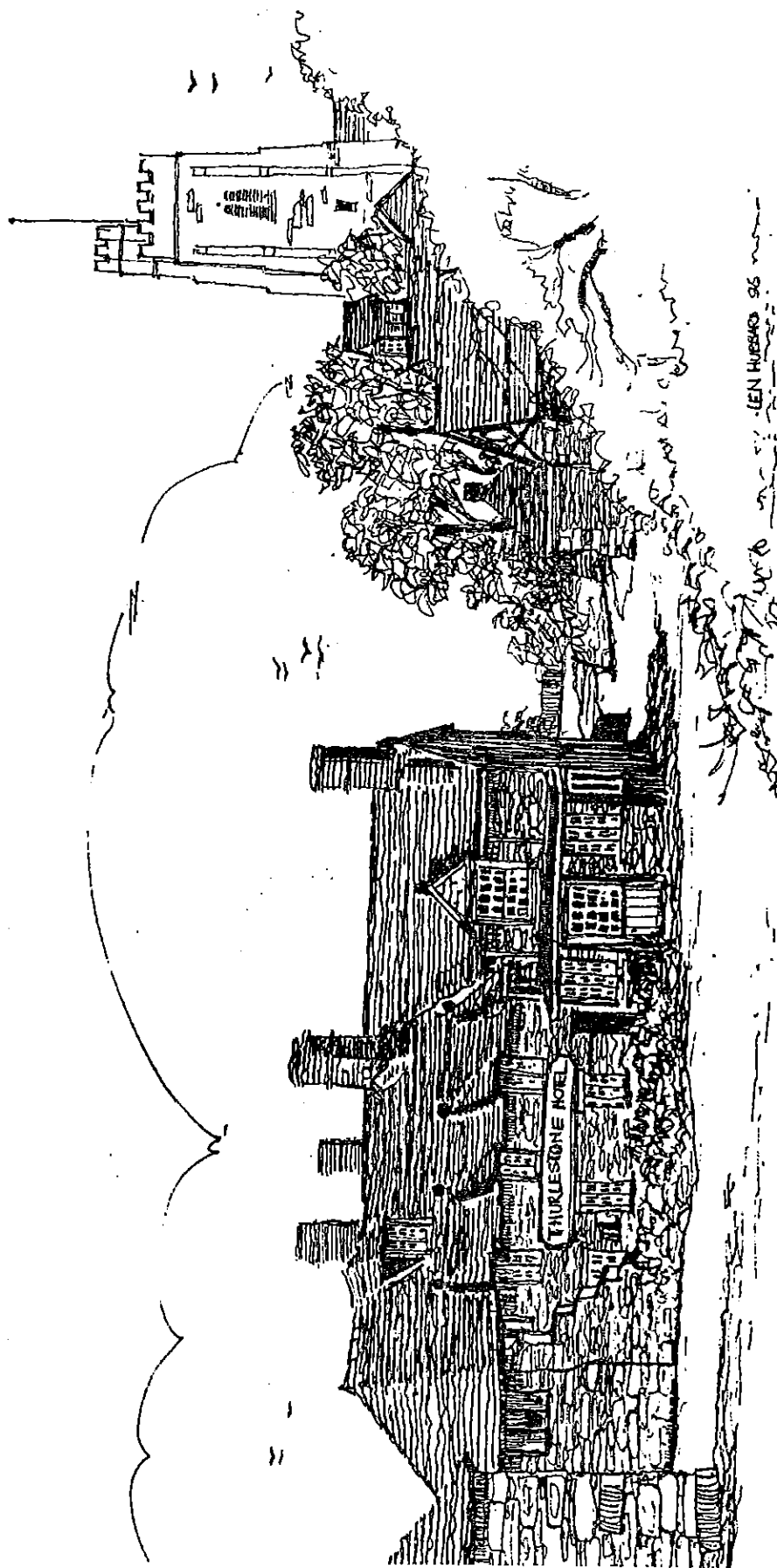


JUNE - JULY 1996



VILLAGE VOICE



Founder Dudley Drabble

Editor PAT MACDONALD
25 Mead Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3PB
01548-560436

Deputy Editor JO PARKIN
Ardentigh
& Court Lane
Advert Thurlestone
Manager TQ7 3ND
01548-561215

Production AL PARKER

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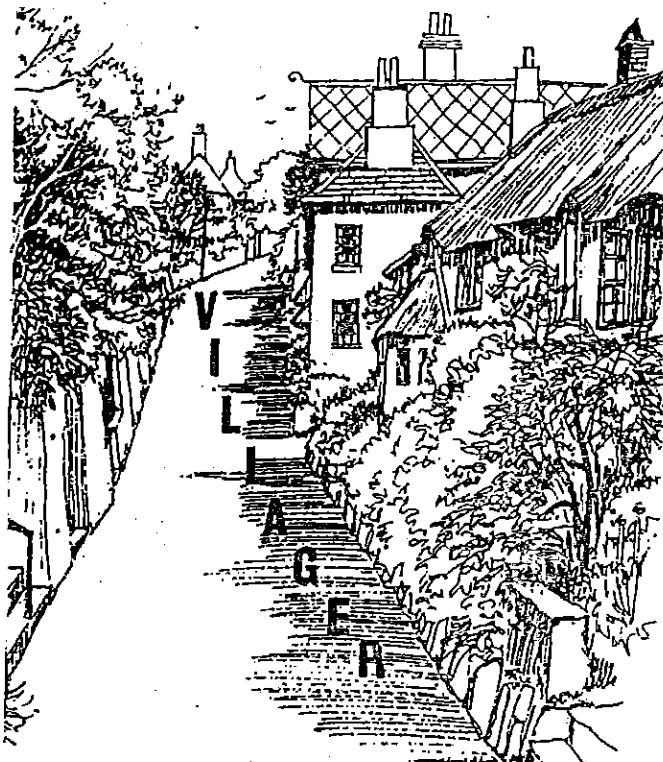
It is not often that Village Voice has the chance of singing Happy Birthday in print to someone who has done more for the parish over the past 23 years than most other people. For it was just about 23 years ago that young Peter Bromfield took over the parish milk round. As he explains, "As soon as I had passed my driving test my brother said 'Right, you can now take the milk round over', and I did!"

Today he is still Peter the Milk but he has done so much more than just deliver the white stuff. In his time he must have put round many thousands of notices for sales, fetes, coffee mornings and meetings of all kinds, and he also acts as distributor for Village Voice in Thurlestone. Everyone ought to support him as he has supported us. He is one of that tiny band of local people who provide our village with its shops and services and to whom we ought to give more of our custom than we sometimes do. Unless we use them, we'll lose them.

Fortunately there's no sign of our losing Peter. So which birthday of his is coming along this month? Well, he's a bit sensitive about it, but it is the 'Big One'. No, he's not 80, 70, or even 60. Not even 50. The 'Big One' to youngsters of his age is just 40.

His actual birthday date is 29th June 1996. Why don't we all put a card out with our milk bottles that day, just to show him we DO care!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PETER, FROM ALL AT VILLAGE VOICE!



THEY'VE BEEN DIGGING UP the past in Thurlestone - quite literally. First, Gordon Jeffery and his merry men were working to restore the slipping wall down by the Pumphouse when they found treasure. Don't all rush! The treasure they found was only treasure to those of us who are interested in the past - the bowl of a clay pipe. But a clay pipe with a difference.

The bowl of fine white clay was decorated with a hand holding a heart on each side. The hand is open like a stop sign with the little heart on its palm and the hand emerges from either an elaborate

ruffle or a crown. Though archaeologists don't like to speculate, I like to think that the owner was smoking his pipe down by the Pumphouse while watching the women carry the water from the well (as women should of course). His pipe was obviously a gift from one of the women with its "My heart is in your hands" message. When it broke he hid the fragments in the wall rather than break a local lady's heart.

Clay pipes can be dated from their shapes and makers' marks or initials. The earliest English clay pipes date from around the Armada time (remember Walter Raleigh) and have very small bowls because tobacco was very expensive. The bowls got bigger and bigger as the centuries passed and my reference books with outlines of changing shapes show that this Thurlestone one dates between 1700 and 1750. We'd know more if we knew which maker put the letter "R" on his pipes, because that's what this one's got. We'll keep digging and let you know.

And while still on the subject of digging, Jean Hide has uncovered another piece of Thurlestone history while digging at the foot of a hedge in her garden at The Cottage. This time it is a big piece of almost black glass, part of a big bottle. But this bottle was different. You can still see the owner's name moulded in the glass of a special seal. It says:

Wm.
Adams
Thurlestone
1775

Now this was a big bottle, though Jean Hide only found part of it. It was a one-owner bottle and he had his name put on it. Note the spelling of Thurlestone. I bet William Adams was

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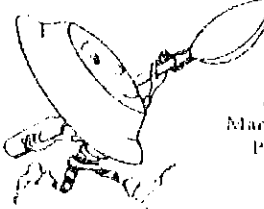
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furious about that. Because we know quite a lot about him. He was an educated gentleman and a landowner and a much-respected tenant of Sir William Courtenay, Earl of Devon, who owned the village and all that was in it.

William Adams was born in the village in the house we now call Bromfields Dairy & Post Office, next door to the Hides, on 16th January 1721, very soon after the All Saints church wedding of his father (also William) to 25 year old Elizabeth Hodge of Marlborough on 27th December 1720. He was the first of seven children, the others being Mary, Elizabeth, John, Peter, Jane and Daniel. When he died, aged 56, on 20th June 1777 he had outlived all of them except Elizabeth who hung on until she was 78 in 1804.

