

VILLAGE VOICE

October-November, 1994





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OCT-NOVEMBER, 1994.

AS THE LEAVES TUMBLE DOWN, and the refugees from friends and relations sneak back from the Costas, our villages start to settle into the best of times.

Many who live here, find the autumn better than the summer, however much the sun shone then. Gone now are the ankle-biters; gone are the friends you never knew you had until they found out where you were living; gone the irritation of big cars whose drivers know not how wide they are, or fear the flick of grass from the banks of little lanes.

Yes, calm has come to the countryside. But we must never forget that all this peace is not automatic. It doesn't just come with the season of the year.

We had very recently an amazing reminder of how fragile is our peace when the police revealed that they had foiled a "rave" planned to take place right on our very doorstep.

Now a "rave" is a nice word for a nasty thing. Why, you may well ask, should the Devil take-over all the nice words? Any policeman will tell you that a "rave" is not just an ideal opportunity for the loveable young to get rid of some of their high spirits with a jolly good dance to their extremely loud music.

A "rave" is the name of a drug-pusher's delight, a marketing opportunity for the drug-dealer.

So are you not shocked that someone, somewhere, targeted a not-so-far-away field for such a monstrosity? We are.

Which is why we should not only praise the police for their vigilance, but also resolve to keep one eye open even as we sink into winter hibernation. We need to be a neighbourhood on watch.

LOCAL NEWS FROM THE W.I.

At the start of the September meeting members paid a short silent tribute to the memory of Rose Thorpe who had most tragically died.

Old familiar counting and skipping rhymes and songs were remembered from childhood as J.A. Miller from Tavistock got the members to work enjoyably recalling the games they played as children. Regional differences became apparent, for instance the word used by children to claim immunity - "barley" (north-west England), "cree" (Bristol and S. Gloucestershire), "fainites" (Home Counties), "fair-is" or "fuzz-is" (Devon) and "barges" (Calstock). "Pax" would probably mark out its user as a student at a preparatory school! The boys' game known as "Strong 'Orses" in some places became "Weak Horses", "Bung the Barrel", "Jump Tiddy Wagtail" or "High Cockalorem" in others.

The lore and language of childhood became a fascination for this former teacher of deaf children, who has been much influenced by the research work on the subject undertaken by Iona and the late Robert Opie from Hampshire. The great oral tradition of children's games is diminishing rapidly - caused not so much, he believes, by the arrival of television but because of changing social circumstances...children very often no longer have the freedom to play beyond their own gardens today.

All this was in September, but going back into August - when there is not normally a meeting - Alice Foster held an extremely constructive and helpful Flower Workshop, the result of which will be a series of half-day classes later in the year.

The combined work of some ten members went into a co-operative exhibit at Kingsbridge Show. "The Evacuation of the South Hans, 1943/44" was the theme and the effort put in bore fruit because Thurlestone WI now holds the Show's silver cup for the year and has a large card bearing the word "CHAMPION" for the scrapbook.

Letters to our MP and MEP would be sent on behalf of members, expressing concern at the possible licensing of the hormone BST (Bovine Somatotropine) for use on dairy herds.

The profit from a Jubble Sale to be held at the end of October will be presented to the Parish Hall maintenance fund and a cake stall will be run at their Autumn Fair.

If sufficient support a Christmas shopping coach to Exeter will go from the parish hall on Tuesday 22 November, seats on which will be available for use by friends and family. Enquiries should be made to Dorothy Candy.

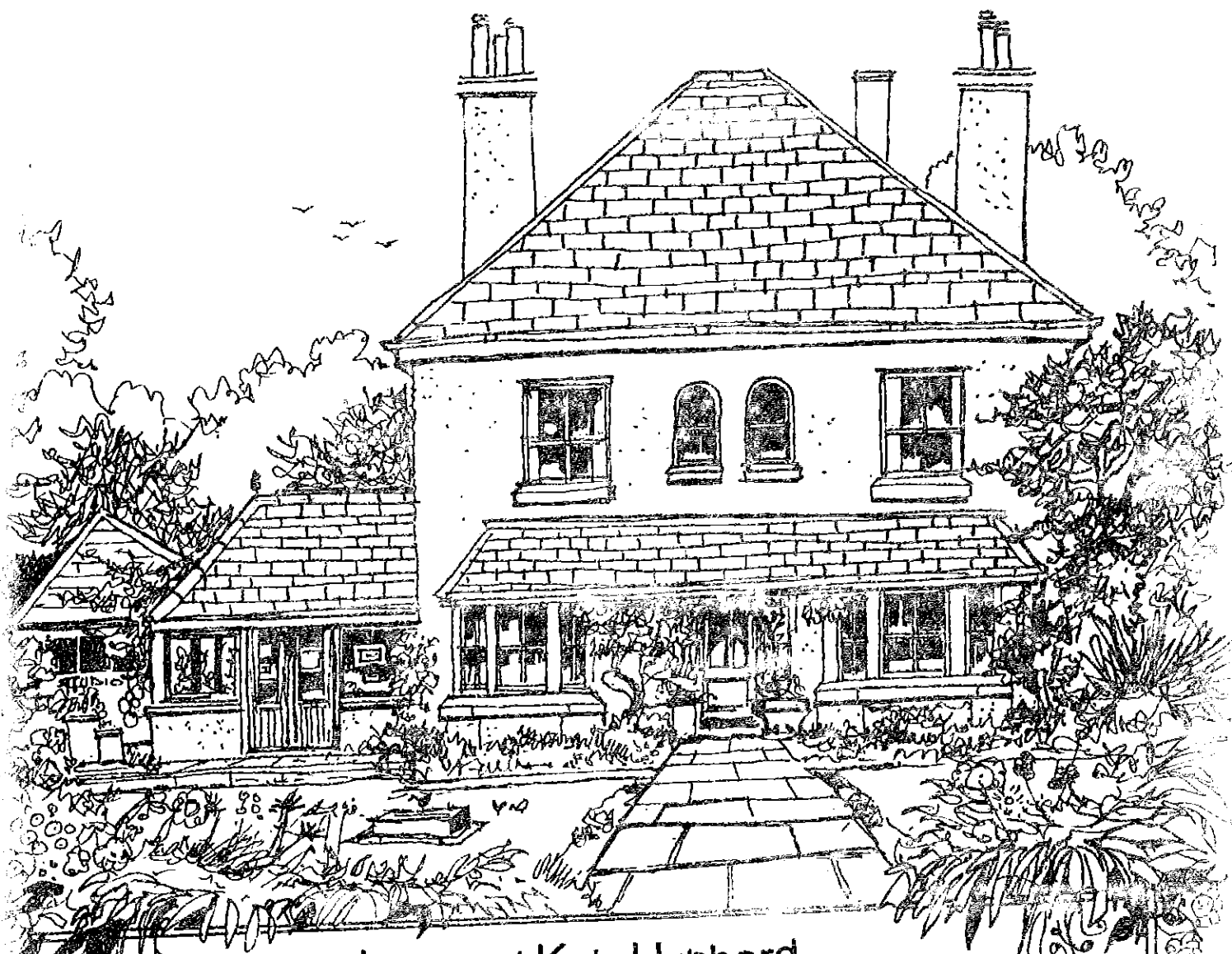
A Christmas Lunch will be held this year on 8 December, followed by Sheila Blake's demonstration of Christmas Wrappings, and reservations should be made through Mary Johnson.

Please remember that visitors will always be welcome to come and join us at any of our gatherings on the second Thursday in the month at the Parish Hall, 2.30 p.m. In October there will be a demonstration of sugarcraft by Teresa Purser.

P.M.

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

The Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall raised £752 for St. Luke's Hospice, who have written to thank all involved for their support.



