

VILLAGE VOICE

Oct-Nov 1993

EN HARBOR

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DRABBLE
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by
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AT

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OCT-NOVEMBER, 1993.

IF YOU WONDERED why the lights burned so late in the Parish Hall on the night of the latest Council meeting and perhaps feared some fearful plotting going on, you should know that your safety was the subject - and a one-way traffic scheme for Bantham.

A one-way scheme! For Bantham! Yes, indeed, that is what they were discussing. You see so popular has Bantham become on sunny summer weekends with surfers, wind-surfers, boarders, and simple bucket-and-spaders seeking escape from the hot and sticky city, that it is virtually cut off by all that traffic from emergency services.

In a recent incident the Devon Air Ambulance had to be called when the earth-bound ambulance was stuck in a traffic jam somewhere near Bantham Cross. That worked well, but what, the Councillors asked themselves, would happen in the case of fire? A fire engine would be jammed just the same as the ordinary ambulance had been in the height of summer. Would not a fire wipe out the village before help could arrive?

So at the Council meeting they started to devise an emergency one-way system which would enable help to flow easily along our narrow lanes. A good idea, but not that easy to execute. Upalong or downalong from Bantham Cross?...Downalong or upalong Sudden Death?...Upalong or downalong to Clanacombe?

Not easy, you see. Unfortunately no Devon Air Fire Brigade is in existence to scoop up seawater and bomb a fire as they do with those forest fires abroad.

Perhaps the answer to our problem lies in the past. Surely Bantham should have its own fire brigade as Thurlestone did once in years gone by. Shouldn't there be a team of volunteers trained to use one of those small fire-pumps which were so effective in the Blitz? There should be no shortage of crews for the Bantham Fire Brigade - just think how smart they'd look in their BFB shirts!

POSTBAG...LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

DEAR VILLAGE VOICE,

We should like to thank Village Voice most sincerely for their kind donation of a new bell rope, which has helped us to keep the bells ringing in Thurlestone.

Everyone seemed to enjoy 'The Fete of the Bells' on the village green, which was a very happy occasion and raised £574. This, together with a further generous gift of a second new rope from Thurlestone resident, Mr. John Taylor, has enabled us to pay for the new ropes and hopefully open a 'Tower Fund' for future contingencies. We are most grateful to all those who assisted during the evening and to those who made it a success by attending. Thank you again.

THE THURLESTONE CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

A NEW BOOK ABOUT THURLESTONE.

WHEN VISITING the village stores, I saw a little stack of shining new books entitled "The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland (told with the help of old photographs) by Kendall McDonald, our editor. With Kendall's knowledge and expertise supplemented by the memories of many residents, picture research by Peter Hurrell and publication by Neil Girling, this is very much a book by and for the people of Thurlestone parish.

Each page or two with its picture tells a story of its own, giving the author a chance to bring life to many aspects of our village which until now have been recorded in words alone. We see the shipwrecks and are told why they happened and the remarkable scale of the smuggling. There are pictures of reeds for thatching being cut and dried as on the Ley, the splendid engine called Lord Kitchener that came each year at harvest time during World War One, the quaint cottages in Buckland and salmon being netted at Bantham. The circumstances of "Murder on the Mead" are described.

This is a quality book that would grace any home. All the photographs are interesting; some are beautiful, but some of the early ones are printed rather too darkly, as so often happens. The text is in Kendall's jocular style that we have come to know so well in successive issues of Village Voice. Yet it is a scholarly work and will be an invaluable addition to local libraries, both as a record of our parish and as a model for other studies of small rural communities.

Proceeds from this book, after deduction of royalties and costs, will be given to Thurlestone Parish.

N.C.O.



WON'T BE LONG now, I reckon, before the first battalion of the Thurlestone Vigilantes is formed. Course it's going to cost all of us a bit of cash, but a stitch in time as they say...

This line of thought all started with the unbelievable report of a policeman being seen on foot in the village street. I will repeat that - a real policeman was actually seen on foot in Thurlestone!

Well, m'dears, the phone lines nearly melted when everyone tried to tell everyone else of this unheard of event. And then the whole thing began to get out of control. You know what rumours are. Soon it was being said that in addition to being on foot the policeman had actually stopped someone - driving a Mercedes no less- and had told him not to drive so fast. That of course was taking things too far. However, once the sighting itself was officially confirmed by a member of the Parish Council, most of us were prepared to settle for the sighting not the caution.

Mind you, it's been so long since we've seen a policeman around these here parts that some of us can't remember what they look like.

Truth is we didn't stay excited all that long because it soon became clear that the policeman had only got out of his car for a moment and it wasn't to be taken as a sign of foot patrols in the parish or the return of the village bobby. We were very disappointed. We keep on hoping that the Government will finally give us law and order, but they don't seem to have the stomach for it and so it looks as though we are soon going to have to do things for ourselves.

That's why Village Vigilantes are going to have a big future in the parish even if only to deal with such organised crime as gangs of bonfire burners,

THURLESTONE AND SOUTH MILTON SHOW NEWS:

The 1993 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Committee Room of South Milton Village Hall at 7.30 pm on MONDAY 11th October. ALL residents of South Milton, Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantham are very welcome.

One important item on the agenda for discussion is the suggested 'opening' of some/all of the Sections to exhibitors from outside the Parishes to promote more exhibits and provide further enjoyment for members of the public in the afternoon. Many of you will have strong feelings both for and against this proposal. PLEASE come and help us make the RIGHT decision.

Our plea for a secretary in the last issue of Village Voice has regrettably (but perhaps not surprisingly) been met with a deathly hush. It occurred to us that perhaps you are all thinking the secretary should be a member of the fairer sex. Why? We are proud to be an Equal Opportunities Show so perhaps there is a member of the handsomer sex out there who is keen on things horticultural and has a spare hour or three free in the year in which to write the odd letter. Please, SOMEBODY, help us to keep the Show on the road!

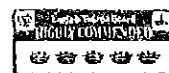
For those of you who missed the results of this year's Show in the Gazette we reproduce the Cup Winners below with a special mention for Richard Bromfield who beat the 'experts' at their own game and took the Best Amateur Vegetable Cup with his prize winning runner beans:

Section A Vegetable & Fruit (Amateur):	D Coward
Section B Vegetable & Fruit (Open):	D Yeoman
Section C Cut Flowers & Pot Plants:	Automotive Cons
Section D Senior Children (9-15 years)	Robert Luscombe
Junior Children (5-8 years)	Kelly Luscombe
Section E Cookery	Mrs L Gunning
Section F Handicrafts	Miss E Snowden
Thurlestone Resident with highest number of pts	D Coward
South Milton Resident with highest no of points	J S Horn
Yeo Cup (Best Amateur Vegetable)	Richard Bromfield
Wray Cup (Best Open Vegetable)	D Yeoman
Chapman Bowl (Overall no of points (roses))	Automotive Cons
Marshall Cup (Best rose bloom)	Automotive Cons
President's Tankard (best Fuschia)	T Church
White Cup (Best Entry - Senior Children)	David Anderton
Yeoman Cup (Best Entry - Junior Children)	Kelly Luscombe
Doris Tyler Trophy (Set Recipe Cake)	Chalky White
Flower Arrangement (Class 73)	Mrs A Foster

Please don't forget the Annual General Meeting of YOUR Show on 11th October. See you there!

Greenfly
September 1993

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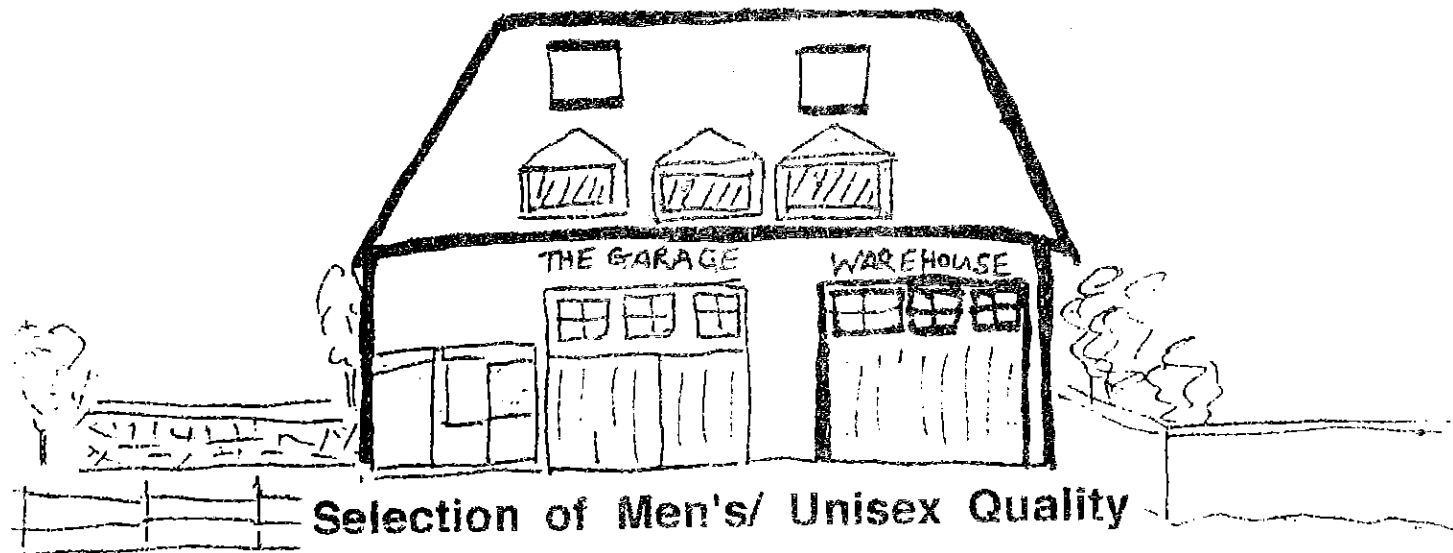
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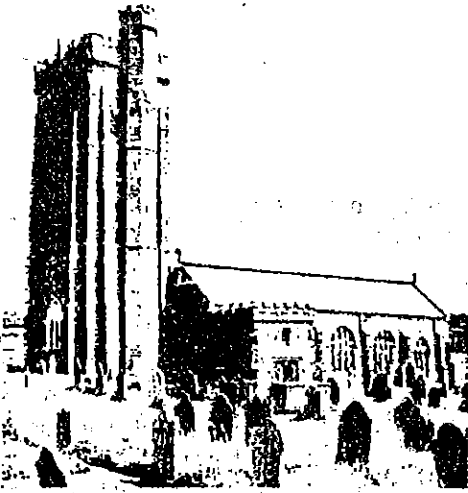
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The Rector Writes

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

I sometimes wonder whether our legislators and those who advise them realise just how far they and their notions are removed from public opinion in the matter of crime and its punishment!

This week (as I write) there have been three items of news that have caught my attention in this connection:

1. A couple in the Bristol area have been arrested and charged, for slapping their son!
2. I had to listen whilst some person involved in the prison service said that we should not think of those sent to prison as being there for punishment, but for re-habilitation! Whilst we must hate their crims we must show love and care for those who commit it.
3. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons said, amongst much else, that when visiting the (Private) Remand Prison, he found many of the prisoners (young men) still in bed mid-morning with the curtains still drawn!

It is clerely high time that ordinary people spoke out and expressed and made it clear that we regard as rubbish so much that many of the so-called experts have imposed upon us.

Ovet the years we have endured "modern art" which mattered little which way up you hung it - it was equally hideous in every direction! Bricks - masquerading as sculpture! "Modern music" less melodious than the noises in the farmyard, and for fear of being thought Philistine, people were afraid to denounce it for the rubbish most of it really was.

The same has happened in many other areas of life. Crime and Punishment is one of them.

In an interview on Radio this weekend it proved impossible to get the Home Secretary to commit himself that he viewed Prison as a place of Punishment. If that gentleman and the man who made the number 2 observation above would only take the trouble to take the Dicionary from the shelf they could soon discover that Prison by definition is a place where a person legally committed is held in captivity whilst awaiting trial or FOR PUNISHMENT. (usually a building).

I am prepared to go softly, softly on the Remand side of imprisonment and wish that Remand prisoners (ie those awaiting trial and not (yet) convicted) should be treated with leniency.

So far as Point 1 above is concerned - most ordinary folk gifted with ordinary common sense realise that if there was a good deal more chastisement in the home, corporal and otherwise, there would be far less need of ever increasing numbers of places in prison. I seem to remember reading somewhere "Spare the rod and spoil the child". Nobody of course is advocating brutality toward children, but, as in all else in life, it is possible to achieve balance.

