

# VILLAGE VOICE



DECEMBER '96 - JANUARY '97





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## **NUMBER 82**

**FOURTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION**

**DECEMBER 96 - JANUARY 97**

Not long now till Santa claws his way over our thatched roofs. However, if you should be unlucky enough to miss out on a seasonal sackful of new toys, never fear! You will find much in Village Voice to divert, stimulate, and inform your Christmastide.

The seasoning starts in the kitchen, where Kate serves up a saucy alternative to turkey - venison, no less - while Santa's goose is cooked in a scientific de-bunk from IDF. If you can't stand the heat in the kitchen, turn to Weather Wag for the low-down on global warming.

Elsewhere, Villager's thoughts are with Yew this Christmas, and Neville Oswald rattles the bones of Devon's sea-dogs. There's a varied fare for the bookish, and JJ sees to it that the children are not forgotten. The best China is brought out for the occasion by Prunella Dart, and to round off your banquet we present a range of Candy.

No snoozing, though! Liven up your brains with our Quiz, Crosswords, and Wordpuzzle, or your liver on a brisk trot with Tramps. Even a little chuckle will aid digestion.

The members of the Village Voice team offer this issue for your Christmas enjoyment, and wish you all the best of good health and happiness through 1997.

## Have you noticed something missing from our village?

Well done, Samantha - our schools can't be all that bad, but then you were always a quick child. You're absolutely right. As your dear schoolmistress would say:  
*"What ain't we got? We ain't got a yew tree in our churchyard."*

The missing yew causes village historians a bit of a problem. Yew trees, they always believed, were planted in the churchyard, or close to the church, so that when the call came - as in 1415 - for village serfs to become Agincourt bowmen, the material for their longbows was right at hand.

Oh, do stop making that obscene gesture, Samantha. Yes, yes, dear, we all know that the naughty signal comes because English longbowmen liked to taunt the French with the fact that their two string-pulling fingers were intact. And yes, dear, we know that when the French captured an English bowman they cut those two fingers off to stop him drawing a bow against them again.

Where were we? Yes, well, back to Thurlestone's missing yew. It's strange really, because village records show that the village elders were responsible for supplying the lord of the manor with *"a man-at-arms"* in 1316 and fully equipping him with weapons of war. And what about his bow? That obviously didn't come from Thurlestone churchyard unless the church yew was cut down a long time ago. The yew will grow to 75 feet or more and lives for hundreds of years. And there isn't even a likely stump in the churchyard.

Of course, they do say that not every church had a yew, but most important ones did. What's that, Samantha? Of course Thurlestone church should have had a yew. It is indeed a very important church. And do you know we now have a chance to put matters right?

