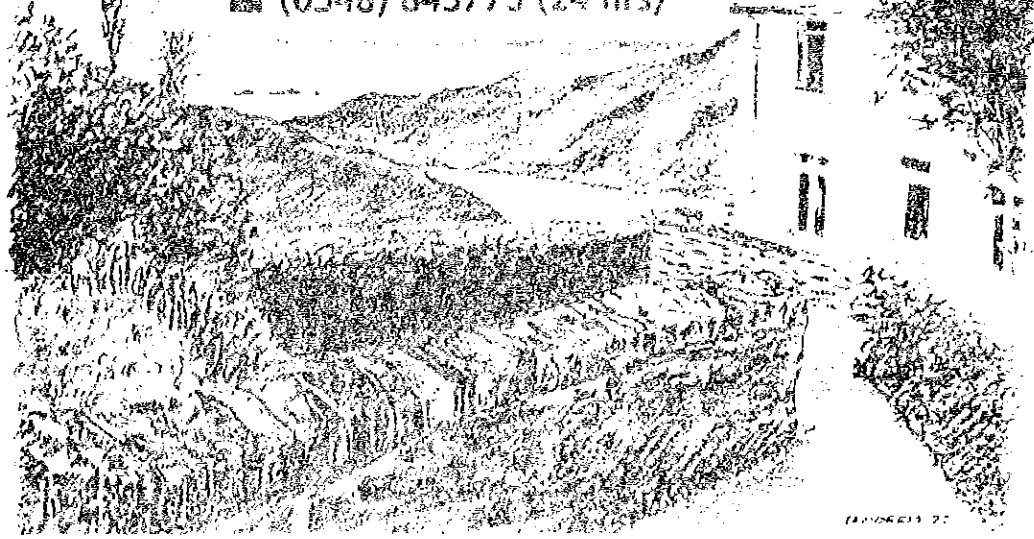
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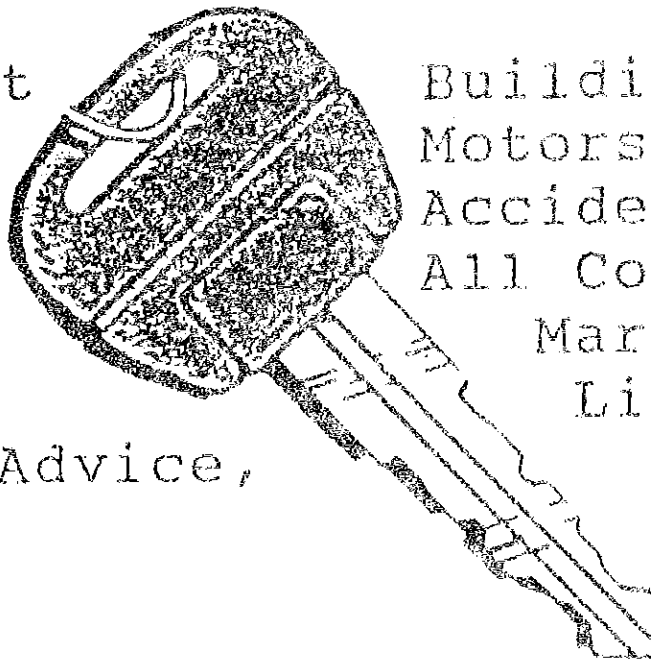
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Talking About

EASTER IN CRETE

By

ROSEMARY MACHIN

THERE IS A saying in Crete that when you bathe in the waters at Falasarna where the three seas meet (Aegean, Ionian and Libyan) you will be thrice blessed - this indeed we were, although we only dabbled our fingers in the sea. Fine weather, Chryssa, our unique Cretan Tour Leader, and the jovial company of our fellow travellers all combined to make a remarkable holiday.

The first day, after an unusual breakfast of rolls, cake, hard boiled eggs, yogurt (Greek style) and honey followed by Tiropitta (a cheesy pie) all washed down with D.I.Y. tea or coffee - made with warmish water - we met our coach driver Stratos. "A gentle drive today" said Chryssa and we were off up into the mountains. A dramatic drive climbing steadily through the orange groves and tiny wayside villages to the Omalos Plateau from where we could see the top of the famous Samaria Gorge. Way above our heads the white mountains, still with a covering of snow, glistened in the sun. Below and around us the mountainsides were covered in a profusion of herbs and trees amongst which nimble goats and sheep stolidly ate their fill. Returning to the small village of Omalos we lunched in a rather smart taverna where we were offered the best food they could provide - after all we were Chryssa's friends!