I probably would be accused of belonging to the "Hang 'em and Flog 'em brigade" and certainly I believe that there are circumstances where capital and corporal punishment do have a place, the latter particularly in my judgement as part of the initial punishment for all crimes of violence to others.

As I started to think about this letter some of the words and phrases associated with punishment when I was a boy started to come back to my mind: words like "Caning", "Birching", "Cat-of-nine tails", "He should be horse-whipped", "hard-labour", "Bread and Water", "penal servitude". Whilst we don't want a brutalised society (which some claim result from such punishments) nevertheless my recollection is that for the innocent, society was much less brutalised then than it is today. Rape, Murder, Muggings were practically unheard of and certainly, with such crime as there was, with far more severe penalty, offenders were generally slow to offend again.

Whilst on our recent holiday we were ourselves victims of crime when the door lock was removed by force from our car (although only out of sight for 10 minutes) and cash, cheques, credit cards etc. all stolen from my wife's handbag. Unfortunately for them, the crooks were caught within twenty five minutes of the crime.

When I spoke next day to the Policeman concerned I said "where are they now?" (they had been bailed) "out doing more cars to collect cash for the fine they get for 'doing' mine?" "Very likely" was the reply. "Don't you get disheartened" I enquired "at what happens - after all your trouble in arresting offenders" "My job is to apprehend criminals" the policeman replied "if I had to start thinking about what happens thereafter I'd have to give up my job altogether."

So the public are not satisfied and the police are not satisfied - So who is? Well, on that basis, that of those to whom I have spoken I believe nobody! However, I suppose some of the Law-makers think they've got it right and presumably some of the judiciary. Although the former probably think that when somebody is given 10 years that is what they should get but in fact they are probably free again after 3 years.

What positive suggestions can be made? I offer here my own ideas. (please do write in and argue or otherwise) :-

1st. I would like to see some clear and commonly accepted principles as to what should happen to convicted offenders. I would list those principles as follows:--

1. Definite Punishment, Including Corporal for violence
2. Restitution -- ie from their private resources or from what they earn through prison work some attempt made to put right, at least in part the damage done.
3. Sentences Served, ie 10 years means 10 years, but with maximum remission of 25% for exceptional co-operation, and increased sentence for further offending and lack of co-operation.
4. Work engaged is for say 8 hours per day, mostly in the manual labouring category.
5. A harsh regime applied at least for the first 25% of the sentence.
6. The next 50% of time with a much less harsh regime, to be used, in part, in doing useful work, the income from which helps with the "keep" of the prisoner and his family - who are otherwise probably a drain on the nation's resources), allowing the prisoner a proportion for pocket money. During this part of the sentence, part time would also be spent in remedial and re-habilitation exercises to help fit the prisoner for a normal and useful life at the end of imprisonment.
Any lack of co-operation throughout this period would involve the prisoner returning to the category (5) situation.

In order to achieve anything like what I have suggested above there would need to be several different categories of prison -
eg. Remand jails

Young offenders

Severe regime - with restricted privileges

V. Severe regime - with virtually no ditto.

Remedial and Rehabilitation (presumably "open" prisons).

A lot of what I've written would require much "fine-tuning" - I'm mostly concerned with principle and in particular that principle which insists that there be an element of punishment - over and above that of merely being there - restricted liberty.

Some might think what I have written is very harsh for a Christian to suggest but if we read the gospels Jesus made it quite clear that He regarded rewards and punishments as all part of the normal fabric of life, and for persistent offenders there would be little mercy (See e.g. Matt. 18 v 21 f.)

So where does the Christian doctrine of forgiveness come into all this? That too is quite clear. Forgiveness is something offered in response to Repentance, and does not necessarily mean the avoidance of punishment. However, true penitence would soon lead prisoners from situation 5 above to situation 6. None of us would wish to see imprisonment neither harsher nor more prolonged, than is necessary and all of us I guess would want to say with John Wesley

"There but for the grace of God go I"

PETER S. STEPHENS.

Pat Machin's Puzzle Corner

FIND THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN THESE PAIRS
OF WORDS BY FILLING THE SPACE IN THE BRACKET.
EACH WORD HAS FOUR LETTERS.

Example: ram (pant) her.

1. HARVEST () SHINE.
2. TENDER () PRINT.
3. LIFE () ANT.
4. SQUARE () STOCK.
5. BE () HOUSE.
6. POWDER () IN.
7. SOME () BOMB.
8. SCHOLAR () SHAPE.
9. PLEA () FOOTED.
10. PLAIN () IN.
11. FIELD () WELL.
12. KIDNEY () FEAST.
13. CAR () MATE.
14. FLAP () POT.
15. TIGER () BALL.
16. CAR () IN.
17. BULLY () EATER.
18. AITCH () IDLE.
19. COAL () STRESS.
20. PHOTO () CAT.
21. NET () ROOM.
22. SCAR () CENTRE
23. SWISS () MOP.
24. IN () ION.
25. THUNDER () TRAP.

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS.

Four new textile banks - at Dartington, Ivybridge, Totnes and Yealmpton - bring the total of these recycling banks in the South Hams to 15. Nearest is at Kingsbridge in the Cookworthy Road Car Park

A BEST SELLER ABOUT THURLESTONE, BANTHAM AND BUCKLAND!

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Just a Thought

PERHAPS you may feel it is a bit early to talk about Christmas in October and November, but does surely happen to be a time when everybody is aware that within a couple of months we shall nearly be there.

I just wanted to talk about the popularity of Devonshire Clotted Cream which I can arrange to be delivered by the postman to your friends and relatives.

There is excitement in the postman's rat tat ! A tub of Devonshire Clotted Cream is just the sort of thing to remind some of your friends and relatives that you are thinking of them, rather than your just sending a quite expensive Christmas Card.

A tub of Devonshire Clotted Cream can solve many a small present problem.

Yes, I know 'they' say that too much cream is not good for you - but a little treat at Christmastide of a little something 'somebody' likes - why, they should love you for it !

In the next issue of 'Village Voice' which will be out by the beginning of December, you will find a few Order Forms - and then it will be just the right time to make out your Christmas Orders, and as Voltaire once said: The post is the consolation of life .

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A BACKWARD GLANCE

NEARLY FIFTY YEARS ago, on March 28, 1944 to be precise Mr. Maitland Tribe, who was Chairman of the Invasion Committee for South Milton and Thurlestone, left his home in West Buckland and walked to the Committee's H.Q. in the Thurlestone Hotel.

Moments later an Army despatch rider arrived at the hotel with an important memo for him. At this time it was clear to anyone who lived in Southern England that the Allies were on the verge of invading France - every wood was a tank park and there were troops behind every tree. It also seemed clear to those who planned the Invasion that the Germans might well get in first launching "commando" raids against our harbours, transport parks, ammunition stores and fuel dumps. So very likely were such raids that the War Office decided to put everyone involved on the alert. And everyone in this case included Maitland Tribe and his invasion Committee in Thurlestone. The Invasion Committees were really the old Local Defence Committees under a new name.

Mr. Tribe studied the memo the "Don R" had brought him. This is an exact copy of the one he was given, which survives in parish records today:

MEM/28.3.44.

S E C R E T

Action in the event of enemy airborne or seaborne raids.

1. It is possible that the enemy may attempt to impede our overseas offensive by "Commando" raids against this country. The Regional Commissioner in consultation with the military authorities has lately reviewed the arrangements necessary to meet such raids, whether airborne or sea-borne, and this circular is designed to give an outline of the action which should be taken by the civil authorities.
2. Enemy "Commando" raids are likely to be directed to particular objectives over a limited area and for a limited period (2 to 12 hours, to which should be added the time necessary for mopping up operations). Raids which are primarily air-borne are unlikely to be accompanied by air bombardment of the actual areas of operations, though they may be preceded by the bombing of the area, or preceded and accompanied by the bombing of targets in the neighbourhood, such as aerodromes or points on the lines of communication to the area of operations. In the case of sea-borne raids a more general air bombardment is to be expected.
3. "Commando" raids are most likely to take the form of sea-borne raids possibly accompanied by airborne troops, against objectives in the coastal area. Small raids of this type might arrive practically unheralded, but would be confined to isolated sites and would not involve the civil population to any degree. In the case of larger raids, it is probable that some advance warning would be given. As the result of such a warning a considerable strip of coast line would initially be brought to a state of readiness until the actual point of attack was revealed. Purely airborne raids against inland objectives are less likely, and no advance warning of raids of

this type can be expected.

4. On the warning or occurrence of a raid, all members of the H.G. in the vicinity will report with their weapons to pre-arranged alarm posts and will be considered as mustered. This will apply both to List I and List II personnel of the Home Guard including members of the C.D. Services.

WARNINGS.

5. Procedure for the transmission of warnings may be considered in relation to (A) or (B) below:-

(A) Raids of which the military authorities have some advance information.

Either or both of two warnings may be issued from military sources and communicated to the civil authorities. These are:-

BOUNCER implying "Raid Stand To" (approximately 48 hours in advance).

BUGBEAR implying "Raid Action Stations" and specifying if possible, the area involved, e.g. "Bugbear Torbay"

These code words will be initiated only by officers not below the rank of Brigade, Sub Area, Sub District or Garrison Commander, or (at the discretion of District Commanders) of a Commander of a Home Guard Operational Sector.

The Military Authorities will transmit these warnings through normal channels to:-

Local Military Commanders of the area affected.

Regional Headquarters

On receipt of either of these warnings the local Military Commander will transmit to:-

The Senior Police Officer who will take action at once within his sphere and retransmit it to his immediate superior.

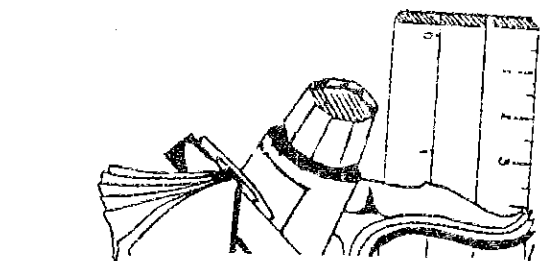
The A.R.P. Controller, Sub Controller, or other head of the C.D. Services, who will take action at once within their respective spheres and retransmit it to their immediate superiors.

The Chairman of the Invasion Committees concerned.

On receipt of either of these warnings Regional Headquarters will retransmit to the Chief Constables and A.R.P. Controllers concerned, and code words will be passed by Chief Constables to Senior Police Officers of the area affected and by A.R.P. Controllers to Sub-Controllers or Officers in Charge of Report Centres of the area affected.

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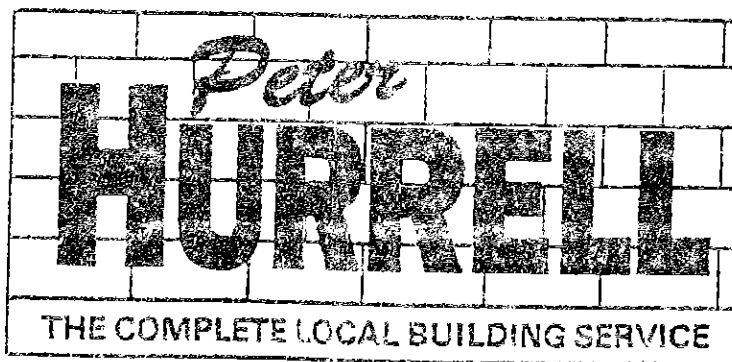
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(B) Raids of which no advance information is given.

The earliest intimation of a raid will be a landing in the area concerned, and the Police or C.D. personnel may be the first to see the enemy. They will immediately report their presence by the quickest channel to the nearest regular Army or Home Guard Commander and will then report to their own service in accordance with normal procedure. The local Military Commander (from whatever source he receives the warning) will ensure that the information is passed to:-

The Senior Police Officer, who in turn will pass it up police channels.

The Controller, Sub-Controller or other Head of the C.D. Services who in turn will pass it up A.R.P. channels.

The Chairman of the Invasion Committees concerned.

It should be noted that (as stated above) the code words can only be initiated by military officers of certain specified ranks. Consequently the code words will not be used in the circumstances here described, viz. by personnel at the lower levels making a first report of an unheralded raid for transmission up their several channels.

ACTION BY INVASION COMMITTEES.