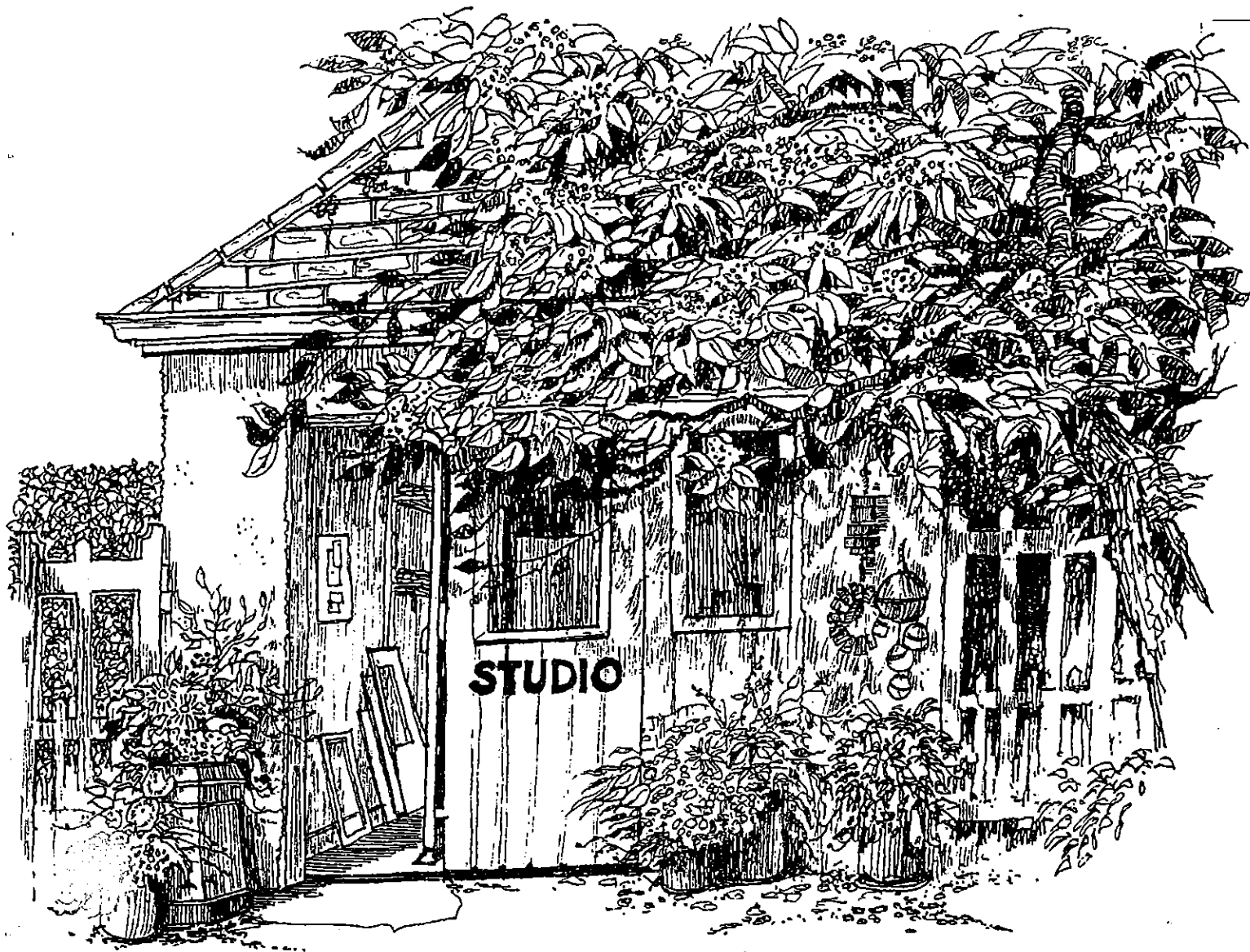
## VILLAGER



It is thanks to that nice Dr David Bellamy, who is giving yew cuttings from ancient Druid groves, which pre-date the birth of Christ, to every parish in England. The idea is to plant a yew for the millenium. In fact, the first one has already been given to London's Docklands and there are another 13,400 cuttings to come. It is all being organised by the Conservation Foundation of which Dr.Bellamy is president.

But now comes the big question. Where will the Parish Council plant our yew? Will the Rector agree to the churchyard? No, Samantha, I don't think they do use yew longbows in battle any more, but it would be a good idea for the church fete, wouldn't it? An archery stand. See who could shoot the apple off a certain litle girl's head.

Yes, Samantha, I know that was William Tell, but I still think its a good idea...!



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# FENG SHUI

*If until now Feng Shui has sounded like a dish from a Chinese take-away, prepare for your life to change. As change it will if the age old principles of Feng Shui (pronounced Fung Shway) are put into practice.*

For six centuries, ever since Fu Hsi gazed at the markings on the back of a turtle and discovered that all the changing aspects of life were represented there, the Chinese have had enormous respect for the influence we have over our environment and equally the effect our environment has over us.

***Harmony and balance of opposites, yin and yang, effective use of energy, and the ability to change our lives by changing our environment, this is Feng Shui.***

The Chinese - and now a quickly increasing number of westerners - believe that one neglects these principles at one's peril. Health, happiness, success, family relationships, prosperity, all can be improved by aligning one's home and work space according to these simple rules. No Chinese home or office block is constructed without taking advice from a Feng Shui consultant, and now in Britain as more and more people realise the significance, individuals and large companies alike are looking to Feng Shui to improve their prospects. Indeed, Wimpey now issue their home buyers with a book on the subject showing the beneficial influences they have incorporated into the buildings.

Simple principles can stimulate great change and a lot of Feng Shui has its roots in plain common sense. For example, clutter blocks the flow of energy, or chi, around a room. So wherever you have clutter you have stagnation. Each area of your room represents a corresponding area of your life, so where there is clutter, that's where your life is stagnating. Clear the clutter and you

will clear the blockage in that area of your life. Simple!

Symbology plays a very important part in our lives. If we wake up in the morning and the first thing we see is a pile of dirty laundry or a desk littered with unpaid bills, chances are we'll feel tired and beaten before the day begins. Clear away that clutter and replace it with images of how you'd like life to be and you'll feel energised and keen to start the day.