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Neville OSWALD reports



ON THE FAR side of Modbury, the Plymouth road rises up a slope before entering a zig-zag and then descending into the town. Anyone driving up the slope and looking a little to the right will see a pleasant house standing alone below the church; it is now occupied by a practising dental surgeon, so I am told. As the former rectory, it was the birthplace of two boys who went on to be Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians. William Battle was born there in 1704 and became a distinguished psychiatrist; he is now remembered for his efforts in alleviating the appalling plight of insane paupers. George Baker, born in 1722 made a considerable name for himself in his profession.

George's father was the vicar of Modbury and archdeacon of Totnes, his mother being the daughter of Stephen Weston, Bishop of Exeter. He spent his childhood and early adult life in Modbury and one wonders how he passed his time. The Church was then passing through an unhappy phase, partly due to a succession of ineffective bishops at Exeter. Few candidates presented themselves for ordination, half the parishes had no resident parson and many of the incumbents rarely visited the livings from which they drew meagre incomes. About 20 of them kept their own pack of hounds, at a time when most parsons in the diocese ordinarily spent several days a week in the hunting field. When John Wesley visited South Devon in 1743, he 'wondered at the exquisite stupidity of his hearers'.

Presumably young George mixed with the descendants of the three leading Modbury families, namely the Champernownes, the Prideaux and the Fortescues (all good Norman stock), and indulged with them in hunting various animal species. Doubtless he visited Bantham for the sea-fishing, where he would have been told of the thriving trade in smuggling. He was sent away to be educated, first to Eton and then to King's College, Cambridge, of which he later became a Fellow. By then he had developed into a handsome man 'with an air of academic elegance'.

His medical apprenticeship was served at Stamford in Lincolnshire, of all places, where he spent several years in general practice. Aged 39, he found the ambience of the place too restrictive, as presumably did Margaret Thatcher at nearby Grantham many years later. He moved to London and soon acquired a fashionable practice. In due course he became president of the Royal College of Physicians for the

abnormally long period of nine years, when he was 'ousted by a manoeuvre', the nature of which has not been recorded. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1776 he was appointed Physician-in-Ordinary to King George III and created a baronet. He was not involved in the King's first attack of madness, which was successfully 'hushed up'. For the second attack, when he was in charge, he sent the King to Bath to take the waters, keeping in touch by letter, but to no avail. Four months later the King returned to London in a restless and delirious state. Baker, feeling the situation to be beyond his competence, applied a strait-jacket and sought further advice.

The reverend Dr. Francis Wills, keeper of a private madhouse, was summoned and assumed responsibility. Baker cannot be blamed for his shortcomings: his experience of mental disease was slight and he certainly was not conversant with the day to day management of violent patients.

Baker never lost his affectionate regard for the South Hams and often recommended a stay there for his 'valetudinarian' and other patients who needed a change of air. His attention was particularly drawn to the troublesome Devonshire colic which was attracting much publicity. The probable association with cider was recognised and was usually attributed to the excessive drinking of coarse, acid preparations. He came down to the (Royal) Devon and Exeter Hospital to which 70 to 90 patients with the colic were admitted each year. He noted the cramps, the vomiting and the weakness in the limbs which occasionally proceeded to a fatal paralysis. A similarity to lead poisoning was evident, so he took some juice or 'must' from lead-lined cider casks at Alphington and elsewhere and found it contained lead. He reported his findings in a formal lecture at the Royal College of Physicians and was promptly denounced as a 'faithless son of Devon' by his kinsmen, many of whom depended for their livelihood on the cider they and their forebears had carefully refined over the previous 400 years. Several local worthies, including Cookworthy, tested samples and could find no lead in them. An anonymous gentleman from Exeter suggested that any lead found in cider might have been acquired from pellets of shot fired at birds feeding on piles of rotting apples. Most apple growers thoroughly confused by the conflicting evidence, removed the lead from their millstones, conduits and casks without conceding the necessity to do so. Within a few years, the colic had virtually disappeared.

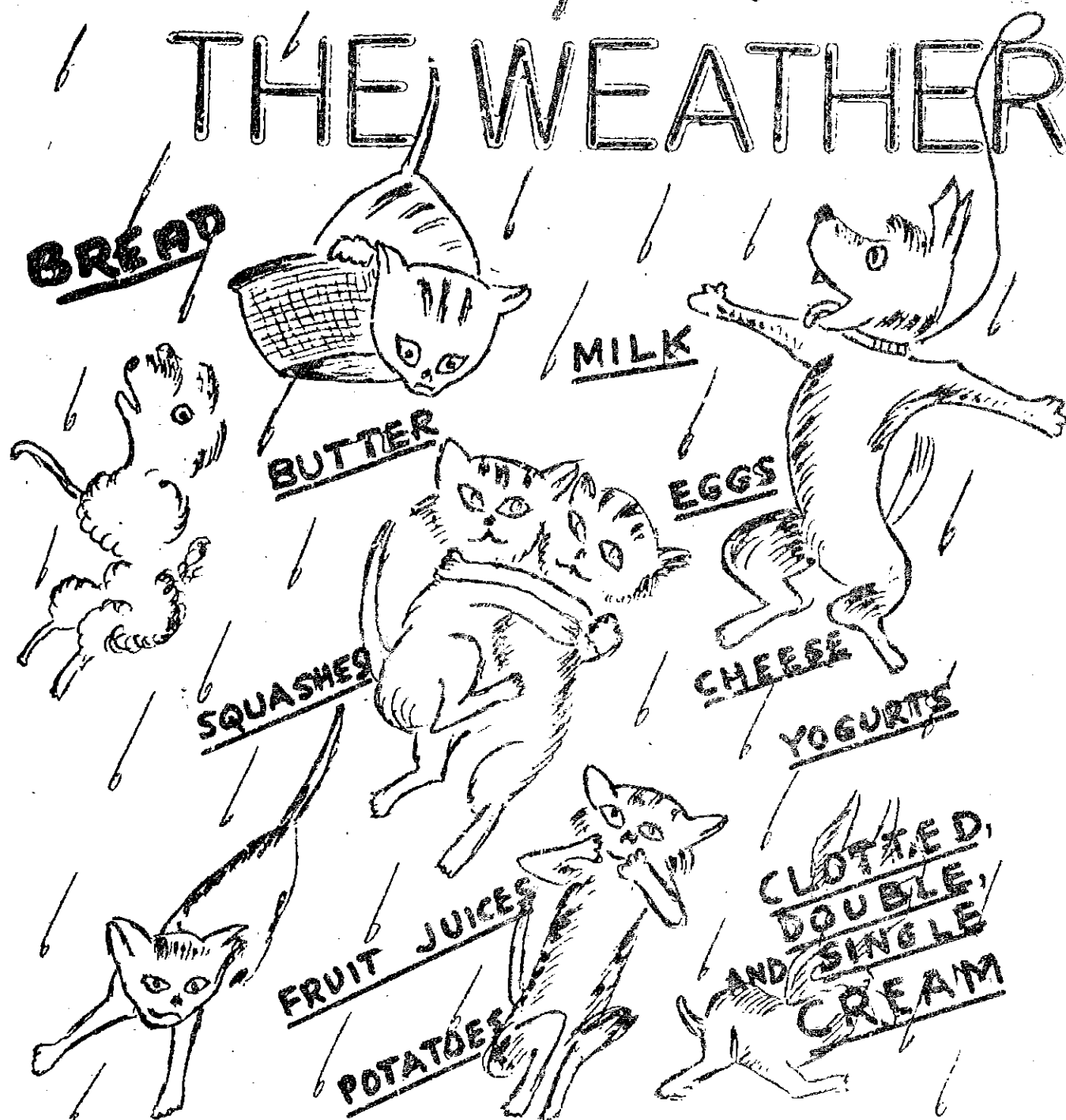
Baker enjoyed good health throughout his life. He died aged 77 and was buried at St. James Piccadilly in London, where he is commemorated by a mural plaque.