6. As soon as the Chairman of a Committee receives warning of a raid in his area, he should establish himself at his Invasion Headquarters and, if possible, convene the operational nucleus of his Committee. His action thereafter will be determined by the requirements of the Military Commander, but in general he should do all in his power to suppress any panic, confusion or rumour among the civil population and to keep them under cover and off the roads. In the case of inland raids (of which no advance warning is to be expected) it is unlikely that the Invasion Committee will be able to man their headquarters, and arrangements should be made for the Chairman of the Committee to proceed to the headquarters of the local Military Commander.

ACTION BY C.D. SERVICES (Paragraphs 7 to 12 omitted)

ACTION BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

13. The civil population should understand that, in the event of a "Commando" raid, they must be ready to give promptly any assistance that may be required by the military or civil authorities and must avoid any action which might interfere with the operations of our troops. Except on instructions from a competent authority such as a military officer or N.C.O., the police or the wardens, they should keep off the streets and remain under cover. If in their houses or places of work they should stay there. If in the street, they should take cover in the nearest building. They should not leave cover to go to the public shelters, but, if owing to the sirens having sounded they are already in a public shelter, they should remain there.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PUBLIC.

14. No public statement on the subject of enemy "Commando" raids will be made. It is, however, desirable that the population (especially within a coastal strip of five miles deep) should know what action is required of them. This information should be imparted through the members of the Invasion Committee, the Police, the Warden's Service, the W.V.S. and the First Guard Organisation. Press statements will not be used.

15. "Commando" raids will develop too rapidly to admit of any detailed pre-arranged organisation being put into operation and plans must, for the most part, be left general and fluid. Invasion Committees should, however, meet to discuss with their military representatives whether any special plans are required, and all Committees should ensure that the general public are advised in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 above. The main function of the civil population is to keep out of the way, but be ready to render any help to the military, if asked to do so. The leaders should do all in their power to allay confusion and rumour.

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As we run the sixth and last in our series of short stories, all written under the pen name of Ken Hardy by a world-famous short story writer, Village Voice is delighted to announce a **SHORT STORY COMPETITION**. Full details of this competition, open to all, will appear in our Christmas issue, your next Village Voice.

SPEAR JUNCTION

by Ken Hardy

The same wind that the big white herons use in springtime to float themselves down to the valleys brought the sound of the Kinchi drums to District Commissioner Swalen as he camped in the shade on the river bank.

Swalen's immediate reaction was to curse. Trouble among the Kinchi meant a long trek out of the valley to the mountain slopes. The danger did not worry him. He regarded the Kinchi as children. Every now and then they kicked over the traces.

The only thing that really annoyed him about the mountain tribe was that they always chose the worst possible time to make trouble. It was as if they knew. And then Swalen smiled. A silly thought - of course they knew.

At any other time the thought of the mails and supplies coming by the boat for which he was waiting would have made Kinchi trouble just something to be dealt with before he could settle

down with his letters. In the boat this time, however, was something more than letters. By this boat would arrive his assistant, Assistant. Swalen snorted at the very thought. And Swalen knew, or thought he knew, the kind of young man they would send...

The first three days of the trek towards the mountains of the Kinchi only served to confirm Swalen's first impression. On the fourth day, the knobbly knees of Gimblott would carry him no farther. Grimly Swalen ordered two of the porters to build a rough chair and carry his new assistant.

Swalen was only mildly gratified to see that Gimblott was kind to the porters and insisted on walking whenever he felt strong enough. If Swalen had not been going to settle accounts with the Kinchi, he would certainly have ordered three days rest for Gimblott, but he could not leave him behind. Goodness knew what harm the boy - he was hardly more - would come to.

The forest was beginning to thin and the ground rising slowly when Swalen noticed Gimblott's attachment to a large black box which was among the things he had brought off the steamer when he landed. Every few minutes Gimblott would check the fastenings of the box, which he had tied on to the poles of his makeshift chair.

Two or three times during that day Swalen had been on the point of asking Gimblott what was so precious in the black box, but each time he refrained. None of his business; the youngster would merely think he was being nose.

Gimblott had no idea where they were going - and rather imagined that the District Commissioner lived among the mountains ahead.

The sixth day could have provided the answer - but it was hardly likely to have meant anything to the new assistant.

Swalen never showed it to him, but merely plucked the spear with its hair and feathers hanging from the shaft out of the pathway and broke it over his knee before tossing the pieces aside.

On the seventh day at noon precisely Swalen stopped suddenly. A dozen spears menaced his chest. The bushes all around the small column suddenly turned into Kinchi tribesmen.

Even Swalen was shaken. But he had known that they were being watched, and that the snapping of the warning spear had been marked by at least one Kinchi among the foliage.

But if Swalen was shaken he showed no sign. Neither did he give any sign that things had gone a bit farther than on other occasions. For the tribemen who confronted him were not merely Kinchi; they were drunken Kinchi. When sober they would certainly think more than once before attacking Swalen or any of his men, but the drink that showed in their reddened eyes was not likely to make them reflect overmuch about a spear thrust or two.

Gimblott obviously thought it was a welcoming party. He sat upright in his chair smiling round at all the sullen faces. But he did not sit for long. A menacing movement of a spear near one of the porters who carried him sent him pitching and rolling to the ground.

Swalen groaned inwardly and waited for the spears to fly at this break in the tension. Instead grins suddenly appeared on all the Kinchi's faces. They pointed with their free hands and then started laughing. A whirring noise made Swalen turn his head.

Gimblott's black box lay open on its side. On their backs, with wheels whirring slowly round, were toy railway engines, toy trucks and model metal railway lines!

Three weeks after the Kinchi had been well and truly smacked, the trader in cheap hooch jailed, and Swalen had returned to his valley, he determined to make an effort to be friends with Gimblott. After all the chap had, in a kind of way, saved his life.

He found Gimblott where he knew he would - in a small hut set aside for his model railway layout. Swalen was gruff, but kindly, and asked the right kind of questions about the trains. Gimblott responded like a flower seeing its first ray of sunshine. He explained about the signal box he was mending, and when Swalen asked about a similar construction on the other side of the hut said: "THAT's another signal box, sir - for my wife. I'm expecting her out here soon."

Swalen's boy reported to the other servants next day that Swalen must have eaten something that did not agree with him, for had not the boy personally seen him in convulsions two hours after supper?

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

Many residents have met visitors in the lanes asking the way to Thurlestone. These lost souls are usually heading towards Kingsbridge at the time of asking. Reason is the Whitley Cross signpost which still seems to be pointing in the wrong direction despite many Parish Council requests to SHDC roads department. Another letter has been sent.

Friends of Thurlestone School are in the final stages of discussion with SHDC for a grant of £2,500 for playground equipment. But though £1,000 was raised at a recent auction and there were other funds totalling £2,300, a further £900 will be needed to meet the overall cost of the playground and safety surfacing, which is expected to be £6,700. The Parish Council has put forward another £100.

The "starter homes", officially known as the Thurlestone Seaview Road Housing Project, are now due to be started in 1995, according to District Councillor Tony Watson.

...POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE
POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE..POLICE VOICE:

FROM COMMUNITY CONSTABLE MARTIN RUSHWORTH

I'm sorry I missed the last issue and now I will explain what's been happening during August and September - and outline future plans.

August for us, covering both Kingsbridge and Salcombe, was an extremely busy period and we dealt with 1,113 enquiries. The total crime figures for our area between 1.1.93 - 15.8.93 was 745. This is a rise of approximately 6% over the same period last year. But there is good news! Burglaries are well down on '92 figures, in fact quite substantially, especially in the Kingsbridge area - a drop of 35%.

However, stolen marine equipment has seen a massive rise of almost 80%: 48 crimes in '92, 86 crimes in '93. Thefts from motor vehicles saw a similar rise.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th July but I informed your Councillors that certain items stolen from the Golf Club had been recovered and forwarded for forensic examination. It is with regret I have to inform you that this enquiry gave a negative result. The Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September was lively to say the least. One or two laughs were had by all in respect of local herds and their standard of driving - but you had to be there to have any understanding! But serious topics were also covered eg. Crime Prevention.

Where property is not or cannot be numbered I strongly recommend that articles are photographed. For example antique clocks, furniture and, of course, jewellery. With the latter, place a well marked ruler beside the items in order to ascertain the scale. As an added precaution have valuable jewellery valued by a professional and obtain a written valuation. I mention this for very good reasons one of which being that many items of stolen property recovered by the Police are never returned to their owner. This is because the owner is unable to 'positively' identify their property. Please let's all make an effort. It's for your benefit.

Also mentioned was a new introduction by the A A in the prevention of car theft. It is called the TRACKER SYSTEM and I will be giving more details of this magic electronic box in the next issue of Village Voice.

South Milton is presently expanding it's Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to cover the whole village. John Osmonde is the Co-ordinator and has called a Meeting on 7th October from which date the Scheme(s) will be 'active'. Congratulations! I am still looking at a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in ^{the} Main Street of Thurlestone. Who'll help me set it up?

And finally I will be on foot on the beat in both Parishes on Thursday 30th September and Friday 1st October. See you then

mmm...

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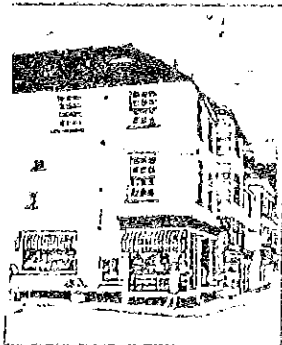
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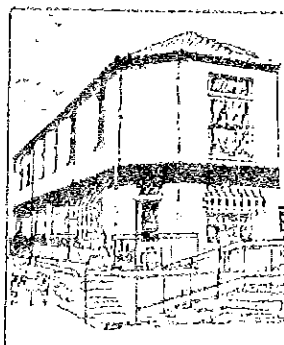
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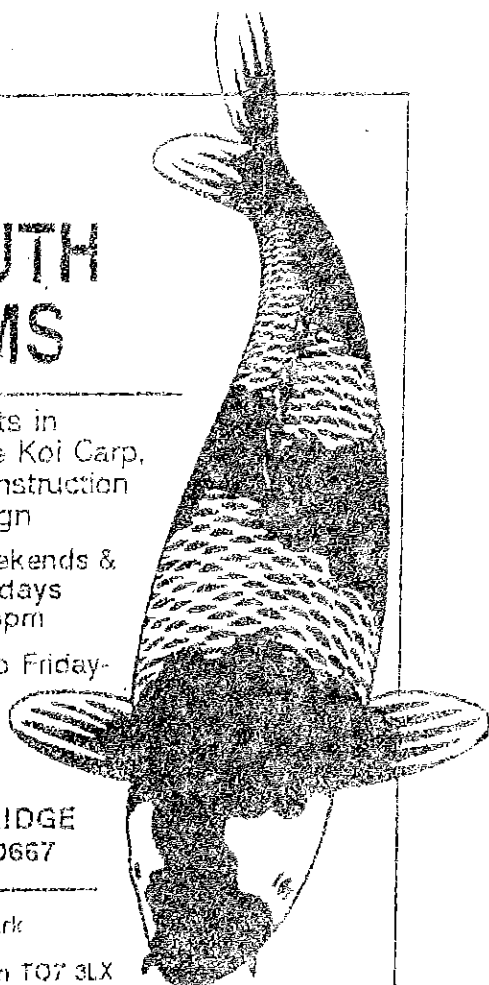
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LOCAL NEWS FROM THE WI.

THERE'S BEEN a great diversity of subject matter under discussion at the WI meetings, as usual. We were all convinced by local resident and former actress, Didi King, in April, that "There's no business like show business!". Then in May we had wide-ranging debates on the resolutions for the National General Meeting at the Festival Hall. In June Margaret Trevis told us what it was like to be an air stewardess in the immediate post-war period - a far cry from the jet travel of today. In July the secrets of the Cookworthy Museum's delightful dress collection were revealed - and we learnt on the way that once clothes come into the possession of a museum they become known as "costumes".

A coffee morning was held at the home of President Win Cousins, to raise funds, and the resulting £92 caused a twinkle in our Treasurer's eyes. A coach outing to Killerton House, returning to Topsham for a museum visit and tea, was enjoyed by 42 members and friends on a flawless day. We then acted as hostess for Littleham (Exmouth) WI's outing and provided a cream tea for a group of their members in Rosemary Mackay's garden.

Dorothy Candy was the delegate to the Spring Council meeting at Exeter University and gave a good report of the day. We gained runner-up cup at the Sea Coast Group spring meeting.

Eight members sallied forth to join West Alvington WI for their fish cookery demonstration by Betty Goodman. Later on we also joined South Milton WI for their Barn Owl Trust evening.