William Adams lived in some style in the house which was then called "Home Tenement". The house had outhouses, garden, orchard, various walled courtyards and an "Ash Yard o'er the Way", which presumably meant over the road and high footpath of today. Ash was valuable and used as a fertiliser.

William had inherited property in the village when his father died in 1745 and so owned "Shepherd's Farthing" which was a house where the Hide's garage is now, and "Camp's Cottage" which was then two dwellings ("Thatchways" and "Nuthatch" today). In addition to that he owned acres of land between Thurlestone and Bantham, much of it given over to cider apple orchards.

He was widely regarded as an honest man and goods recovered from shipwrecks locally were often taken to his house and kept in custody there until Sir William Courtenay who owned the rights of wreck for the coast from Salcombe to Bantham could claim them.

This is how the bottle with his name on it may have come about. If wine was recovered from a shipwreck, it was important that the wine belonging to William Adams was not mixed up with it. (But could some of his own marked bottles have been filled from the salvaged barrels..?). A "sealed" bottle with more than just your initials on it was a status symbol in its own right and William Adams's bottle (or bottles...?) confirmed his standing in society.

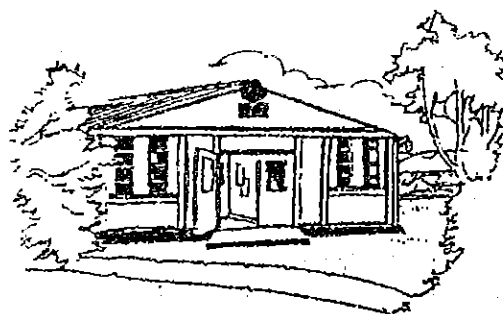
Such a bottle would have been filled by the local "wine merchant", which was often just a name for the local smuggler, and may have been used for storing port, which paid less duty than French wine. The dark glass, almost black, is an indication that it held port. How did it come to be broken and in the Hide's garden? Note the date - the bottle was made for him only two years before he died. He was not married and had no children so perhaps the servant who had to dust the bottle after his death was not so careful with the old man gone and buried the fragments quickly in the hedge after the precious bottle was smashed.

Well, it's a thought. You know what servants are.....!

PARISH HALL A.G.M.
1st APRIL 1996

**MILLENIUM FUNDING BID
TO BE INVESTIGATED**

**A NEW HALL
FOR THURLESTONE PARISH?**



THAT was the question on the lips of the 40 or so parishioners attending the hall's AGM. In fact the much larger than usual turn-out caused chairman John Slinger to open the meeting by saying "It's as though we're about to declare a dividend!" However, any discussion on the possibility of a new hall had to wait until the formalities of the AGM were gone through.

CHAIRMAN John Slinger gave a brief report on the past year. The future use of the football room had yet to be decided; the secondary double glazing had kept the hall warmer; the public entertainments licence had been reinstated but not yet used; it was hoped work on new fire doors would start soon.

THANKS were expressed to Evelyn Spear, retiring after 19 years as treasurer. She was later presented with a Len Hubbard watercolour of the village street. Auditor Alan Chapman, retiring secretary Dorothy Stone, bookings secretary Joan Lane and caretakers Mr and Mrs Billy Hunt were also thanked.

NEW OFFICERS were elected painlessly but a bit of arm-twisting had obviously gone on prior to the meeting. They are Chairman Derek Yeoman (Hilltop), Treasurer Bill Clarke (Meadfoot), and Secretary Pat Townsend (Parkfield). The parish's thanks were expressed to retiring chairman John Slinger by Rosemary MacKay

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES (also trustees) elected as follows:

Parochial Church Council	- Pam Brewster
Parish Council	- Veronica White
Friday Bridge	- Rosemary MacKay
Wednesday Bridge	- Dorothy Stone
Bowls Club	- John Dayment
Horticultural Show	- Derrick Yeoman
Keep Fit class	- Mollie Oswald
Womens Institute	- Dorothy Candy

Auditor-A.Chapman: Maintenance-L.Hubbard: Bookings-Joan Lane

NEW HALL? A possible bid for Millenium funding for a new hall was the main item discussed. District Councillor Martyn Grose said a composite application for such projects was to be put in by SHDC and they would be happy to give our Parish Hall committee financial and technical assistance towards this. Although the precise details associated with a bid for such funding have not been finally established, it was clear that the Millenium Fund could provide a maximum of 50% of the cost of successful bids. The hall committee would be expected to find 33%, with the balance coming from the district council. It was agreed that this opportunity to acquire a brand new building should be fully explored (without commitment) by the Parish Hall committee, and firm details and costs for such a project established. Watch this space!

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So begin by putting in these letters where their numbers appear in the grid. Identify other numbers and, when finished, the grid will look like a normal crossword. Every letter of the alphabet is used

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O

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

P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

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

It Grose on you, doesn't it?



(Continuing Kendall McDonald's backward glance at THE Hotel)

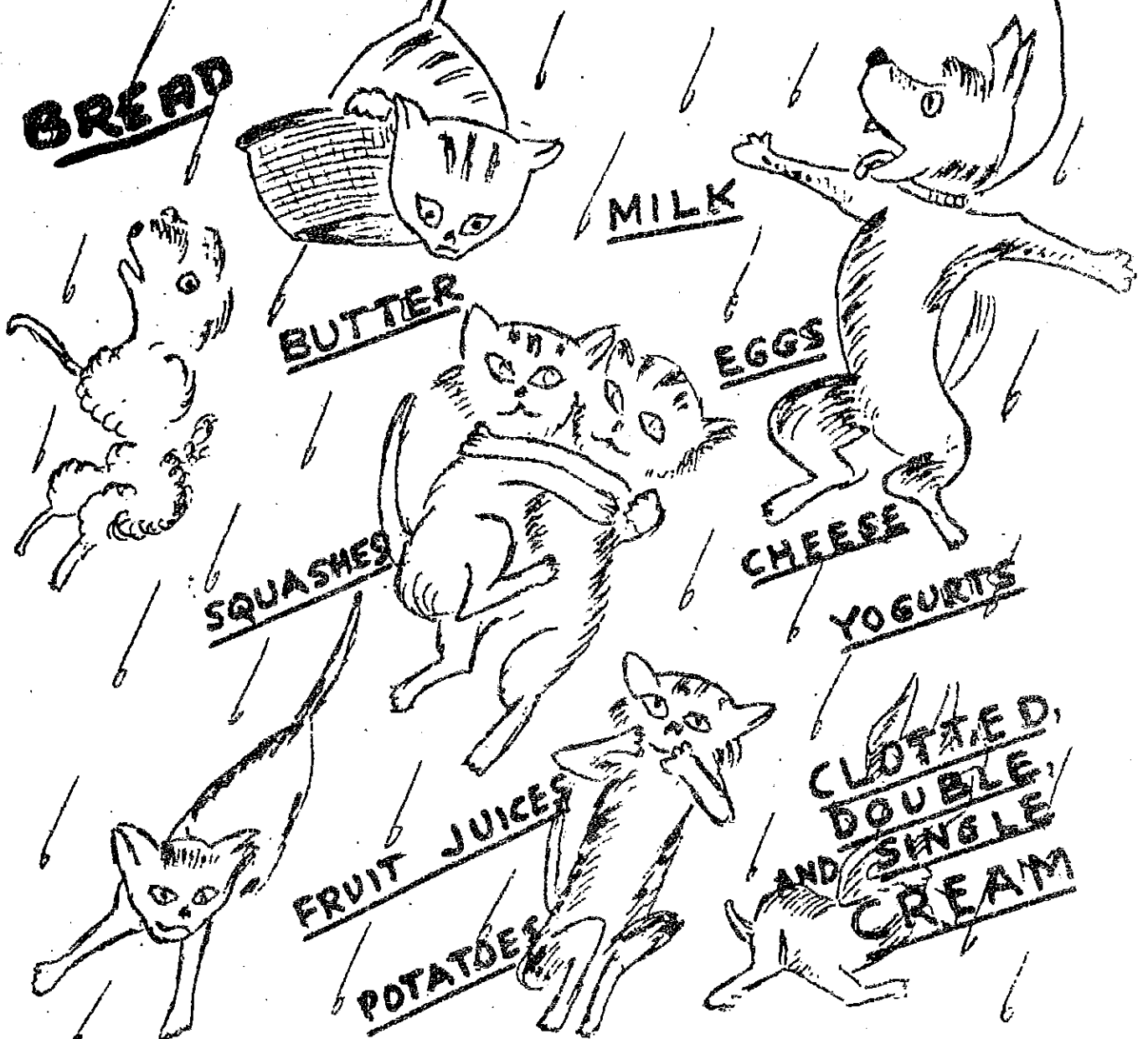
The first extension, completed in 1909, involved putting in a mansard roof. This allowed new rooms in under the roof in the attics. This was so successful that another extension of wood giving nine more rooms and another bathroom was added on the very next year. The story is that a large party had booked, but their booking had been lost in the post and the wooden extension was to cope with them at short notice. It took three weeks to build and was done by the Ivybridge builders who just happened to be restoring part of the Church at the time! Donovans of Fore Street supplied the furniture. By now every woman in the village was employed in some way or another by the hotel.

It was about this time that Thurlestone Hotel was visited by its first really VIP. Monica Coope, one of the daughters of the Rector, wrote about it in her memoirs: "...Which brings me to another sound, the first motor-car to come down the village. Afar off, we heard this chuff-chuff-rattle-rattle, and as it was coming nearer all the time we hung out over the gate bars to see what the noise meant. The chariot hove in view, leaving swirls and clouds of dust in its wake, and came charging down the village hell for leather, at about fifteen miles per hour.