No mean record for a local boy.

Thanks to Neil Girling:

"Those video cameras at Bantham are a huge success. They are of great help to us and definitely cut down crime. We only look at the tapes after a crime has been committed or there is criminal activity in the area" - Inspector Patrick of Kingsbridge Police at the September Thurlestone Parish Council meeting.

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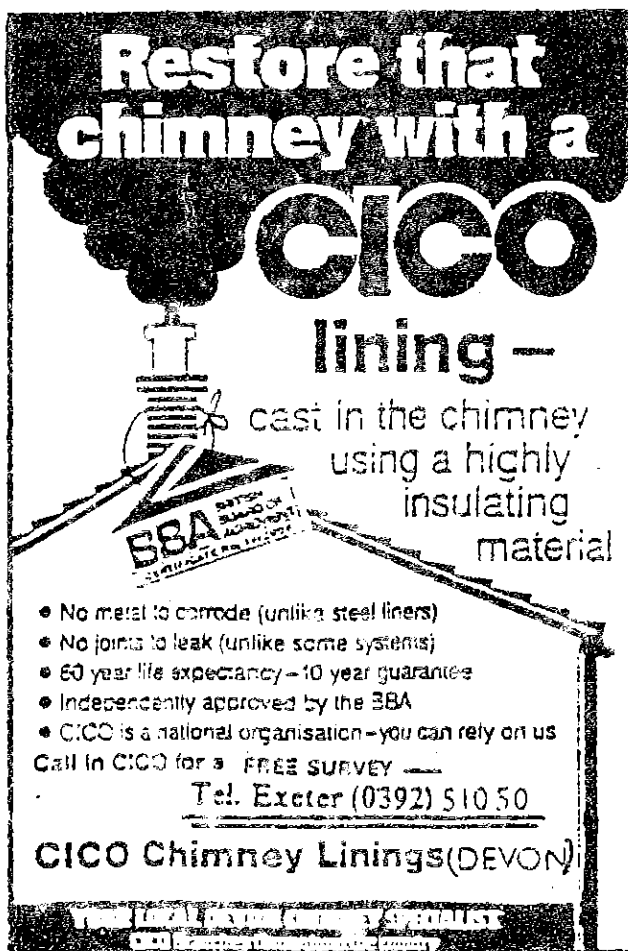
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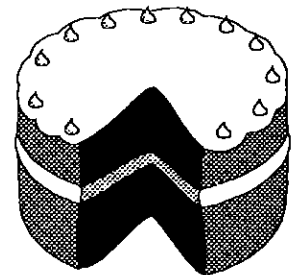
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SHOW NEWS

THE 1994 SHOW was held at the Village Hall, South Milton on August 6th. Here are the results:

CUP WINNERS

Fruit and vegetable, amateur - Mr D. Coward; Fruit and vegetable, o.
- Mr D. Coward; cut flowers and pot plants - Mrs S. Dwyer; Senior
Children - Miss A. Kucyj; Junior children - Master C. Luscombe;
cooking - Mrs L. Gunning; Handicrafts - Mrs D. Amess; Thurlestone
Resident - Mr D. Coward; South Milton Resident - Mrs D. Amess;
Yeo Cup (best amateur vegetable) - Mr D. Coward; Wray Cup (best open
vegetable) - Mr B. Horn; Chapman Bowl (overall rose) - Mrs S. Dwyer;
Marshall Cup (Rose) - Mrs S. Dwyer; President's tankard (fuschia) -
Mrs S. Dwyer; Flower arrangement - Mrs D. Amess; White Cup (senior
children) - Miss A. Kucyj; Derrick Yeoman cup (junior child) - Mas
C. Luscombe; Doris Tyler trophy (set recipe) - Mrs F. Bromfield;
Doris Jackson trophy (sewing) - Mrs D. Amess.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

SECTION A: Vegetables and fruit, amateur - Mr D. Coward
SECTION B: Vegetables and fruit, open - Mr B. Horn
SECTION C: Cut flowers and pot plants - Mr K. Goatley
SECTION D: Children 5-8 years old - Miss B. Stidston
Children 9-15 years old - Miss A. Kucyj
SECTION F: Handicrafts, Sewing - Miss C. McKillop

SECTION A - VEGETABLES AND FRUIT - AMATEURS ONLY

RESULTS:

Class: 1, Kidney potatoes, white - D. Coward; 2, Kidney potatoes,
coloured - B. Boughton; 5, Shallots, not hybrids - D. Coward;
6, Runner beans - Mrs M. Luscombe; 7, French beans - D. Coward;
9, Onions, from sets - D. Coward; 10, Peas - D. Coward; 11, Shallot
hybrid - D. Coward; 12, Carrots, stump - D. Coward; 14, Beetroot
globe - T. Church; 15, Lettuces - D. Coward; 16, Courgettes - E.
17, Tomatoes, with stems - D. Coward; 18, Parsley - D. Coward;
19, Marrows, - T. Church; 20, Cabbages - D. Coward; 21, Leeks - D. Cow.
23, Collection of herbs - E.G. White; 24, Any other vegetable - Mrs
A. Grose; 25, Longest runner bean - Mrs M. Luscombe;

SECTION B - VEGETABLES AND FRUIT - OPEN CLASSES.

29, Kidney Potatoes, white - Mr Dayment; 31, Round potatoes, white -
Mr Dayment; 33, Shallots, not hybrids - D. Coward; 34, Runner Beans -
B. Horn; 35, French beans - D. Coward; 37, Onions, from sets - D.
Coward; 38, Peas - Mr B. Horn; 40, Carrots, stump - T. Church;
42, Beetroot, globe - D. Coward; 43, Lettuces - D. Coward; 45, T
with stems - B. Horn; 46, Parsley - D. Coward; 47, Marrows - T. Chu.

SECTION C - CUT FLOWERS AND POT PLANTS.

57, Decorative dahlias - Mrs S. Dwyer; 58, Cactus dahlias - Mrs S. Dwyer; 59, Gladioli - Mrs V. Tanner; 61, Pansies - T. Church; 62, Hybrid Tea roses - Mrs S. Dwyer; 63, Rose bloom - Mrs S. Dwyer; 64, Floribunda rose - Mrs G. Goodfellow; 65, Hydrangea - Mrs S. Dwyer; 66, Flowering pot plant - Mr K. Goatley; 67, Fuschia, pot grown - Mrs S. Dwyer; 68, Foliage pot plant - Mrs V. White; 69, Annuals, 3 kinds - Mrs S. Dwyer; 70, Herbaceous perennials, 3 kinds - Mrs Strain; 71, Flowering shrubs, 3 kinds - Mrs S. Dwyer; 72, Hanging basket - Mrs S. Dwyer; 73, Arrangement of garden flowers - Mrs Amess.

SECTION D - CHILDREN'S CLASSES, 5-8 YEARS OLD.- RESULTS:-

74, Posy of flowers - C. Luscombe; 75, A picture - Miss E. Stidston; 76, Garden on a plate - Miss V. Trow; 77, Model of a dinosaur - A. McKillop; 78, Gingerbread men - Miss R. McKillop;

9-15 YEARS OLD

79, Sewn item - Miss K. Bromfield; 80, Collage - Miss A. Kucyj; 81, A picture - Miss D. Yeoman; 82, Chess piece made from vegetable/s - Miss K. Luscombe; 83, Item made from model kit - R. Luscombe;

SECTION E - COOKERY.