If you don't feel in control of your life check that you don't sit, sleep or work in a position where you cannot see the door. If the door is behind or beside you, you have no control over who or what enters your life. The best place for a bed, desk or chair is diagonally opposite the entrance. That way you take command over your space and thus your life.

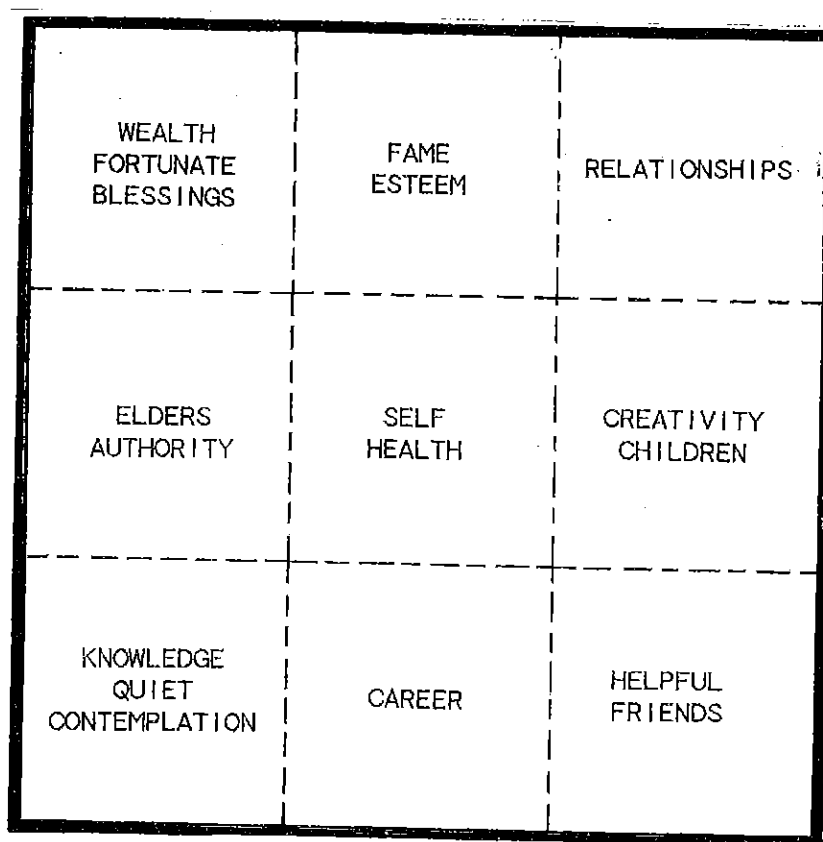
Feeling depressed or having strange aches and pains? Check that your bed, your office chair or your kitchen stove is not sited beneath a beam or sloping ceiling. The downward chi can make you feel unwell at the place it strikes your body. A beam that 'divides' your bed can also divide your relationship. So, if you want more loving, move that bed!

If you feel that there's nothing new happening in your life, or that you need a change of career, check your front doorway and the approach to it. A narrow path with overhanging spiky plants will impede the flow of energy coming your way, as will a door that sticks or jams, a knocker that won't knock, or a bell that doesn't ring. An easily-approached, polished front door with a shiny brass knocker and widely spaced tubs of healthy round-leaved plants either side will invite energy and new opportunities into

your home. If you want that energy to manifest as helpful friends, a successful career, wealth, creativity, good relationships or happy families, then activating the chi in the corresponding areas of the house will ensure success. A waste bin or loo in the Wealth corner is tantamount to throwing your money away, so move that bin immediately, and if you can't move the loo then at least ensure that the lid and the door are kept firmly closed.

Upward chi is encouraged with shiny mirrors and healthy plants.

Looking for a partner to share your life? Check your bedroom. If the bed is pushed up against the wall, symbolically there is no room for a partner to get in, so pull it out from the wall and put a bedside table and a lamp on that side of the bed as well as your own. And make sure there are two pillows, not just one!



DOOR INTO ROOM MUST BE ON THIS WALL  
(TURN GRID TO ALIGN THIS EDGE WITH WALL CONTAINING DOOR)

We all know that moving house means a change of lifestyle, new friends, and often new interests and values. Feng Shui asks us to accept that, in a more subtle way, changing the details of our environment, furniture, pictures, ornaments, etc., also affects us and our perceptions of life.