Now Stratos was a very careful driver and it was a smallish coach but nothing quite prepared us for travelling on unmade (or unfinished) mountain roads with frequent hairpin bends marked with shrines where accidents had occurred! I'll say no more but we were very relieved when we finally came to a halt in the village of Meskla to visit one of the oldest Byzantine Chapels in Crete where the frescoes were still visible although a little faded. Then, somewhat hot and weary we invaded a wayside cafe where we slaked our thirst with freshly squeezed oranges by hand for sixteen people. No wonder the owner looked harassed! Drowsy from the unexpected heat, we were all rather subdued on the return journey and some of us made straight for the inviting swimming pool when we finally reached Kato Stalos and our apartments.

Good Thursday was a very special day. We drove up into the White Mountains through the most spectacular scenery and down the other side with the Libyan sea sparkling in the distance. After passing the Irini Gorge we stopped at the village of Pantialaria where some men were killing young goats in preparation for the Easter celebrations.

On now towards Kandanos, the road becoming even narrower but fortunately mostly empty of traffic. We passed people collecting herbs from the roadside, possibly Dictyonias which is said to be a cure for all ailments and which we later saw for sale in the market at Chania.

The people of Kandanos played an important role during the Wartime resistance. In a reprisal for killing twenty five German parachutists the whole male population was taken away and killed and Kandanos razed to the ground. Since the war many European students had helped to rebuild the town and it now has a very fine church containing beautiful icons and many elaborate wood carvings.

Also there is a Museum with interesting mementoes of the Battle of Crete and in the town square an impressive war memorial. After visiting the museum and the church our mood was more sombre than usual as we made our way to the taverna for lunch. Our host was on the steps to greet us - once again a friend of Chryssa's! I think I must explain about Chryssa. She is quite well known in her part of Crete - she was the first woman to be made 'mayor' of her village. She also runs an orange farm co-operative. During the last war she was a runner for the Resistance movement. Ageless, charming, with a unique fund of stories about her beloved country she certainly enriched our holiday.

Our Good Thursday lunch started with the usual Greek salad accompanied by Easter bread specially prepared for us, taramasalata followed by a vegetarian dish (because it was Lent), then dishes of fried octopus - of course all washed down with Raki. (we were told it was 90% proof), water and endless supplies of wine. Our tables were decorated with red dyed hard boiled eggs - thereby hangs another tale!

~~Good~~Friday morning and the sun was still shining. A small group of us went for an easy walk through the olive groves, to a nearby inland village returning in time for the coach which was to take us to Therisso. Stratos drove up through the most magnificent Gorge, reminiscent of Aberglaslyn and Cheddar all rolled into one. Eventually we returned to the main motorway and were driven eastwards towards Khahvis, a small coastal town. Here we had our evening meal in a taverna immediately opposite the doors of the church and the service was relayed to the taverna. AS it was Good Friday and the cook was required to sing in the choir our choice of meal was limited but enjoyable. We watched the smartly dressed townspeople entering and leaving the church carrying lighted candles. By now it was dark and the town square was full of people waiting for the procession of the Epitathios. It eventually appeared led by a man carrying a crucifix and followed by others holding the canopy symbolising the Body of Christ. Everyone followed with their candles and proceeded around the town. Candles had been placed in doorways, windows and on doorsteps and people waited on the pavements to "light the way" for Christ. The whole town seemed to participate and it was with some difficulty that Stratos finally extricated the coach and drove us (still clutching candles) back to Kato Stalos.

The main event of Easter Saturday takes place during the evening and at night, consequently we were advised to take a siesta in the afternoon. Nevertheless some of our group decided to walk inland through the olive and orange groves eventually reaching the village of Galatas. Here we saw a memorial to the Anzacs, British and Greek men who lost their lives fighting to save the village. This was all explained to us (in Greek) with much waving of arms and pointing by one of the villagers. He led us along a little path to see a gate



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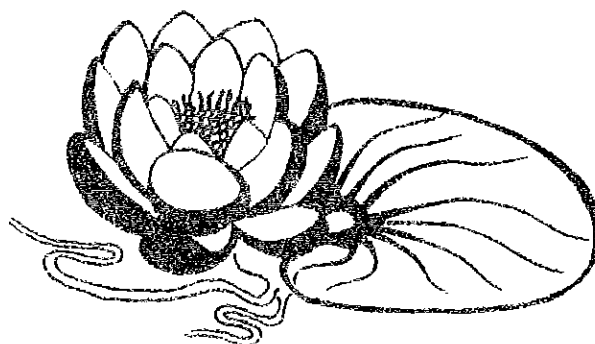
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CLARINS

— PARIS —

made from the side of a British tank. Although Chryssa was not with us we soon found one of her friends. His taverna was called "Uncle Jon's", and here we were made very welcome and shown a collection of photographs inscribed with names of some of the survivors who had since returned to visit wartime battlegrounds.