Gardeners were urged by Anne Grose, reading from the Federation's Countryside Bulletin, not to use slug bait which contained metaldehyde. Marj Johnson told members how much she had enjoyed a course at Denman College, using the Institute bursary, where she had studied Silk Flower making. She brought excellent examples of her hard work. Rosemary Mackay's name came out of the hat as the winner of the 1994 bursary. She was also congratulated on her success in the local heat of the national WI Driver of the Year competition, where she had the most economical consumption of all Devon's entrants (well what do you expect with a name like Mackay?).

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a one-day drama workshop, tutored by Val Brown, and then to staging our entry for the Collective Class at Kingsbridge Show. The idea here is to interpret a television programme with crafts and cookery items suitably staged. We've had enormous fun dreaming up our entry which will be based on "Keeping Up Appearances".

Also in the pipeline is a Coffee Morning on October 12 at Higher Furlong, the home of Terry Woodrow, in aid of the new hospice for children. Elsewhere in this issue you will read an invitation to non-members to join us at our special October meeting.

Very sadly the death of three of our members was reported. Marjorie Thexton was a good amateur actress who enjoyed Drama Group activities. She was also a skilled craftswoman who could be relied upon to come to

our rescue at competitions. Noreen Wilkinson had come fairly recently to Thurlestone and as an enthusiastic member at her former home she had learnt to value the friendship she found through WI. She served on the committee in her well days, and was always willing to join in when there was work to be done. Dempsey Prowse died at the great age of 96. She was American by birth, from the West Coast. Having travelled all over the world, she said there were only two places she could ever live - one was overlooking the Puget Sound, the other was Thurlestone! In her young days she was a student at Vassar University in the States, then came to France to the Sorbonne and on to Cambridge University. It was here she met the Englishman who was to become her husband, Charles Prowse. They farmed in Worcestershire and came to live in Thurlestone immediately after the Second World War. She made headlines when she gained an Open University Degree at the age of 92.

She was obviously deeply interested in education and was very committed to the WI movement. She was a former President of Thurlestone WI, a founder-member of the WI Market in Kingsbridge, was a Devon WI county chairman, served at National Federation level and was involved with the Associated Countrywomen of the World internationally. She was a remarkable lady who contributed so much to the movement at all levels.

Pat Macdonald.

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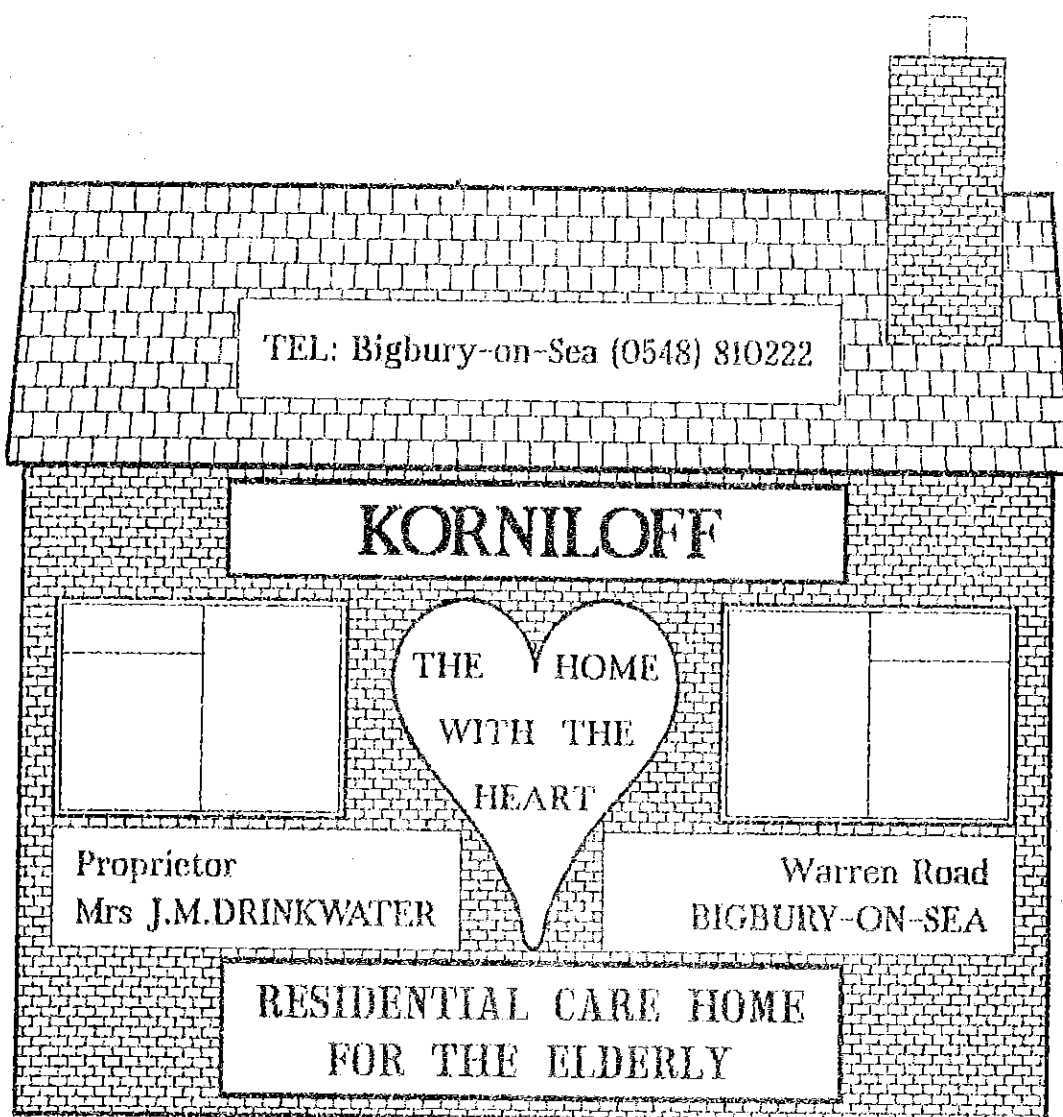
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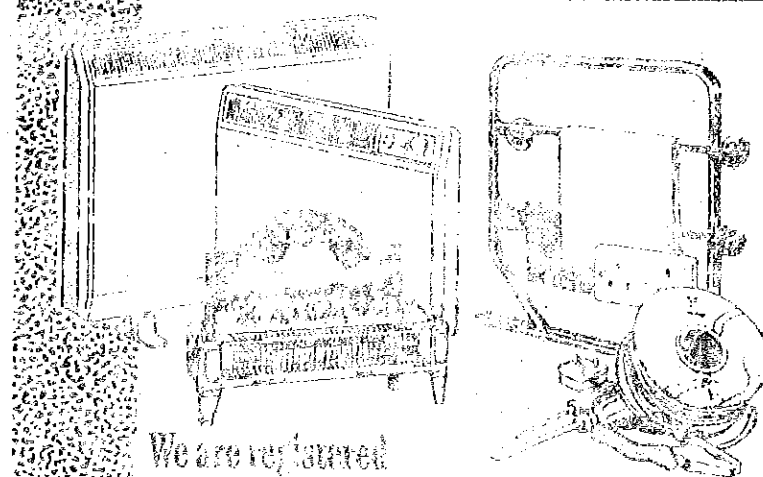


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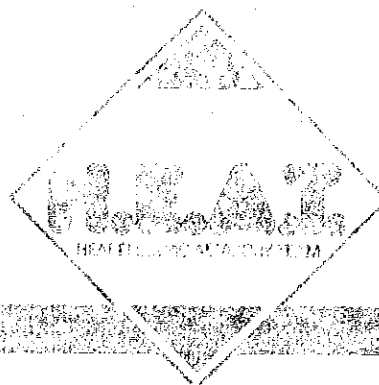
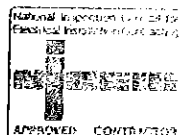
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I remember...

This "I remember" was compiled by Allan Edgcombe from notes which his father, Ronald Elliott Edgcombe, had written before his sudden death on July 1st this year and which he intended to form the basis of an article for Village Voice. Mr. Ronald Edgcombe was nearly 83 when he died of a heart attack at his home in Frampton Cotterell, Bristol. Here are his memories:-

MY FATHER was a naval pensioner and worked for Mr. Morgan who owned the Fruit & Flower Farm. At the outbreak of the First World War he was 'called up'. My eldest brother, Edgar, also worked for Mr Morgan and he too was 'called up' in 1917. He was twice wounded and then carried on in the army and served 17 years in India, and was killed in the Second World War. My second brother, Cecil, worked for Mr. Moore, the butcher at West Buckland, before and after school, and then full time after he left school. He joined the navy in 1923 and he too lost his life when his ship was blown up by the Japanese in 1942.

I was born in 1910, at No 1, Kathleen Cottages at West Buckland, and I grew up with Ida (Smith) who I think was about 2 years older than me. Roger Jackman was another of my playmates, as also was Charlie Bevell, and many a game of football was had together in Whetcombe at the bottom of Thurlestone Hill. We were also joined by Wilfred, Leonard and Wallace Jeffery. Sadly Wilfred, Len and Charlie have all passed on.

We all went to Thurlestone School and one of the highlights of the day was when the barge carrying limestone used to dock at Bantham Quay. The stones, after being unloaded, were transported by horse and cart to various parts of the parish to be used on the roads. My grandfather was the "stone breaker" and used to go around the parish cracking these stones ready for the steam roller to roll them into the roads. As a little boy of about 4, I used to go with him and he made me a tiny hammer and a pair of goggles and gave me a little pile of stones to crack. Mrs Conolly was the Headmistress of Thurlestone School and Mrs Toms was the infant's teacher. She also taught needlework to the older girls. At one time she lived at West Buckland opposite Kathleen Cottages. When I was a boy this area was known as "The Ruins", it was where some cottages, four I think, were burned out at the time of the great fire of Buckland. It started in some farm buildings, later to become the blacksmith's shop, and spread to the nearby cottages. They were all destroyed. Miss Toms had a lovely moss rose which my mother managed to save after the fire. Every year I had to take the first rose to her at school. She then lived at Thurlestone. Later, the Thurlestone Rifle Club was built on the site of The Ruins.

I was very interested in Mrs Smith's account in Village Voice, of the houses which used to be opposite the Old Rectory since my mother was born in one of them in 1868. The family then moved to where Mrs Len Jeffery now lives, but I don't know when the other houses were demolished. At the back of where those houses were, were three garden plots, Mrs Snowdon's, Mr Nat Moore's and my father's.

Later, of course, Mr Osman Moore had a house built there. I think it was called Elm Bank and was later known as Broad Meadow.

I remember many of the old village characters, old Tom Higston, Cipt Whitford and Dick and Harry Sheriff who farmed Buckland Farm. Next door to us was Mr Ben Jeffery and his wife Clara and Mrs Mitchell lived at Number 3. She was a dear old lady who did a great deal of dressmaking. Later my Aunt and Uncle Axworthy and my grandfather moved next door.

In my childhood, life was very different from now. We had no electricity. We had oil lamps and candles for lighting, a Lidstone stove for cooking and coal grates in the Sitting room and also the bedrooms. There was no radio or T.V. but we did have a gramophone. There were few indoor or flush toilets. At West Buckland we had to fetch our drinking water from the tap in Chapel Hill. Water for washing was caught in water butts or other containers from the roofs. There often was not enough so we had to fetch it from the brook at the bottom of Monkey Lane in a bath and pails. There was also a pump at the blacksmith's yard and Mr. Ingram would allow us to use it when we were very short. Mr. Ingram lived with his wife and daughter, Blanche (later Mrs Sheriff). He was a dear old man who was very fond of children and often he would stop what he was doing to mend our hoops or a kettle etc. As children we watched him at his forge, shoeing horses etc. Mrs Ingram was also a very kind person who was in great demand when anyone was ill or in distress.

Mr Ingram had a pony and trap. The pony was called Tommie and was rather temperamental. He used to take anyone to Kingsbridge Station to catch the train. On one occasion he was taking my brother to Kingsbridge and on that day Tommie refused to budge. He played up for about 20 minutes when he finally bolted and didn't pull up until he was part way up Clanacombe Hill. Anyway, in the end, they just caught the train. Mr. Ingram once made a penny-farthing bicycle which he rode all the way to Plymouth.