*Thus, by moving them in accordance with Feng Shui principles, we can ensure that the effect is beneficial and harmonious, clearing away the negative thoughts and feelings that hold us back and encouraging the flow of positive energy that changes our lives for the better.*

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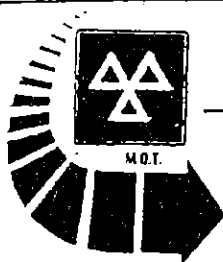
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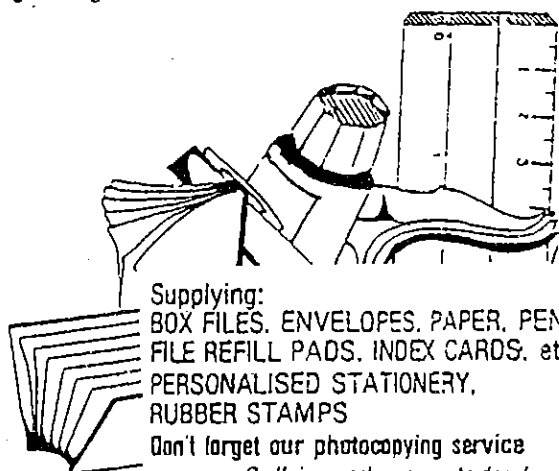
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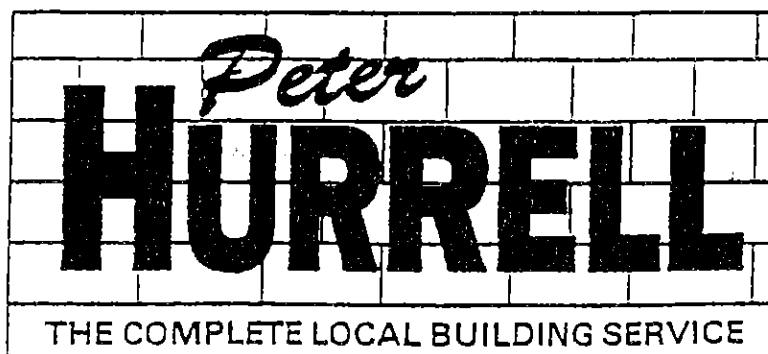
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# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

22 October 1996

## *Don't leave your front doors open*

P.C.Mutton gave all present a stern warning. Following a robbery in Thurlestone, it had become clear that elderly residents were leaving their front doors unlocked so that neighbours could visit them or deal with an emergency. "You mustn't do it," said our community policeman. "If there is a real emergency don't worry about me getting in - I'll kick the door in if necessary. You must watch the security of all your doors and windows all the time."

*If advice is needed, contact him at Kingsbridge police station.*

## *New houses in the South Hams*

District Councillor Martyn Grose told the Council that housing in South Devon in the new Devon Structure Plan for the houses after 2001, showed that space had to be found for 11,400 new houses. About 6,000 were planned for the Plymouth area. Elsewhere - which meant in the South Hams - there had to be 2,440 houses.

Under the Structure Plan the area around the parish may not be one of Outstanding Natural Beauty any more. [At the present time Thurlestone parish has plans for 14 houses and infill houses in the period up to 2001]. Professional advice was to be sought for Council protests against the possible dumping of houses on the parish.

## *Smelly times ahead?*

Drastic changes to waste disposal were detailed by Mr.Martyn Grose. The South Hams District Council were running out of dumps and re-cycling was to be the thing. A pilot scheme of a new system was to be run at Totnes and by 1998 the system was expected to be in operation for Thurlestone. Basically, it meant segregation of various types of waste by the householder with domestic waste being collected once a fortnight and other waste in the week in between. To help this system an extra dustbin would be supplied to each house by the SHDC.

## *Buckland Stream*

A survey of Buckland village had been carried out by the Environment Agency and they were now "considering their next move". The Council await that report with great interest.

"CITIZEN"

\*\*\*\*\*

## TRUE BUT CORNY!

New resident to old farmer: *"Could you do something about that corn of yours in that field across the road from my house? Every time the wind blows it all rustles and I can't get to sleep!"* Yes, it really happened, but there is no truth in the rumour that the old farmer was seen in the garden centre next day ordering ten thousand canes to tie each corn stalk upright and stop the ears rustling against each other. He isn't quite that soft-hearted. (K.M.)

