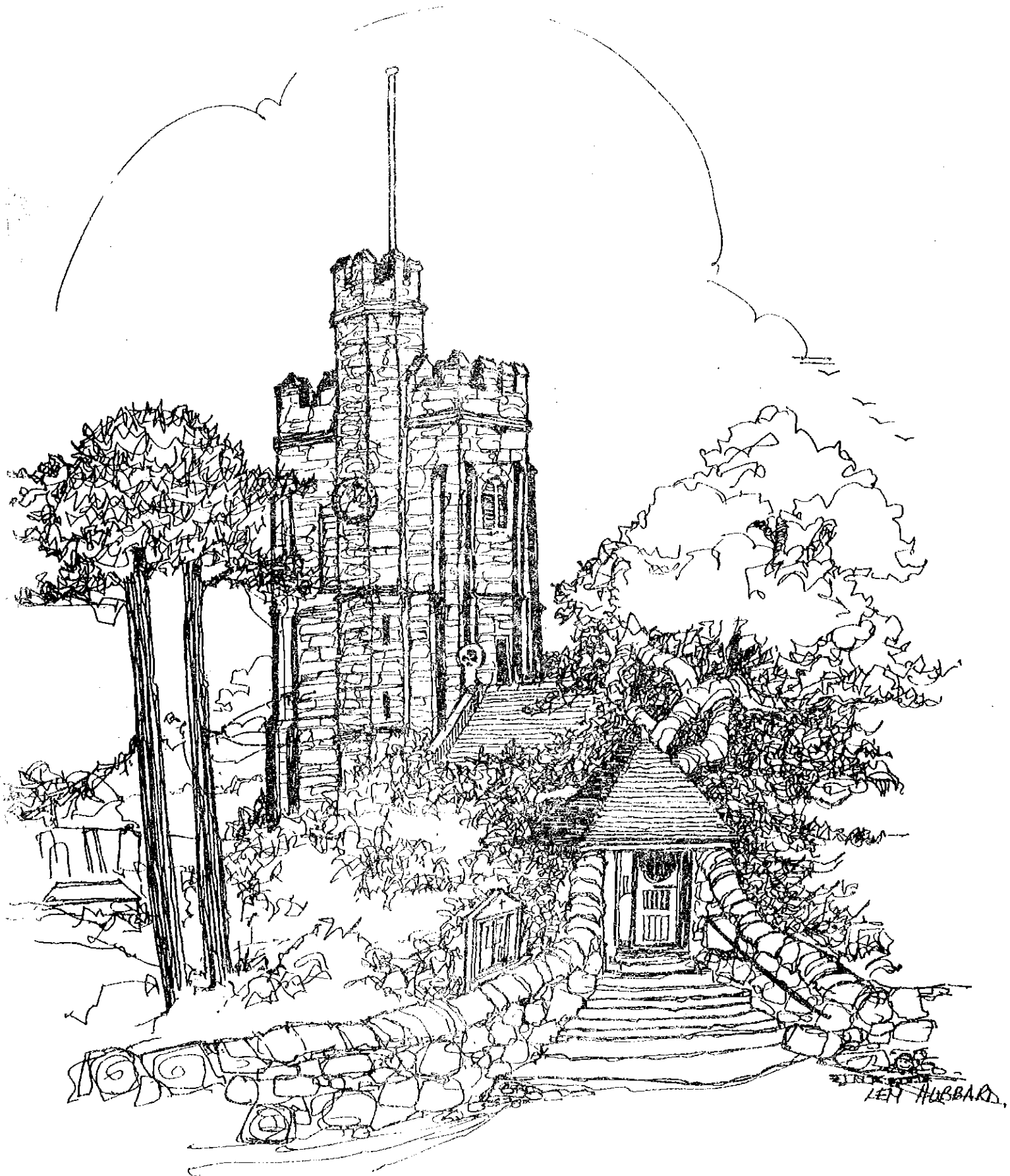


VILLAGE VOICE



December-January, ~~1993-1994~~
1993 1994

Founded by
Adley Drabble
1982.



PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.

EDITED AND PRINTED BY
KENDALL McDONALD
& PENNY McDONALD

at
Cradles Cottage
THURLESTONE.

Tel: Kingsbridge
560239

Cover pictures
by
Len Hubbard

NUMBER 65. TWELFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION. DEC 1993 - JAN 1994.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

And a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to those who have us delivered, but never read us. After all, it is the thought that counts, isn't it? You know we could go on wishing such festive thoughts to all concerned with the production of this magazine, the writers, the artists, even the printer. And we do not forget the distributors, nor the advertisers. Yes, we are so full of such good wishes that we don't want to leave anyone out. Not even those who do not wish us well - like our anonymous letter writer. He or she clearly does not have the Christmas spirit, but we thought "A.N.Other" would like to know that we have given such thoughts the widest possible circulation even so. His/her latest letter is framed on the wall of the printing works too and is much envied by those who have not received similar missives. But enough of such charming thoughts. The New Year is but a calendar page away. Village Voice heads confidently into the unknown. Like many of our big brothers 1993 was a year of rising circulation - so much so that we have had to cut down on one of our retail outlets. There were just not enough copies of Village Voice to go around. This would seem to indicate an increasing population in the parish. So let us include one more category to the list of those to whom we send Christmas wishes - A Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all our new parishioners, each and every one!

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

Several complaints have been received from residents in the Parish and West Alvington that elderly drivers have been involved in wing mirror clashes and 'very near misses'. All the complainants firmly believe that the cause of these incidents is of the other driver 'driving with uncorrected defective eyesight'.

The Law clearly states:

'A person is guilty of an offence if he/she drives a motor vehicle on a road while his/her eyesight is such (whether through a defect which cannot be or one which is not for the time being sufficiently corrected) that he/she cannot comply with any requirement as to eyesight prescribed under the Road Traffic Act for the purpose of tests of competence to drive'.

This offence recognises that some drivers don't always drive with their spectacles on when they should, and that people's eyesight deteriorates over the years. Obviously, failure to see clearly can be extremely dangerous and can cause accidents.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT YOUR SIGHT HAVE A CHECK UP NOT AN ACCIDENT

And now for the details of the TRACKER SYSTEM as promised in the last issue

This system comprises a small electronic box which is fitted on to a vehicle. In the event of the vehicle being stolen, a telephone call to the A A activates the box and the signal is 'tracked', nationally, by police cars fitted with the monitoring equipment.

The system, which boasts a 95% success rate, comes from the U S A (of course!). The cost is: £350 for a 'one off' fee plus the initial purchase of £160, OR £160 initial purchase fee plus £61.10 annual network subscription.

For further information please contact the A A at any of their main High Street shops or telephone number 0800 990099

And finally may I wish you all a HAPPY (and crime free) CHRISTMAS!

Martin Rushworth
Community Constable
October 1993



Tells the story behind
THE BIG
COVER-UP IN
THE VILLAGE
STREET IN
THURLESTONE...

THOSE WHO SAW the rendering stripped off the tall walls of High Corner in Thurlestone - to deal with a damp problem - may have been amazed at what was revealed. Individual stone walls with ancient ship's timbers as lintels over the window apertures, some cob, some areas of old lime mortar filling, but much dry stone walling with earth filling.

Some of those who saw the completed strip said how lovely the old stone looked and how nice it would be to keep it as it was. Owner David Noyce was of the same opinion, but it couldn't be done and a new rendering, courtesy of Jeffery and Penwell, had to be put back to protect the old building, which dates back to the early 18th century. One thing which was revealed and which David Noyce was able to keep out for everyone to see is the old timber with wooden pegs over his front door. There is a tendency to call every bit of old wood in a village near the sea "a ship's timber" because shipwrecks brought suitable wood close to the builder's hand, but there can be little doubt that High Corner's ancient door beam came from a stranger on the shore.

When all the old rendering was off, there was no sign of the limewash coating over the old stone that might have been expected and was commonly used as a protection over stone walls with earth infills such as the one at High Corner.

What was also interesting to see before the rendering went back was an area of white lime mortar, high up and just on the corner. That lime probably came from one of the lime kilns roundabout, perhaps that beauty up the Avon near Shag Rock and Stiddicombe Creek (or Steadycombe as they would have called it in the early 1700s when the building of what is now called Cradles Cottage and High Corner was taking place).

Not that the kiln on the Avon appeared very early in the history of the use of lime in building. According to an excellent booklet (No 2 in the Design and Conservation series produced by South Hams District Council, (copies from Planning Reception at Bollaton House), the use

of lime in building was known in the ancient days of Egypt, India, China and South America. The Pyramids show the confident way those ancient builders handled lime and so it seems probable, that even earlier civilisations knew all about it too. The Greeks and Romans perfected the techniques and used lime plaster for decoration. But after the fall of the Roman Empire it would be a thousand years before Europe got the lime habit.

And not until Juhel was given the manor of Thurlestone by William the Conqueror in 1068 is it likely that lime plaster was used on the humbler buildings in the South Hams. Before that the Anglo-Saxons knew about lime but only used it for grand works.

Most buildings in this parish were then built of wood and wattle and daub, and cob, but some would have had a coat of lime plaster both inside and out - it cut down the fire risk and may have been a primitive form of sterilising agent.

Put very simply, the limestone was burned in the kiln and very high temperatures drove off the carbon dioxide. The end product was quicklime or calcium oxide. When water was added this became slaked lime or calcium hydroxide. The slaked lime was then used in mortars, renders and plasters and as it dried it returned to a sort of limestone.

Much of the lime burned in the kilns around here was for use as a fertiliser in the fields, but some was undoubtedly for building use. The building lime was expensive compared with the rougher process of burning it for fertiliser use and this cost may explain why a limewash was not used on High Corner and why the area of lime mortar was only a very small part of the exposed walling. Portland cement appeared in 1824 and with the coming of the railway modern fertilisers replaced lime. It was then that the lime kilns' fires were no longer needed. And the one at Stiddicombe became merely a site for picnics.

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THE THREAT OF EXECUTION TO MAKE A LOCAL AUTHORITY promise to listen to what people want. The South Hams District Council is now rushing out statements saying that they will listen to the people and will "do what is best for the people of the South Hams". And what, may one ask, were they doing before?

And while on the subject of the SHDC, there must be votes to be had in the vexed question of dog-fouling. Latest public notice to catch my eye announces that the SHDC propose to introduce new byelaws ("Poop Scoop" byelaws) which will "place on dog owners responsibility for cleaning up after their pets.

"Owners of dogs which foul pavements, footpaths, gutters and grass verges and certain pedestrianised areas will be required to pick up deposits and it will no longer be lawful to allow a dog to foul the carriageway of a highway. The byelaws will operate in all parts of the District where there is a 40 mph speed limit or less."

Which means that our parish is not covered, but dog-owners should remember to pack their pooper when venturing into more civilised climes!



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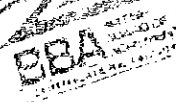
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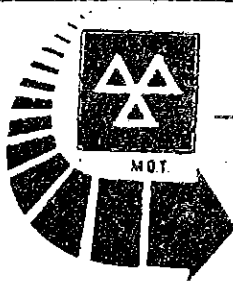
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spicy drink and
a nice roast
pheasant!
Or one in a
casserole!