"If this was not enough, another thrill was sitting in the back - someone we had never expected or hoped to see in Thurlestone. There he was, neat in his Dartmouth uniform, his golden head shining, his white teeth gleaming as he laughed with his friends, and all too soon it was over and he had gone. But we had seen him, our own Edward, Prince of Wales, come to Thurlestone for a game of golf and tea at the hotel. He often came again, and sometimes brought 'young Bertie' with him, and we always festooned the garden gate as the dust cloud approached and he with it. The car made such a devil of a row that we heard it at least a mile off."

That car was only the first of many. Before that guests would arrive by train at Kingsbridge with their massive trunks and other luggage, having travelled on the overnight sleeper from Paddington, changing at Newton Abbot or South Brent, and on arrival at Kingsbridge station were brought out by the Grose's own horse-and-carriage to the hotel. Then the hotel got its own car - a second-hand Packard. This was followed by an Adler, a Studebaker (which was famous for taking Aveton

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Gifford hill in first gear!)), a Fiat, then a Daimler and a bull-nosed Morris. Soon, of course, cars were a common-place sight and most people drove their own. The Grose's taxi service developed into a garage at the hotel, selling petrol and coping with minor repairs to guests' cars.

Hubert Brunskill sold the Thurlestone estate in two parts, one in 1916 and the other in 1923. At the first auction Margaret Amelia Grose, in a desperate bidding session against Inchbald, who had built The Downs, bought the hotel for £4050 - a mere £50 above the limit Inchbald had set his agent for the bidding. The villagers cheered when she won! Then in the 1923 auction Margaret Amelia was at it again when her bids won the family the field in front of the hotel, the orchard, and 44 acres of land around it.

In 1921 the wooden extension was pulled down and a concrete one, forming the hotel's present shape, was started. In 1932, a new third floor, costing £80,000, was put in over that and the present big white outline was in place. The hotel became the in-place of the whole of the South West during the thirties and the guests came from all over England. The hotel now had its own dairy and farm, and two greenhouses produced the required numbers of tomatoes and cucumbers. That amounted to two tons of tomatoes each season. No figure exists for the number of cucumbers produced by 'Digger' Burgoyne, the head gardener, but it was said to be "remarkable". The hotel expanded even more by adding two squash courts and a badminton court and the garden was planted with palms and flowering shrubs.

The start of the Second World War brought the hotel business to a halt. In 1940, two girls' schools from Eastbourne were evacuated to the hotel, but they were dispossessed by the War Office which commandeered it in 1941 for use as a Royal Marines officer training unit. The officer cadets used the Church as their chapel and fields behind as a parade ground. They carried out live ammunition training along the cliffs.

On the day that Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the surrender of the German forces in north-west Germany, Holland and Denmark at Luneburg Heath - 4 May 1945 - the commanding officer of the Thurlestone OCTU was killed during an exercise at Thurlestone. Major-General A.C.St.Clair-Morford, CBE, MC, of the Royal Marines was supervising a battle course with machine-guns firing at set intervals on fixed lines when he saw one of the cadets stand up right in the line of fire. Bravely he stood up to shout a warning to the man and was hit by machine-gun bullets. He was 51 and is buried in Thurlestone graveyard.

After the war, when the hotel was handed back to the Grose family, they were horrified by the amount of damage done to their pride and joy. The dining room curtains, costing thousands, had been torn up and used as dusters, the polished floors had been scrubbed and scoured until they were useless, an anti-aircraft gun had been placed on the roof and there was severe structural damage. The War Office had paid an annual rent of £2,400 for the premises and that had covered the interest on the hotel's bank loan and was intended to include

depreciation. Eventually the War Office agreed another £11,000 as compensation but it was totally inadequate to cover the damage. With great difficulty, part of the hotel re-opened in August 1946. Over the following years the Grose had a hard time to build their hotel back to its former glory. Margaret Amelia died in 1945 (her husband William had died in 1921) and today her great-grandsons David and Graham are the executive directors and run the hotel which is now a 68-room four-star hotel of considerable luxury. Martyn Grose, a grandson of Margaret Amelia, is the non-executive chairman of this £3.5 million hotel business, Thurlestone Estates, which employs 75 people at Thurlestone the whole year round and 85 at peak times.

In 1991 they added the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel in the border country of Scotland to the Thurlestone Estates company. It is doing well. People who have visited this Scottish branch of the Grose Clan say that it is "Another Thurlestone Hotel but wearing a kilt". And most people who know the Thurlestone, either from living here or as a hotel visitor, will take great comfort from that remark!

The recent recession hit the hotel hard. "We had to look at the business as a Receiver would have done" says David Grose, "but we didn't go into receivership. The market hit the pits in 1992 and 1993, but in 1994 we made a small profit. We are through the tunnel now and out the other side".

The Grose are fiercely competitive in the holiday market attracting people to the south-west with winter breaks, conferences and special events at the hotel, and enjoy very high repeat business bookings. In fact like those early days a hundred years ago, many guests come back year after year.

So it will be no surprise if you go into reception now to find special "One Hundred Galas" brochures detailing special three day celebrations at the hotel in May, June and September. These galas include special train journeys (shades of the Orient Express!), days at the races, gourmet dinners, celebrity cabarets, golf challenges, firework displays, horse-and-carriage rides round the village, and champagne all the way.

Only one party will exceed the Grose family's centenary celebration and that is the Grose's Gross. I hear they are already taking bookings at reception for 2040. See you there!

* * * * *

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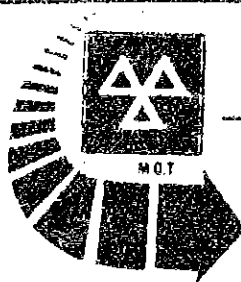
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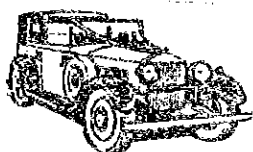
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Kate's Kitchen

I'VE JUST BEEN BROWSING THROUGH A FASCINATING COOK BOOK! Called The Imperial Cook Book, a Monitor for the American Housewife, it was written by a Mrs Grace Townsend and gives a glimpse into American cuisine of the late nineteenth century. No doubt she was the equivalent to our own Mrs Beeton. It was loaned to me by Geoff Wilkinson to whose grandmother Elizabeth it had belonged. She was living in Connecticut in 1893.

Stewed water turtles, or terrapins, Mississippi Gumbo soup, how to cook bear steaks, and hints on how to keep flies off gilt frames or how to destroy bed-bugs, are just some of the gems in this marvellous book. Main course meat and savoury dishes were boiled, roast or fried, but I thought you would like to try this simple pudding.

FLOATING ISLAND

"One quart sweet milk, boil. Stir in the beaten yolks of 6 eggs, 2 tablesps. white sugar flavoured with vanilla, lemon, rose or almond. Stir until it thickens. Pour into a wide shallow dish. Beat the egg white to a stiff froth, sweetening and flavouring slightly. Spread frothed eggs smoothly over boiling hot custard (doing it this way cooks the whites sufficiently without the bother of setting them over boiling water). Grate loaf sugar over the top and sprinkle with grated coconut. (This last is not necessary but is a great improvement) Spoonsful of jam or jelly may be scattered over the top. Set dish in a pan of ice cold water and serve cold as possible. This rule may be made with 4 eggs to the quart in place of 6, but is not so rich. Serve with cake for tea or lunch."

Mrs Townsend also gave advice on table etiquette:

"Do not make noises when eating, by sucking soup with a gurgling sound, chewing meat noisily, smacking the lips, or breathing heavily. Grapes should be eaten behind the hand, the stones and skins dropped in the fingers and passed to the plate".

"A dirty kitchen and bad cooking have driven many a husband and son, and many a daughter too, from a home that should have been a refuge from temptation".

* * * * *

An exchange heard in a greengrocer's.

Customer: "Do you sell cloves?"

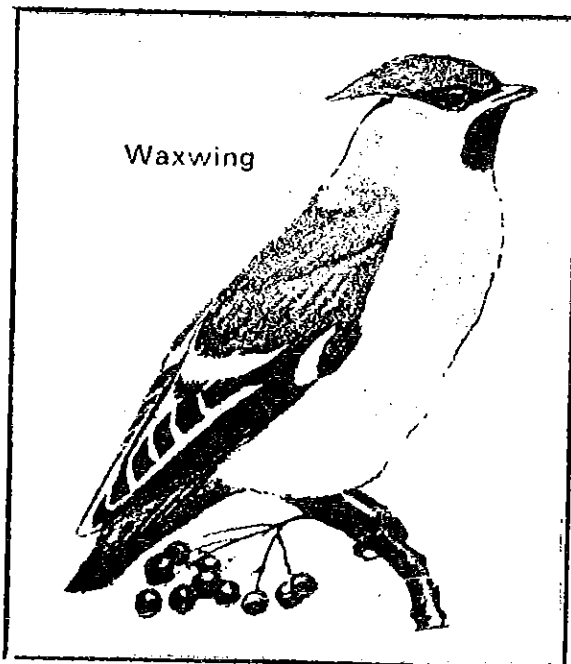
Shop assistant: "No, have you tried C & A?"

(From the Sheffield Star, printed in the Daily Telegraph)



Harry Huggins.....