Mr Hewett, a retired engineer, lived across the way. He was a painter and must have painted every inch of the parish. I still have several of his paintings which his wife gave to my wife and me when we got married. He also formed the local scout troop and was instrumental in forming the Thurlestone Rifle Club. I also remember Mr & Mrs Healy who lived at Pear Tree Cottage, Mrs Hersey and Mr and Mrs Bill Jeffery. He was a cripple, having fallen from a farm cart and smashed his leg badly. There was also the Miss Valpys, Mrs Masters, Mrs Prettyjohn and later Mrs Fulford. Mr & Mrs Nancy Bevell and family (Charlie's parents) also lived in the village.

In 1919, when I was about 9 years old, we moved to Thurlestone to 2 Jubilee Cottages. My father then worked for Mr. Stidstone. My playmate then was Albert Snowdon and we became firm friends. Nat Moore, the local shoe repairer, lived on one side of us and Mrs Snowdon, who looked after Mrs Emery, lived on the other. Mr. Moore lived with his daughter, Edie and his son Bill. It was at that time that my father, Mrs Snowdon and Mr Moore had plots of garden, opposite the Old Rectory where the cottages used to be. I used to play football and cricket with Albert Snowdon and Jack Mitchelmore, who was a few years older than me. We played in a field which is now the garden of the shop. I think it was then known as Little Hill Field.

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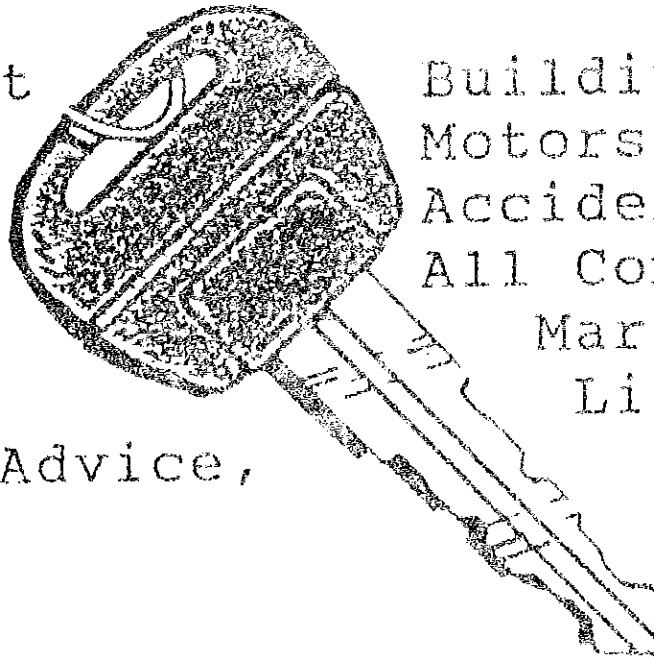
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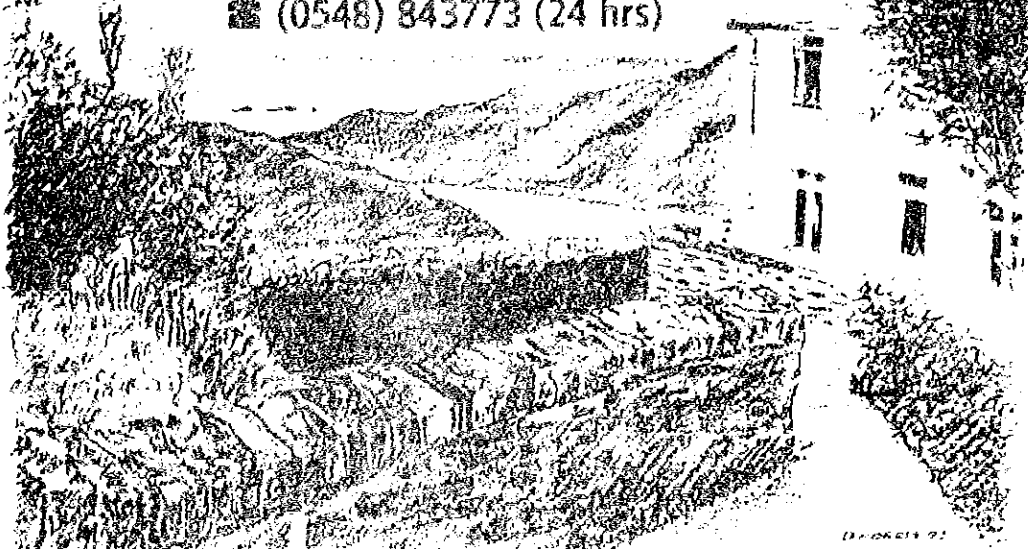
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(answerphone whilst out on call)

The Club Room was also used for Political Meetings etc. and the Women's Institute held their early meetings there.

Reg Ingram and Jim Elliott were also great friends of mine. Reg is still living in London. He was a little older than me. During the summer we used to go caddying at Thurlestone Golf Links. I remember Reg climbing the flag pole and a gentleman said he would give him 6d if he could reach the top. Reg did it and received his 6d. He put it in his mouth and proceeded to climb it again and promptly swallowed the 6d. He was very concerned but all was well later on! Yes, times have changed. Many people kept chickens and a pig which was killed and salted down and 'ogs pudden (Hogs pudding) was made.

After I left school I tried to get into the Navy but it was the time of disarmament and I eventually worked at Corner Stores in Kingsbridge, learning the grocery trade at 8 shillings a week. We were then living in Bantham and my father was working for Evans Estate, as also was my Uncle Bill Axworthy.

In 1936 I married Elsie, the daughter of Mr & Mrs Moore, the butcher. We had been courting for 7 years. We started our married life in Kingsbridge. My wages then was £2 per week and 12/6 of that was spent on our rent. My wife, at the time of our marriage, was a teacher at Thurlestone School. I believe she had rather a unique experience having been a pupil there, then a teacher and finally a school manager. When she started teaching her salary was 16 shillings a week and, as she was living at home in the Old Mill, she was not allowed any subsistence allowance. When we married she had to resign as married women were not allowed in the teaching profession, except when they had an invalid husband (eg Mrs Richardson who followed Mrs Conolly). or some other valid reason.

My two sons, Allan and Colin, were born in Kingsbridge and in 1940 we moved to West Buckland to the flat in the Old Mill where my wife used to teach a few children under 5.

In 1946 we bought the Stores at Thurlestone, where we lived for the next 20 years. My daughter Ann was born whilst we lived there. Ill health forced us to retire and we moved to Kingsley Road, West Alvington. We were very happy at the shop in spite of it being very hard work, especially in the summer and at Christmas. We had some lovely customers from the villages and from the houses 'down at the front'. Sadly most of them are now gone.

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL NEWS..

Two parishioners have already volunteered to take part in "Exercise Eddystone" - a Devon County Council Emergency Planning exercise, which will involve a passenger ferry. The Coastguard have already asked for 200 volunteers to take part. The project will be held on November 4th next.

There was no shop in the village in those days. Mr and Mrs Pound had kept one but had given up by that time although they still lived there with their niece, Miss Rose Nosworthy. I remember that my mother would tell me that Mr Pound had been the local carrier who took people to Kingsbridge to catch the train. He was always very punctual but if any of his customers were late he would not hurry. I have heard mother say that on one occasion when his clients had made him late, as they were coming down West Alvington Hill they could see the train disappearing. All he said was "There 'er goes.. up round Union Corner!" Miss Toms lived nearby. She had been teaching in Thurlestone for many years and had taught at least two generations, including my mother.

Mrs Chandos-Pole also lived in the village at Toy Cott, later the Thatches. Every May she gave a party at the school for all the children of the parish and we all received a present (including our teacher).

After about 2 years we moved back to Buckland, next door to Harry Bevell. As we got older, we all joined the Thurlestone Rifle Club.

The Rifle Club, or Men's Institute, was formed in 1910 after Lord Robert's Appeal. The Rifle Range was in the meadow at the bottom of Thurlestone Hill and consisted of 25 yards, 50, 100 and 150 yards ranges. Originally, to become a full member, one had to 'pass out' on the rifle range but this practice was later discontinued. Mr Hewitt was secretary of the club until his death in about 1928 when I became secretary.

In the Institute there was a billiard table, table tennis, darts, a ring board, Indian clubs and boxing gloves, although these were rarely used in my day. Albert Snowdon and I spent many happy hours, during our holidays, playing billiards and sometimes on the rifle range with Mr Hewitt. Billiards matches used to be arranged with South Milton and we used to walk across the fields to play our match and have a cup of tea and a jam bun! South Milton had some very good players, Sid Steer and Bill Coombes were two that I remember, and I'm afraid that we usually lost but always had an enjoyable evening. They would also visit us for a return match but usually the result was the same! Charlie Bevell was the best player in my time, but there was also Jack Hannaford, Wilf Chadder, Harry Masters, Len and Wallace Jeffery, Les Moore, Albert Snowdon, Ern and Jack Snowdon, Charlie Hill and several others, not forgetting "Uncle" Edgcumbe (no relation). They came from all parts of the parish, walking down from Thurlestone and Bantham.

Village life was very different in those days. We had no Parish Hall, but we were happy and made our own entertainment. Whist Drives and Tournaments were organised by the Rifle Club. It used to be a Whist Drive one fortnight and a Tournament the other.

Concerts were also organised by Mrs Moore of The Old Mill, in which all local talent took part. She raised several hundreds of pounds with these concerts for St. Dunstons in the 20's and 30's.

As forecast in the last issue of Village Voice, the formation of the Friends of Thurlestone Church is well under way...

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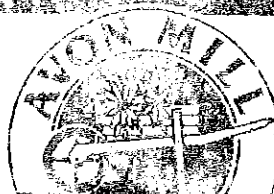
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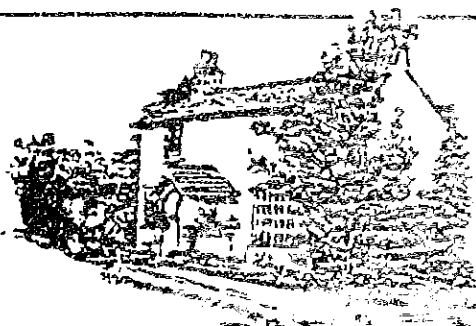


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Drabblemania

A MISCELLANY OF PERSONAL THOUGHTS - REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Survival is the name of the game they say. After a somewhat fraught month or two I owe a debt I will probably never be able to pay, to my friends and neighbours who have conveyed me on a multitude of visits to Consultants and two separate operations. They have been simply wonderful to my wife and myself.

WEATHERFORECAST FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Many people - even real countryfolk tend to sustain a belief that a profusion of berries presages a hard winter, whereas it simply indicates there was a mild frost free spring period which permitted unrestricted pollination and fertilisation. The South winds will surely bring us rain though North winds will blow it back again. The West winds usually bring wet weather, but it is the East winds that bring wet and cold together. If the leaves have stayed late on the trees - that is a sign of a hard winter, but from time to time take a look at the winter sky. Pale yellow usually means wind and rain, or both, and pale green is said to presage snow.

+ + + + +

TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION a 'pea souper' might be considered an item on the dinnertime menu - but we more advanced in years know differently. ! I have seen it noted that the last of the London 'pea-soupers' happened in December 1952 and killed an estimated 2,850 people. That figure represents the increased number of deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia reckoned to be attributable to the 'smog'. It was probably the worst fog of all time. On the Isle of Dogs, beside the Thames in east London, the fog was said to be so dense that you could not even see your own feet, and several people were said to have walked straight into the river.

Smog was simply a name applied to a mixture of smoke and fog. With the introduction of smokeless zones it became a thing of the past !

+ + + + +

My father worked for the same firm for twelve years. They fired him. They replaced him with a tiny gadget this big. It does everything that my father did, only it does it much better. The depressing thing is my mother ran out and bought one.

Woody Allen (1972)

PTO:-

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

GORSE (Ulex europaeus)

In the West Country they say that when the gorse is out of bloom, kissing is out of fashion! The poet Edward Thomas put it a little more elegantly when he wrote "And gorse that has no time not to be gay" . Both make plain what every country dweller knows - whatever the season, you can always find some cheering flowers on a furze bush. Never is it more welcome than in Winter when the evergreen thicket provides a valuable service offering shelter to small mammals and birds. As one's imagination takes wing, the cliff or common assumes its Summer garb, when warm sunshine draws forth the nutty scent from golden blooms. In the same fashion, tiny immature catkins in the thorny hedge promise dancing lambstalls within a few short weeks. Margaret Stevens.