Try this hot, spicy mulled cider drink. It's guaranteed to give you a nice warm glow.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Ginger Ale.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ pint medium sweet Devon Cider
- 1 dessert spoon thin Honey,
- 4 Cloves
- 1 Cinnamon Stick
- 1 tablespoon Brandy(optional)

Take a $\frac{1}{2}$ pint from the $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of cider and pour into a small saucepan, boil rapidly until reduced to 1 tablespoon. Add all the other ingredients and slowly bring to the just below boiling point. If you like it sweeter, add more honey to taste. You can also use apple juice instead of cider.

Although the Pheasant originally came from China, it was thought to have been brought here by the Romans.

The availability of choice birds in most butchers and super-markets is probably the main cause of its present popularity.

Do remember that if you wish to roast pheasant, young birds should always be chosen. But older ones can be very successfully used in slow-cooked dishes and have a lot more flavour. Plus the advantage of making it the day before. Try this recipe, using Port for a truly festive treat. Persuade your supplier to joint the bird, otherwise you will need a very sharp knife and a good deal of patience.

- 1 Pheasant (jointed and trimmed).
- 2 tablsps. Oil
- 1 oz Butter
- 4 oz Streaky Bacon (chopped)
- 1 large Carrot
- 2 sticks Celery(diced)
- 1 large Onion (or 12 Shallots)
- 1 clove Garlic (crushed)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ pt Port
- 1 Bay leaf; $\frac{1}{4}$ pint Stock (made from giblets or Chicken stock cube); 1 Bouquet Garni (or pinch thyme and marjoram); Salt and freshly ground Black Pepper; 2 tablsps.Red Currant Jelly.

To be served with great dollops of creamy mashed potato, broccoli and sprouts! And red, red wine!

Heat Oil and Butter in frying pan. Add bacon, carrot, celery, onions or shallots. Cook for 5 mins. Add Herbs and Garlic, then transfer to casserole. Saute the pheasant until lightly browned and season. Remove to casserole and pour over port and stock. Cook for 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 180C/350F or 160C in fan-assisted ovens, until the bird is thoroughly cooked, but not falling apart. Put on serving dish, reserve liquid. Put liquid into pan, add red currant jelly. For a thicker sauce add a dessert spoon of arrowroot mixed with a little water. AND A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GOOD NEW YEAR!

Announcing...

**The
VILLAGE
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SHORT
STORY
competition**

**How to win a bottle
of CHAMPAGNE!
- see opposite page.**

Do you think you could do better than the short stories written by a famous short story writer under the pen-name of Ken Hardy and published in Village Voice over the past year? If you do - here's your chance to prove it, and give yourself some extra fun over the Christmas holidays, by entering the

Village Voice Short Story Competition.

Here are a few simple rules:

The Village Voice Short Story Competition is open to all readers of the magazine.

Entries should consist of not more than 1,200 words and should either be typed double-spaced or written in clear longhand on one side of the paper only. The story must be fictitious and must not have been published previously in any form.

Both the winning entry and that of the runner-up will be published in later editions of Village Voice. If the author wishes to use a pen-name, the real name of the author must also be clearly marked on the entry together with an address.

The writer of the winning short story will receive a bottle of champagne and the runner-up will win a bottle of good sparkling wine. If no entries are, in the Editors' opinion, of suitable quality, the Editors will drink both bottles.

Entries must be received at the Village Voice Editorial Offices, Cradles Cottage, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, S.Devon TQ7 3NE, by January 6th, 1994 so that the winners can be announced in the February-March, 1994 issue.

Those authors who would like their manuscripts returned, must enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

The Editors' decisions are final.

Pat Machin's Puzzle Corner

SEASONAL WORD PAIRS

From the list of words take out two which go with each clue.

This will remove 48 words, leaving just one.

What is it?

CLUES

- | | |
|---|------------|
| (a) Two drinks | 1. Day |
| (b) Popular presents | 2. Log |
| (c) Eaten after lunch or at tea. | 3. Deer |
| (d) A fighting time? | 4. Mary |
| (e) Two sorts of nut | 5. Pies |
| (f) Rudolph? | 6. Plum |
| (g) Two kings | 7. Rein |
| (h) Presented on the fifth day of Christmas | 8. Yule |
| (i) Two decorative plants | 9. Awake |
| (j) Two Christmas birds | 10. Capon |
| (k) Father Christmas? | 11. Carol |
| (l) Shall we see her on a T.V. repeat? | 12. Claus |
| (m) Burnt at Christmas | 13. Fairy |
| (n) A favourite carol | 14. Games |
| (o) A Christmas dessert | 15. Goose |
| (p) A pantomime | 16. Gouda |
| (q) Two towns | 17. Hazel |
| (r) A character in A Christmas Carol | 18. Holly |
| (s) Celebrated in church | 19. Mince |
| (t) Two anagrams | 20. Rings |
| (u) Found on a Christmas tree. | 21. Santa |
| (v) Christmas Oratorio - the composers Christian names. | 22. Boxing |
| (w) Two cheeses | 23. Brazil |
| (x) Broadcast on Christmas Day. | 24. Caspar |
| | 25. Johann |

WORDS

- | |
|----------------|
| 26. Golden |
| 27. Lights |
| 28. Mother |
| 29. Queen's |
| 30. Sherry |
| 31. Speech |
| 32. Turkey |
| 33. Filters |
| 34. Poppins |
| 35. Pudding |
| 36. Scrooge |
| 37. Service |
| 38. Trifles |
| 39. Nazareth |
| 40. Computer |
| 41. Crackers |
| 42. Ebenezer |
| 43. Balthazar |
| 44. Bethlehem |
| 45. Champagne |
| 46. Mistletoe |
| 47. Sebastian |
| 48. Christians |
| 49. Rocquefort |

Answers on another page in this issue.

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PULSES

SWEETS, SALCOMBE ICES

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AND TINNED. WILDBIRD SEED
AND NUTS. BUDGIE FOOD.

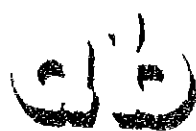
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MENUS AND QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

I remember...

EVERYONE WHO HAS read past editions of Village Voice will have enjoyed the "I Remember" columns. There will be more of such features, but in this Christmas edition there is no need - the parish memories come to us in the form of a new book from the Devon Federation of Women's Institutes.

Called "Devon Within Living Memory", this 256-page book has been compiled from notes from W.I.s all over the county, and is published by Countryside Books at £8.95. Co-ordinator of the project was Thurlestone's Pat Macdonald and a fine job she has done.

The idea behind the book was to collect memories from people who lived in our Devon villages before the coming of the motor car, electricity and television - before mechanisation of the farms, the exodus of young people from the villages and the domination of the county by tourism. The result of weaving those memories together is a fascinating read.

Thurlestone is featured twice, and Bantham three times. One of the most intriguing entries comes from Bantham in the chapter devoted to harvesting and threshing.

The book describes how "at harvest time many workers started the day at 5.30 or 6am to get the grass cut to start it drying for hay. As soon as the swaths were dry and the seed-head rattled they were turned over using long-handled forks, then they were spread out to dry and finally raked into rows by a horse-drawn hayrake. If rain threatened the hay was piled into large 'pokes' (heaps) to keep it as dry as possible. When it was ready to be gathered in, a hay-sweep, a large comb-like instrument, was pulled by a horse with the horseman following to guide it by long reins up and down the rows. This was taken to the rick which was normally made in the corner of the field.

"It was 'tipped' and then put on the hayrick by men once again using pitchforks or else by 'grabs'. This last was a tall pole on which were hung large mechanical grabs that were raised or lowered by a horse pulling the ropes. When the grabs were in position on the rick, the rickmaker, who was usually the farmer himself or some elderly experienced workman, would shout 'tip' and the person controlling the horse that worked the grabs, who was usually the farmer's or the workman's wife, would pull the ropes that released the hay.

Hay had to be made 'sweet' by twining hay and making a ring with it, and then a boy and a girl kissed through the ring, which was thrown on to the rick to prevent it burning from spontaneous combustion! Huge baskets of food were brought out to the field by the farmer's wife and family with kettles or jugs of hot tea and bottles of home-made lemonade. This latter essential of the day's activities was called 'the drinking'.

At hay harvest times at Bantham, when the women took the drinkings to the field, the men would run after them, with a bundle of hay in their hand and rub their faces, to say they had 'sweet-hayed' whoever it was.

Another Bantham memory appears in the section about wheelwrights and blacksmiths.... "Our blacksmith at Bantham was a wonderful man who could mend anything as well as shoe horses. He used to say he was the hardest working man in the parish, 'Men bring me their tools when they leave work and then want them ready for next morning'. He used to make dolls out of pieces of wood, burning holes for eyes and mouth. He once repaired a man's wooden leg and I've seen him pull a tooth for someone who couldn't get to the dentist."

Anyone who is interested in local life and the way things were done in the good old days will want to have this book on their shelf.

K.M.

COULD YOU BE QUIET FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS? IF SO PLEASE
READ ON....

Amongst the delights of living in Thurlestone are the opportunities it gives for meeting old friends and others when they come down here for a breath of Devon air. They remind us that life still goes on beyond the bounds of the South Hams and sometimes give us glimpses of the way they live. Recently, a regular visitor told me how he shared his love of music.

For the past 10 years, except during holidays, he has regularly held recitals in his home, involving eight or nine men every Monday afternoon and six women once a month. He chooses recordings from his collection of about 2,000 tapes and discs, types out a programme giving brief comments on each item, stops his grandfather clock to avoid the sound of chiming and disconnects the telephone. His guests, all ardent music lovers, then sit from 2.30 to 5 in complete silence except for a short break for tea. It is all very efficient and much appreciated.

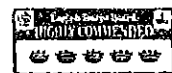
Would such a scheme work down here? Surely there are many people who delight in classical music. Then I wondered; are there 8 or 9 men or 6 women who are prepared to sit without talking for 2½ hours?

My friend interrupted my musing by firmly asserting "I can read your thoughts. You are asking yourself the wrong questions. All true music lovers demand silence".

That was a point I had not appreciated and now strengthens my views that such a scheme is entirely practicable and if introduced here might be a source of great pleasure to many residents with time on their hands.

N.C.O.