84, Jar of marmalade - Miss P. Brewster; 85, Jar of raspberry jam - (Chairman's special prize of £1) - Mrs F. Bromfield; 86, Jar any other variety jam - Mrs F. Macdonald; 87, Jar of Jelly - Miss V. Tanner; 88, Jar of lemon curd - Mrs F. Bromfield; 89, Jar of chutney - Miss P. Brewster; 90, Loaf of bread - Mrs L. Gunning; 91, Fruit scones - Miss P. Brewster; 92, Devon Pasty - Mrs L. Gunning; 93, Old World Plum cake - Mrs F. Bromfield; 94, Victoria Sandwich - Mrs D. Amess; 95, Bakewell tart - Mrs Amess;

SECTION F - HANDICRAFTS.

96, Item made from ball of wool - Miss E. Snowdon; 97, Hand knitted item - Mrs J. Fraser; 98, Something new from something old - Mrs Amess; 99, Embroidered item - Mrs V. Tanner; 100, Sewn item - Mrs Amess; 101, Any other handicraft item - Miss C. McKillop; 102, A landscape or still painting - Miss K. Bromfield; 103, A portrait - Mrs Rosecrow Davies; 104, A Drawing - Miss K. Bromfield; 106 A colour photograph - T. Gunning; 107, From the Family Album - Mrs H. McKillop (photograph taken prior to 1940).

For the first time Section B, Vegetables & Fruit OPEN, was open to exhibitors from outside the parishes. Overall, entries were slightly down on last year and we would encourage all gardening enthusiasts, great and small, to exhibit at next year's show.

John Lonsdale.

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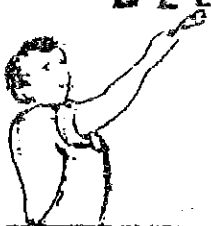
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Drabblemania

A MISCELLANY OF INTERESTING ITEMS : : :

The changes in what we do and what we eat are oft times taking us into new territory, and after reading the following report I consider it can only be a matter of time before you are going to add a new kind of bird to your diet, for I cannot imagine a progressive farmer failing to enter this new form of livestock farming. I can see it taking off much in the way the 'broiler' chicken - although I would be the first to agree the bird referred to here is a little more substantial.

The ostrich farming business in the U.S. is already way ahead of its fledgling counterpart in Europe. And while the ostrich leather sells at premium prices much of the excitement these long legged livestock are generating is based on the meat they produce. Technically, an ostrich is a bird. But its meat looks and tastes like beef - not poultry.

Raw ostrich meat is about the same red colour as beef, but usually a little darker because it has less internal fat. Properly prepared, ostrich steak and burgers taste as much like beef that most people can't tell them apart. But when it comes to fat and cholesterol there's a significant difference.

According to a USDA Report ostrich meat has about the same amount of cholesterol as lean turkey, twenty percent less than chicken or beef, and thirty percent less than pork. An 85gram serving of ostrich meat contains only 2grams of fat. The same size serving of broiler chicken or turkey has about 3 grams of fat, beef 15 to 16 grams, and pork 19 grams. The meat is also noted to have no unusual flavour or texture that might put off new consumers.

According to producer Sam Davis who farms near Bronham, Texas, a pair of adult ostriches and 15 to 20 offspring need only an acre to an acre and a half of land. At one year of age, 15 birds should yield between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds of meat. In his area where a rancher typically needs 3 to 4 acres for a cow and her calf, Davis figures, a pair of ostriches should easily produce twice as much meat as a cow on only one third as much land. Even selling birds only for slaughter at 700 to 800 dollars apiece, a good manager should be able to make two to three thousand dollars an acre with ostriches, Mr Davis says.

Ostriches have been raised commercially in Southern Africa for 100 years. Markets for their meat, leather and feathers already exists !

However, all this will not interest the Vegans. I wonder ! The meat industry can now look to archaeology for support in its drive to encourage consumption. Studies of bone and fossil remains show that primitive man was an enthusiastic meat eater. Nutritionists at Alberta Research Institute in Canada, estimate that 100,000 years before plants were domesticated our forebears were eating ten times more meat than the average modern day Canadian or European. It seems that a physiological professor at the University considers there is no evidence that man was not designed to eat and absorb animal protein. The short human colon is designed to absorb a mixture of nutritious foods including meat. A further insight into our ancestors' tastes comes from archaeological discoveries in the Middle East. Chemical analysis of residues found in jars dated to 3500 BC indicates that Sumarians were enjoying beer produced from fermented barley.

So, if you're having beer with your steak tonight, raise a glass to these noble ancestors !

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

I N E U R O P E

it seems to me, obsessive bureaucratic social 'engineers' have planned out an infinite, all-embracing superstate for us: a colossus of government and control that will watch us in that big-brotherly way until the day we die. Gradually, like the superstore, is choking off all opposition, ironing out all those irritating obstacles, such as the existence of people and nations. True enough, lots of us use the superstore and say they like it. Some even say that it makes them feel better, in the way that going to church used to make you feel better. Now that store is open on Sunday it does indeed seem to be becoming a form of alternative religion, and there are even more 'blind' people who want more European union, perhaps because they think it will be 'better' for them. But there are a growing number who are resisting -- men and women who want to ensure a real national parliament and all the things that are familiar, local and real as in grandfather's day !

The evidence of history proves that if a system is imposed upon people that does not accord with their natural loyalties, that system will collapse. It has happened in Russia. It has happened in Yugoslavia and there are signs that it is happening within the so called European Union. Sensible people, no matter what silly ideas they have been expected to swallow will come to see through the daftness eventually.

+ + + + +

Now is the time for all of us to come to the aid of the local shop - the dairyman, newsagent, coal merchant and butcher. The value of some of these village services is without price and if we all used our cars a little less the air we breathe would be a little less polluted - and that pollution is now considered responsible for the growing tendency to asthma now stated to be affecting one in ten of the younger generation.

+ + + + +

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW - I am advised there is no evidence of a significant decision for change - in fact an earlier public consultation exercise showed a majority clearly favoured no change. Alternative options put by the Commission indicated a probable cost in excess of 20 million pounds - surely not affordable except at the expense of services or increased charges.. Anyone concerned with Local Government who recalls the last attempt at re-organisation in 1974-5 will accept it was a costly blunder - and the costs to ratepayers has increased year by year to pay for it. Now again, please.

+ + + + +

America is a wonderful country without question. As in this country it is people who spoil it ! I read that in 1991 - the latest authentic figures - 38,317 people died from gunshot wounds. However 43,536 died in motor vehicle accidents, and it is said that is the most likely way you will die in America. It was also recorded that there were 67 million - yes, million - handguns (revolvers) in 'circulation' and 65 people are killed on a daily basis by handgun fire. Mind you they have something like five times our population. Despite our weather it does seem there is a lot to be said for living in Britain don't you think .