THE WAXWING HAS BEEN BIRD OF THE YEAR FOR 1996 - not just for us, but for many birdwatchers countrywide. It is about starling size, mostly pale buffy-grey in colour. When you look at one you marvel that such a pearly, velvety exterior can be just feathers. There is a tuft of feathers, making a little crest, at the back of its head; it has a black mask, like a highwayman, black chin, chestnut undertail coverts, and yellow tip to its tail. Its outer flight feathers are black, with yellow and grey splashes, inner flight feathers grey with white tips, and out of the white tips project little red points, like sealing wax, hence the name Waxwing.



It summers and breeds in the far northern forests, in a broad band of country stretching from north Norway across Siberia, and over much of north America. There it eats, and feeds its young on, insects. Mosquitoes mostly. I have not been to those parts and, attractive as the wildlife there might sound, I don't think I want to. A friend went recently on an organised birding trip to Poland. A great place for birds, Poland. There are still huge forests and because the country was, and still is, so poor they have not been able to drain the enormous swamps to make more farmland. I asked my friend what he saw. "Mosquitoes". What were the hotels like? "Mosquitoes". What wildlife was there? "Mosquitoes"

In summer these swampy forests teem with millions and millions of insects. Come the winter, when it all freezes and disappears under snow, the Waxwings move south and change to a diet of berries. Usually they spread over the middle of Europe; the far eastern ones go to China and Japan. In north America they go down into the U.S.A. Incidentally, over there these birds are called Bohemian Waxwings as they have another species, Cedar Waxwing.

Now if you are a berry-eater there is always the chance they will run out....poor crop, extra cold, too many beaks eating them. Then, instead of stopping around Germany and places as they usually do, the Waxwings will come much further and we get some in Britain. These invasions - eruptions the boffins call them - are not a regular migration; people have tried to show they happen on something like a 10 years cycle. Normally the birds get little further than the east coast of Scotland and England. Once, when we lived at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, we

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were told there were some Waxwings in bushes on an estate of houses not far away. When we got to the place several windows opened and voices called "There they are". There they were too, tame as kittens. They seldom get to the west country but there was a little party near the M5 at Taunton two or three years ago. That was as close to south Devon as any were found.

In January 1996 there was a massive invasion; in eastern England people were seeing flocks running into hundreds and there was talk of a total of thousands of birds. The warden of South Milton Ley, hereinafter Bob for short, began to get very excited. Devon born and bred, he had never seen a Waxwing in his native county. Dorset, yes, Cornwall, yes, but not Devon; he was anxious to repair the deficiency. He kept phoning us - had we seen any in our apple tree yet? He has a touching faith that everything turns up in our garden. Isn't this where he found the Wryneck last year, and didn't he once find a Woodcock walking about under our bushes?. Not a hope, we said, and there it was left.

That is until one day at the beginning of February. I was at the garage door, painting, and in the worst temper west of the Exe; it was bitterly cold, my hands were frozen and I loathe painting at the best of times. Suddenly I was startled by a torrent of words from our front door. I caught none of them except one - "Waxwings". My wife had been at the kitchen sink, from which vantage point she finds all our best birds, when she saw four Waxwings in our crab-apple tree. Paint pot went one way, brush the other, and I was in to grab binoculars and camera. We watched from a bedroom window for a while and I took some photographs (record shots we call these because they are usually so awful - through glass and into the light).

Then I crept out and walked round to the tree. I got close to the birds, close enough for a better picture. I could have got closer, because they were quite indifferent to my presence, but I didn't want to frighten them away in case Bob, and others, wanted to come to see them. June rang round to everyone she could think of, and everyone she could think of was out. The Waxwings stayed for about half an hour. We saw them briefly on the following day and a couple of them the next and that, as far as we were concerned, was the end of them.

Eventually the message got to Bob, who was overwhelmed with disappointment. So he set off to make a daily check of every tree and bush in the district which had berries on - not very many in fact as most had been cleared of fruit already. Every day for a fortnight he searched in vain. Then, in the middle of February, he took a bus into Kingsbridge and there by the car park were four Waxwings. Even before he got off the bus he saw them. They were in that big cotoneaster tree at the top of the harbour, by the loos. They were quite oblivious to cars passing below, to people walking by, even to babies being held up to see them. Several people were kind enough to phone us and say they were there, but of course we had had our own by then.

Why did they come to us? Well, when we moved into our bungalow and the garden was just a heap of mud, our Head Gardener put in a crab-apple tree - a Malus "Red Sentinel". She had planted one already, at our last house, on the east coast, and that tree used to attract Parakeets, which live wild in Essex, but sadly not in Devonyet! The foliage of "Red Sentinel" is nothing to write home about and its blossom is little better. But come the autumn it more than makes up for any shortcomings. It has a crop of scarlet apples the size of cherries which remain all winter and well into the following spring. They go a bit duller with time, but frost does not harm them and not until the tree is ready to bloom again do they start to shrivel.

Birds love them. The Waxwings could pull them off and swallow them whole. A flock of Fieldfares, big strong Thrushes, can strip the tree in minutes but luckily none of those came. The apples are too hard and too tight on their stalks for most birds to tackle, but Song-thrushes, Blackbirds and the odd Redwing have worked away at them all winter and where they have managed to crack an apple open the little birds have gleefully joined in.

In the autumn of 1995 the tree had its biggest crop ever - so laden was it we feared the branches would break. They do say that trees and bushes fruit heavily when there is a bad winter coming. Twaddle, I reckon. Bill Giles, Michael Fish or even Suzanne Charlton cannot tell us on Wednesday what the weather will be on Friday (nor on Wednesday for that matter)...well, not with any certainty. So how can a poor dumb tree foretell what it will be like months and months in advance?

What we got was a good growing season in 1994. Then when 1995 came we had neither frost nor salty gales at blossom time. So all the flowers set and made apples, and there were still plenty of them when the Waxwings arrived!

UP-DATING VILLAGE VOICE

Village Voice must soon replace its very old duplicating machinery with something more up-to-date and user-friendly. But before this can be done some money must be raised.

Hearing of our need the ever-generous Len Hubbard promised to paint a special watercolour which VV could use to raise funds. He has now given us one of his sought-after paintings of the local coastline, including Thurlstone Rock. From this we are obtaining some colour prints for sale at £10.00, each numbered and signed by the artist. **EVERYONE BUYING A PRINT WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAW FOR THE ORIGINAL PAINTING!** The painting is on view at Len Hubbard's Studio (Burford).

We have received two most generous offers of cash towards our goal, but would welcome more. Can you help? Any contribution will be gratefully received. Please contact Jo Parkin (561215) or Pat Macdonald (560436) to obtain a print, or if you would like to make a donation to the VV production update fund.

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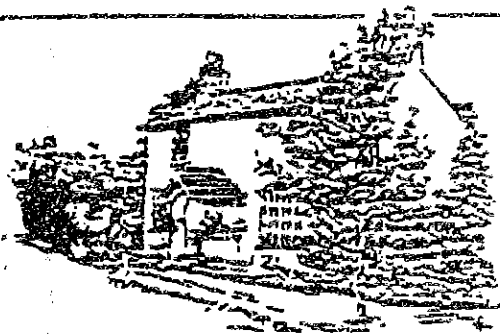
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NEWS FROM THE W.I.....NEWS FROM THE W.I.....NEWS FROM THE W.I.

In the course of the year four new members have been welcomed: Solange Besnard, Dorothy Liggitt, Ann Smallman and Carolyn Taylor. Violet Tanner had the pleasure of using our 1995 Denman bursary and attended a pergamano course which she enjoyed - and we enjoyed seeing the superb results of her work. "100 YEARS OF THE THURLESTONE HOTEL" was the title of Martyn Grose's highly enjoyable talk in April. He led us skilfully from the first, and sometimes lean, days right through to the modern four-star hotel we have in our village today.

RESOLUTIONS submitted from WIs all over the country for debate at the NFWI general meeting at Cardiff in June were discussed with much enthusiasm - judging by the noise level - at the May meeting. The subjects called for an increase in student grants in hardship cases (carried); deplored the lack of NHS dentists (carried); and asked for the inclusion of home skills in the national curriculum for key stage 3 pupils (defeated).

SEA COAST GROUP MEETING. Thurlestone was hostess to the four other WIs in our group - Salcombe, South Milton, West Alvington and Kingsbridge Quay. It was good to see our friends from nearby villages and share a happy social evening. Mick Bramich from Totnes told us about Sabine Baring-Gould and the "old song men", playing a box concertina and a guitar to illustrate some of his entertaining anecdotes. Supper was followed by an amusing series of sketches by the drama group "Overheard today in Kingsbridge".

SUCCESS AT THE MALBOROUGH TRIENNIAL EXHIBITION. Three silver cups were won - for produce, for being runner-up in the co-operative class, and to Joan Lane for the best flower arrangement in the show...where she took on 37 others! We are indebted to Mary Johnson who encourages us all to "have a go".

OTHER ACTIVITIES. A walk round historic Totnes was expertly led by Bob Mann, who is our speaker in July. The day-school on 3-dimensional decoupage produced some good results. £65 was presented to the parish hall and £65 to the newly-forming parish conservation society from jumble sale profits. We now look forward to a garden lunch (by kind invitation of Rosemary MacKay) on 9th July (please wear/bring a hat you last wore at a wedding) and to a social coffee morning in September which Wyn Cousins is kindly hosting. By then it will be well on in the year so, looking forward to Christmas, there will be a half-day workshop at the parish hall when Sheila Blake will show us how to make beautiful gift parcels - 24 September. On 8 October we will visit the Western Morning News to see it being produced. Following this on 11 October there will be a group coach to the fabulous Creative Stitches show at the Westpoint showground.