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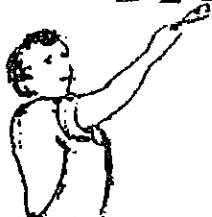
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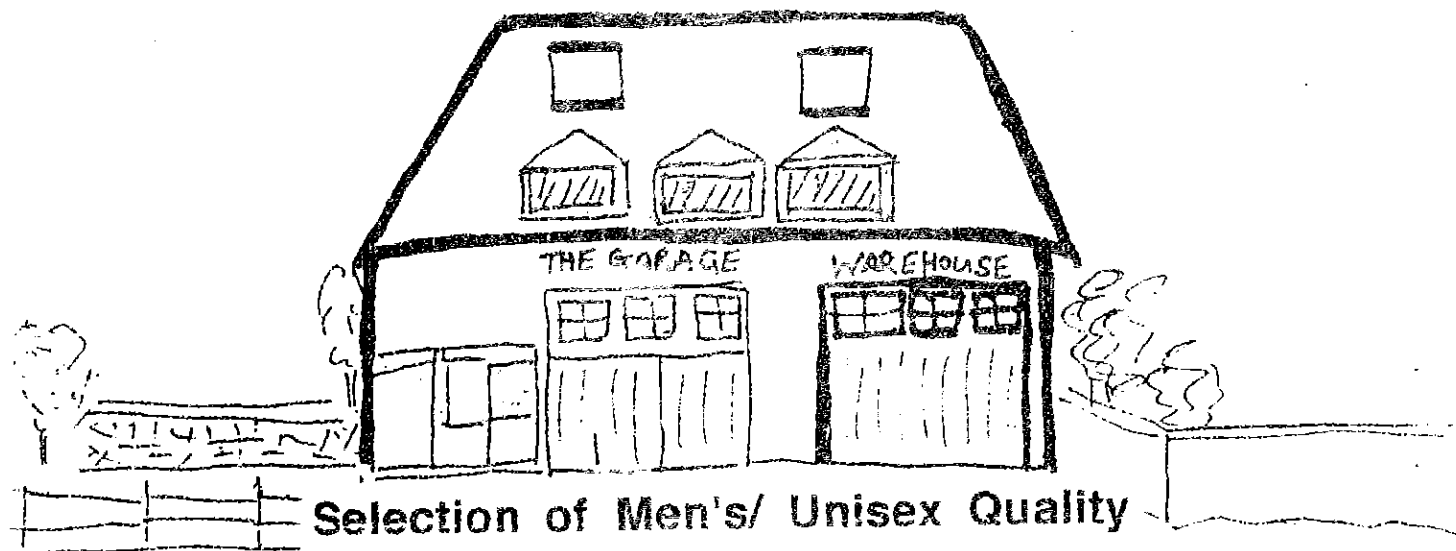
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The Rector Writes

I HAVE BEEN recently, planning all the Sunday Services up to Christmas - 1994!! and entering these, and innumerable meetings, in my new diary (A very useful one that starts in October), and, once again felt a pleasant reassurance at the continuing orderly pattern of things and it made me start thinking about ORDERLINESS and ORDER and LAW and RULES and BUREAUCRACY.

You can easily follow my not very subtle progression (or is it regression?) of thought,

We used to be told that "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". I rather fancy ORDERLINESS is next to Godliness. At least, orderliness is Godlike and God approved. The Creation narrative reveals orderliness - bringing order out of chaos. Indeed the whole Gospel can be depicted in those terms. God made 'man' in His own image, then comes "The Fall". That 'image' is blurred, almost to the point of obliteration and then the whole tenure of the rest of the Old and the New Testament is the story of the orderly rescue, redemption and restoration of the Divine Image.

St. Luke tells us that the Gospel message has been set down by many "in order" and that he too proposes to give an ordered account (Chap. 1 v 1-3). St. Paul, in one of his many exhortations, bids us:- "Let everything be done decently and in order"

Our continual prayer at the Eucharist is that we may be godly and quietly governed - a quality of government it is easy to underestimate and yet one that is less and less evident. Perhaps we should pray more fervently. That quality of quiet government presupposes and implies an orderliness, not given to sudden change, and so leads on to the thought of how such placid orderliness can be achieved and that further leads us to "Law and Order". These two words have become linked because the former is the guarantor of the latter - or is supposed to be. So for the "orderly" government of a nation Law is required to be enacted and obeyed. As well as being a self-evident political comment that is also a religious and Christian comment.

God gave us "Commandments". Not much evidenced these days either in proclamation or obedience - but they are there, the great principles and foundations of all morality and ethics. Don't kill, don't rape, Don't steal, Don't Lie - put others before yourself and put God first in all your considerations. (Forgive my short-hand).

So Law - "Commandments" are necessary - but you can have too much Law - too many Rules, and when you do it doesn't make for greater Lawfulness but for less.

This was Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees for they took the great common sense principles of God's Commandments and ruined them by turning them into thousands of petty rules - "A burden grievous to be borne" Jesus called them. And when you make endless rules people find ways around them (tax loop-holes) etc. or worse they decide they can't be bothered with all those rules and ignore them, and then the bureaucrats make more rules to enforce the others and so we go on.....

And all this sits very hard on a population which by its very environmental circumstances likes to pick and choose. -eg:

Woolworths sweet counter

The garage forecourt - "leaded or unleaded"

The Supermarket shelves - laden to bursting with choice

Parents right to choose schools etc. etc.

It is also a fact that people's interests are so much broader, through education, but largely through the 'telly' people are far better informed, and therefore better able to formulate judgements, and not infrequently sound judgements, on all manner of matter. The result - or at least a result, is that many of the old absolutes, have dropped away. Authority, whether it be political, governmental, ecclesiastical - or any other sort is taken with a pinch of salt, and the established order of things is continually called in question and its rules disregarded. This is true in things great and small - look how many cars are parked on the yellow line in Kingsbridge main street!..

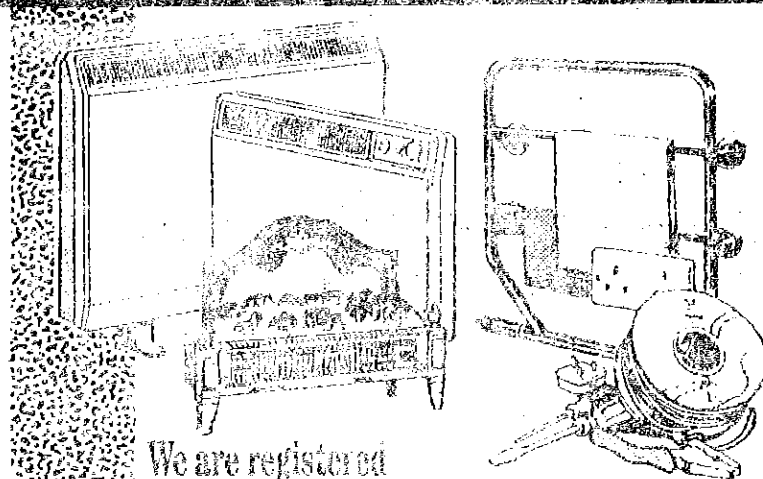
It is fact that people won't obey bad law nor what they perceive to be bad law (ie the Poll Tax), Too much government - too many rules creates bad Law and therefore lawlessness, as people choose to ignore the law - as I might very well if I were Vicar of the parish who this week, has been told that after 150 years of the church clock striking the hour - it must cease to do so as it is exceeding the B.E.C. regulation on "decibells of noise pollution"

If Christ was so venomous of the Pharisees what would He say of the B.E.C.?

A while ago I was required (in my capacity as Chairman of School Governors) to discharge someone who was over the age of 60 because that was the rule. We had however, advertised the post without any success and discharge would have meant no lunchtime supervision for the children. Had I followed the "discharge at 60" rule I would have been breaching the rule that requires the children to be supervised.

When I told the Chief Education Officer that I regarded such rules (over sixty) as being for the guidance of the wise and the obedience of fools, I, not too surprisingly heard no more on the subject.

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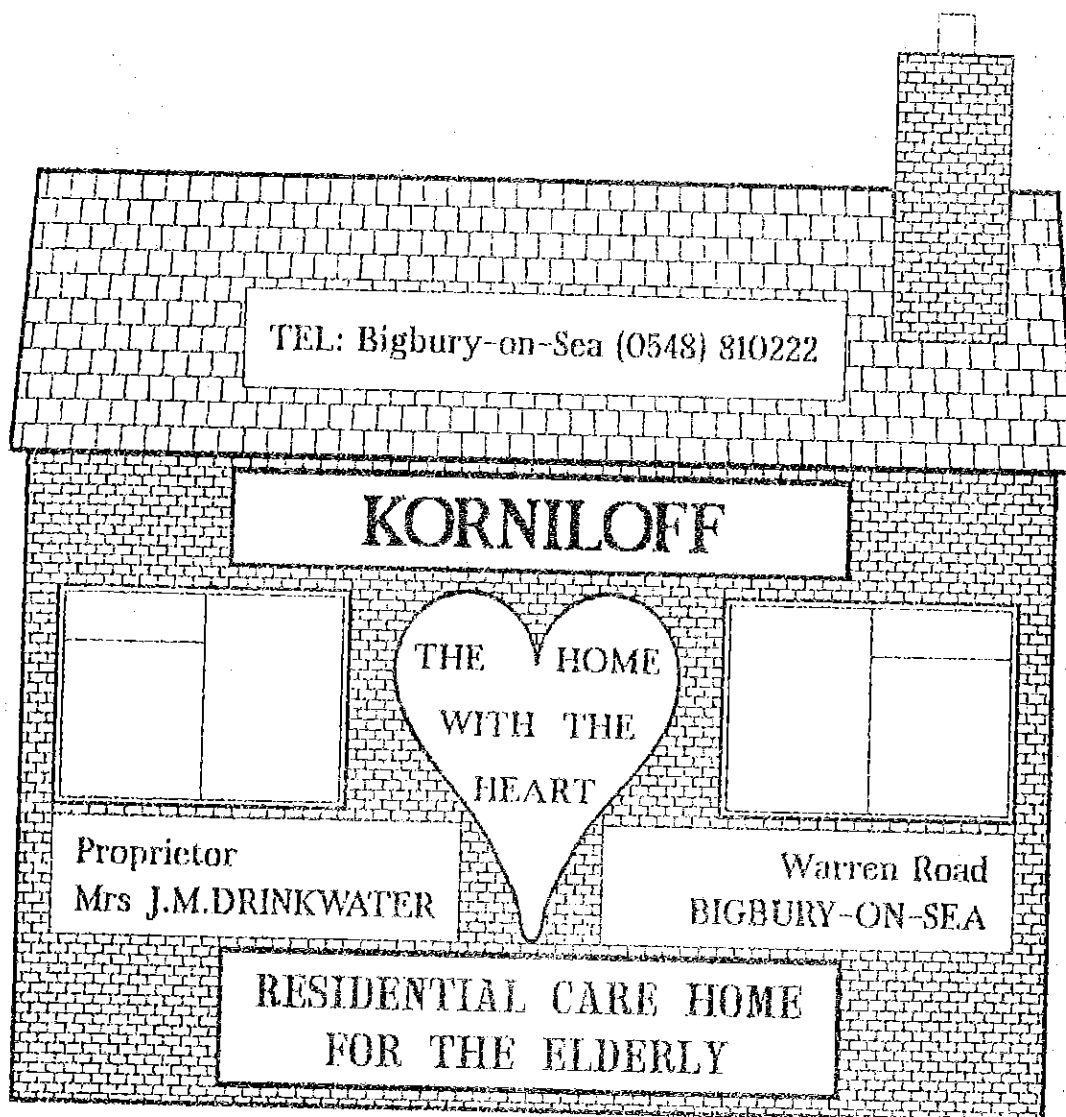
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Whether they be E.E.C. rules on Church Clocks and cups of tea, National or Local Government regulations, which are petty, stupid, or merely not acceptable to ordinary fair-minded people the result is (1) Frustration and (2) Disobedience. Not very serious in these sorts of cases I've quoted, but when those views are held by many they lead to pressure groups, perhaps demonstrations - over practically any issue these days, Environment, Race, Disarmament, Education, N.H.S., Coal Mines - whatever. As we know only too well, demonstrations not infrequently lead to riot and other crime.

It is easy to say we live in a democracy and if you don't like what the government is doing vote them out next time! I fear that whatever government is in power, E.E.C. rules are here to stay - that is the seriousness of the European debate, perhaps in purely national matters if enough people protest legislation can be altered (viz the poll tax), but that in itself is a negation of the democratic process. My own fear is that the next stage after demos and forcing government to change policy - other than through Parliament leads on to anarchy. When everyone does only that which is right in their own eyes a people become ungovernable. There is evidence of a movement in that direction in many areas of the world. My point is that the very rules designed to control and maintain order are through the bureaucracy in danger of being counter-productive.