+ + + + +

A HAUNTING WE CAN GO

The privately owned Norman castle at Berry Pomeroy near Totnes is said to be notorious throughout England for its history of murders, and the mysterious fire that left it a ruin at the end of the 17th Century. The bravest sightseers are best advised to visit during weather reminiscent of the traditional horror film !

The de la Pomerai family, owners until 1548, lent their name to the castle and have left a reminder of their connection with it. Henry de Pomerai, responsible for the murder of a herald, subsequently committed suicide and has haunted the ruins ever since. Lady Margaret's Tower is home to the ghost of Margaret de Pomeroy, who reputedly died of starvation at the hands of her jealous sister. Dogs, believed to be susceptible to ghosts and psychic phenomena, have been known to shy away from the Tower and refuse to enter it.

There is a worldwide belief that some ghosts will only manifest themselves before a disaster of some kind - ranging from a death to a national disaster. Berry Pomeroy castle has one such ghost. She resides in the woods, and was the mother of an illegitimate baby. Legend has it that she murdered it, being that it was the son of her own father. She is seen cradling the baby when a death is about to occur. The castle is also the proud owner of a wishing tree, though the beech that stands now is almost certainly not the original, but if you have never been to the ruins you could find it well worth a visit if you are in that area.

+ + + + +

Most of the aged know what it is to have been young and silly, but none of the young know what it is to be old and wise.

Harold Macmillan

+ + + + +

GRANDPARENTS - by Children

** Grandparents live in their own funny world where time seems to go backwards.

** ** Every one should have a grandmother - they are the only people who have time.

** ** A grandmother is a mother who has a second chance.

PTO:-

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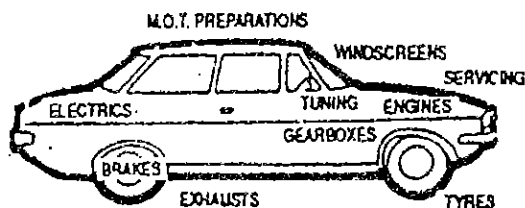


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FROM ALL AROUND there is a complete lack of understanding of why second (Holiday Home) owners should be granted a 50 per cent rebate on their County Rate bill, whilst (I understand) we poor residents who struggle to hang on to one home have to make good in the calculation of our 100 per cent payment. It seems to Drabblemania that the theme of making the rich richer continues as the keystone policy of this government. If we add to all that the VAT on household fuels starting in early 1994 I would not be at all sure that our MP - also a second home owner (!) will do any better than the chappie at Christchurch.

+ + + + +

THE DEVON I'VE KNOWN since 1950 is not there anymore. The magic of the rustic rural charm of the villages and the small towns such as Kingsbridge has all changed beyond recognition. I think perhaps, it is small wonder that annual reports on the number of tourists consistently shows a decline. There is no rustic or rural charm about the type and style of the houses our present day planners permit - probably they all suffer from urbanised minds. And it would seem the highway authorities are intent on building roads until the congestion finally chokes us, and although the private car in its ever increasing size and quantity is considered to contribute to many people's perception of the quality of life, it becomes increasingly clear it is also steadily eroding that quality.

+ + + + +

I WONDER if Surfers against sewage' have thought of contributing to the cost of 'cleaning up the beaches'. Shouldn't the users pay their share?

+ + + + +

The English country gentlemen galloping after a fox - the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable.

Oscar Wilde said that in 'A Woman of no Importance' as long ago as 1893.

+ + + + +

Surveying the world as it behaves nowadays, I cannot help but wonder how long the meek will keep the Earth after they inherit it?

+ + + + +

I would just like to say 'thank you very much indeed' to the many readers who have communicated by telephone and written during my illness through June and July. What I found most heartwarming was the support for Drabblemania and the encouragement to keep on keeping on. It has been a heartwarming experience. I'll do my best to deserve such support.

+ + + + +

If ducks slide at Hallowtide, At Christmastide the ducks will swim.
If ducks swim at Hallowtide, At Christmastide the ducks will slide !

(Hallowtide is 31st October)

END.

LATE LOCAL NEWS...LATE LOCAL NEWS...LATE LOCAL NEWS...LATE LOCAL NEWS
...LATE LOCAL NEWS...LATE LOCAL NEWS...LATE LOCAL NEWS...LATE LOCAL NEWS

A CLOSE CONTEST ended with Thurlestone W.I. taking a second place at the Kingsbridge Show (see "Local News from the W.I." on an earlier page in this issue). There were ten contributors from the Thurlestone and West Buckland W.I. in the entry in the Collective Class.

Advocates of traffic calming measures for our villages should thank heaven that our calming consists of a few parked cars - if a report by Byron Rogers under the heading of "Village Voice" (darned cheek!) in the Daily Telegraph on the Calming of Blisworth by Northamptonshire Planning Department.

"Huge pavements wide enough for a Paris boulevard have been built, narrowing the village streets, and grey lines, the meaning of which no one understands, have been painted between them and the road. Cobbles have been laid reducing traffic in places to a one-way flow...the tyres of 20 cars were blown in the first week alone and they collided with the new sharp curves..."

The South Hams "Lifeline" service is being expanded. This is the system under which you can buy or rent a unit, worn round the neck or wrist and when a button on it is pressed it activates a special number. From this rescuers know who is in trouble and where. To buy these units are £253, but can be rented for a little over £2 per week. Further information about the service 0803-867083

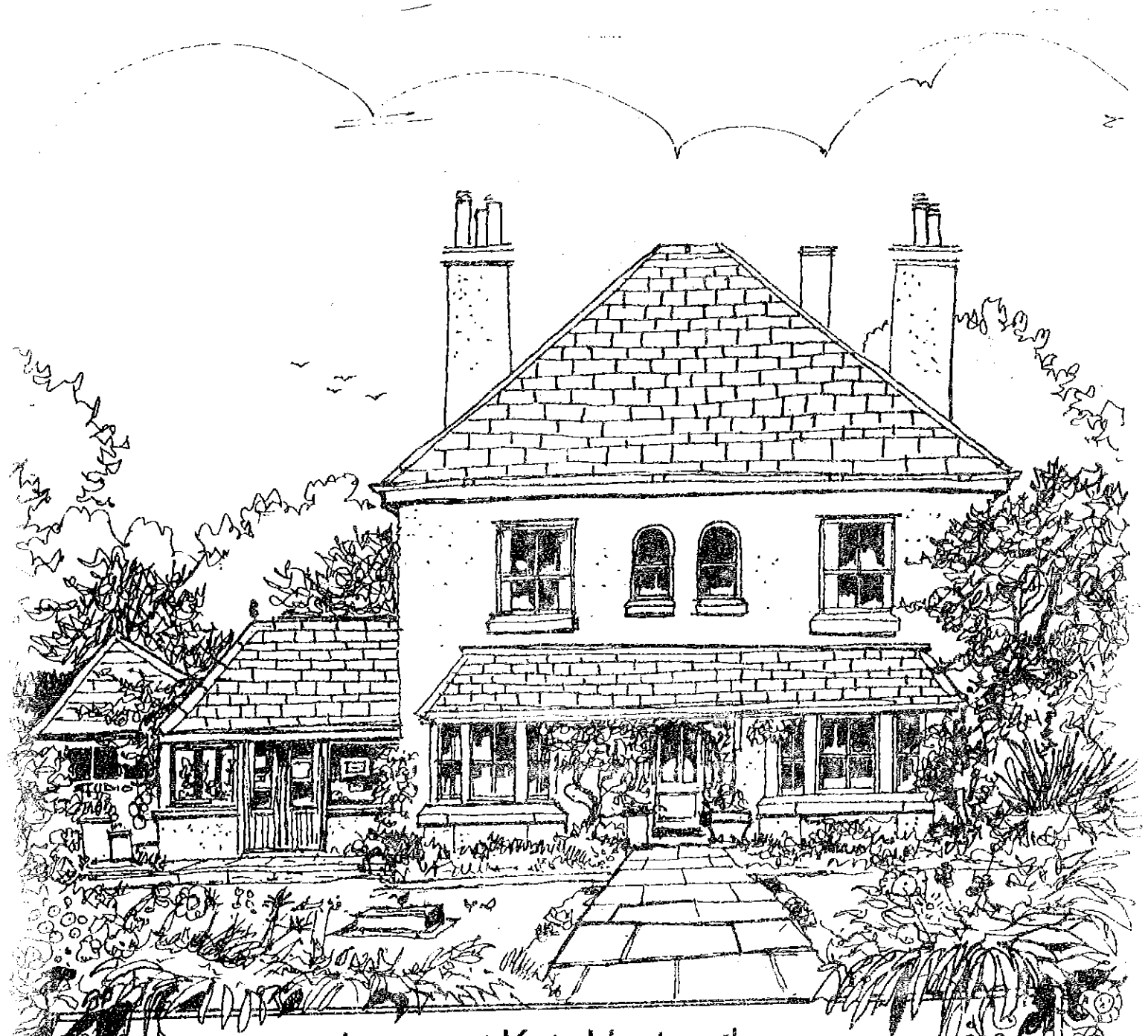
Police are "streamlining" their operations in the area. This means closing Kingsbridge Police Station after 8 p.m. At the same time there are new sets of telephone numbers to ring for various problems.

999 remains the number to call for life threatening events, people injured, offenders nearby and all other happenings which require immediate action.

To give information re crime, use the Crimestoppers Freephone 6800-555111. Telephone enquiries about incidents - 0803-841301.

To report crime(not an emergency) - 0803-841010. To enquire about crimes already reported - 0803-841290. Enquiries about accidents already reported - 0803-841234. General enquiries - 0803-841312. Lost and found Kingsbridge (0548) 852326 (closed after 8 p.m.).

At the Parish Council meeting on October 19, Mr.E.J.Pritchard, the Pollution Inspector of the National Rivers Authority will tell parishioners about the success - or otherwise - of the new sewage works.



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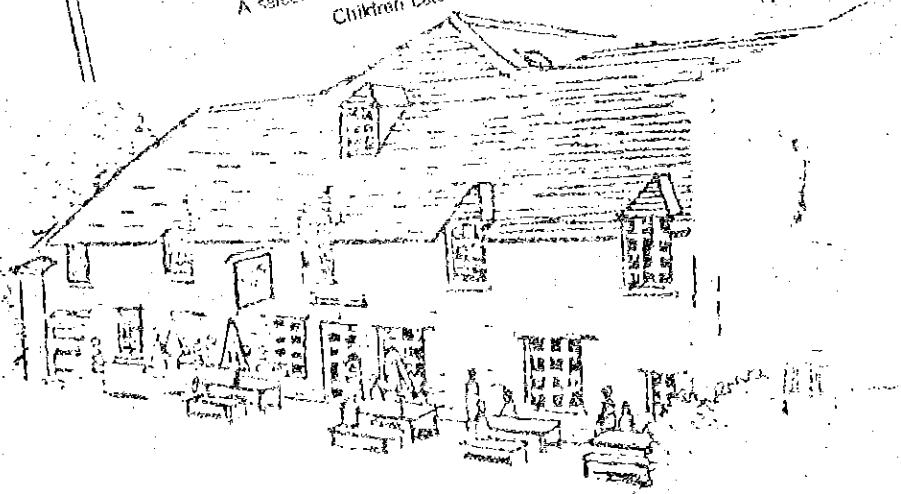
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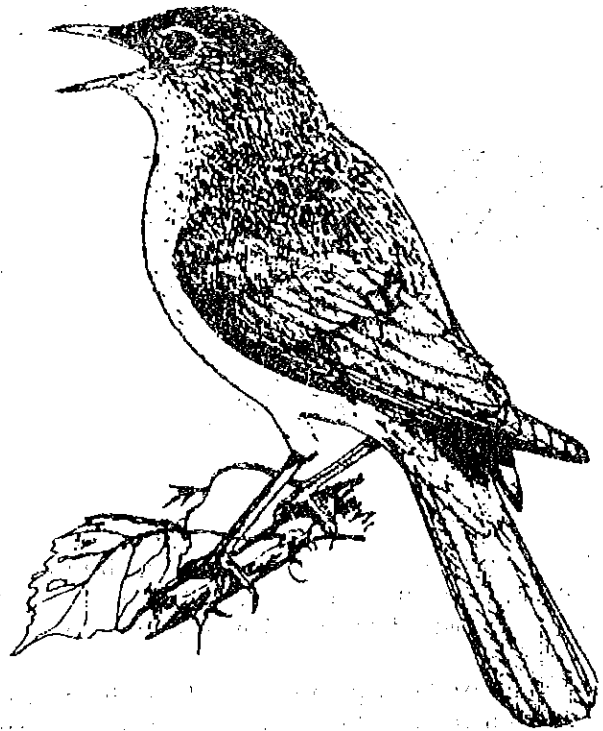
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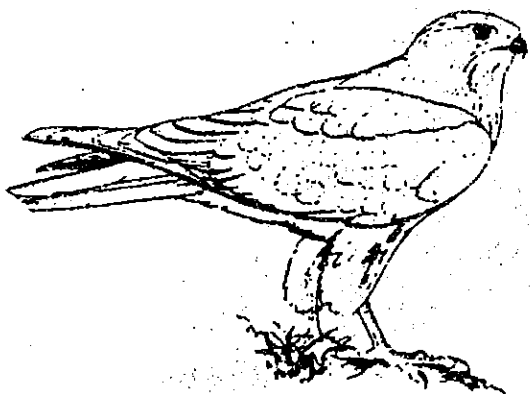
ON 12th of August, at breakfast-time, a party of five tired looking white birds drifted down Thurlestone valley; they worked against the wind across the golf course and disappeared to the west. Gulls, of which there are always plenty in the valley? No. These were pure whiter than white, no other colour on their plumage; they had blunt wings, long black legs with yellow feet sticking out beyond their tails. Little Egrets. A few years back, even one would have had us scurrying to the telephone, but no longer.