After a leisurely lunch we strolled back to base and prepared ourselves for the evening festivities, and we were driven eastwards towards Gavalohori for an Easter Supper. On arrival we were greeted by the Mayor who escorted us to a bar in the village square where we were regaled with the inevitable raki and Easter biscuits.

Following this he led us through the village to see a new museum. We were privileged to be the first official visitors! It was beautifully arranged, a reconstruction of village life with examples of exquisite embroidery, and many other skills carefully displayed.

Supper time at last and we found our tables set out under a vine covered pergola. Again, spit roasted lamb was the main course and wine in abundance. Our driver's wife had prepared cheese pasties for us and his daughter offered sweets from a decorated basket. By the time we had finished it was dark and we made our way to the Church for midnight mass. We stood in the crowded church and although we couldn't understand the service there was a general feeling of elation as candles were lit. Following the priest, the congregation processed out of the Church shouting "Christ is risen" and the reply "He is risen, indeed". Just outside the church gates was a huge bonfire about twenty feet high which suddenly burst into life with flames licking around an effigy of Judas. (We couldn't help thinking of Guy Fawkes!)

At that moment we discovered the purpose of the hard boiled red-dyed eggs we had all been nurturing for days. Friends bashed their eggs together - rather like playing conkers - and whichever egg survived intact, the owner was the most virtuous! After all the excitement of the bonfire, fireworks and egg bashing we made our way back to the village square and there was the mayor dispensing - guess what? Even more raki and Easter biscuits!

It was a very tired group of people who eventually arrived back at Kato Stalos more than ready for bed.

EASTER SUNDAY. Stratos arrived with the coach and we were driven eastwards again towards the remote but fertile Amaria valley calling first at the popular coastal resort of Rethymon. Although the old Turkish quarters behind the promenade were interesting, the commercialised front held no appeal and we would not want to spend a holiday there. Leaving Rethymon the road wound its way through the only apple growing region in Crete. We were to have lunch with Manolis, a shepherd. Little did we realise that he not only owned a taverna but the mountain rising behind it, and much of the land around. We sat outside the taverna shelling and eating home grown walnuts and drinking raki while lunch was prepared. Again it was the traditional Easter spit-roasted lamb accompanied by the usual Greek salad. We were fascinated by the enormous stuffed eagle suspended from the ceiling in the kitchen. It had been shot by Manolis (with Governmental permission) because of its penchant for killing his sheep.

The next part of our excursion found us high in the mountains at the remote village of Thronos with glorious views of Mount Ida and Kedros. Alas, two coaches had proceeded us and as the tourists were German the villagers were behind closed doors and windows. When they left, doors slowly opened and on recognising Chryssa the villagers came running to greet her. The guardian of the chapel was sent for and we were allowed inside to see the icons. Before we left we were led into a tiny house/taverna where raki and Easter cake had been prepared for us. We were shown the traditional way of making the strong turkish coffee and some samples of exquisite crochét. Nowhere, in all the villages we visited, were we ever pressed to buy anything - we were always the recipient of the villagers' hospitality.

On the remaining days of the holiday we had many more interesting excursions, amongst them a visit to the beautifully kept War Cemetary at Sonda Bay.

Our introduction to so many of the Cretans, their food, folklore, traditions and endless hospitality made us realise that there can be so much more to a package holiday than merely sitting on a beach! Whether we shall ever find another "Chryssa" is very doubtful, but I do know that finding another holiday to equal this one is most unlikely.

Yammas! (Cheers!).

ANSWERS TO PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER:

The Clueless Crossword.

Clues across: QUARTERMASTER, INFER, ENDOW, TALON, HERB, FEAR, DATE, LIAR, RANSACK, CORD, WEIR, UPON, ROTA, LOOTS, ZEBRA, TOKEN, EXTRAVAGANTLY.

Clues down: QUICHE, AFFORD, TART, REALM, AMEN, TIDIER, REWARD, BARON, FAKIR, TAR, END, LAW, ICE, PUZZLE, COMBAT, ROCKET, JAUNTY, RUMBA, LAVA, STOP.