God's way is a minimum of Commandments and a lot of Free Will and Help (Grace) to encourage obedience. There is no easy answer to the problem; perhaps the God pattern might point us in a right direction.

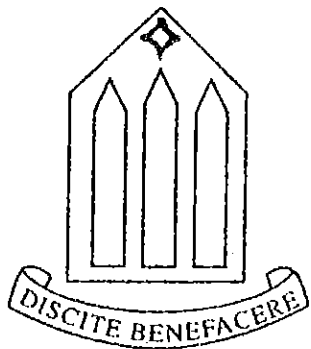
Yours sincerely,

Peter S. Stephens,

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(g) 24-43 (h) 26-20 (i) 18-46 (j) 10-32 (k) 21-12 (l) 4-34
(m) 8-2 (n) 48-9 (o) 6-35 (p) 28-15 (q) 39-44 (r) 42-36
(s) 11-37 (t) 33-38 (u) 13-27 (v) 25-47 (w) 16-49 (x) 29-31

Leaving 41 - CRACKERS.



ALL SAINTS SCHOOL THURLESTONE

I WOULD LIKE to express my very grateful thanks to everyone who has helped us complete our school library. The support from individuals and organisations within the two parishes of Thurlestone and South Milton and from people living further afield, has been magnificent. To mark the opening, parents, governors and any who had supported our efforts were invited to a special opening ceremony on October 21st and were able to spend time in the newly refurbished library which was opened by the Senior Librarian for Schools, Mrs Jennie Partridge. Mrs West, our school cook, and Mrs Hemphrey-Ellis prepared a beautiful buffet; this provided us with an opportunity to thank our benefactors and to demonstrate that their money had been well spent. Since the early days, we have had a willing team of governors who have helped to reorganise the library and they have recently been joined by a parent, Mrs Carol Freeborn, who has given hours of her time to make the library the interesting place that it has now become. Mrs Jackson and her class of eight and nine year olds have adorned the area with mobile displays, book reviews and illustrations; labelling and lettering has been done by the older children. The involvement of the children at every stage of the development of the library is essential if they are to feel that it is their library rather than simply an attractive area for visiting adults to admire! Nevertheless, if there are those who have not yet seen the library and would like to do so, they are most welcome to see it in operation.

We decided that the children would need a special opening ceremony of their own. Mrs Margaret Turley, a county inspector for primary education, talked to the children about the way she had seen the library grow over the years and she then performed the children's opening. Mrs West again excelled herself and produced a celebratory cake in the shape of a book and decorated with the school's crest. The next phase, which is virtually unceasing, is the constant upgrading of books within the library and the need to improve the variety of stock.

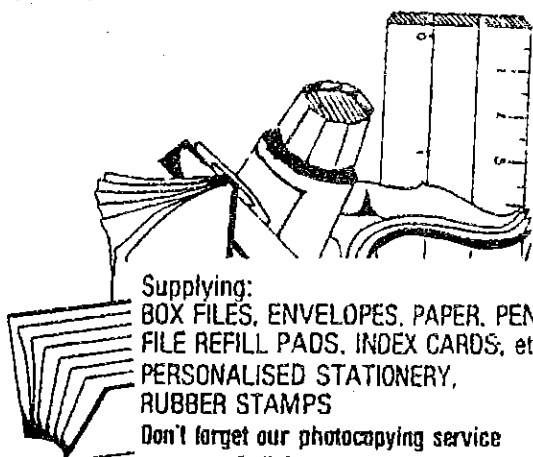
Our next big event is the Malborough Festival of Verse and Music which will be held on November 13th. This will be our third year of entry, and, in addition to individuals who will be playing instruments and reciting poetry, the school will be entering a band and a joint Thurlestone/Malborough Choir. Our thanks go to Mrs Jackson for all the hard work that she puts in to prepare the children for this festival.

We are still in the process of working out our programme for Christmas; there will be the usual evening carol concert in Thurlestone Church and the class plays to which all those who are interested in the school are most welcome to attend. Full details will be given in the school newsletters within the next few weeks.

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Headmaster.

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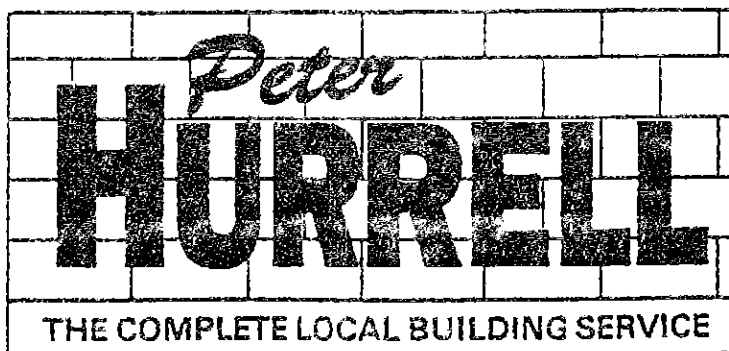
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Drabblemania

JUST A MISCELLANY OF PERSONAL THOUGHTS AND INTERESTING REPORTS

DRABBLEMANIA WEATHER FORECAST (Copyright reserved !)

St Agnes Day, ah, bitter chill it was,
The owl for all his feathers was so cold,
The hare limped trembling through the frozen grass,
And silent stood the sheep in dusky fold.

These famous lines of John Keats reflect that St Agnes Eve - the 20th of January, is repeatedly the coldest day of the year in southern Britain. St Hilary's Day - 12th January - has the same reputation in the north . . . BUT

If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in that year! However, if Candlemas Day is mild and brings rain, winter is gone and won't come again. Candlemas Day is the 2nd. February, and used to be regarded as being half-way through the winter.

I hope this will help you to be prepared. Our forefather's certainly made use of the Saints to time and measure the forthcoming weather conditions !

+ + + + +

I am a strong supporter of NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - and I can tell you a great deal of it goes on in all villages !!! - but did you hear about the elderly lady who on seeing a policeman for the first time for a few years ran up to him and asked - "Can you direct me to the nearest Vigilante I've suffered a break-in". We still contribute finance to the maintenance of the police through our County rate charge .

+ + + + +

All that matters is the way in which we live, the way we face our troubles and the happiness we give, the way we deal with others whom we contact on life's way, the way we work, the things we think and the sort of prayers we pray.

All that matters really, is our attitude of mind, the way we meet life's rough and smooth and the set-backs that we find, the way we try to right the wrong and the way we check despair, the way we use our talents and the things for which we care.

Anon

+ + + + +

I have to agree with all those who complain about the way car parking is permitted on the A38 at West Alvington. I understand the Highway Authority and the Police term the effect as 'traffic calming'. Such a conclusion doesn't cost the Authorities anything and it obviously prevents speeding through the village - but surely a few well indicated 'sleeping policemen' would be far more appropriate and a ban on such parking - especially as there are car parks available. The present system holds up ambulances and fire engines - a rather serious disadvantage one feels.

+ + + + +

MORE !.....

The best party is but a kind of conspiracy against the rest of the nation.

(Lord Halifax - who must have known a thing
or to)

+ + + + +

ARE WE ALL AWARE ? . . .

That ~~th~~se who work for a living have to provide for more than five million on 'income support' as well as the millions employed in national, local and now European bureaucracy. Few people realise who actually bears the heaviest burden in paying for all this. The answer contained in the 'Guardian' (11.9.93) is breathtaking ! "The top 10 per cent of households pay 32 per cent of their income in tax compared to 45 per cent for the bottom ten per cent. We have now passed the point at which it is more profitable to live off 'income support' than off earned income. One of the few politicians who has grasped this fact, Sir Richard Body, MP for Holland and Boston, was recently quoted as saying: "In Lincolnshire we have many thousands of good hard working people who are getting the rough end of the stick. They are on very low pay and almost all would be better off if they gave up their jobs."

The very idea of taxing the poor is new in this country. Before the First World War only 10 per cent of the population were tax payers, and only slightly more than that in the 1930s. Even 30 years ago, a married man with two children paid no income tax until he was earning 20 per cent above the average wage. Over the last 20 years inflation has forced down the threshold of paying tax to well below what economists call the 'poverty line'. The politicians have grasped that squeezing the poor is a foolproof method of taking the burden of tax off the rich - that is off themselves. The Weimar Republic in Germany in the 1920s introduced taxation for everyone earning more than £2,500 a year (in our money). This produced in the German 'little man' a rage and resentment directed partly against the Jews but mostly against the democratic politicians. The result was - Hitler.

(Extract from 'On the Contrary' - Richard West
in the Sunday Telegraph - Richard West 10.10.93)

+ + + + +

WE REMEMBER OUR DREAMS! BUT

Just as we remember actual sensations that we have recently received, and the only difference between the lower animals and ourselves when we dream is that we are able to distinguish between dream sensation and actual sensations. Into this operation of our memory (which involves a comparison) the idea of time enters. Your dog, for example, is unable to make such a comparison because he/she cannot apparently distinguish between their dream and their actual experiences, so that to dogs and cats all that they have dreamt appears to have actually happened.

With acknowledgement to "Sur la Nature des Animaux"

+ + + + +

There can be more pleasure in building castle in the air than on the ground

+ + + + +

Christmas comes, but once a year is enough.

Anon.

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S I X U N I T A R Y C O U N C I L S

They are being proposed for Devon under the pending REVIEW OF THE COUNTY'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay can give a sigh of relief = they would each run all council services in their areas. East Devon Council and Mid-Devon Council would merge, as would North Devon and Torridge. The sixth unitary council ^{WOULD} comprise the existing SOUTH HAMS, TEIGNBRIDGE and WEST DEVON authorities covering an area from west of Exeter to Plymouth outskirts. Poor old Devon County Council which currently spends 90 per cent of the overall local authority budget in the County of services including education, social services, roads maintenance and trading standards, would be abolished.

The Plan is backed by the Association of District Councils, naturally, (Devon branch) which met on the 15th October at Exeter and agreed existing district council areas must not be split up. Empire building is coming true at last! I think it may well see the same kind of Parish 'association'. Those who recall the 1975 changes to local government can probably expect a measure of chaos and most certainly greater cost - whatever should be the official 'soft-soap! We are going to be under a 'Big Brother' without a bigger brother to help protect the poor old rate-payer - me and you.

+ + + + +

GROWING OLD

. . . is (happily) quite commonplace nowadays. One might ask 'when are you old'? It used to be 60 to 70 - now it gets neared 80 to 90. However, some statistics I noted the other day, indicated that over 2,400 females had arrived at their century but, wait for it, just 234 males. Does this indicate that males work harder, suffer more stress and worry which lessens their chance of making it to a century. Perhaps you have an opinion on this subject - why not express your opinion in a letter to Drabblemania via the Editor?

+ + + + +

TO BE TRULY HAPPY . . .

. . . is a question of how we begin and not of how we end. Of what we want and not of what we have. An aspiration is a joy for ever, a possession as solid as a landed estate, a fortune which we can never exhaust and which gives us year by year a revenue of pleasureable activity. Life is only a very dull and ill-directed theatre unless we have some interests. It is in virtue of his own desires and curiosities that any man continues to exist with even patience, that he is charmed by the look of things and people, and that he awakens every morning with a renewed appetite for work and pleasure.

R.L.Stevenson wrote those lines.

+ + + + +

Drabblemania hopes that everyone will enjoy a HAPPY CHRISTMASTIDE and a NEW YEAR that will see a somewhat HAPPIER WORLD.

I would like to quote the remarks of a young nephew last year:

"...still Christmas is a good time with all those presents and good food, and I hope it will never die or at any rate not until I am grown up and have to pay for it all."