+ + + + +

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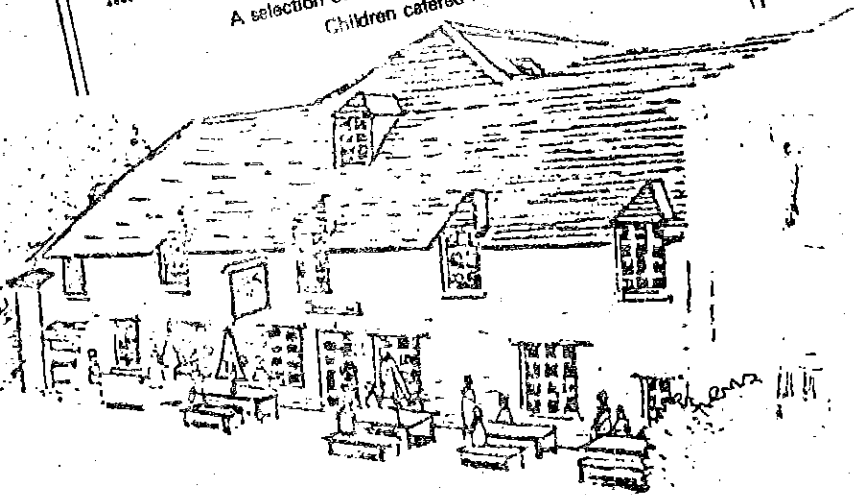
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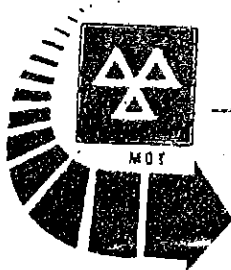
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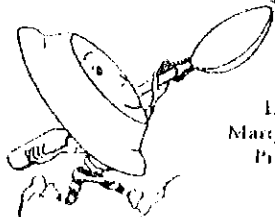
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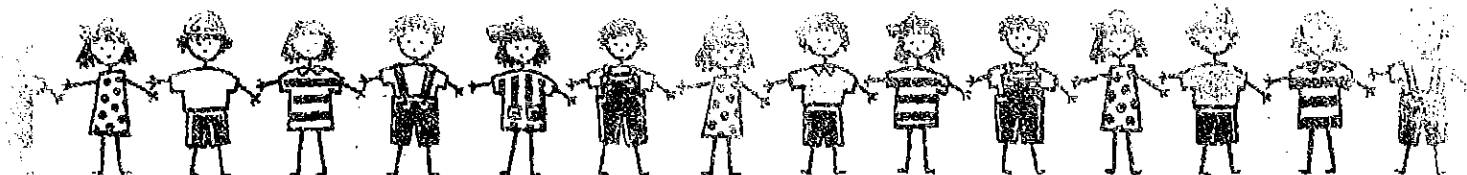
CLUELESS CROSSWORD

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

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



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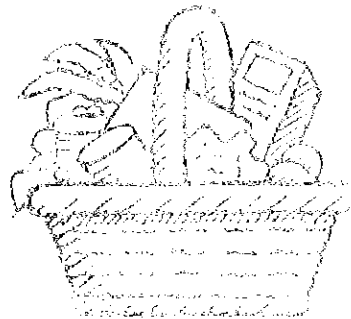
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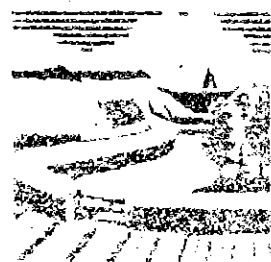
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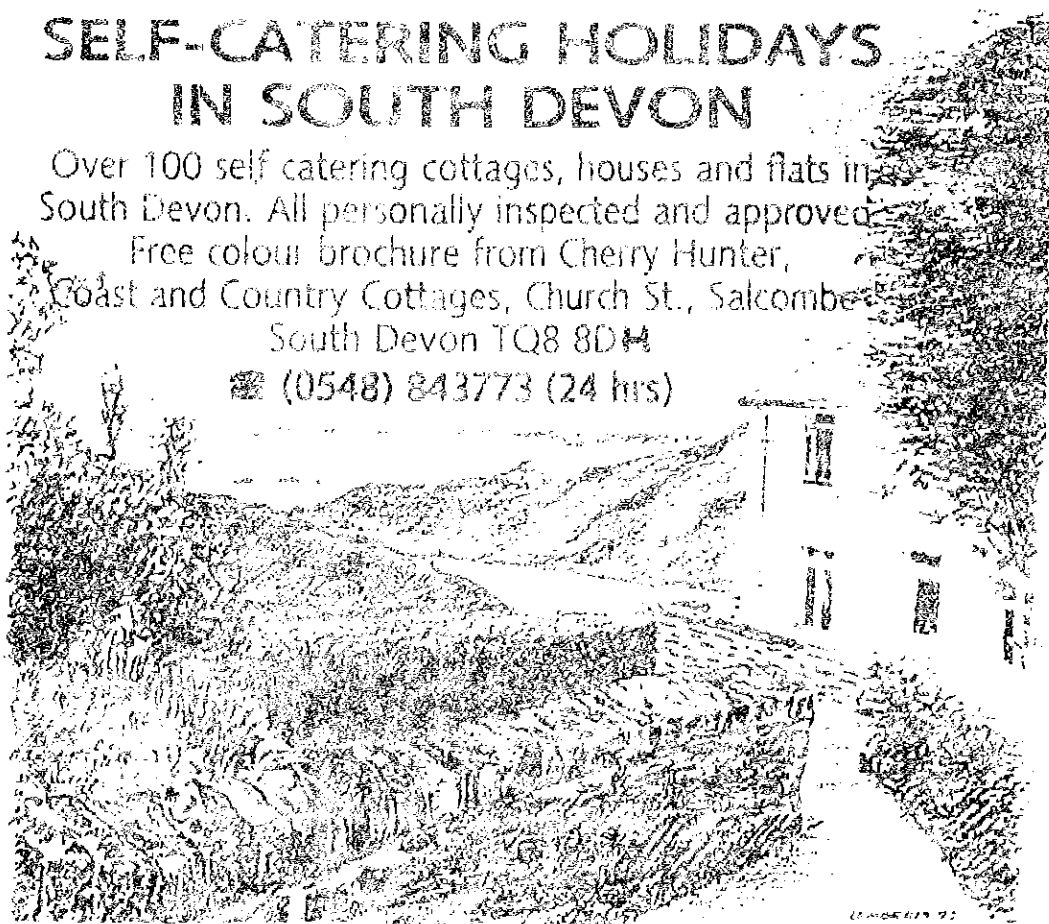
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COAST AND
COUNTRY
COTTAGES





HARRY HUGGINS

WAY BACK THIS column talked about some things which birdwatchers do. Listing and twitching, mostly. Here is some more of what they do.

They join societies. In due course they also leave them - through natural causes, leaving the district, or maybe they feel the society no longer has anything for them. Some squabble with other members - I know of at least one birder who could quarrel with the man in the moon.

If your bird watching runs no further than to Robins and Blackbirds on the lawn, a specialist society is not really for you. But of course you join the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (founded to stop ladies wearing birds on their hats). This makes you feel good because you think you are doing something for the birds. Which you are. It has its detractors. Tell me a big organisation which does not - think of South West Water, trying to contend with those who want clean beaches and those who have to pay.

The RSPB does an awful lot for birds in this country and to a lesser extent in other countries too. Its main functions are to provide suitable environment for birds (and many other forms of wildlife for that matter), to enforce the laws protecting birds and their eggs, and to bash the ears of government departments to try to improve things for birds.

It does some specialist studies into individual species - our own very rare Cirl Bunting is the subject of a continuing investigation, not least because the factors which have caused its near extinction have adversely affected other species such as Skylarks and Corn Buntings. Farmers ploughing up stubbles mostly. When we lived in north Essex Corn Buntings teemed. At that time the farmers there did what they called direct drilling. I suppose they burnt off the stubble after harvest. They didn't plough (the heavy clay of Essex marshes was probably too soggy for that) but they just put their seed for the next crop in under what was left after the previous harvest. Lots of old seeds were left for the birds to eat during the winter. That doesn't happen now they plough immediately after harvest.

The RSPB is not interested if you find a baby bird which has lost its mother, you leave that alone and when all is quiet she will come to look for it. Nor does it want to know if you find a seagull with a damaged wing. You ring the RSPCA for that, remembering that if you take in an injured gull you must get your children, and probably your grandchildren, to make provision in their wills for it, it will live so long.