L.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
P	A	T	J	Y	N	F	Q	M	W	E	B	X

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G	O	K	Z	C	V	H	R	L	U	I	D	S

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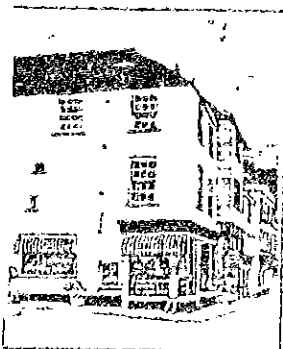
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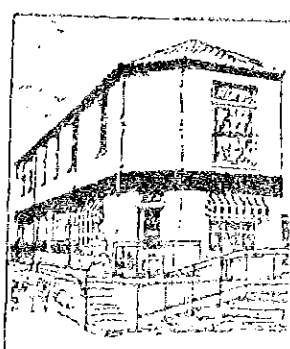
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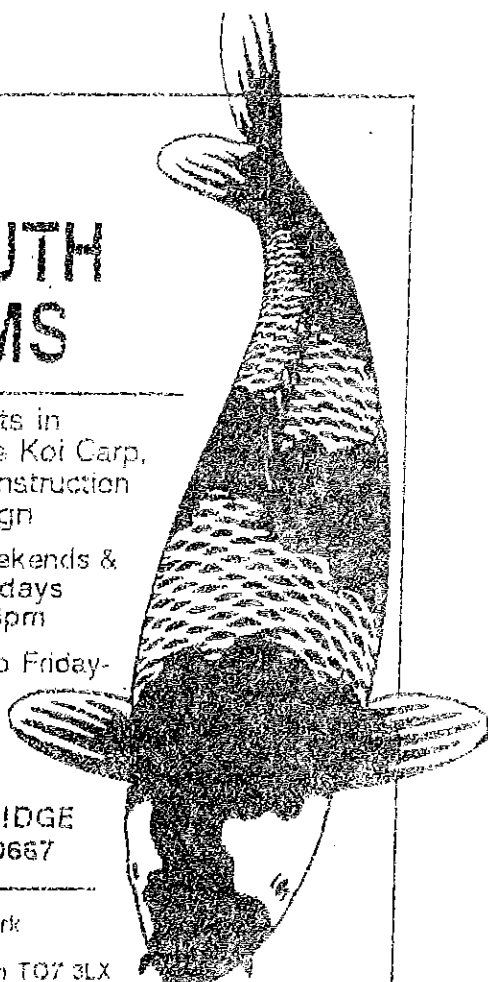
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August

Wed	4th	Tramp Walk. Moors.
Sat	7th	T & S.W. Horticultural Show. Parish Hall.
Tues	10th	Fete of the Bells, Thurlestone Village Green 6pm
Wed	18th	Tramp Walk, Dart Valley/Moors.

SEPTEMBER.

Wed	1st	Tramp Walk. Horrbridge/River Valley
Tues	7th	Parish Council meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm
Wed	15th	Tramp Walk. Burrator Reservoir.
Tues	21st	Fashion Show. (Boutique 144). Kings Arms, Kingsbridge. 10.a.m; 2pm 7.30pm
Fri	24th	Hargest Festival Supper at Parish Hall, follow 7.00pm Service in church.
Sat	25th	Parish Hall Annual Autumn Fair 2.30pm

OCTOBER.

Wed	13th	Tramp walk. Coastal Path
Thurs	14th	Bridge Evening in aid of Army Benevolent Fund, Thurlestone Hotel.
Tues	19th	Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

NOVEMBER.

Thurs	4th	Conservative Bridge Evening, Thurlestone Hotel 6.30pm
Wed	10th	Tramp Walk. Local countryside.
Sat	13th	NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall 10.30am
Sat	20th	Church Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall 10.30am
Tues	30th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30pm

DECEMBER.

Sat	4th	Conservative Christmas Bazaar. Parish Hall 10.30am
Wed	8th	NSPCC Christmas Bridge. Parish Hall 6.30pm for 7pm
		Tramp Christmas Walk. Fickwick Inn

1994

FEBRUARY.

Mon	14th	Valentine's Day Barn Dance at Parish Hall.
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LATE DATES

The following arrived too late to be put in date order.

<u>September 27</u>	Gentle Exercise with Sue Leigh. Parish Hall 7.30-9 p.m. for 10 weeks.
<u>September 30</u>	Drawing and Painting Class Parish Hall 10-12 with Jennifer Johnson for 10 weeks.
<u>November 6</u>	Pearson Play Group Craft Fair. Parish Hall 10.30-3.30

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