Hope to be back in 1994 !

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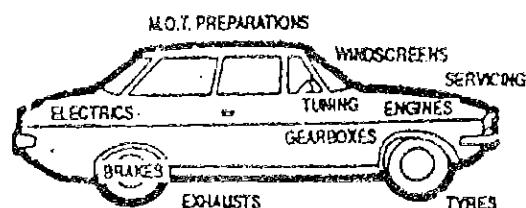


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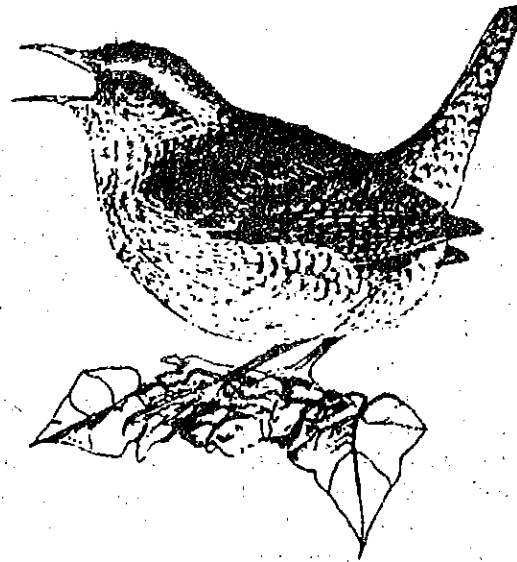
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HARRY HUGGINS



IF YOU WANT a winter birding break, especially if some of the party do not want to bird, nowhere beats Tenerife. What is more, you can still fly there from Exeter. Places you can reach in winter from our local airport are getting fewer. You tell me, though, that the only birds on Tenerife are dolly-birds. Agreed there are plenty of bimbos. But there are others also, not a lot, but enough to be interesting. Like many islands the Canaries have developed their own forms of species found elsewhere. Some, like Blue Tit and Greater Spotted Woodpecker, are not very different from what we see here in Thurlestone. Others, like Blue Chaffinch, are found on the islands and nowhere else in the world. Then there are some, like Kentish Plover and Little Ringed Plover, which you can see on our beaches here, but you will be jolly lucky if you do. And there are some which we see here each year and you are more than lucky to find on Tenerife - last March we saw a Cuckoo there, unheard of!

Climate - the latitude of the Canaries is a chunk more southerly than that of Cairo, but the ocean tempers the heat.

A friend who lives in the south wrote to us last summer, when we were having, well a certain amount of rain, saying that they had not seen a cloud for three weeks and it had been 85 degrees by day, 70 by night. In winter the average seems to be around 70 by day. They do get rain - last time we were in Playa de las Americas, in March, they had the ultimate ten year storm, snow right down the mountains, torrents of rain flooded the streets, underground shopping places awash, lady on next balcony bailing it out with a frying pan, twelve foot waves (the surfers had a wonderful time), but as soon as the rain stopped it was warm again.

It is all volcanic, cliffs like black forest gateau where the sea has cut them back. A high backbone of mountains runs east and west. In the middle is the crater, Las Canadas, ten miles across. When and how that formed I do not know, am not sure anyone else does. It looks as though the top blew off the island in a mighty explosion of the Krakatoa/Santorini variety. Maybe bigger. Later the present mountain, Teide, at over 12,000 higher than any other in Spain, built up on the northern rim of the crater. It reached its present height about a million years ago they say. It still puffs, in a sulphurous way (an eruption wiped out the seaport of Garachico on the north coast three hundred years ago). So it is all far from defunct. Bear that in mind if you are of nervous nature.

Harry Huggins continues:

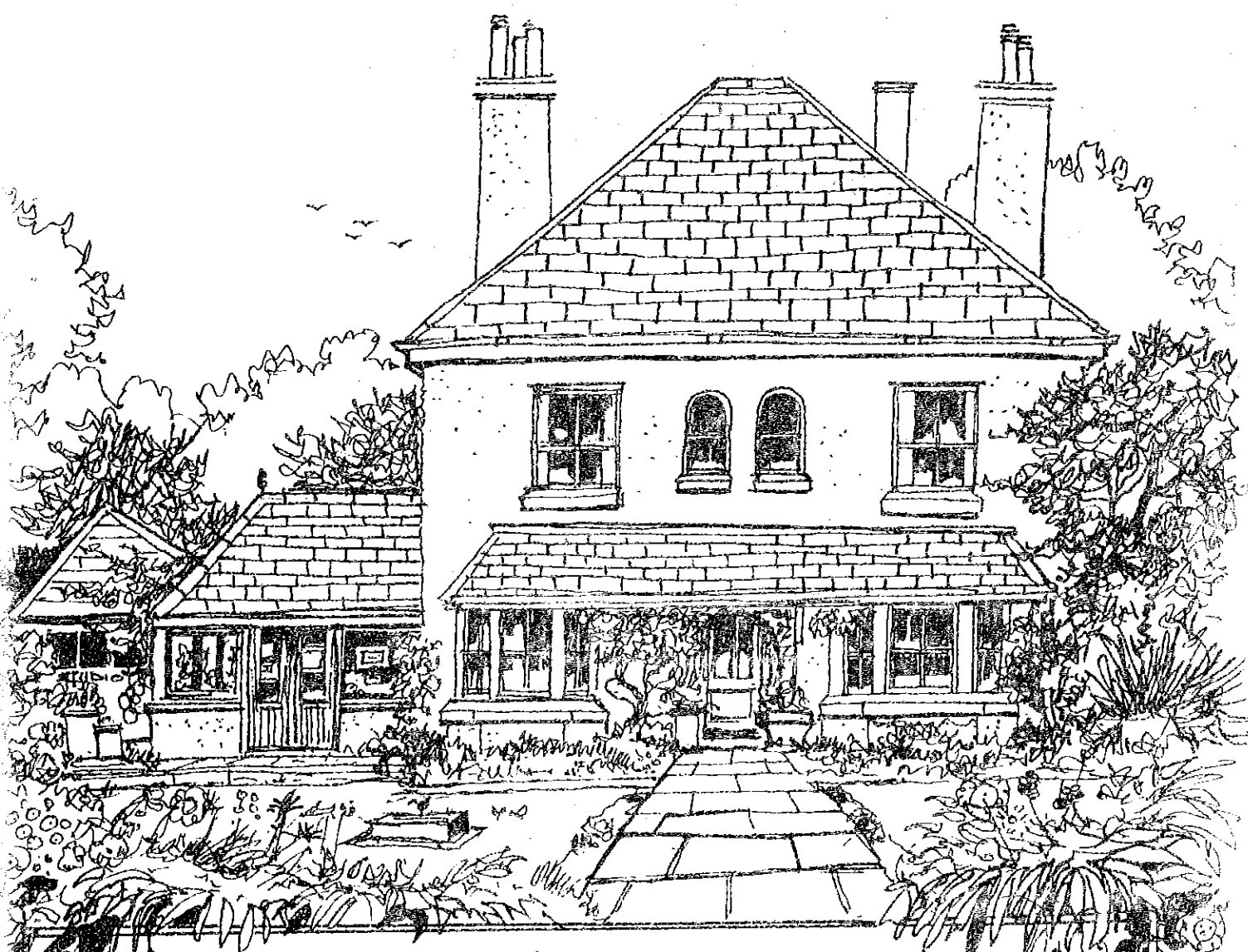
There are of course greater risks, flying there for one. Several hundred people were killed some years back, when a couple of jumbos pranged. That was at Los Rodeos airport, at the eastern end of the island, no longer used for holiday flights, you go to Reina Sofia now, in the far south. But view it in perspective - you are at much greater risk walking down the road from Thurlestone church to the golf club.

There is little vegetation in and around the crater - none on Teide itself. A bit lower down are forests of Canary pines, where the clouds usually lie. At the western end of the mountain range is an area of Laurel forest: there must have been far more of it once.

North of the mountains the land falls quite steeply into the sea. Prevailing wind on that side is the north east trade, which brings quite a lot of rain, so that is where you go to see the flowers and where most of the crops are grown. Bananas, mostly, on every available patch of ground as far as the eye can see. We cannot tell you much about birding on the north side - we stayed only for a few days some years ago at Puerto de la Cruz, the main resort, a handsome town, full of flowers and time share touts, who approached one saying Do you speak English? Oddly enough a reply of "Nein" was enough to repulse them, scratching their heads disbelievingly. We have not been bothered of recent years; I am obviously past the upper age limit for their clients.

We have done most of our birding around Playa de las Americas. It is on the south west coast, just to the west of what was the little fishing village of Los Cristianos. That bit of coast is sheltered from the trade wind; usually there is no wind at all, and lots of sun. Say 'Ugh' about las Americas if you like, I did before I saw it. I do not know when they began it, it cannot have been more than 30 years ago; before that there was nothing but a farm or two and some fishermen's huts. Now they have put up a purpose built resort, and done it very well - hundreds of thousands of holiday makers think so! There are fine hotels and apartment blocks, an excellent sea front, and loads to do. The pert little waitress at the hotel where we stay sometimes in Wales said she had a holiday there and it was bliss, she went with the cook. Later we found the cook was a handsome young man, son of the owners of the hotel.

We went there a couple of times, for the more than adequate reason that birding friends offered us the use of an apartment, in a modern block just where Playa de las Americas ends and Los Cristianos begins. Compostella Beach it is called. I believe Compostella means field of the stars. We saw no field, nor stars, nor is there any beach, you have to walk a couple of hundred yards to that. But it is an excellent block, with buildings ranged around a large square with the usual pool in the middle. There are a bar, and eating places, which are apt to dispense music far into the night. In Spain you need to be a sound sleeper or have good earplugs. There is also what they are pleased to term a supermarket, compared to which the emporia in our parish are hypermarkets. It sells drinks and water and food, also English newspapers if you want one, we don't. But I saw a man proffering 25 pesetas for a copy of the Sun. The girl at the till told him that if he wanted it it was 200 pesetas, well offer £1 at the going rate then; how she managed to explain that the 25p on the front was the price in sterling I do not know. But it all seemed rather silly - if he wanted to see what the Sun depicts he had only to turn



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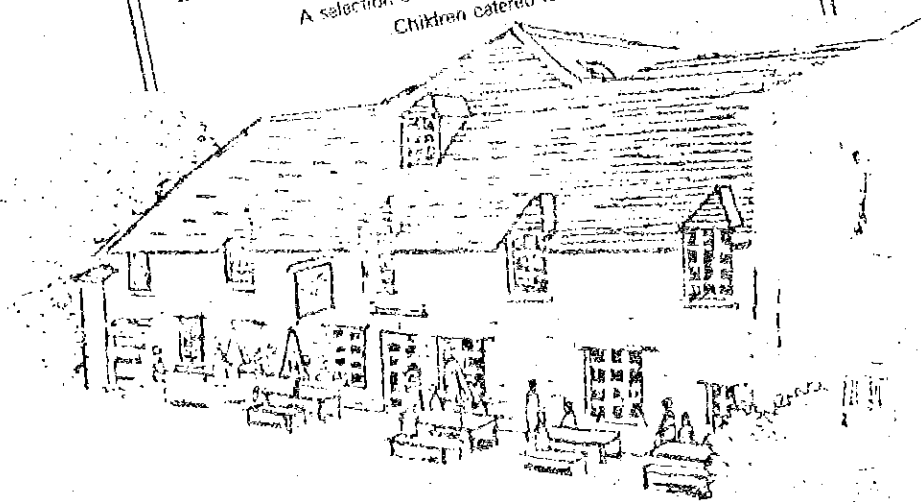
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Harry Huggins continues:

round and there they were, five yards away frisking round the pool.