I said provide suitable environment. As years have gone by, the countryside has become less hospitable for birds and other wildlife. So the RSPB makes suitable habitat on its reserves, at the last count something like 200,000 acres of them, about half owned outright and the remainder leased or whatever. The Autumn '94 issue of Birds, the RSPB magazine, gave a few figures for the reserve at West Sedgemoor, in the Somerset Levels. In four years wintering Wigeons increased from 31 to 8,600 (no wonder we don't get so many here now). Teals went from 250 to 10,000+, Lapwings from 1,200 to 36,000+. Mainly because the Society has controlled water levels; it has been less than popular with neighbouring farmers, interfering with their draining land, to produce grain which nobody wants, or taking off peat, a practice which sounds remarkably like selling the family silver. Land purchase and management are jolly expensive; the RSPB needs its annual income of over £30 million.

At the last count it had nearly 900,000 members.

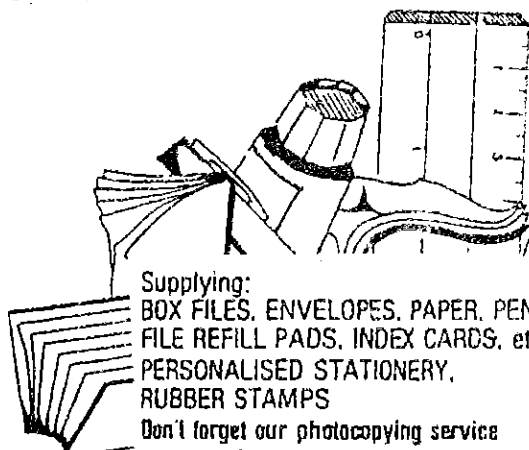
You tell me they cannot all be birdwatchers, surely there are not that many. There could be, you know. Go to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge (nothing to do with the RSPB) on a winter weekend and you will believe that there are that number of birdwatchers and that they are all there. Two sorts mostly. Lots of parents taking kiddiwinks to feed the dear dicky birds (the place is very near Bristol) and dedicated birders coming to see what goodies there are around; you queue to get in the viewing hides. Slimbridge is in the marshes near the river Severn, a wonderful place for ducks, geese and swans, which is why the late Peter Scott put it there in the first place. There are waders, birds of prey, huge flocks of Wigeons and a flock of 4,000+ White-fronted Geese, as well as the Bewick's Swans, the real reason for Slimbridge. Last time we went I marvelled. The twitchers had picked out among the White-fronts just one Lesser White-fronted Goose, very rare and not very different. They were very solemn and knowledgeable about this and we were very perplexed. How clever they were to identify it. Then a lady gave the game away, of course they could recognise it, it was wearing a collar (put on in Finland where they were running a release programme).

So you join the RSPB because you get a little cosy warm glow inside. It costs £20 a year (£24 joint); you write to The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. It advertises in many of the papers and you are always getting brochures in magazines, which is why recruitment costs nearly £2,500,000 a year, out of a subscription income of £10 million. Fair do's, membership has increased from around 20,000 fifty years ago to nearly a million now. As well as the warm glow inside you get a magazine four times a year, very well done, if a bit full of horror stories designed to get you to reach for your cheque book, and you can visit the reserves. There is none very close to us here, just some bits of land in the marshes around Exeter and a stretch in the East Devon commons. After that, West Sedgemoor is the closest and Radipole Lake, in the middle of Weymouth a little more distant. Go there, it is a jolly good reserve with a lot of interesting birds.

If you want to be a bit more than an out of the window birder you need a specialist local society. We have always been interested in birds, I was reared surrounded by natural history, principally moths and butterflies, bird studies ran mostly to shooting them; but our knowledge grew by leaps and bounds when living in Clacton-on-Sea we joined the miniscule and grandly named St. Osyth Bird Watching and Preservation Society. St. Osyth (locally pronounced "Toosey") is a

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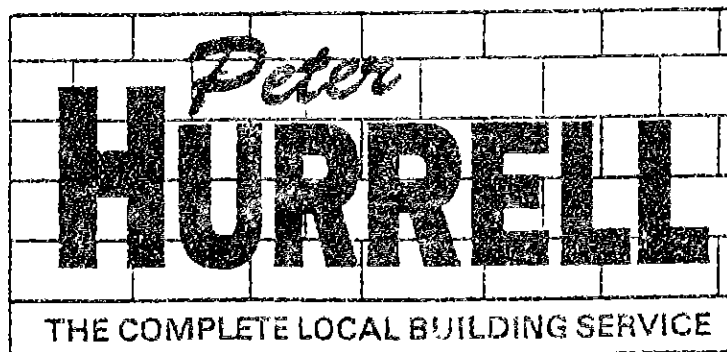
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village a few miles from Clacton, named after a seventh century lady who after her head had been lopped off, by the Danes, walked with it to the place where she wanted a priory in her memory. Or so they say, There were not very many members, thirty or forth I suppose, but some were very good birders who were prepared to pass on their knowledge and by going on organised country walks with them we learned a lot - enough to help ourselves further.

In these parts the local outfit is Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society. Note the "PREservation" again. In fact the Devon Society preceded the St. Osyth one by several decades; a lot of these things were called "Bird Watching and Preservation", it must have been the fashion. When the Devon Society was formed, about seventy years ago, they were going to call it "Devon Ornithological Society" but the founding fathers preferred the present title - they said, quite rightly, that any rare bird which strayed to Devon was shot forthwith. One of the main aims of the society was to be to stop that from happening. Some of today's members want to change it to "Devon Ornithological Society"; so far they have been resisted, on the grounds that the proposed new name sounds pretentious and anyway who can spell "ornithological"?

Membership secretary is Dave Jenks 0803;312543. Subscription is £8; £9 for family. The Society takes in the whole county, but there are local branches, with talks in Exeter and other places and over fifty field meetings a year spread out over the county. There is an excellent annual report, on birds seen in the county; a magazine and newsletters. There are a few small reserves, in particular a tiny one at Prawle Point, by the National Trust car park, good for rare birds at migration time, and more relevantly for us, South Milton Ley. You stand on the bridge and look; you won't see much, but the birds are there: it is a reserve for birds not people. That in fact is how the RSPB would like to have many of their reserves, but it has to let the people in, it wants their money.

Birdwatchers who belong to something like the Devon Bird Society do other things. They send in records. The county recorder compiles details of what is submitted and in due course the annual report appears. Society members get it for their subscription, others pay about a fiver. Around 25% of the members of the Devon society send in something, maybe just a note of one or two species. Others write more. Each year we try to put in a more or less full report of everything we have seen in our patch, which is this parish plus a few outlying places we visit fairly often, like Bolberry Down.

A vital part of what birdwatchers do is surveys, counting birds. Not many do this, but it is important. A survey may relate to just one species, or it might be about an area. For example, all estuaries and wetland places in Great Britain are counted in perpetuity once a month on a fixed day. The Wetland Bird Survey they call that, a creature of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the RSPB and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, which I think is a government thing. If anything considered adverse to birds and conservation generally is proposed, then details of the birds using the area can be produced.

So if for example, they say they want to dam off the Kingsbridge estuary at Salcombe - I haven't heard it proposed but it would be a fleabite to what was done to the estuaries in Holland, - lists of all the birds using it can be trotted out at once to support the howls of protest.

Sundry boffins compile these records, at the BTO and the WWT. They themselves can't go out on one day and count the birds on every wet place in the British Isles, Maybe they can't go out at all,

When we gave my father's moths, butterflies, slugs and snails (yes, he collected those too) to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington I remarked to the young men who came to fetch them that they must have an interesting life. They said the amateurs like me father had that. For their part they spent their time in the museum blowing off dust and cataloguing. Let us hope that the boffins can get out at weekends.