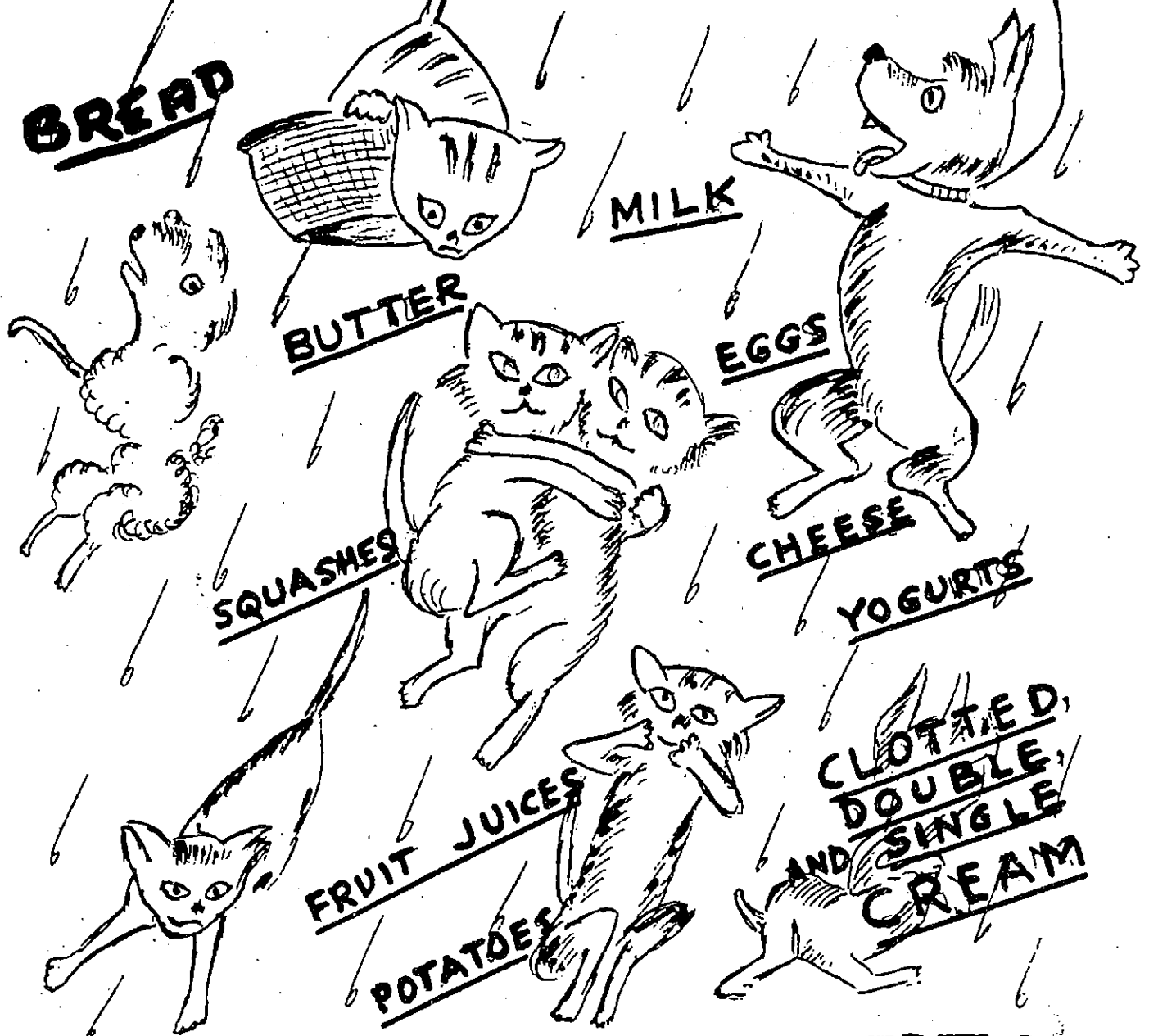


## **SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE RAISES NEW DOUBTS ABOUT THE SANTA CLAUS LEGEND**

1. No known species of reindeer can fly. But there are 300,000 species of organisms left to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.
2. There are two billion children (persons under age 18) in the world. But since Santa doesn't (appear to) handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total, i.e. 378 million according to the Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that makes 91.8 million homes. One presumes that there's at least one good child in each.
3. Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second, this is to say that for each Christian household with good children Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of his sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, into his sleigh, and move to the next house.
4. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false - but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75.5 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a pokey 27.4 miles per second. A conventional reindeer can run, even when at top speed, at not much more than 15 miles per hour.
5. The payload of a sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (2 lbs.), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, a conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 lbs. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point no. 1.) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. This is four times the weight of the 'Queen Elizabeth'.
6. 5,353,000 tons travelling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance. This will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as a spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flames almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporised within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250 lb. Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 lbs. of force.