We self catered. We have always leaned against that, ever since we gave up sailing - my wife spent too many holidays cooking on a primus stove for her to want to cater now when she goes away.

But breakfast was cornflakes, lunch was rolls and cheese or pate, and each evening we ate out.

Going to a pad belonging to friends, your homework is done for you. They supplied a list of noshing places. The first night of the first visit we went to the nearest, a couple of minutes walk toward Los Cristianos, and never went anywhere else. Chicken and chips starts at the equivalent of £2.50, all you can eat. Can't do better than that. We spent usually around £10 for the two of us including a half litre of beer each - no wine - we went once to a tasing on the island, it was enough to make anyone sign the pledge. It was always busy and having a meal occupied most of an evening. They gave you a menu and brought you a drink quite quickly; thereafter they took their time. It did not do to make a fuss about being kept waiting - we saw people ejected for doing just that.

Like charity, bird-watching starts at home. We gazed north out of the bedroom window of our apartment over a piece of open ground, with the pine forests in the distance and Teide beyond. On the open space were often Hoopoes, with pinky-brown heads and bodies, stripey black and white wings, and long bills and crests. From the balcony on the south side we could hear Blackcaps in the foliage beyond the pool area. We saw one flit by occasionally, but no more than that, which was a pity because the males there have wholly black heads and upper breasts, unlike the ones which come here, they have just black caps.

If we walked along the promenade west towards the main part of Playa de las Americas, we passed a lot of imported sand - shipped in to make beaches for holiday makers to lie on. Then we came to original foreshore, lumps of jagged lava, slippery with weed and horrid to walk on. Climbing about on these, and in little pools of water, were Little Egrets, no longer quite so exciting now that we get a lot in South Devon, but nice to see all the same. There were Whimbrels - their stripey heads tell them from Curlews - Grey Plovers, still looking miserable in grey/brown winter plumage, silver and white Sanderlings, and to our joy Kentish Plovers, little pale brown birds. They are now just rare vagrants in Britain. They used to nest in Dungeness, hence the English name, but the gull population increased enormously when people were stopped from taking their eggs (to eat) and the powerful gulls wiped out the Kentish Plovers.

To the east of Playa de las Americas and Los Cristianos lies, give give or take a good many humps, bumps, cones and craters, a lava strewn plain. By nature, little grows (it all turned green after the big storm I wrote about) but they produce tomatoes and things - these are in enormous tents of hessian and plastic, to prevent evaporation - there are a couple of golf courses. In Thurlestone they water the greens and tees. There they water the lot.

Harry Huggins continues:

That is where the best birding is, and to get there you need a car. We read once that the Spaniard's approach to driving is like bull fighting. So as well as a car you need strong nerve. And I need someone to tell me what road signs I am coming to. Names of places are all right. But priority markings are put on the road, with white paint. Sometimes they change priorities, and are not very good at obliterating the old markings. Another thing of which to beware is that unlike here traffic in a roundabout does not always have priority. Logical - it always seems a bit stupid that coming out of the Aveton Gifford tidal road to return to Thurlestone I have priority over the flow of traffic on the main road from Plymouth. In Tenerife I would not.

Scattered about over this plain are sundry little reservoirs used to hold water piped down from the hills. To get to the best of them, known as the fenced reservoir because it has a high concrete wall round it (you peer in through holes in the concrete) you take the motorway east towards Santa Cruz, turn off after a few miles towards Las Galletas (I think that it means "the biscuits") and turn right again at a village called El Fraile. You bump for a couple of miles across a lunar landscape dotted with huge cactus like things, which are a sort of Euphorbia. On the way you look out for Ospreys on electricity poles and Great Grey Shrikes (about one a year in Devon) on the wires. At the reservoir there are usually spoonbills, like white Herons with huge spatulate beaks, and many things we see here in Thurlestone - Dunlins, Redshanks, Ruffs, Turnstones. There are also Little Ringed Plovers - very like the Ringed Plovers which visit south Devon, but they have a bright yellow ring around each eye and show no white in their wings as they fly. Once my wife found an American Golden Plover, a very rare vagrant anywhere on this side of the Atlantic - in winter we search the Golden Plover flocks on Dartmoor in vain for them.

If you drive inland up the winding bumpy road towards the mountains you go through Vilaflor at about 4500 feet and there the pine forests start. Nearly to the crater you reach the Las Lajas picnic site, at a clearing in the forest where there are water taps and barbecues. You do not go at a week-end. We did. We found a large party of gentlemen with plastic jerrycans of wine cutting up a pig which they were going to barbecue and eat. No ladies - Tenerife is Spain, men are macho, and presumably the ladies did their own thing elsewhere. But when the place is deserted birds come to eat the crumbs and drink at the water taps. Blue Tits, like ours, but with black on their heads. Berthelot's Pipits, found only on the Atlantic islands. I do not think one has ever been seen in Britain. I for one would not know it from a Meadow Pipit if I did see one, but I can recognise it in Tenerife because it is the only pipit there. Best of all, Blue Chaffinches. They are descended no doubt from Chaffinches like we see in Thurlestone. They say their song is similar - though we did not hear one sing. But having been cut off for goodness knows how long, on the Canary islands, succeeding generations have grown different from our Chaffinches, bigger and the males are a vivid royal blue.

On our first visit to Playa de las Americas we rented for a day the services of a local birder, Tony Clarke. He was an out and out British twitcher, but love for a Spanish lass got him; he married her and went to live in Tenerife where he now makes a precarious living



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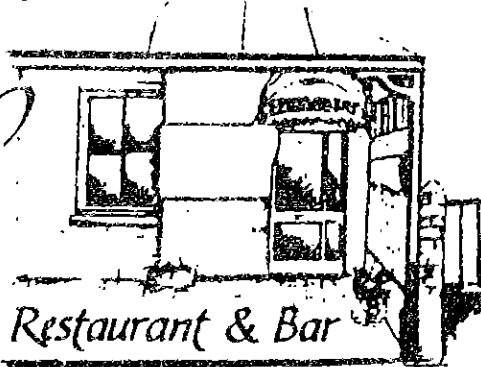
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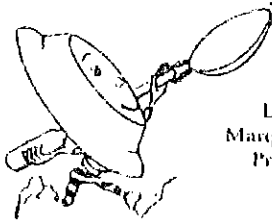
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doing gardening, occasionally leading tours for British birding travel agents and hiring himself out to people like us if anyone will have him. His telephone number is 52 42 91 and the 5,000 pesetas (a bit over £25) we paid him was money very well spent. He took us to the Laurel forest, at the west of the island. You drive over a pass from the lowlands in the south towards those in the north. Usually as you cross the mountain you hit rain, but we were lucky, it was sunny and we could see - often mist covers the whole area. We had 8 sightings of Bolle's Laurel Pigeon and 4 of White-tiled Laurel Pigeon. They are a bit like Woodpigeons, but dark purple colour, very rare and most birders have never seen one, still less both - Tony had never seen so many before. He found us also Stone Curlews, in the desert near the Reina Sofia airport. They are like big plovers, used to breed quite extensively in the desert-like areas of Norfolk but afforestation has done for them and they are rare now in Britain. And as a final postscript, he showed us a tree full of roosting Long-eared Owls.

So - there are not many species of birds on Tenerife. But they are interesting. If you do not want to bird, you can lie on the beach, or swim, or shop, or take coach trips, or go on a boat to whale watch, or just watch the other people. You will not be bored!

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE GARAGE...

There are times when I wonder whether my sense of humour is altering or perhaps entering a senile phase. Recently, a small incident seemed to me to be funny but, on describing it to two friends, one thought it to be amusing and the other no more than interesting.

It all happened up at Maurice Blight's garage, as Keith was filling my petrol tank. An acquaintance came stamping up the road with an enormous circular contraption over each ear. Lifting one of them, he said "Good morning". I asked him what he was listening to and he said "Stravinsky".

I still think that somebody walking up our village road listening to Stravinsky is funny and so, for my peace of mind, I asked two more people what they thought. The first did not comment on the incident directly; instead he gave me a detailed account of the various types of earphones that are available and the uses to which they may be put. The second, much to my delight, burst into guffaws of laughter, thereby restoring to some extent my amour propre.

N.C.O.

Editors' note: Do you think that funny? We'd be interested in our readers' views.

ABROAD THOUGHTS FROM HOME.

TO VISIT MOSCOW in 1993 as a private citizen remains an adventure. Being moved involuntarily from church to gallery to palace is to approach three dimensional postcards. But to be placed in a city of remote, detached austerity, solemn yet somehow sleazy and without the protective armlock of Intourist has some of the novelty of rattling round an empty prison on the edge of the moon.

As I was driven from Moscow International Airport into the heart of a city which, since early childhood, had occupied pride of place as the world's most enticing monolith, I tried frantically to commit impressions to memory. I had imagined the outskirts of Moscow to be dark, intimidating, clumsily though officiously policed, presenting awkward impenetrable obstacles. In fact, we travelled through crumbling flatness; we bumped our way through a landscape of ash; dusty, broken and miserable. In the distance were the trees; forests of ash and silver birch fanning out in misty perspectives, full of secret tunnel-shaped cottages, but listless and unobtrusive as if the fringe of this rural world were deliberately making itself dreary as we drifted in the no-man's land between country and city. Cities such as Venice and Prague have one kind of fascination. Moscow has another. Its fascination lies partly in its interminable monotony. Distinguishable blocks, each a termites' nest of miniature dwellings proliferate suddenly and relentlessly, creating a landscape obsessed with conformity.

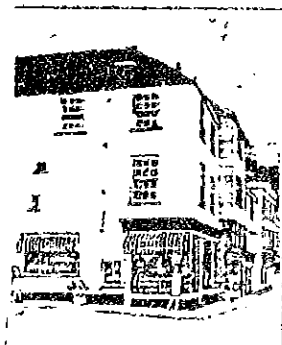
There are shops, but they are invisible and churches are now part of the city's dust. The sheer scale of architectural brutishness is dazzling but it also makes Moscow a city that is impossible to love. Especially so, since the very monuments are identified with oppression, compulsion and tyranny. Whether the Muscovites have been ruled by mad despots or stone-hearted non-entities, the effect seems to have been to wither the spirit of the people. Queues of women formed above the metro stations to sell gastronomic bric-a-brac to people who were too late for the shops. A bag of tomatoes, two or three dried fish or a bottle of cooking oil might yield a few rubles to the luckless, almost immobile trail of silent, solid housewives who waited for, but made no effort to prompt, a flicker of passing interest.

There was something grotesque and wretched about the contrast between the outrageously ornate metro stations built in a riot of granite, marble and stained glass by Stalin and the oppressive drabness of life above the labyrinth. Even Red Square, surrounded as it is by ill-assorted and unmemorable hotels for foreigners, is hard to take seriously. The Museum facing St. Basil's Cathedral, is the colour of pig's liver and juts into the skyline in a series of wintry, jagged spikes. Lenin's Mausoleum, at that time still guarded, as it seemed, by goose-stepping clockwork men, appeared to be protected even more ominously by the spirits of those inheritors of Lenin's legacy whose busts and tombstones appear as twentieth century gargoyles warding off light and warmth and love.