Most birds have got scarcer; these are more common. As there were five we did ring a friend, later in the day, to be told that in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset people had counted 160 so far this autumn (for birds autumn starts around the first of July). They are reckoned to be wintering birds from French breeding colonies.

It could be they are breeding in England and it is a well-kept secret. These things are hushed up if possible, egg collecting is illegal, but still done and birders wanting to look at something rare can put birds off breeding simply because there are so many of them. So if they are nesting I for one do not know where.

Such matters can be kept quiet. The Haldon Honey Buzzards remained a well-kept secret for many years, and they were in a far from secret place. Sadly, that little venture seems to be over. Our friends tell us that two males without a female came back this year; presumably the ladies got lost or shot down by continental gunners. So unless these males can cajole a hen to come with them next year, or attract one in the unlikely event of her passing by, there will be no more breeding of Honey Buzzards in Haldon forest.

You cannot help thinking how inbred these rare birds of prey must get. Take Golden Eagles. There are relatively few in Scotland, or anywhere, and brother must breed with sister, mother with son, father with daughter. It doesn't seem to harm them, any more than it did with the Egyptian Pharaohs, who appeared to marry their sisters as a matter of state policy. Presumably if one didn't, she might marry someone else who then might bump Pharaoh on the head!



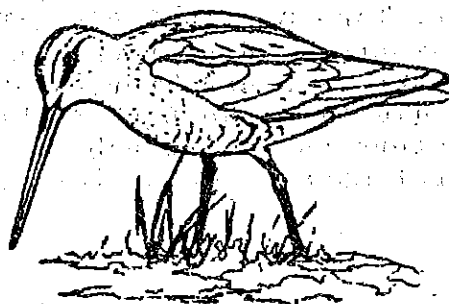
The Egrets have been exciting. But, with the rain and the cold it has been a pretty poor breeding year for many birds. In the early Spring many young which hatched must have died of exposure or starvation. Except for those which nest in holes. Not all hole-nesters did well, but some did. Take Wrens. What they use is not really a hole, but

as good as - a round football of straw and leaves, and obviously pretty warm and watertight. In the latter part of the summer there were families of Wrens squeaking in every other bush.

They don't appear to have had a problem in finding food. The spiders and insects they take are so small and so tucked away under foliage that they are not diminished by adverse weather. That was not the case with many other small birds. There was a shortage of insects and in fact the British Trust for Ornithology went so far as to announce that it was in order for people to keep putting out food through the spring and summer. That is something you are told never ever to do. What young birds want is natural food and if their parents give them bread or peanuts they will choke. So they say. We had already decided to go on feeding. We thought that probably any young birds would die and we would at least keep the parents alive.

If you look in a nesting box after Blue Tits have flown you nearly always find one dead one. He was the one who failed to get fed, because the parents feed the strong ones who make the most noise. Nature wants only the strong and lusty and doesn't agree with our human passion for weaklings. Sometimes you find several dead chicks, and on occasion the whole brood

So we kept putting peanuts in our hanging basket; at the end of May we found a pair of Blue Tits pecking at the nuts and taking pieces away, obviously to feed young - sometimes they were carrying caterpillars as well. The brood was not in our nest box, that was not used this year, but it could not have been far away because they were back almost as soon as they had gone. We consoled ourselves that if the chicks failed to live we were helping the parents. But at the beginning of June they brought the family into our garden. Tit chicks are very difficult to count as they are so small and buzz about among leaves, but we saw at least six of them. Tits lay about a dozen eggs. Some things, like Blackbirds, have smaller clutches but go on producing more all through the spring and summer. Not so the tits. They have one big brood in a do-it-or-bust effort, timed if possible to coincide with the big spring flush of caterpillars - those of the Green Oak Tortrix moth are favourites, the ones which



dangle on long threads from oak trees and are quite capable of stripping an oak completely of leaves.

But if the tits were successful, our Robins were not. We found in the garden two deserted nests with eggs. We do not know if the hens stopped being broody for cold and lack of food or if the Sparrowhawk got them. Quite probably the latter.

There were interesting things. In early March a pair of Lapwings, the black and white plovers with blunt floppy wings, took up residence on Farmer Stidston's land in the valley. They had nested there years before, and produced young birds, which did not survive more than a couple of days. Crows, probably. This time the attempt did not get as far as that. One bird vanished there are Peregrines about and Lapwings are a favourite prey. The other bird went soon after.

A pair of Shelducks decided to make the valley their place in the sun. These are the big black and white ducks with a chestnut breastband. She is as brightly coloured as he - they nest in holes and so she does not need camouflage like ducks which incubate in the open. We think they had a nest in the cliffs below the golf course because she flew off regularly in that direction. He dozed in the valley all day. The books say they choose somewhere suitable for the young to sozzle in when they are hatched. The male looks after this, defending it from other Shelducks. Then when the ducklings appear the female walks them along to the chosen feeding area. Precisely how she was going to lead tiny ducklings from a nesting hole in cliffs maybe above Broadsands all across the golf course to our valley never became apparent. The ducks didn't seem able to work it out either because they disappeared after some weeks.

All the Shelducks around seemed to do rather badly. We saw one pair with one duckling in Bowcombe Creek - they should have had ten - and pairs on the Kingsbridge estuary had only two or three each. Twenty birds on the Erme during June had no young at all. Perhaps Minks had something to do with it.

But not all was gloom and despair. Our Thurlestone Tawny Owls had a brood. We did not have high hopes of their nesting box; the tree it is nailed to has slowly subsided so now the entrance faces upwards and the rain can get in. But around the middle of June we saw an adult owl on the box clutching something very dead and bloody - a Blackbird or a Starling, we thought. A few days later we heard the sneezing call of an owlet asking for food and soon we saw two young owls.

There were three families of Kestrels, hole-nesters likewise. One was in the cliff below Links Court, one near Loam Castle and the third in Butter Cove, by the Longstone. We wondered why we have seen very few Meadow Pipits and no Stonechats along the seaward side of the golf course. They were there earlier, but no doubt all went to feed Kestrels.

At the end of May, doing our favourite evening walk around Warren Point, we found a female Wheatear - a brown thing, a bit bigger than a Robin, with white rump and black tip to her tail. She was carrying food. And if she was doing that she was going to feed young, otherwise she would have eaten it. She vanished, into a hole presumably, in the crumbling cliff just where the fourth tee is going

to fall into the sea before long. On another day we saw a male - a greyish, blueish, bird - and later there were three young ones.

Green Woodpeckers nested somewhere in Thurlestone. We often heard their yaffling - a country name used to be rainbird because people said they made this noise when it was going to rain. How right they were this year. All the neighbours said they had had them in their gardens (they eat ants); they shunned ours, but eventually we managed to see a parent and two juveniles on a little tree on the hotel golf course.

In a previous column I wailed that hard weather had killed off all the Kingfishers. How wrong can you be? Twice during the summer while gazing into the stream from near SWW's CleanSweep sewerage box we saw one. We do not spend long there, maybe a couple of minutes three or four times a week. So if we saw this bird in a tiny part of the stream, it was probably living up the valley. Might even have had a mate and nested there.

Then in August, when we did our regular wader count on the Erme, we recorded four. Again, if we saw four there were probably more. If you want to see a Kingfisher, go to Lopwell Dam where the freshwater part of the Tavy meets the estuary. It is a shocking place to find, down a maze of tiny lanes; the grid reference is SX 474649 and the best way to go is to take the road for Buckland Abbey, then go south past Milton Combe. SWW has a car park at the dam, or you can park at Maristow Quay, a little further down river. You walk along the sea wall between the two. No way can anything be guaranteed with birds, but you have to be unlucky not to see a Kingfisher. There are also Grey Wagtails looking as yellow as canaries; their wings and backs are grey. In winter there are usually Common Sandpipers, and it is the best place I know to find a migrating Osprey enjoying a stop-over; too late now for this year, August and September are the months.

The autumn migration impinged upon us very early one morning at the start of August. It should be explained that Bob Burridge, warden of South Milton Ley, catches and rings a few birds. It doesn't harm them - so long as they are not left too long in the nets and handled with sensitivity and skill. He is very sensitive and extremely skilful. Knowledge gleaned from recoveries helps build up the picture of where birds go and when. In the past he has caught things and not been believed. For example he has always said he has caught the odd Aquatic Warbler. Very rare. The pundits have told him they must have been Sedge Warblers. Very common. So he is apt to appear on our doorstep with something, tucked up in a little cotton bag, which he wants photographed. And as he starts netting at dawn he reaches us very early, at least, our very early. Three years ago it was an Aquatic Warbler. This year he had the Woodchat Shrike you read about in the Gazette.

Shrikes are songbirds with hooked beaks and a predatory existence; they live on big insects, young birds and the like. None now breeds in this country, but when they did they were known as butcher birds from their habit of impaling prey on thorns. Woodchat is bigger than a sparrow, quite a bit smaller than a Blackbird; the adult is black and white with a chestnut crown to its head. This was immature, a very pale grotty brown thing, and Bob wanted to look in our books to confirm its identity. Which being done, it was photographed (in course of which it bit him) and put back in its bag to be released in the ley. It was none the worse for its adventures;

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we saw it several days later quite happy in the gardens of houses in Links Road.

You just never know what you will see. A few days after this Shrike affair we were in bed, sipping our early morning tea, when a female Redstart arrived on the New Zealand Flax plant outside our window. She is pale brown, except for her tail which is brilliant cinnamon. Redstarts are birds of the big woods and moor, quite rare now. She was going south which was the right direction. The Shrike, foolish fellow, had migrated the wrong way. He must have been hatched in the Mediterranean somewhere, but instead of flying south east he had gone north west. They do, sometimes,

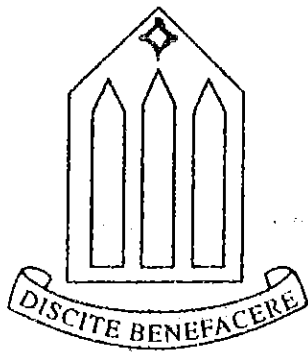
It is a good thing, this New Zealand Flax; The leaves are about six feet long, shaped like swords and just about as tough. Before the Pakeha kitted them out with jeans and T-shirts the Maoris used to make clothes out of them. Grass skirts, presumably. They must have been scratchy. The flower stalks are ten feet tall; we fear that any year now they will reach in the window to drag us out of bed. The flowers are full of honey and pollen. One morning there was such a strange bird, light brown all over except for its crown which was bright orange. We thought we really had a find. Then we realised it was a young Starling which had got the top of its head covered with pollen as it ate honey. Gpne were the hopes of something new to Britain and Europe. Never mind, next time.

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

The Parish Council have proposed, in an official letter to the Thurlestone Parish Hall Committee, that the charge to residents for parish hall carparking for 1994 should be £10 instead of the present yearly charge of £5.

A new set of guides for walkers has been produced by the South Devon Heritage Coast Service. They include guides which cover this parish's coastline. There are ten new guides. Each has a small map of the area covered and marked with points of interest. For example, the Bantham to Hope Cove guide tells you that South Milton Ley is the second largest reed bed in Devon, amongst other things of course, and that Thurlestone village church tower was once a lighthouse with a fire on the top (which was news to us!). The guides are 35p each or £1.50 for a pack of five and can be bought at Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre. They cover 64 miles of coastline from Plymouth to Sharkham Point.