**(Contributed by I.D.F)**

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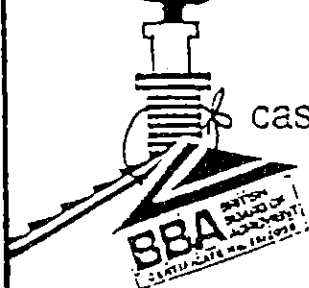
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# Kate's Kitchen



When we lived in Derbyshire it was a delightful drive out to Chatsworth House to visit the farm shop there which sold all the produce from the estate. On one such visit, just prior to Christmas, I decided to buy a haunch of venison.

The flavour of venison depends on the age of the animal, its diet, and the length of time the carcass is hung after slaughter. Containing less fat, cholesterol and calories than other meat or poultry, it is ideal for those on a fat-free or low-fat diet. Because of the lack of fat I think it necessary to use either a marinade, or a coating, when roasting. Here is a :

## **MARINADE FOR VENISON** (two and a half to three lbs. in weight)

- |                                  |                                          |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 small onion (sliced)           | 3 sprigs thyme or half teasp. dried      |
| 1 small carrot (sliced)          | 4 tablesp. olive oil                     |
| 1 stick celery                   | 3 sprigs marjoram or half teasp. dried   |
| 1 clove garlic (lightly crushed) | 1 sprig rosemary or quarter teasp. dried |
| 1 tablesp. juniper berries       | Quarter teasp. grated nutmeg             |
| 1 bay leaf                       | Quarter teasp. salt                      |
| Quarter pint red wine            | Black pepper to taste                    |

Mix all ingredients. Put meat into a deep dish, pour marinade over, cover and leave for 2-3 hours. (If a more intense flavour is required, leave overnight). Pre-heat oven to 200C. Remove meat from marinade, place it in a roasting tin and cook for 30 minutes. Reduce oven to 180C. and continue cooking venison for a further one to one and a half hours.

Put marinade into saucepan with half a pint of venison or beef stock and simmer for approximately one hour. Strain the liquid together with juices from the meat to make a delicious gravy.

Alternatively you can plain roast the joint at the same oven temperatures, but before putting in roasting tin make several inch-long incisions into the joint and fill with a mixture of 4ozs. butter and 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard made into a paste. Brush over with 1 tablespoon olive oil mixed with half a teaspoon of finely chopped rosemary. Put a quarter pint of water into the roasting tin with the meat and cover with foil.

**MAY I WISH ALL READERS - AND ESPECIALLY COOKS,  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**



# Parish Hall Report

## **AUTUMN FAIR**

First of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who assisted with our Autumn Fair. To those who generously gave up their time to run the stalls, who gave prizes and contributions for the stalls, raffles etc., and all those who came and spent their money, many thanks. Numbers were down on previous years due to holidays and other things, but the amount spent per head was well up.

## **OLD FOOTBALL CLUB ROOM**

A near record total of £735 was raised which will go towards the refurbishment of the old Football Club changing rooms. Initially we intend to make it weather-proof, brighten it up with a coat of emulsion, have a new ceiling installed along with some form of efficient heating. Once the room is attractive to hirers, we will then be able to assess what future use we can anticipate and whether it is worthwhile spending additional money turning it into a second meeting room, completely independent of the main hall.

## **THE ROOF**

We must also bear in mind the condition of the roof to the main hall. It will not last for many more years so we must eventually decide whether we carry out a short term remedy to extend its life by, say, seven to ten years, or whether we re-roof it properly. Much will depend on grants/funds available and, perhaps more importantly, the condition of the hall itself.

## **HALL EQUIPMENT**

One final point to all those running events where food and drinks are served. If you take the tea-towels home to wash, please could you remember to return them promptly - as others will need them. If you can't ensure this, just leave them laid out on the counter to dry, as we are having to spend money on replacing "removed" towels - which have no doubt found new and thoughtful owners. The same applies to cups, saucers, glasses etc. It is a condition of hiring that any breakages must be paid for. Broken crockery is often seen in the dustbins. Our hiring charges are insufficient to cover such losses and it is not our wish to increase them unnecessarily.