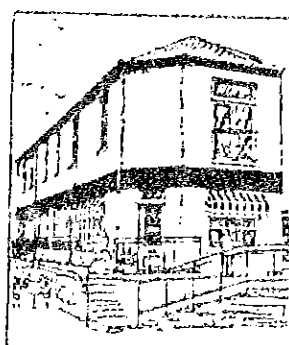
These were my first and lasting impressions. A city which, in spite of its entrenched chill and pessimism, can, almost because of itself, intrigue a curiosity and enliven a desire to explore the character of those who had endured so much and were yet able to retain a generosity that can make western man seem superficial and mean spirited.

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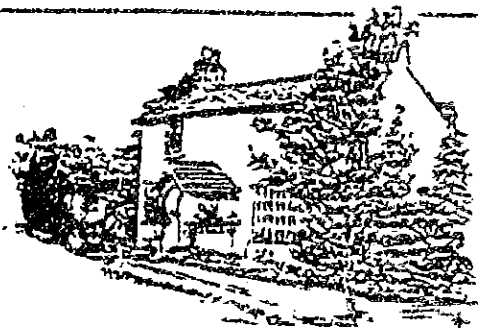
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM THE W.I.

As reported in the stop press of the last edition of Village Voice, Thurlestone and W. Buckland WI distinguished themselves at the Kingsbridge Show by coming second in the collective entry - they only missed the cup by HALF A POINT, ten members taking part to produce the goods it took to illustrate the tv show "Keeping Up Appearances", writes Pat Macdonald.

Mr. Pierre Verniquet came to the September meeting to show his collection of old Kingsbridge photos (on slides), which clearly illustrated some of the interesting changes which have taken place in the town over the years.

The Macmillan Nurses Fund benefitted by £135 following the coffee morning held at Terry Woodrow's home on October 12. The cake stall run at the Parish Hall's fund-raising Autumn Fair netted some £70 for the hall. The Jumble Sale on October 30 raised £145.

Nine members set off in the county coach from Kingsbridge and went to the Festival Theatre, Paignton, where they helped swell the attendance figures to 1200 at the Federation's Autumn Council Meeting. Janet Pugh of the Snarritans talked about her endeavours to set up a rural network in a talk called "Crisis in the Countryside", and the day's principal speaker was Andrew Cooper, the television producer, naturalist and writer, who became well known for his beautiful tv series "Secret Nature".

Marion Brice came to the meeting in October, and demonstrated with great flair some ideas for cooks in preparing themselves for Christmas. Fellow members from South Milton, West Alvington and Salcombe joined us, and then stayed on for a super tea, after which brave President Win Cousins led several inexpert "keep-fitters" through an exercise routine to work off the calories consumed.

At the time of writing, the visit of the Kingsmen Barbershop Singers is eagerly looked forward to and they will entertain at a Supper Party on Saturday evening November 20.

The annual meeting and election of committee for the coming year took place on November 11, at which Win Cousins was re-elected President for the coming year. More details in the next issue.

On Friday, December 3, between 2 and 4pm in the Parish Hall, there will be a workshop on making Christmas Door decorations. Anne Blacoe will be the tutor. Cost is £2.00 for the afternoon, including a cup of tea. Ring 560436 to enquire.

Please note that at the meeting on December 9 there will be a special Christmas Tea Party, in place of the Lunch Party, followed by an entertainment. Visitors will be welcome.

IT WAS LOVELY to have a full Church and a full Parish Hall for the Harvest Service and Supper, writes Joan Galloway - thanks to everyone who helped in any way with these events. It was a special pleasure to have two visitors - Leonie and Alan Thomas - guests of Didi and Philip King, who were part of the wonderful concert last year. Leonie and Alan are hard at work, but there is just the faintest chance that they might be able to get down sometime in 1994 and we might get another treat!

FOR DETAILS OF ALL SAINTS FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS, CAROL SINGING DATES, AND THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES, SEE THE VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE ON THE INSIDE OF THE BACK COVER OF THIS EDITION.

Wednesday morning, about nine-thirty; a purposeful-looking but cheerful group gathers in the Parish Hall car park, back packs bulging with weather-defying clothes. There is a rapid head-count and TRAMP departs in the smallest practicable number of cars to the starting point of one of the once or twice-monthly walks. At our destination we are joined by yet more addicted trampers from such far-flung places as Wrangaton, Plymouth and Launceston. This past year, 1993, our sixth, there have been anything from six to 24 of us on each walk, but the average is about a dozen or so.

Lured, presumably, by our quiet but infatigable enthusiasm a number of promising new recruits from Thurstlestone and further afield have joined us and we have been especially pleased to welcome back Geoff Wilkinson, one of our original leaders, (and Solo, of course).

Obviously it would be invidious to single out anybody for good attendance because we all take part whenever we can, but four particularly keen participants must be mentioned: Homer, Ambrose, Chrissie and Q, our faithful canine companions, who are an example to us all for their dogged perseverance.

Of this year's 17 walks, the local and coastal ones - by no means soft options; wellies are often not inappropriate - and the ones on the Moors, all have been enjoyable in their own way, especially and inevitably those I missed. The joys and beauties of the July walk in the Horrabridge area of the Moors are incessantly recalled by the other Trampers. Then there was the Cuckoo Rock walk, memorable for its soggy-ness both underfoot and overhead and the coastal walk in January when one of the group constantly disappeared to rescue oiled seabirds. He made a brief reappearance in the Hope and Anchor at midday before dashing off on another mission of mercy. There was a time when a ewe gave birth to triplets as TRAMP trudged past. Another mission of mercy was set in action.

Some of our summer picnic spots have been particularly memorable: the sunny sandbank in the middle of the River Tavy - no one seemed in a hurry to move on - the rocky tor near Dartmeet where we could feast our eyes on the glorious view. The Trampers who find the charms of the Devon pubs irresistible were not forgotten, however, and the winter walks and some others too, were cunningly devised so that a suitable hostelry came in sight at the appropriate moment.

We were lucky with the weather as well; or perhaps we are becoming less fussy. On many occasions the sun shone despite a dismal forecast and only one walk was abandoned and that not entirely because a tiny and intrepid, some might say foolhardy, band set forth leaderless, completed the route and returned to tell the tale - of walking along walls to avoid the mud, of almost being cornered by an unfriendly bovine; and they hardly got wet at all.

Our future plans? Again 17 walks are planned for next year, local, coastal and moorland. Of these six are new, which must bring our repertoire to over 80 and the others repeats of past favourites which some people may have missed. Marjorie and Roy Travis (and presumably Homer and Ambrose) will be new leaders.

What makes for a good walk? The countryside, the company, the weather, perhaps, but most of all the spadework done beforehand by the leaders and by Stuart Reynolds especially, supported and encouraged by Audrey, who devote countless hours devising and trying out the walks, frequently more than once. Very many thanks are due to them. Lastly we must thank Frances Bromfield and Kay Morley for letting us display the TRAMP notices at their shops. This is an immense help to everyone.

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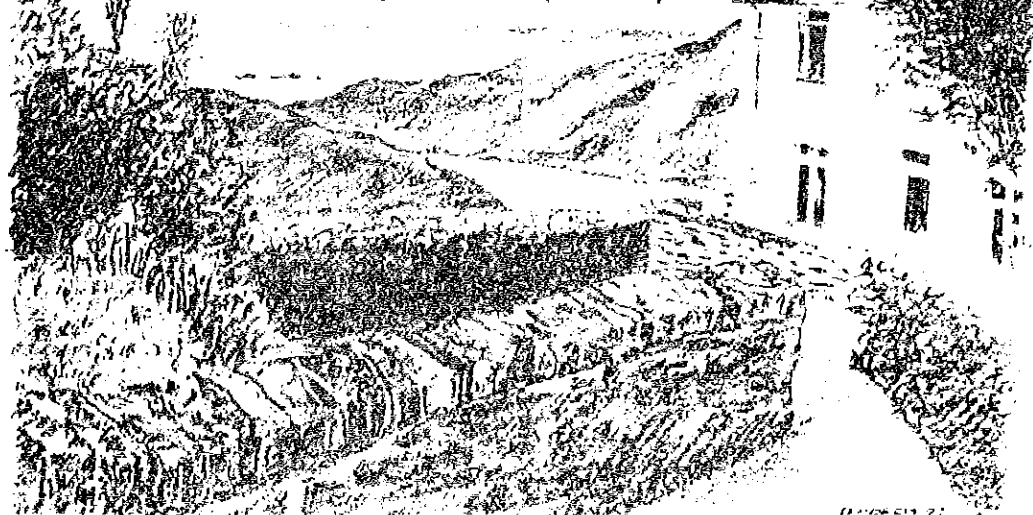
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(answerphone whilst out on call)

TRAMP CONTINUES WITH... THE WALKS FOR 1994.

A. Walk leaders:

Pam Browster	(PB)	560345
Susan Dwyer	(SD)	560648
Bob Nicholls	(BN)	560876
Stuart Reynolds	(SR)	560643
Ron Savage	(RS)	852861
Roy Travis	(RT)	036472104
Derek Yeoman	(DY)	560300

B. General information:

- i) The rendez-vous for all walks will be Thurlestone Village Hall Car Park (TVHCP).
- ii) There will be two walks per month from March to September inclusive, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.
- iii) The Jan and Feb walks will be on the 3rd Wednesday.
- iv) The Oct, Nov and Dec walks will be on the 2nd Wednesday.

C. Reminder notices will be posted up in the Post Office and the Village Stores nine days before the walk takes place.

OUTLINE OF THE WALKS PROGRAMME:

1. 19th Jan. Frognore Creek starting from Kingsbridge. Distance 11km
or
Avon Valley from Thurlestone, returning via Osborne-Newton and Worth. 11km. PB.
2. 16th Feb. Coastal path from Kingston then Ringmore, return along coast and Erne Valley. 10km, hard going RS
3. 2nd March. Local walk along Avon Valley starting from Loddiswell. 10km. DY
4. 16th March. Local walk from West Alvington, Collapit, Woolston, return via Kingsbridge and W. Alvington woods. 10k DY.
5. 6th April. In Chillington area. Not yet finalised. BN
6. 20th April. Moors walk from Postbridge. S to Bellever Bridge. Follow Dart to Babeny, W to Sherwell, return N via Cator Common & Pizewell. 15km SR
7. 4th May. From Casey Town (nr. Tavistock) NE to Windy Cross to Grinstone Leat & Monkswell House. Return NW. 12km. SD.
8. 18th May. Moors. Start S Wallerton Gate (GR E740/N 793). NW to Jays Grave & Grinspound. S to Widecombe. NE to Bonchill Down, Hound Tor and back to start. 16km SR
9. 1st June. Moors. Start Ivybridge. NNW to Pithill Farm. SW to Sherill. Footpaths to Blatchford Manor. E to Hall Farm. Return via Erne Valley. 11 km. RT.
10. 15th June. Moors. From Horrbridge NE to Sampford Spinney. NW to Pew Tor, NE to Merrivale, via Vixen Tor. Return S on left bank of River Walkham to Ingra Tor. Return via footpaths and lanes. 17km SD.

TRAMP tramps on overleaf.