MONTHLY MEETINGS will have the following speakers:

- 13th June: Jeanne Whittick will be "Talking as a lace-maker"
- 11th July: Bob Mann on the writers of Devon
- 12th Sept: Ruth Parnell demonstrates 'Healthy Eating'
- 10th Oct: Alec Worth's topic will be 'English Landscape'

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME AS A VISITOR TO ANY OF OUR EVENTS.
Please ring 560436 to make enquiries.

Dear Editor.....

PARISH HALL

May I, through your columns, express my gratitude to the members of the 1995 committee of Thurlestone Parish Hall who presented me on the occasion of my retirement, after 19 years as Hon. Treasurer, with an admirable framed watercolour of the village street by Len Hubbard.

This is deeply appreciated and will always remain a treasured possession. Please accept my thanks and best wishes for the future of the Hall.

Evelyn Spear

N.S.P.C.C.

The Thurlestone committee of the NSPCC wishes to thank readers of Village Voice and other friends for their generous support of the recent jumble sale, which raised just under £400 for the charity.

Mollie Oswald

ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE

St. Luke's Hospice have acknowledged with grateful thanks the £1,000 sent to them by Mrs Joyce Stephens, the Rector's wife, which was raised with her team of stalwart volunteers who served cream teas in the Rectory Barn throughout last summer.

Terry Woodrow

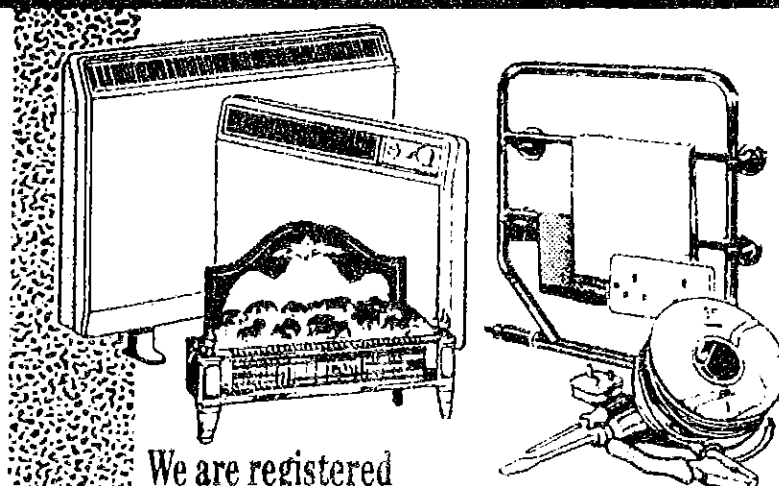
SHEEP TO SHOULDER

On Saturday 8th June between 10 am and 4 pm, at the Endsleigh Garden Centre, Ivybridge, a team of seven from the South Hams Spinners & Weavers group is entering a worldwide competition called "Sheep to Shoulder". A sheep is expertly sheared on the spot, and the fleece is then spun and knitted into a jumper from a set pattern. There will also be demonstrations of the art of carding and spinning and examples of wool which have been dyed using natural materials. The exercise will be fun and educational for the whole family - and in addition there will be a tombola on hand to raise money for the Devon Air Ambulance!

Why not come along, see the team in action and ancient crafts being practised as well as the modern concept of our county's air ambulance? If you would like any further information, please contact me on 560648.

Susan Dwyer

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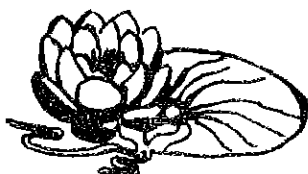


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PROFILE OF BEN HORN, GARDENER

by Neville Oswald

Ben Horn is a well-known and much-respected member of our community. Born in Salcombe shortly before the outbreak of World War 1, he moved with his family to South Milton when he was ten weeks old and has lived there ever since. He shared his life with his dear wife Gwen, until she died in 1987; he is now sustained by his family.

Ben is first and last a gardener. He has been awarded a medal by the Royal Horticultural Society with two engraved clasps proclaiming 50 and then 60 years of horticultural achievement. After leaving school, he served for seven years as an apprentice at Horswell House, South Milton. In June 1934 he was appointed second gardener at the Old Rectory, Thurlestone, and continued there until the outbreak of war. Thus he became one of the very few qualified gardeners in the parish who worked full-time for a single employer, because there were few properties that were large enough to need one. Instead, there were jobbing gardeners, some of whom were highly skilled, each of whom arranged regular visits to two or more small gardens. In those days, with few mechanical aids and no effective weed-killers, extra assistance was required from unskilled labourers during the summer months. At the Old Rectory, groups of local boys were sent for from time to time to weed the large lawn for a shilling an hour.

During service in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1945, he saw action with an anti-tank unit as it advanced, on D-Day plus 8, through France and then Holland and Germany. On his return home he was appointed head gardener at the Old Rectory and remained there almost continuously with the Yeos, then the Lakes and later the Jacksons, until his retirement.

Since 1945 the gardening scene in Thurlestone has changed considerably. At first, with the general rise in wages during the war years, rationing and many shortages, few residents could afford a gardener. Most of the gardeners Ben Horn had known in the 1930s did not return, choosing to seek employment elsewhere. Instead, there was an influx of ex-service men, some of whom sought a career in gardening, finding casual work and learning their trade from people like Ben. There followed the boom in house-building, notably on Yarmer and the Mead. At the same time, advances in technology were taking much of the labour out of gardening. Owners of the new homes, many of them knowledgeable amateur gardeners, put on floral displays the like of which had never previously been seen in the parish. Some of them, now lacking their former agility, are glad to call in local gardeners for assistance. Owners of second homes rely on them to keep their properties in repair. Gardening has become an integral part of village life.

Having seen all these changes, Ben Horn is now something of a father-figure in horticultural matters. He gives much time and thought to the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show, of which he is a founder-member and chairman. Now in semi-retirement, he retains several part-time appointments. On 17th May 1996 Ben was presented with a long service award to horticulture by the Devon County Agricultural Association. Well done, Ben. May your fingers forever remain green!

OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL - A SPECIAL PROJECT

A while ago, I was sent on a geography course. Without much enthusiasm I joined a group who were going to look at "School Grounds Development" in an Exeter school. I, rather smugly, felt we already had a pretty wonderful site. However, I came back from that visit fired with a new enthusiasm and a dream of a project which will, I hope, interest you all.

What I had seen at Cowick opened my eyes to the use of our grounds not only for sport but also as an "outdoor classroom", where the whole curriculum could be extended, and where the quality of play, through which so much learning develops, could also be improved.

In this "outdoor classroom" our already privileged children will be able to become more aware of their environment, to learn about conservation, to develop habitats which would encourage wildlife for them to study, and thus to plan for future pupils as well as for themselves.

It will be a readily available, ever-developing resource to use all year round, in which to observe and study seasonal changes, pond-life, plant cycles, local birds and flowers, and small animals. We can measure and record details of growth and change, extend our geographical skills in preparing maps and plans of our venture.

We would like it to have a Wendy house, a hill to climb, a tunnel to explore, a pergola to sit under. We will need benches and tables, beanbags, ropes, skittles, and toys. We aim to provide the variety of play opportunities needed for different children and different ages, particularly those who may feel intimidated, and who may find here the kinds of activity they need to grow socially.

Taking care of the grounds, and taking turns in using various parts of it may help to develop social responsibility and sensitivity, and family feeling.

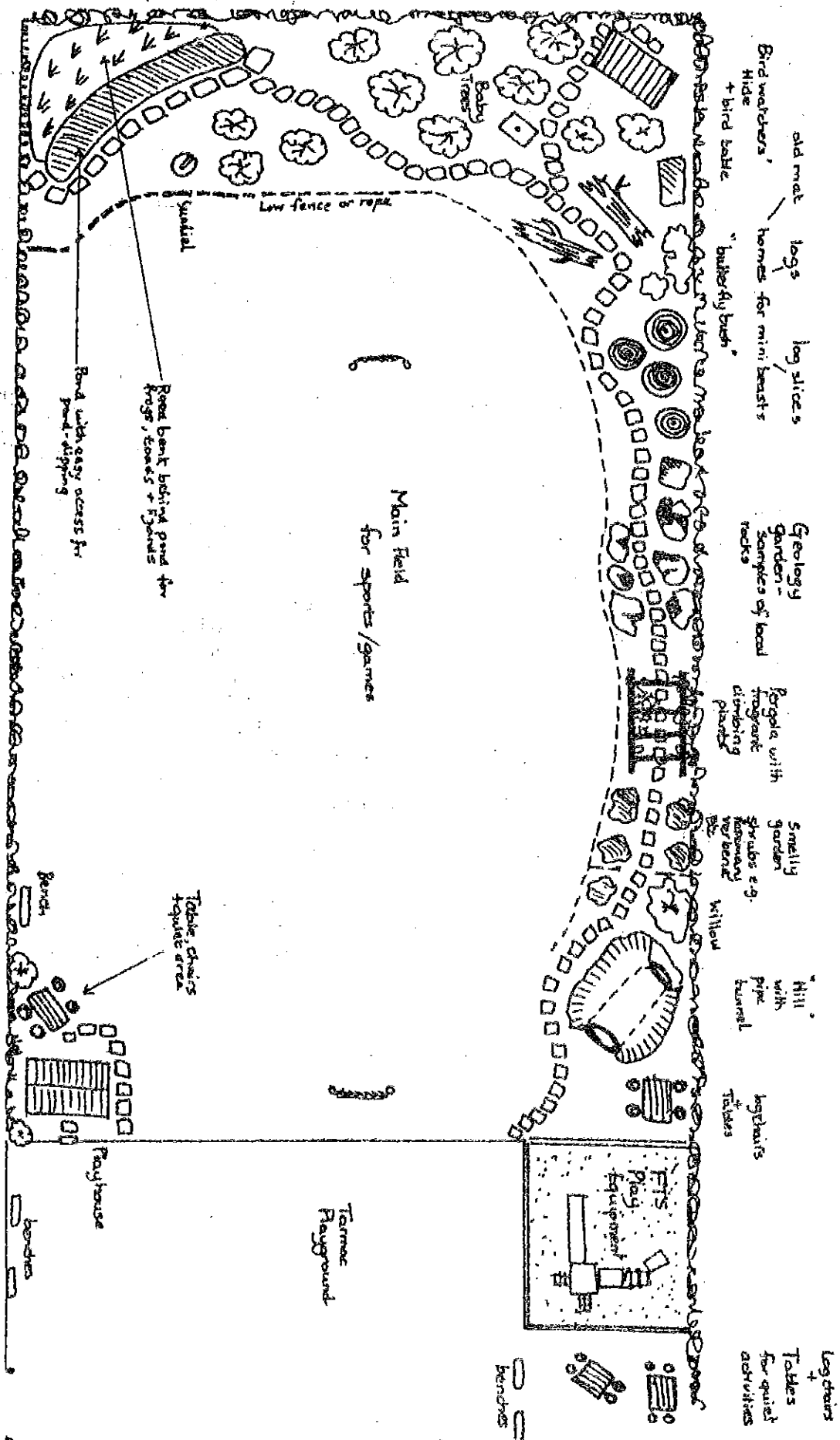
Please come and look at our plans, and share in our project. A sketch of the current playing field - showing the location and elements of the proposed "outdoor classroom" - appears on the page opposite.