**Derek Yeoman**  
**Chairman, Parish Hall Committee**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PULLING POWER?**

Spotted in a local press release: "The South Hams is a magnet for creative people..."



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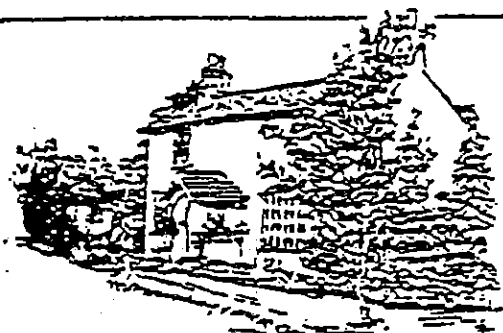
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# LET THURLESTONE R.O.M.P. INTO THE NEXT MILLENIUM

I expect there are many like me who found it most refreshing to read in the last issue of Village Voice of somebody looking forward into the future rather than following the recent trend of trying to reconstruct the past.

I found the article in which new roads and a marina for Thurlestone were proposed most interesting, particularly bearing in mind the number of jobs and income which would be generated. This article took me back to the late eighties following the last big storm, when the sea reclaimed the first hole of the golf course for quite a number of days.

With the craze these days for initial letters to make a "catchword", I felt that a sub-committee to S.O.D.I.T. should be formed, entitled R.O.M.P. (Return to Our Maritime Past). Admittedly I have seen no evidence to suggest that Thurlestone ever had a natural harbour, but in the past villagers have taken advantage of the sea, engaging in fishing and other less law-abiding pursuits such as wrecking and smuggling, and there is no reason why present-day villagers should not take advantage of what the sea has to offer.

Unlike any major road improvements, which would require either county or government funding, a marina development would be privately funded. Unfortunately we would be unable to develop on the same scale as that envisaged after the last big storm, as S.W.W. in their Clean Sweep campaign have sunk a main sewer through part of the land previously envisaged for development.

Despite this a more modest development incorporating the Golf Club car park, the first hole and part of Leasfoot beach would

be possible. No doubt we would be able to enlist the expertise of the landlord of the Church House Inn at Churchstow to advise us on multi-storey car park development, thus compensating Golf Club members for loss of parking space as well as providing additional space for both visiting and resident yachtsmen.

We heard at the last Parish Council meeting of the need for a considerable number of new homes in the South Hams during the early part of the next century. The reason given was rather strange, but who am I to judge? Thurlestone's contribution could be to incorporate a block of water-side flats in the marina development. Just a thought to help S.H.D.C. out.

As the various bodies both at home and abroad who may well consider part-funding of such a project take years to approve applications, hopefully this could be Thurlestone's contribution to the next millenium.

With thoughts of global warming and the threat that sea levels are likely to rise considerably during the next hundred years, we should start our planning early so that we are ahead of the rest.

We don't want Hope Cove or Bigbury beating us to what could be a very lucrative venture, not only for the Golf Club and any other landowners, but for the whole parish.

Watch for further S.O.D.I.T. notices!

**"A CARING PERSON"**

(Volunteers for this, and other S.O.D.I.T. sub-committees, are invited to contact Villager.)

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS "WHO?", "WHAT?", "WHEN?" QUIZ

1. What is, or was, a Wapentake?
2. Who was the "Knight of La Mancha"?
3. Who were the Tolpuddle Martyrs?
4. What was the date of the Magna Carta?
5. What do the Roman numerals M.C.C. stand for?
6. What Book ends the Old Testament?
7. What are the only two counties Palatine?
8. What is, or was, an auroch?
9. What is the "Land of Cakes"?
10. What is the name for an assemblage of foxes?
11. What is the name for an assemblage of geese in flight?
12. What is, or was, F.I.D.O.?
13. What is, or was, P.L.U.T.O.?
14. What is the star of David?
15. Which French seaport town did Cantona play for?
16. What was the Truck System?
17. What is, or was, a Sally Lunn?
18. What is the longest river in the world?
19. What is a "ricochet" word?
20. What is a palindrome?
21. Who were the Luddites?
22. What did Archimedes shout on discovering his principle?
23. From which language is the word "algebra" derived?
24. Who were the Rebeccaites?

\*\*\*\*\*

## WHEN YOUTH IS SPENT

Just a line to say I'm living,  
That I'm not among the dead,  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And mixed up in my head.

I've got used to my arthritis,  
To my dentures I'm resigned,  
I can cope with my bifocals  
But, ye gods, I miss my mind!