So the counting is delegated to local birders like us; the boffins must hope that we know what we are looking at and that the counting is reasonably accurate. It is nevertheless, never completely so - the people who do Kingsbridge Estuary were told one winter by members of the wildfowl club that, the latter had shot more Teals than ever the counters had counted, without any apparent fall in the numbers of the birds!

Big estuaries, the Exe, Kingsbridge and Tamer, get split between several counters. Others do little bits - someone from Plymouth does the ditches and puddles on Farmer Stidston's field opposite the golf club, plus what he can see of South Milton Ley and the marsh behind the National Trust Car Park at South Milton. They have dug out a pond there now, and so he has a little more to look at. He had some recompense for his small area last August - he found a Wood Sandpiper a very rare passage migrant, on one of Farmer Stidston's puddles. Not to worry, he only looks from the road.

When we offered to take part, about twelve years back, they said we could do a stretch of the Tamar. We declined that; with thanks. Apart from the distance from Thurlestone, the Tamar estuary looks a bleak place. Once in a while, on a nice sunny day with no wind, it is pleasant to walk along a sea wall, which is what you mostly do there. But in rain, or when a cold winter wind blows, sea walls are places to avoid. So we got the estuary of the Erme instead. By the kindness of Mr. Mildmay-White, who gives us permission to go there, we have done it ever since and hope to continue until we get too feeble. It is ideal, not too far to walk, well sheltered by woods, and if sometimes a dog or walker frightens the birds off the river, usually they come back before it is time for us to go to lunch, the area being well provided for so doing - in Holbeton the Mildmay Colours or Dartmoor Union, or the Fisherman's Rest at Aveton Gifford, or the Church House Inn at Churchstow. Please I drink only apple juice.

We don't get paid for this, nor do we get expenses. We don't expect it, you have to go for a walk somewhere and where better than on the pleasant banks of the Erme. After all, look at golf. I assume that at the time of writing Mr. Nick Price is doing nicely, thank you. But most golfers pay to do it, and pay much more than we pay for doing bird watching, which costs us only the price of our petrol and maybe a pleasant nosh somewhere when we want to get out of the heat of the sun/cold of the wind.

I am wrong about getting no reward. Once a year we are sent a nicely printed book setting out all the results of the previous year's counting. Quite interesting, and a remarkably good cure for insomnia.

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MENTS AND QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

That is our regular estuary count. Also we get requests, through Devon Bird Society, to look for other things. This year there have been Dartford Warblers, House Martins and gulls on buildings. We were asked to find singing male Dartford Warblers between Bolt Head and Bolt Tail. We found none, but friends did and that sufficed, House Martins have been getting fewer, which is why they are doing a five year study of them. We had to find ten nests which we could follow up for the next four years - they should return to the same place each year. A few years back we could have done it without ever leaving our own garden, not now, and the new flats at Merchants Garden are where we are studying. For the gulls a lady at Durham University wanted us to count the ones nesting on roofs. On the Yarmer estate mostly we found them. If we were seen gazing at houses there through binoculars we were not trying to watch what goes on in bedrooms; you can see that sort of thing much better on television than ever you can on the Yarmer estate. We tried to count Herring Gull chicks on roofs. With the help of our friends we found ten nesting sites, which were five times as many as they found twenty years ago when this survey was done last, and that was not all of them, we must have missed out on some.

Sometimes, though, doing a survey disappoints. A few years ago we counted breeding Buzzards. Not difficult and we enjoyed doing it. You go out on fine mornings in late winter and early spring and watch them soaring over their territories. Each pair has an area where it will nest and which it defends against other Buzzards. If one pair thinks another is getting too near its boundaries it will fly up. We never saw them get as far as fighting - a Buzzard is a somewhat cowardly bird which believes that he who fights and runs away lives to fight another day, which is one of the reasons why this is an extremely successful species. We watched them wheeling around, sometimes several pairs at once and it was not difficult to count how many pairs there were. We had great fun doing this, chasing up and down little lanes in an area between Thurlestone and Ermington and out nearly to the A.38.

We sent in our results, and after a decent interval, in fact quite an indecent interval, having heard nothing about the overall result of the survey we made enquiries. Oh, we were told, the man who asked for the survey to be done has left the British Trust for Ornithology, or wherever, and found employment elsewhere; the information has been filed and no one else is interested in doing anything with it.

Doing bird surveys can be frustrating at times, but we still enjoy doing them.

ANSWERS TO PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER: CLUELESS CROSSWORD.

Across: Patch, Stage, Oculist, Zebra, Awoke, Revelry, Amend, Spelt, Prate, Kisses, Muesli, Ankle, Sorrel, Nitric, Mowed, Jemmy, Adage, Artisan, Iliac, Glows, Eject, Yield.

Down: Pizza, Table, Hoard, Quaver, Fillet, Stays, Abode, Exert, Moidore, Nostrum, Pleated, Lirting, Psalm, Askew, Emend, Output, Ensues, Juice, Maize, Yacht, Angry, Adore, Eased.

or: 1-P, 2-A, 3-T, 4-G, 5-V, 6-N, 7-B, 8-H, 9-Z, 10-O, 11-I, 12-M, 13-Q, 14-E, 15-X, 16-C, 17-K, 18-Y, 19-D, 20-R, 21-J, 22-U, 23-F, 24-S, 25-W, 26-L.

Kate's Kitchen



A WICKED PUDDING!

WARM fires, cosy candlelit dinners - and puddings - are always things to look forward to in the Autumn. This one is not a sweet or desert, but a gloriously wicked pudding. It's a great favourite with our family...Treacle Tart, or should I say Golden Syrup Tart!

Treacle is the black sticky stuff, made from the drainings of crude sugar and great for Bonfire Night toffee, but I use the golden syrup, which is lighter and sweeter, though the lemon juice makes it less rich.

Use either a basic shortcrust pastry or a rich sweet one to line an 8" or 9" flan tin.

For the filling - 2 ozs Softened Butter, grated rind and juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ Lemon, 6 tbsp. Golden Syrup, 2 ozs White Bread Crumbs (slightly dry), 2 ozs Coconut, 1 Egg (well beaten).

Cream together the butter and syrup, add lemon rind and juice and beat in. Fold in the breadcrumbs and coconut, add the well beaten egg and mix thoroughly. Put into the flan case, spreading evenly.

Bake for 30-35 minutes at 180C, or 170C in fan-assisted ovens, until deep brown. Serve warm with custard. This can be eaten cold. The flavour improves with keeping - if you can manage to!

N.B. If you do not like coconut, replace with the same quantity of ground almonds.

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

Thanks to all those who supported and helped with the Barbecue on The Green. Over £700 was raised for the restoration of the stained glass windows in the Church.

More fund-raising for the windows of the Church comes on October 25 when the Coffee Morning includes the sale of Christmas cards and Christmas candles.

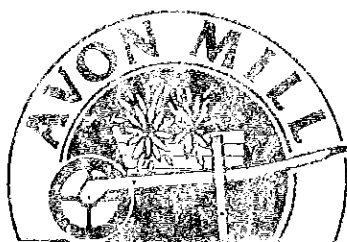
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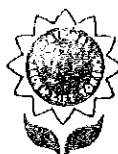
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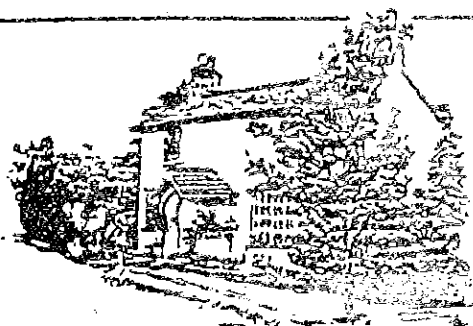
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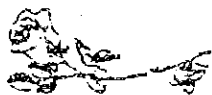
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VILLAGE VOICE can only be distributed FREE TO RESIDENTS of the Parish.