We need the help of the community to keep traditions, skills, and local knowledge alive in our school. This term we will be making a start on this new project. If you can help - by a donation of plants, materials, or money - or if you would like to participate in any other way, please phone me at the school on 560494. This scheme will probably cost around £3,500, and we will not be able to find this sum without your help and support. Please let me know what you can do to help.

Jackie Jackson
Thurlestone C of E Primary School

Plans for Development of School field

to provide for more varied play, to provide an outdoor "classroom," useful for science, English, Geography, Maths, Art etc. to provide an environment in which to develop a wildlife habitat & conservation area.



WEATHER WAG

by

Jan Turner

"Ne'er cast a clout till May is out". Month or blossom I know not, but the blossom has been superb this year until today, May 2nd, when it is pouring with rain and quite cool. Yes, north-easterly yet again. The predominance of this wind is quite phenomenal this year, keeping temperatures lower than expected. I've just worked out the wind chill factor. 10°C (50°F) = 0°C (32°F) with a wind speed of 25mph, gusting to 30mph at times - that works out at -2°C (28°F) so against last year's temperatures at the same time - $15/18^{\circ}\text{C}$ - over these few days it's been pretty chilly. Keep the thermals handy for a while yet!

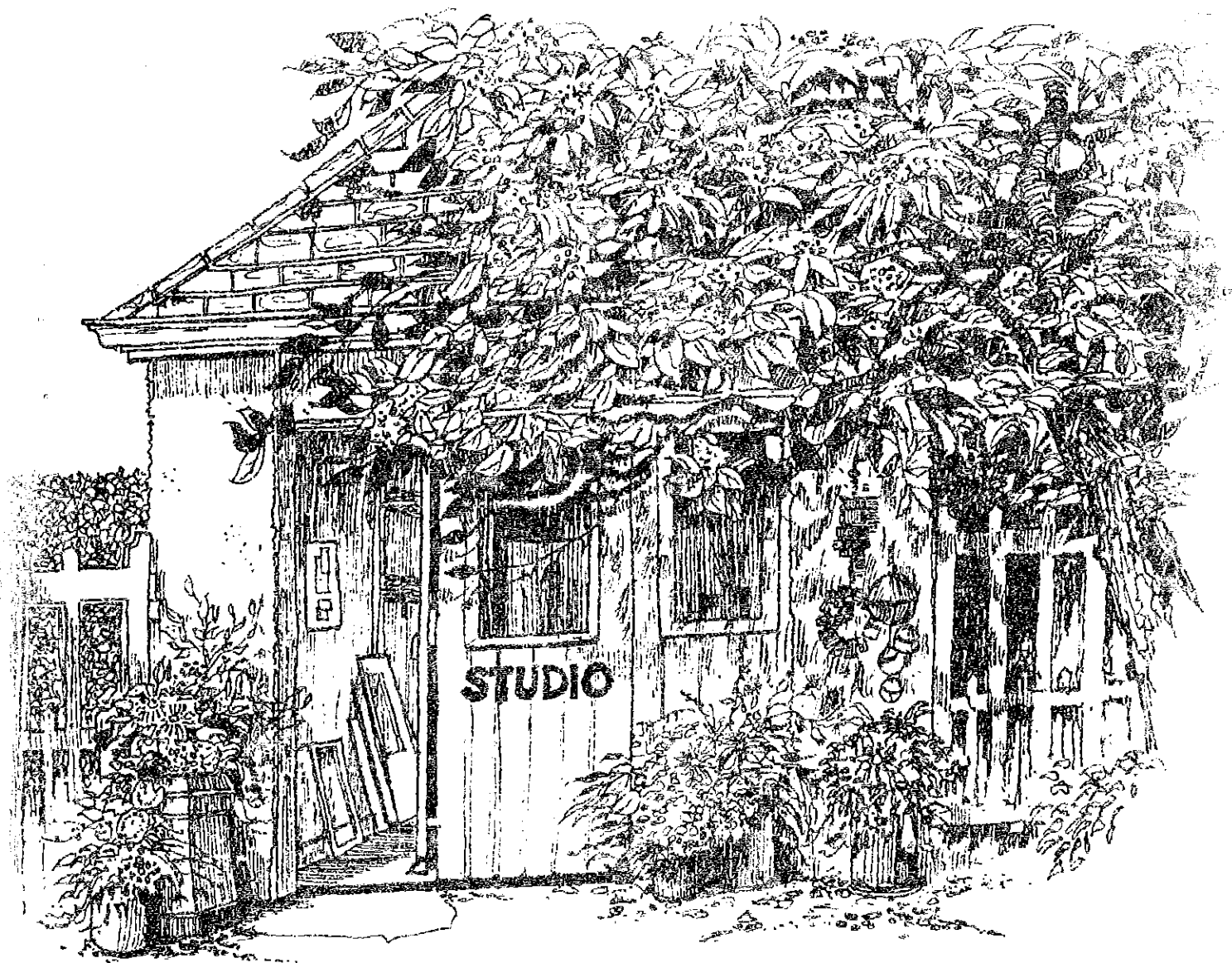
Now to this issue's topic. Following on from clouds the natural topic is RAIN or, to be more precise, PRECIPITATION. After all, not just rain falls out of our clouds, there is drizzle, snow, sleet, hail too. All these form part of a great and continuous circular movement of the world's fixed water supply. Vapour in the air condenses as dew, fog or cloud, falls to the ground and goes into temporary storage upon or under the ground, in streams, rivers and seas until evaporated once again into the air as pure water, leaving its salts and impurities behind.

Several theories exist as to how and why rain drops form. It is to do with ice crystals, relative humidity and temperature within the cloud.....too lengthy to go into now! All we know is that rainfall is often seasonal, mostly unpredictable, and when we want it it doesn't come, or vice-versa.

Rain is collected in a variety of vessels and measured in linear units; these results include melted hail and snow. Measuring amounts of rainfall is not as easy as it might seem. The amount gathered in an approved vessel varies with the height it is set off the ground, e.g. a rain gauge mounted on a roof 9m. high catches about 80% of the rain falling at ground level. This is due to wind eddies at the greater height. Ideally, the gauge should be 300mm. or nearly 12ins. off the ground and have no obstacles within 10m. (30ft.) or so. Most manual gauges are a funnel shape with graduated measurements up the side. More sophisticated ones are electronic, measuring each drop and showing the amount on a digital display. Rain falls unevenly and often erratically, particularly from cumulo-nimbus, so that to interpolate two gauges some distance apart is unreliable, better to have several much closer to each other. The units of measurement are millimetres or, if you are of mature years, inches!