TRAMP WALKS CONTINUED:

11. 6th July. Moors. Start from Dartmeet. 6 sets of stepping stones. Cross river and go S to Conberstone Tor. NW to Week Ford. Cross river, footpath to Hexworthy. Cross river Swincombe. Cross river Dart to Dunnabridge Pound, NW to Bellever Bridge and Laughter Hole Steps. Cross river to West bank, S to Babeny Steps. Cross river to E bank and return to Dartmeet. 15km SR
12. 20th July. River valley starting from Holbeton. Right bank of Erne to Motheconbe for swim and lunch. Coast path W to Ryders Hole. N to Pool Mill Farm to meet track and footpath NE back to Holbeton. 13km PB
13. 3rd Aug. Northern Moors starting from Merrivale. N to Great Mis Tor, then to source of Walkham river. Return via stone circle and Grinstone Leat. 12km SD
14. 17th Aug. North Moors starting Postbridge, follow E Dart River to its source. Then E to Teign Head and return over Sittaford Tor to stone circle Grey Wethers. Return on footpath S. 16km RS
15. 7th Sept. Moors starting from New Waste Car Park (GR N613/E626) Follow River Yealm to its source. N to boundary stone. SE to stone circle (The Dancers). Return either over Stalldown Barrow or via Erne Valley 12km RT
16. 21st Sept. Moors starting from Burrator, SE to Cuckoo Tor, continue to disused mine at Eylesbarrow. Follow track NNE to Nuns Cross Farm. Follow Devonport leat back to Burrator. 12km PB
17. 12th Oct. Slapton Ley, Gara Valley and coast. Start from coast and follow path round N side of Ley to Deer Bridge, then Watergate. N to Pittaford, then via path and road to Newton. Path NE to Clovelly. Path to Eastdown. S to Burlestone and Lower Fuge. SE to Strete. Coast path back to start. 15km BN
18. 9th Nov. Local walk Bowcombe Bridge. N to East Allington via Malston Mill, Flear Mill, Rimpson, Weir Bridge. NW then W to Mounts. Follow track to Grimpstonleigh & main road at Firs Cross. E to intersect track going S Knighton, Buckland tout Saints and Malston Mill. 11km BN
19. 14th Dec. CHRISTMAS WALK.
Start from Capton. NW via Woolcombe, Tideford, Gitcombe, Coomery, Green lane to Tuckenhay. Follow path beside Bow Creek to East Cornworthy. Lunch at Hunters Lodge. Distance am: 6km.
After lunch E to Higher Dittishan, then Kingston to Capton. Distance pm: 6km DY

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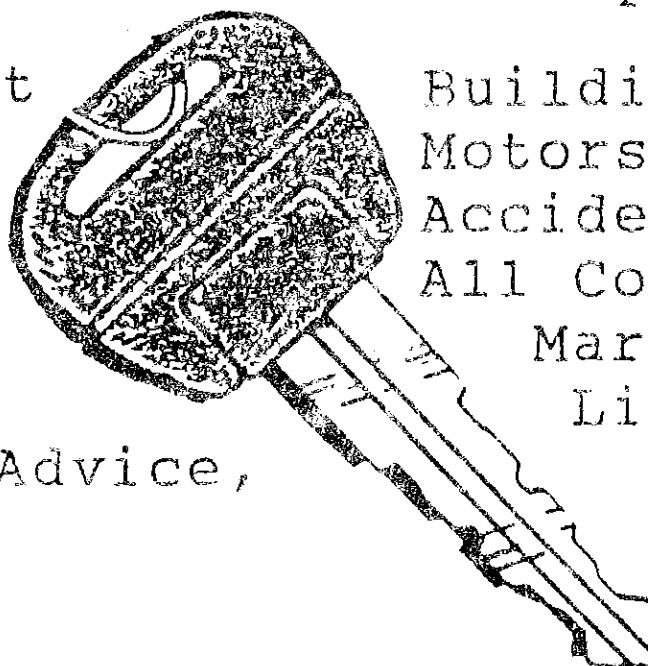
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Neville OSWALD reports

The Lidstone Diary.

1945 The war is over at last. It has been an eventful time during which the Thurlestone Hotel was occupied by a Royal Marine Officer Training Unit with classes of up to 200, the beaches were mined, the coastal strip was staked with 10 to 12 foot poles to deter the landing of enemy aircraft, trenches were dug and a gunsite was erected. Evacuees from London poured in and soon mixed well with the village children; later, more evacuees and their mothers came from their bombed homes in Plymouth. Land girls from the Women's Land Army and German prisoners of war replaced men on the farms and were incessantly urged to increase food production.

The villagers, bereft of public transport, had few opportunities to break away from their useful but monotonous lives. Twelve men from the parish were killed or died in the armed forces and are commemorated on a plaque in the church.

1960. By the time the Marines left the Thurlestone Hotel in 1945 the buildings had been badly damaged, especially the roof which had been unable to sustain the weight of an anti-aircraft gun. The polished wood floors were ruined and the splendid dining room curtains that had cost a thousand pounds, were eventually traced to barracks in Devonport where they had been torn up for use as dusters. The Groves, aided by totally inadequate compensation from the Government, re-opened the hotel in the following year, but the combination of austerity and petrol rationing added to their difficulties. They were unable to make a profit in the following years and so from 1951 they closed for the winter months each year. Now, with increasing prosperity and easier access by road from London and the Midlands, it thrives once more but still remains closed in winter.

When ex-service men returned home and contemplated their future some, of course, returned to their former occupations, such as farmers and skilled craftsmen. Others travelled to work in Kingsbridge. Of considerable importance to many of them were the changed conditions of employment, due partly to the general rise in wages. Gardeners, who formerly worked full-time, found that their employers could afford them only for a day or two a week; domestic workers other than cleaners were rarely needed. In the event, most of those who wished to find work locally were able to do so, many of the openings arising directly or indirectly from the new residents who have brought much money into the parish and have considerably raised the standard of living of the villagers both in their way of life and in their homes.

The golf club is becoming more and more popular and now has 300 members. Players who live locally have room enough for most of the year and welcome their relations and friends who come down regularly on holiday together with visitors for the short summer season, knowing that they account for more than half the club's income. Tennis tournaments are held almost daily in the season and attract Wimbledon players including, in one year, Drobny the Wimbledon champion.

Children, as usual in Thurlestone, are well catered for and habitually block the entrance to the club house after tennis tournaments, whilst devouring ice creams and fizzy lemonade.

1970. Elderly villagers who have spent their lives in the parish have seen dramatic changes in the ways residents are employed. These may be measured by noting the occupations of bride-grooms and brides as they were entered in the Thurlestone marriage register. Figures are available back to the 1750s. From then until 1900 almost 65 per cent of the grooms worked on the land as farmers or husbandmen; they then steadily diminished to the present 15 to 20 per cent. This drop is obviously accounted for mainly by the introduction of farm machinery of all kinds which, in many circumstances, is able to do the work of 10 men. Up to 1900 some 10 per cent of the grooms were employed as craftsmen, a figure which has since risen to 25 per cent, as more builders, mechanics, painters, decorators, and others are needed to service the larger and increasingly more prosperous community. By 1900, about 65 per cent of the brides were employed in domestic service; the figure now is less than 15 per cent.

The parish council is constantly in touch with the Devon County Council over the provision of council houses. It is responsible for seeking suitable land and advising on water supply and sewerage; as new houses become available, it prepares lists of applicants and selects suitable tenants. Yet it received the biggest rebuff to its authority in 1965 when it was asked to review plans drawn up by the DCC for 104 detached private houses with garages on the Mead, adjacent to the village of Thurlestone. The council called a special meeting and organised a referendum of the whole parish, each showing a great majority against the plans, but of no avail. Building has now started, the council concluding with regret that it can offer no effective opposition. Three houses have now been completed, but Mr Johnny Johnson the developer is having difficulty in selling them. I have just heard that one has been sold for £14,400 and has been given the good old Devon name of Bampfylde. We wonder how many more will be built and sold.

Can This Be True?

According to the National Census (for 1991; figures just released), the areas with the highest proportion of households with two or more cars were the South West and East Anglia with 27.3% - but 25% of South West's households had no car at all.

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

Village Inn carols...Stop Press...Stop Press...

Carol singing at Thurlestone's Village Inn has been changed to Wednesday, December 22 (not as stated in Superguide)

C is for Coffee, Company, Conversation. In the Rectory Barn on Thursdays from 10.30 to 11.30 am.

C is for Carols, Cards, Calendars and Candles at a Christmas special Coffee Time on December 16.

C is not for Mince Pies but they'll be served anyway on that day!

First of the Christmas Fairs was that in aid of the Church at the Parish Hall on November 20. Total raised was £462.80.

Thurlestone Branch of the South Hams Conservative Association hold their Christmas Bazaar at the Parish Hall at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday December 4.

Local Christmas trees can be recycled. Idea is to turn them into mulch. If you want your tree to go into the chipper, take it the skip in the Council Depot in Kingsbridge.

The Ropewalk Resource Centre in Kingsbridge will produce tons of mulch from the old Christmas trees and some of it will be offered for sale at a later date. More will be used to maintain pathways in conservation areas and by the South Devon Heritage Coast Service.

Half fare travel on local buses and trains within Devon can be yours with a travel pass if you are a pensioner, or 16-18 years old and in full time education, or a handicapped person, or a companion of a disabled person, or unable to drive for medical reasons. But you must be a resident of Devon as well. Application forms from the Post Office. A 12-month Countywide pass is £26 and a 3-month pass is £7.

Thurlestone is to be the featured village in the Cookworthy Museum displays in 1994.

Be there when the band starts playing! Read the
Village Voice Superguide

December

- Sat 4th. Conservative Christmas Bazaar. Parish Hall 10.30am
 NSPCC Christmas Bridge. Parish Hall 6.30 for 7pm
- Wed 8th Tramp Christmas Walk. Lunch Pickwick Inn, St Ann's Chapel.
- Thurs 9th W.I. Christmas Lunch Party. Parish Hall. 12 noon.
- Thurs 16th "Mouldy Cheese and Figgy Pud". Carols and mince pies in
 Thurlestone Church.
- Sun 19th Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Thurlestone Church. 11.10am.
 Carols at the Sloop Inn, Bantham. 8pm
- Tues 21st Carol Singing round the Mead. Meet 6.30 pm at telephone box in
 "Post Office Lane".
 Carols at the Village Inn, Thurlestone 8 pm.
- Wed 22nd Carol Singing round Bantham and Buckland. Meet 6.30 pm
 at Ham Gate.
- Thurs 23rd Placing Figures in the Crib. Thurlestone Church. 4pm
 Carol Singing round the Village and Yarmier. Meet 6.30 Parish
 Hall Car Park.
- Friday 24th First Communion of Christmas. Thurlestone Church 11.45 pm.
- Sat 25th. Christmas Day at Thurlestone Church. Holy Communion 8am; All
 Family Service 11.10 am; Shortened Holy Communion 12 noon.

January, 1994

- Tues 18th Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30 pm
- Thurs 20th. Fellowship. "Mucking about in the Garden". Talk by John Montague.
 Rectory Barn 2.30 pm

February

- Mon 14th Valentine's Day Village Dance. Parish Hall.
- Tues 22nd Parish Council Meeting Sloop Inn 7.30 pm
- Thurs 24th Fellowship. "Noah's Ark? Exeter Cathedral". Talk by Rector.
 Rectory Barn 2.30 pm.

March

- Thurs 24th Fellowship. "Deepest, Darkest Africa". Talk by Joan Galloway.
 Rectory Barn 2.30 pm.
- Tues 29th Parish Council Meeting Parish Hall 7.30pm.

**Have You given Village Voice Your Dates for 1994? On
 a postcard through Cradles Cottage letterbox. Now please**

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