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the Parish Rate, but it was founded on behalf of the Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship. But this does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views or opinions of any member of the Thurlestone Parish Council and should be ascribed only to the authors concerned.

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

Extra copies may be bought from local newsagents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morley at the Village Stores. There is also a subscription service, which sends copies to readers all over the country at an annual cost of £8, which includes postage.



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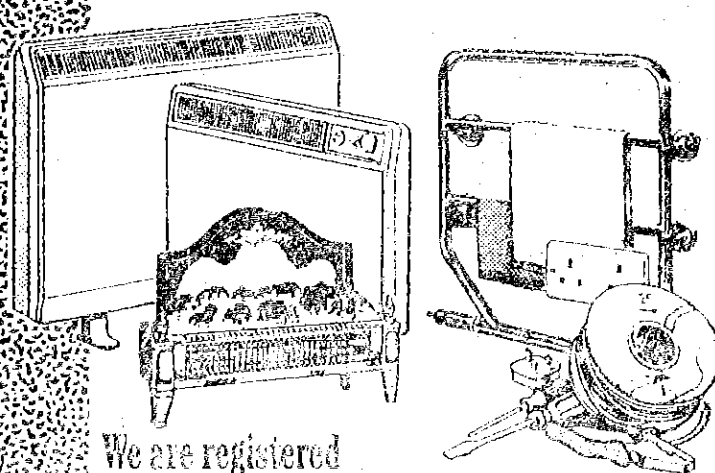
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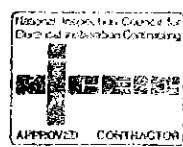
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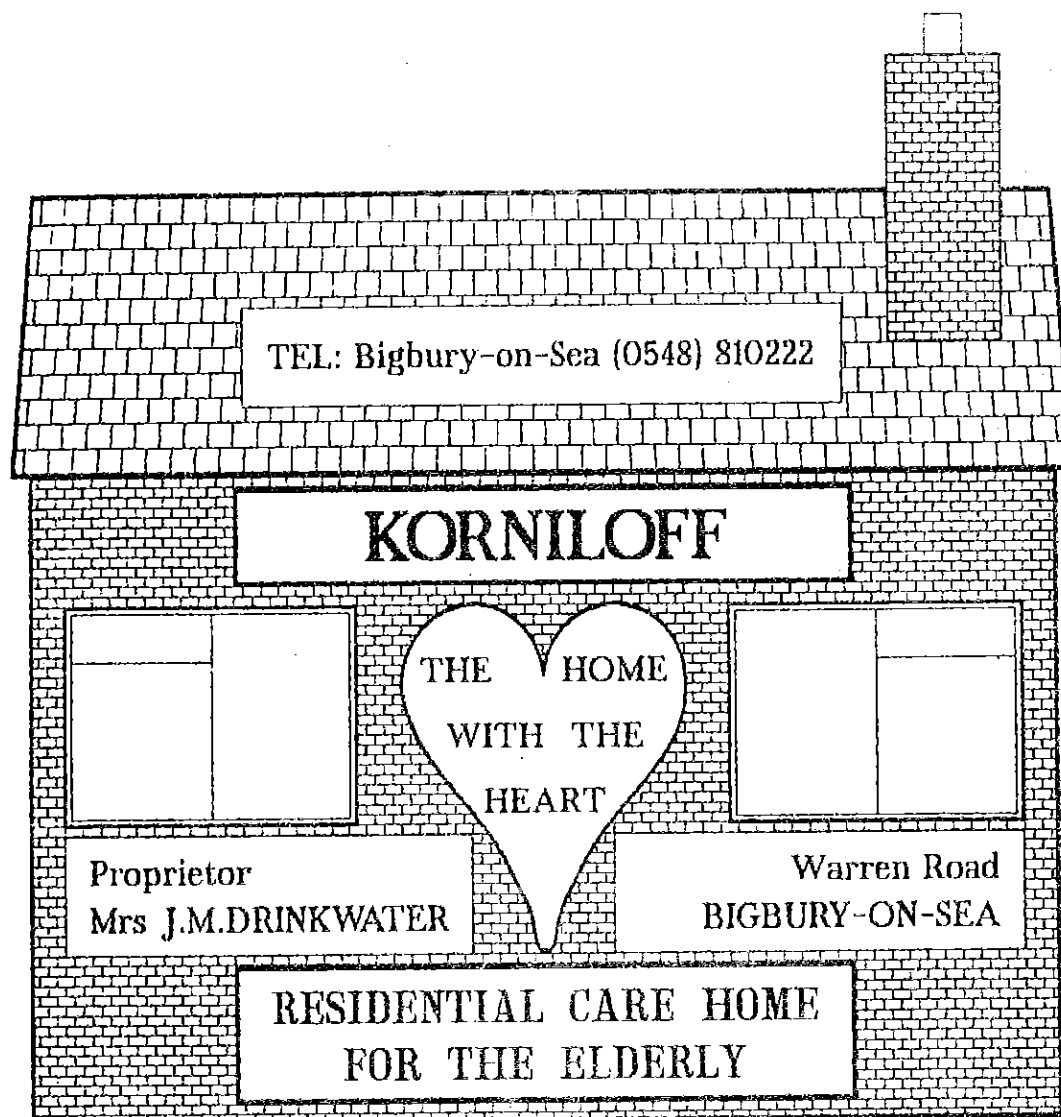
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VILLAGE VOICE SUPERGUIDE

October

- Sat 1st Anthony Steen, M.P., on villages tour. Parish Hall 12.15 pm.
- Thurs 6th Coffee Time starts at Rectory Barn 10.30 -11.30am
- Sat 8th Coffee Morning, Children's Hospice South West, Parish Hall 10.00am
- Wed 12th Tramp Walk. Gara valley and coast.
- Sat 15th Parish Hall Fete. Parish Hall.
- Tues 18th Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Sat 22nd Devonshire Assoc. Parish Hall 2.30pm "English Watercolours"
- Tues 25th All Saints Coffee Morning, Rectory Barn 10.30am for Christmas Decorations.
- Thurs 27th Conservatives Bridge Evening. Thurlestone Hotel 6.30pm
- Sat 29th Jumble Sale W.I. Parish Hall 2.30pm

November

- Wed 9th Tramp Walk. Local including Bowcombe, Malston Mill.
- Sat 12th Christmas Bazaar of NSPCC Parish Hall 10.30am
Devonshire Assoc. Parish Hall 2.45. "Devon Before Man"
- Sat 26th Conservatives Christmas Bazaar. Parish Hall 10.30am
NSPCC Christmas Bridge. Parish Hall 6.30 for 7pm

December.

- Sat 3rd Church Christmas Bazaar. Parish Hall 10.30am
- Sun 4th Village Voice Printer's Birthday party. Ritz Madrid.
- Wed 14th Tramp Christmas walk. Lunch at Hunters Lodge, Cornworthy

1995

- Sat March 18th Devonshire Assoc. Parish Hall 2.30pm "Walking Policeman"
- Fri April 21st Barn Dance. South Milton Village Hall 8pm
- Mon April 24th AGM of Mead. Parish Hall 7.30pm.

Have you given Village Voice your Dates for inclusion in the December 1994 - January 1995 issue? This will be one of your last chances to get your 1995 dates into everyone's hands. Don't delay. On a postcard through Cradles Cottage letterbox. Now please.

NEXT COPY DEADLINE FOR THE CHRISTMAS EDITION (PUBLICATION DECEMBER 1) IS..... NOVEMBER THE FIRST.

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