A Rain Day is a period of 24 hours, usually starting at 0900 hrs. GMT, during which 0.2mm. (0.01ins) of rain falls. Rain also has a classification according to its intensity:

LIGHT = IF FALLING AT LESS THAN 0.5mm/h (0.02in/h)
MODERATE = IF FALLING AT 0.5-4mm/h (0.02-0.16in/h)
HEAVY = IF FALLING AT MORE THAN 4mm/h (0.16in/h)



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D & C TAXI

Derek and Christine

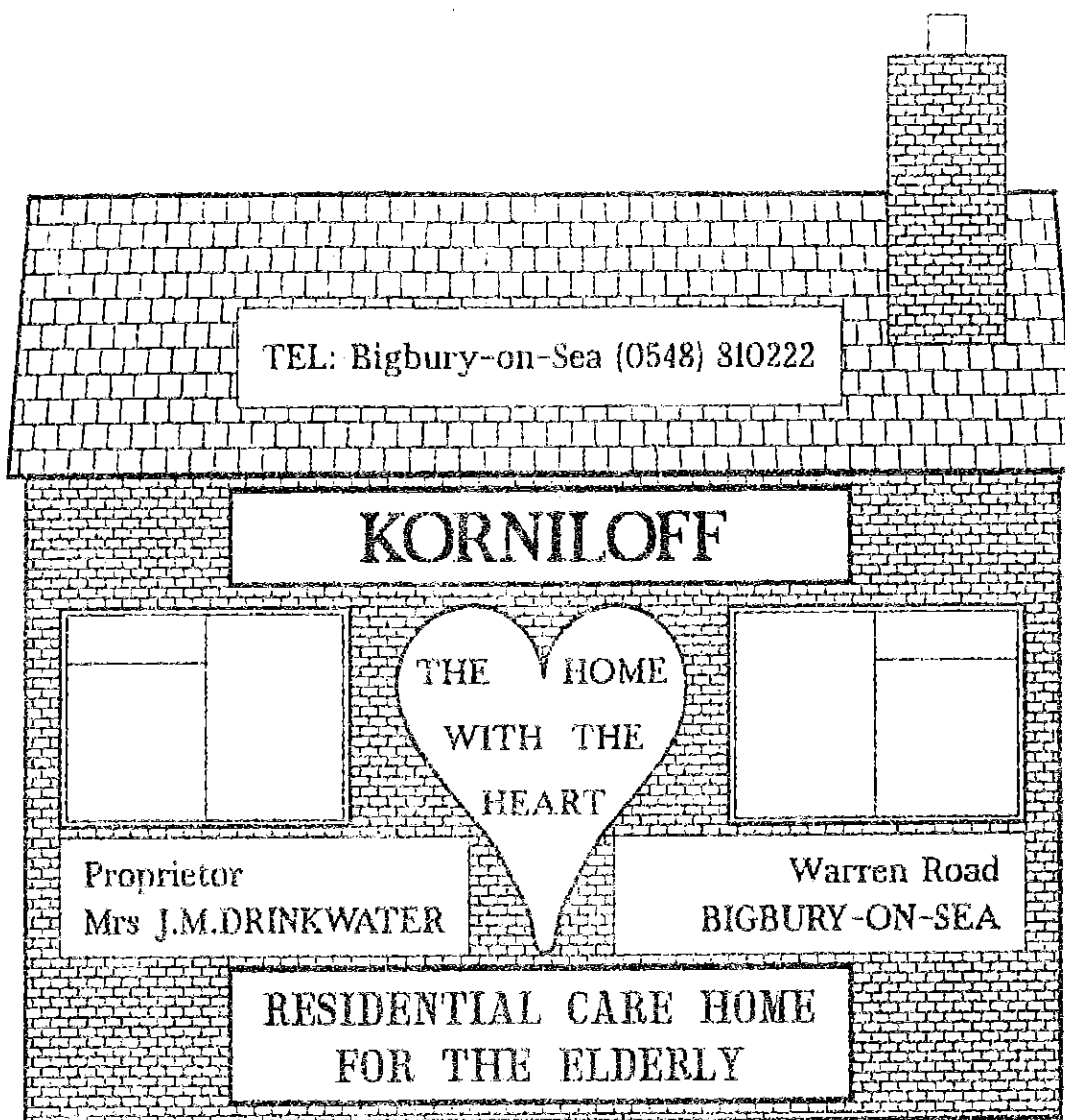
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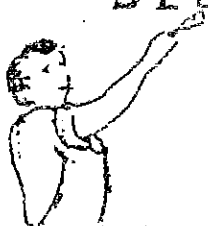
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In this area the amount of rain that falls is varied. This is due to the local conditions, of which the most influential one is ASPECT. If your site is open to the west then you can expect to receive more rain than if your aspect is to the east. We lie in an area of prevailing westerlies and these are rain-bearing. Most of the rain that falls here is associated with depressions that track from west to east (but there are exceptions...like the present!). Lands to the west of an area of upland are usually wetter. For example, we get higher amounts of rainfall here than are experienced in say Slapton. This is a recognised phenomena known as a RAIN SHADOW. Clouds which are known as rain-bearing are deep cumulus and thick altostratus which occur separately or together in low pressure areas (which we get frequently).

There are many folklore sayings which refer to impending rain: "Hark I hear the asses bray, we shall have some rain today", "If the moon rises halloed round, soon you'll tread on deluged ground" (some truth in these two), or "Rain before seven fine after eleven" (quite often true in summer). I could go on but space and time do not allow. It would be very interesting to get some of your favourite sayings about RAIN to add to my list. Hope the weather is to your liking this summer.

The chart below shows statistics for the first part of 1996.

WEATHER STATISTICS FOR 1st QUARTER 1996

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	TOTAL
RAINFALL				
Month Total (mm)	88.3	79.1	43.6	210
Days of rain	18	16	6	40
Wettest day (mm)	10.7	19.4	12.6	19.4
TEMPERATURE				
Month Average (C)	8.1	5.6	7.60	7.1
Highest temp	12.4	12.8	15.2	15.2
Lowest temp	-3.5	-1.9	-1.1	-3.5
WIND DIRECTION				
Westerly (Days)	3	9	2	14
Easterly	26	16	29	71
Northerly	0	0	0	0
Southerly	2	3	0	5
WIND SPEED				
Strongest (mph)	53	58	49	58
Days below 5 mph	0	0	0	0
SUNNIEST DAY				
Number of Hours	5	10.7	12.6	12.6
Date	Jan 10	Feb 29	Mar 30	Mar 30
Total for Month	19	137	107	263

TRAMPS PROGRESS

Sue Dwyer, our leader, had chosen the day well (17th April). It was warmish, with a suggestion that it might well remain dry for the whole day. Twelve members and three dogs started at Ermington on what was listed as one of the longer walks.

The route was in the main to the north and west of Ermington, taking in Keaton, Worthele, Ley Green, Yealmbridge, Dunstone, and finally the Flete estate before walking back along the east bank of the Erme to Ermington.

It was a new walk for the group in an area with very few connecting footpaths, thus making planning more difficult. However, it was enjoyed by everyone, and we all found it hard to believe that it was more than 11 miles, as the variety of footpaths, very minor roads and tracks, together with some excellent views, made the time and distance pass quickly.

Our next walk, at the beginning of June, is in the Yealmpton area and will be led by Roy Travis.

"An exhausted deputy"

* * * * *

"ROSCROW. LOST IDENTITY" By Hilda Davies

What a literary lot we have in Thurlestone! Latest to join the throng of writers in our midst is that Celtic muse, Hilda Davies, who has just published a book containing no fewer than 108 of her poems. And she says she is well on the way to collecting together another 100 for another book!

Hilda's poetry book "Roscrow. Lost Identity" is available at £10.00 from her at Celts Corner - next door to Thurlestone Primary School. The book takes its title from her middle name. The Roscrows were an old and powerful Cornish family complete with castle, though that has now been pulled down. It is really Hilda's own life story in verse, starting with her early days in an orphanage in Falmouth and continuing to the present day.

Most of the poems contain some shrewd, well observed, and often mischievous comment on her daily life and the lives of those around her. What is more her poetry is real, that is it actually rhymes. For which, in these days when most so-called poetry is really illiterate prose, we should all give thanks to Hilda.

Reviewed by Kendall McDonald

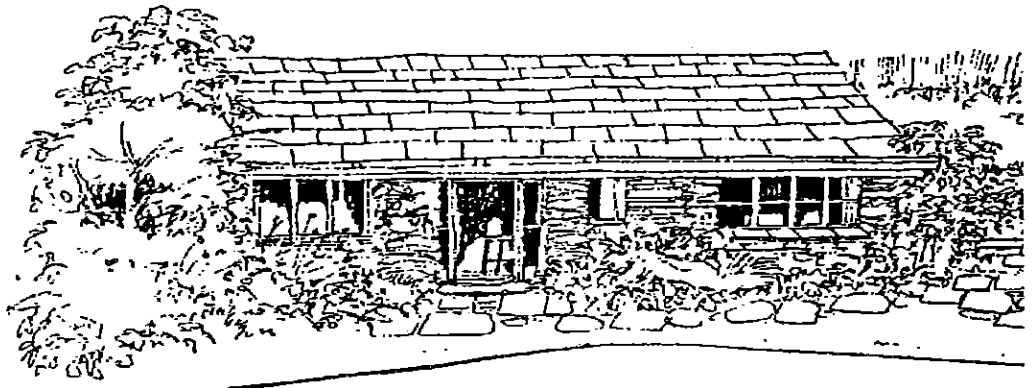
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COUNTY CHAMPION!

Thurlestone Golf Club's David Eva won the 1996 Devon Amateur Golf Championship at Churston on 12 May, beating Paul Newcombe by one hole in the final. Well done, David!.....and what a splendid fillip for the Club to have the reigning County Champion as it begins its Centenary Year celebrations in 1997.