The "Jigsaw" guide to local autumn events covering October and November is now available.



ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

I SOMETIMES THINK that one of the primary reasons that schools have long holidays is so that builders, plumbers, electricians, decorators, carpet fitters and others can work in an uninterrupted manner on the fabric of buildings while the children and staff are off sunning themselves in some remote foreign clime. For however much appears to have been done in a school, there is still a welter of structural and physical work that is in the queue.

Of course, we do try to escape; Geneva, Malta, Moscow and Stockport have featured among the curiously varied destinations that we have endured during the summer - partly for pleasure (though some resorts make that highly questionable), but also simply to engage in a different activity. Sometimes, however, our experiences are not as far removed from our own lives as we might imagine. One colleague spent much of her time on a beach in Malta comparing lesson notes with a teacher whom she just happened to meet. I had the exhilarating experience of travelling as a private citizen to Russia and on my first evening in Moscow, was given a guided tour of a school in the centre of the city attended by the children of my hosts.

Two things surprised me about this; first, that any school should be open for an unscheduled inspection in the middle of the summer holidays seemed almost to court intrusion of an unwelcome sort. Secondly, while we were in the school I was introduced to an articulate and sophisticated man who, as it turned out, taught English and geography. He was engaged in painting a school classroom in order to supplement his meagre salary. It was his earnest hope, he said, to visit England one day "when things are different".

When I returned to Thurlestone, I found the school was being prepared for the new term though not, I am relieved to say, by the teaching staff. The entrance hall has now been painted, the roof has been repaired and the carpets, which we have wanted for so long, have been laid. It was like returning to a new school, pristine and warm. Of course, there is much that remains to be done, though the size of our achievement in creating a smart and interesting environment is due in large part to the very many people in Thurlestone, South Milton and in many other places too, who have generously contributed to this refurbishment. We are hoping, later in the term, to have our newly decorated, refurbished and carpeted library area opened and hope that it will be possible for those who have helped to make all this possible, to attend.

Interestingly, if children think that their school is genuinely cared for, they tend to treat their environment more carefully and with greater respect. They become more thoughtful and considerate. And, since we have begun our school year with the largest roll for several years, we can do with all the thought and consideration we can get.

ALUN WILLIAMS, Headmaster.

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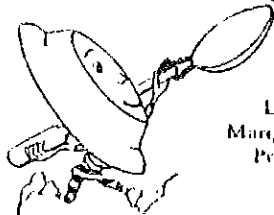
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Neville OSWALD reports



The Lidstone diaries continue:

1900. In the early 1890's Mr. H.G.Prowse a brewer, Dr. E.A.Elliott a physician and Mr W.M.Beer a solicitor, all of Kingsbridge, decided to found a golf club at Thurlestone. They acquired a coastal strip of 50 acres, came down in their respective pony traps when they could and, aided by the villagers, set about clearing the ground of scrub, gorse, brambles and a massive rabbit warren. A 9 hole course was opened in 1897 and is already beginning to awaken the village from its slumber. Meanwhile Mr and Mrs Grose, seeing the way things were going and realising that the completion of the branch line of the Great Western Railway from South Brent to Kingsbridge in 1893 meant a much improved access for visiting golfers and holiday makers, decided to open an hotel. They moved into the Village Inn in 1897. To attract customers to their adequate if basic facilities, they fixed a notice on the wall which read "Thurlestone House. Golfers accommodated. Picnic parties catered for. Terms moderate." They soon had their first guests who dutifully sat for meals with the formidable Margaret Ame¹¹ at one end of the table and her husband Will carving at the other.

1913. We now realise that the golf club, the hotel and the railway to Kingsbridge are transforming our village into a modest, rather select golfing centre and holiday resort. Mr. Beer built Merchant's Field for himself in 1902 and Mr. Prowse followed with Heathfield in 1904, thus virtually assuring the success of the golf club which was enlarged in 18 holes last year and has now over 100 members, almost half of whom are ladies.

With the threat of war rarely out of people's minds, I sometimes wonder how the remarkable inventions of the last 100 years have benefitted the people of Thurlestone. In the past 20 years we have been introduced to motor cars, wireless telegraphy and aeroplanes while electricity and steam power continue to enhance the output of factories. For the most part, they seem to have passed us by. Yet Britain as a whole is far better off than it was. Vast quantities of manufactured goods are sent to the countries of the Empire and the Americas and are mainly paid for by the import of their food-stuffs, which sell cheaply to industrial workers in the midlands and north. This, in turn, means that Devon farmers have difficulty in making a profit and indeed in finding a market for all their produce. As a result more and more of our young people are leaving to work elsewhere or to emigrate.

Yet, in our isolation, we are noticing a change in the way we are administered. With the government no longer the private business of a small ruling class, the Devon County Council, since its formation 30 years ago, is gradually replacing the despotism of squires and others whilst the influence of the church is diminishing. This has meant in practice that life in all its aspects now depends much on the initiative of individuals, under the benign guidance of the Parish Council.

1918. Peace at last and thank goodness. No fewer than 96 men from the parish have served in the forces, one quarter of the population, and the 12 who were killed or died on active service were well-known to most of us. Soldiers were quartered in the village from time to time, aeroplanes patrolled the coast, but the main reminder of war came from the sea where merchant vessels were blown up. Following the discovery of German submarine supplies in a nearby cave 'a sharp, sometimes too sharp, lookout for spies was kept'.

Farm workers, mainly old men and boys, were required to produce increasing quantities of foodstuffs. Their chief excitement was the arrival each year of a threshing machine and a steam engine named Lord Kitchener which drew up alongside the church where all the helpers sat down at noon each day on bales of straw with plates of stew served from a large iron pot and kegs of cider.

A few members and visitors played golf, but in most respects the club was dead: sheep, aided occasionally by cattle, kept the grass down whilst the rabbits proliferated.

Looking back at the war, the year 1914 can now be seen as the end of an age, the end of the country houses and the old village life as we knew it. Millions of lives have been lost and the accumulated wealth of the past century of European progress has been dissipated. There is now a scent of democracy in the air. Workers, whether skilled or not, are at least partly educated and have their votes and trade unions; for them, persuasion has replaced the former repression by magistrates. The old rural divisions into 'gentry, clergy and other individuals' is crumbling.

1920. Servicemen returning from the war found life much as they remembered it, despite the temporary shortages. Under the stimulating leadership of Canon Majendi the church soon became the hub of the village once more. A choir of 40 to 50 men, women and boys sing to large congregations on Sundays, with volunteers manually pumping the new organ that had been installed in 1908.

Preparations for the reception of summer visitors have proceeded apace. The first stage of the fine Thurlestone Hotel was opened this year, the golf club house has been enlarged and the rough brought under control. Small hotels and guest houses are being developed.

1939. It looks as if we are to be allowed only 21 years of peace before another world war breaks out. Yet they have been eventful years, described by the Groves as Thurlestone's Golden Age. Their hotel complete with ballroom and 74 bedrooms was opened in 1928 and has been packed each summer with visitors from all over England.

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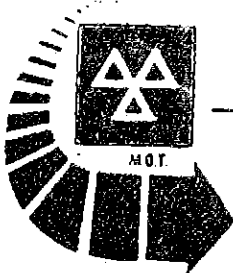
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often the same families coming back year after year. Many of their guests had relations and friends occupying the houses that have been built alongside the golf course, with whom they shared the golf, tennis and fishing.

Thus the villagers have been introduced to an entirely new way of life, at first during the summer months and now all the year round. They soon realised that the place was no longer theirs alone and that they were powerless to resist progress. The farmers have been least affected for the changes have made little difference to the value of their land, except that occasionally an acre or two might be sold for a high price. The villagers, with very few exceptions have accepted the newcomers and shared the prosperity they have brought.

The parish council, whose quarterly meetings rarely attract more than half-a dozen people, is actively supported by its elected members. The maintenance of highways and byeways continues to cause problems. Whilst the roads to Kingsbridge are the responsibility of the Devon County Council, the repair of public footpaths is the subject of endless controversy. The council tries to ensure that they are properly maintained by their owners who, of course, are well known to them. Yet its position is anomalous in that it has the power but not the duty to repair them and therefore cannot be made liable for their condition if they fall into dispair.

For example, in the 1930's, Mr Cole flatly refused to remove a tree that was blocking a path on his property, Mr Tribe resented having to cut back shrubs that blocked one of his paths each year and a herd of cattle repeatedly dislodged up to 150 feet of stepping stones on a particularly muddy stretch of pathway between Thurlestone and Bantham. The threat of an appeal to the Quarter Sessions was usually enough to resolve such problems.

The Council, after many attempts to improve the water supply, has now, mainly through the instigation of the chairman, obtained a direct supply from Dartmoor by way of the Avon dam through a 6in pipe. Sewerage remains a problem, the outflow to the sea built in 1932 being quite inadequate when summer visitors swell the population to a thousand. New council houses and improved postal and telephone services have been negotiated. In these various enterprises the council has been aided by the Evans Estates which have taken over much of the parish from the Brunskills and have proved to be admirable landlords by striving to ensure that the parish remains a beautiful and pleasant place in which to live.

ANSWERS to Pat Machin's Puzzle Corner:

1. Moon. 2. Foot. 3. Buoy. 4. Root. 5. Ware. 6. Puff. 7. Time. 8. Ship.
 9. Sure. 10. Tiff. 11. Fare. 12. Bean. 13. Case. 14. Jack. 15. Moth.
 16. Park. 17. Beef. 18. Bone. 19. Seam. 20. Copy. 21. Ball. 22. City.
 23. Roll. 24. Sect. 25. Clap.
-

Kate's Kitchen



SAYS KATE: Now is
the time
when veg
are plentiful
- so now is
the time for
Pickles!

THIS IS THE TIME to start making chutneys and pickles, when vegetables are at their cheapest and most plentiful. If you do it now it gives time for the flavours to mature. Most need around 6-8 weeks before opening, ready to enjoy with poultry and meats around Christmas. So here is my recipe for...

ONION AND MARROW PICKLE

- 1 Small Marrow
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Small Pickling onions
- 2 Fresh Chillies, chopped.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Ground Ginger
- $\frac{1}{4}$ oz Turmeric
- 2 teasp. Honey
- $\frac{1}{4}$ oz Mustard Seed
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints White Wine Vinegar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz Salt

Peel the marrow and scoop out the seeds and pith. Cut into small cubes and lay out on a flat dish and sprinkle with salt. Leave to stand for approx. 6-8 hours or overnight. Rinse and drain the marrow well and pat dry with a cloth or paper towel. Pour vinegar into a large pan with the spices and simmer for about half an hour. Add marrow and onions and simmer, stirring carefully so as not to break the marrow. Leave to cook until it starts to thicken. Add honey and boil for 5 minutes, stirring so that it does not stick to the bottom of the pan. Cool slightly, then pour into sterilized jars and seal. Leave for 8-10 weeks before opening.

LOCAL NEWS..LOCAL NEWS..

The Parish Council cannot see much of role for Thurlestone and the rest of the parish in the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, most of which ^(locally) will be given over to the contribution made in the South West by the villages around Slapton and their evacuation, to provide a battle training area.

But at the Parish meeting which discussed this, one parishioner wisely suggested that the parish should concentrate their efforts on the 50th anniversary the following year of VJ-Day and the final ending of the war.

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OCTOBER.

Wed 13th Tramp Walk, Coastal Path.
Thurs 14th 2.30pm WI - Christmas is coming.
Thurs 14th Bridge Evening in aid of Army Benevolent Fund,
Thurlestone Hotel.
Sat 16th Devonshire Association Lecture.
Tues 19th Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm

NOVEMBER.

Thurs 4th Conservative Bridge Evening. Thurlestone Hotel 6.30pm
Sat 6th Pearson Playgroup Craft Fair. Parish Hall 10.30 - 3.30
Wed 10th Tramp Walk, Local countryside.
Thurs 11th 2.30pm WI - Annual Meeting.
Sat 13th NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall 10.30am
Sat 20th Church Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall 10.30am
Sat 27th Devonshire Association 2.30 - 4.30
Tues 30th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 7.30pm

DECEMBER.

Sat 4th Conservative Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall 10.30am
NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall 6.30pm for 7pm
Wed 8th Tramp Christmas Walk, Pickwick Inn.
Thurs 9th Noon. W.I. Christmas Lunch Party.

1994

FEBRUARY.

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

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