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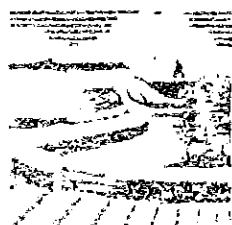
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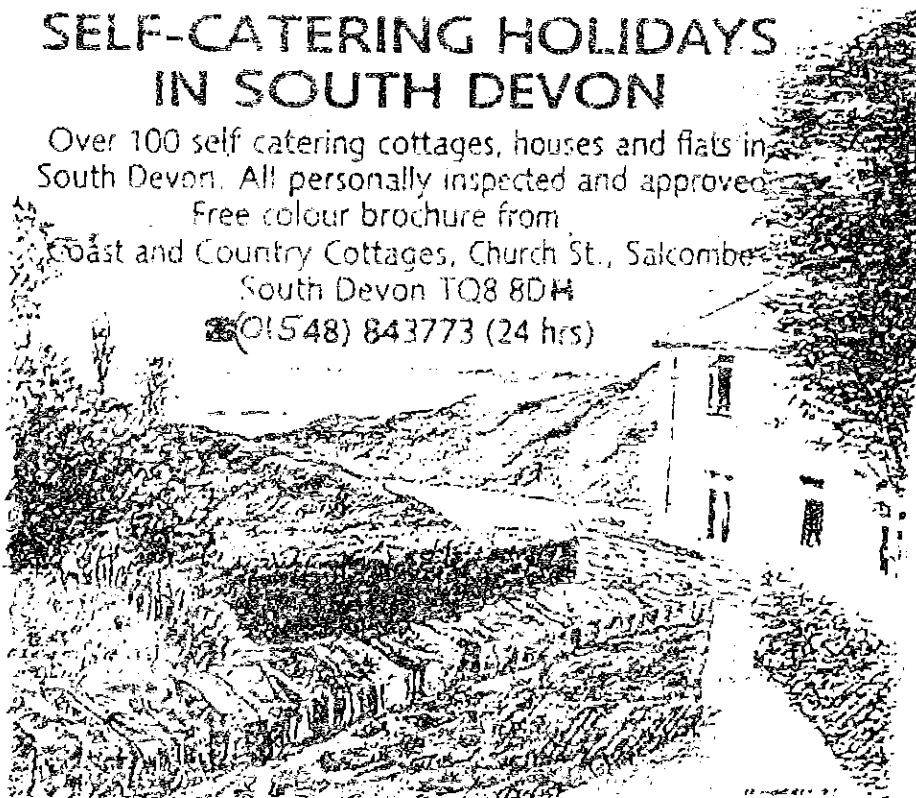
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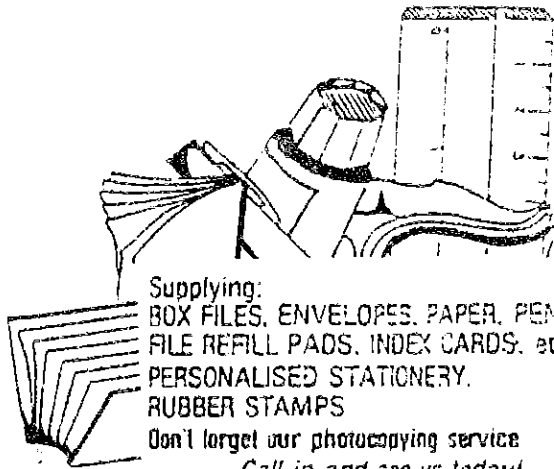
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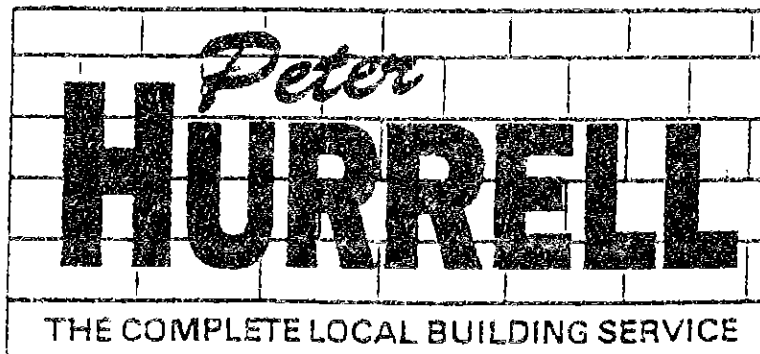
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| Derrick Yeoman      | 560607         |
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| David Grose         | 560375         |
| Charles Mitchelmore | 560802         |
| Geoffrey Stidston   | 560695         |
| Veronica White      | 560236         |
| Parish Clerk        |                |
| John Lonsdale       | 560742         |
| District Councillor |                |
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## "CITIZEN" COVERS THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M. (23.4.96)

**RECYCLING.** Carol Arthur, South Hams District Council's Recycling Officer, stressed the importance of this process, and that. Money thus raised can help to keep Council Tax down. Dustbin waste costs £21 to £90 per ton to tip on an infill site, but £50 per ton can be earned from waste newspaper. "Wellies" are sent to Dunlop to be recycled into new ones! Plastic collection is coming and green waste for composting.

**CHAIRMAN** Peter Hurrell spoke about the re-furbishing of the PUMPHOUSE which had been largely due to Len Hubbard's initiatives. A new NOTICE BOARD has been put up in the bus-shelter by the hotel. He thanked both the POLICE and VILLAGE VOICE for their work.

**THE HERITAGE COAST OFFICER** spoke of the anti-erosion scheme at Bantham and of the ongoing fight against this problem. They are responsible for keeping the footpaths, stiles and their notice-boards in order and have some free trees to donate to suitable projects. Mountain bikes were beginning to cause problems and should be discouraged.

**POLICE** County Councillor Simon Day said they had received 4.8% additional funding this year and that fifty extra police officers will be recruited for Devon. It was believed that 13,000 additional houses will be needed in the county by the year 2011 - mostly for the growth of one-parent families. PC Steve Mutton gave a reassuring report on crime, or the lack of it, in Thurlestone, but marine thefts were up a little at Bantham. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is being re-vitalised now that our community bobby is back.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** Martyn Grose gave a wide-ranging review, saying that the SHDC can make loans to parish halls and assist in applications for funding to the National Lottery and Millenium Fund. Their officers are available to come and talk to relevant bodies about their work.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANSWERS TO THE CLUELESS CROSSWORD

#### **ACROSS:**

swim skiff thus comestibles ewer kelp gorse byline  
strive pat acquisitiveness gin stoker priory annul  
mica deal ejaculation emir doyen yard

#### **DOWN:**

superb moor sledge internationally fables trek supple  
cell semi yacht naive their visor pig tinn sample  
once rancid platen oxen yelled ajar dozy

OR

1=P 2=A 3=T 4=C 5=H 6=R 7=L 8=E 9=S

10=Z 11=B 12=M 13=I 14=Y 15=W 16=G 17=K 18=Q

19=O 20=X 21=U 22=N 23=J 24=V 25=F 26=D

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**SHIPWRECKS OF THE SOUTH HAMS**

**by Kendall McDonald**

**The Wreckwalkers guide to the coast path from Erme to Dart**

This is a very comprehensive guide to the sites of the many (70) wrecks along the South Hams coast and estuaries, dating from 1000 BC to the present day. It begins with the Bronze Age and tells us that tin ingots, swords and axeheads were found in the Erme and ends with the story of the Sherman tank at Torcross which was sunk in 1944 and raised in 1984.

An enormously interesting book, it commences the coastal walk at the mouth of the Erme where Mary's Rocks, across the entrance and out of sight except at low water, have become the graveyard for at least a dozen ships including, in 1506, two belonging to a lady called Mad Joanne - a fascinating but rather gruesome story! The guide continues to the Dart where, in 1937, the 'English Trader' was wrecked under the walls of Dartmouth Castle.

The stories of some of these tragic events are quite gripping and details emerge about the lives of the people in Thurlestone or Bantham with the stories, for instance, of the loss of the 'Lady Young' in 1880, the Dutch 'Galliot' in 1753 or the 'Chanteloupe' in 1772. Proceedings in coroners' courts are brought to life, and there are accounts of rescues by incredibly brave lifeboatmen working in terrible conditions. The book is well illustrated by drawings of beautiful old ships and with photographs of rescues in high seas and underwater finds by divers.

It provides an easy and rather unusual way of learning some local history and will make a walk along the coastal path many times more satisfying!

(Review by Jo Parkin)

## S U P E R G U I D E

The essential social calendar - priorities for your diary!

### JUNE

Wed. 5th Tramps: Yealmpton and S.W. Moors  
Thu. 13th WI 2.30, Parish Hall "Talking as a lace-maker"  
Tue. 18th Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30  
Wed. 19th Tramps: Holne Moors walk

### JULY

Wed. 3rd Tramps: Avon Paddle (depending on tide!)  
Tue. 9th WI Garden Lunch  
Thu. 11th WI 2.30, Parish Hall "The Writers of Devon"  
Wed. 17th Tramps: Newebridge, Spitchwick, R.Webburn  
Sat. 20th Church summer fete, Rectory garden, 2.00

### AUGUST

Wed. 7th Tramps: Bedford Bridge, Bucktor, Tavistock  
Tue. 13th Church barbeque, village green, 6.00  
Wed. 21st Tramps: North Moors walk

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\* \* \* \* \*

### **GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?.....**

You may not have a novel mouldering (or smouldering) in your cupboard, but there could well be interesting episodes that you may be prepared to share with other Village Voice readers. How about putting pen to paper? Reminiscences, travel tales, hobbies, special interests, local attractions, can all provide excellent subject matter.

Don't be put off by the fact that you are not a regular writer. Until you try it you won't know just how easy and enjoyable it can be. For instance, what would you do with that million pounds you plan to win on the lottery? (After giving your spouse half, of course!)

Even if you feel shy about authoring an article, you can always send a letter to the editor about a particular point of view that you hold.

Village Voice will be delighted to hear from you. Just pop your contribution in an envelope marked "Village Voice" and push it through the letter-box at 25 Mead Lane. But make it before our deadline of 1st July if you want to be in time to catch the August-September issue. Don't forget, it's an opportunity to

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