Sometimes I can't remember,  
When I'm standing by the stair,  
What WAS it I was going for....  
Or have I come from there?

Before the fridge so often,  
My mind is full of doubt,  
Now did I put some food away  
Or come to take some out?

But now its time to post this.  
To say goodbye my dear,  
Remember I do love you  
And wish that you lived near!

P.S I'm standing at the post box,  
And my face is surely red.  
Instead of posting this to you  
I've opened it instead!

Submitted by R.P., who received it from a friend. In the accompanying letter the friend said "I can't remember whether I've sent this to you or not. Let me know if you don't receive it."

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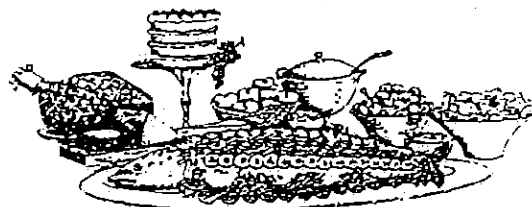
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# *A Neville Oswald Report...*

## DEVON'S ANCIENT MARINERS

Those of use who live in Devon, whether native born or by choice, are reminded from time to time of the remarkable exploits of the county's seafarers many years ago. Maybe we see the statue of Francis Drake on entering Tavistock or its replica on Plymouth Hoe. Visiting his former home at Buckland Abbey we may linger in his study and gaze, as he did, whilst contemplating his past ventures and future plans, at the fields and hedgerows. At Dartmouth we find impressive Elizabethan buildings derived from overseas trade, piracy and the fishing industry. The South Hams are probably best remembered for Catherine, a member of the distinguished Champernowne family of Modbury, who was the mother of Humphrey Gilbert by her first marriage and of Walter Raleigh by her second.

These various names and places are curiously concentrated into the second half of the 16th century, when Elizabeth was Queen and Spain was the strongest power in Europe. Why should Devon, rather than any other county, have produced most of the great seamen of those years? It is a story that has been told many times, one which those of us who have affection for the place can never tire of hearing.

With their long coastline, Devonians have always looked to the sea for a living and for adventure. For centuries they traded with coastal France, especially Brittany, and South Wales. Their first mariner of note was **JOHN HAWLEY** (died 1408), member of a powerful mercantile and shipowning family in Dartmouth, exporting cloth from Totnes and importing wine quite legitimately but, like everybody else, also indulging in piracy. The family established Dartmouth as the leading port in the south-west. There followed a century of anarchy and baronial

uprisings in the country at large and recurrent wars on the continent. By 1453 when the Hundred Years War in Europe petered out, England was left to contemplate an isolated insular existence. Then Henry VII (crowned 1485) and Henry VIII brought order to the country, the latter greatly strengthening the Navy to counter the threat from Spain. When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, several future sea-captains were growing up by the rivers and seas of Devon or beginning to spread their wings further afield. Among them were:

**STEPHEN BOROUGH** (born 1525 at Bideford). He commanded the first English ship to reach Russia where he discovered and named North Cape in 1553. He made several trips to Russia with his brother William, searching unsuccessfully for a route to Cathay. He became Chief Pilot of England. His brother followed Hawkins as Comptroller of the Navy.

**JOHN HAWKINS** (born 1532 Plymouth) Was the son of an eminent merchant in the town, the family coming from Tavistock. He was much involved in shipping ventures of all kinds and is now remembered for selling African slaves to Spanish settlers in the West Indies, an activity that was not particularly frowned upon at that time. With Drake, he ensured that Plymouth and not Dartmouth was to be the main naval base against the Spaniards. He became Treasurer and Comptroller of the Navy.

**FRANCIS DRAKE** (born 1541 almost certainly at Crowndale farm, Tavistock) the son of a shearman, he led three expeditions to the West Indies while still in his twenties, harassing the Spaniards and robbing them of their gold. Determined to sail in the Pacific,

he set off from Plymouth with five ships in 1577, rounded South America through the Straits of Magellan and systematically robbed Spanish outposts from Valparaiso northwards to the present British Columbia. He then turned for home. Reaching the site of the present San Francisco he stopped for repairs (at a place now called Drake's Bay). By then the Golden Hind, his flagship, was the only one of the five vessels to have survived and it was loaded with gold, silver and treasure. Realising that a return the way he had come would mean attacks by the Spanish, he sailed back to Plymouth by way of the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Cape of Good Hope.

Eventually, in 1596, whilst on an unsuccessful voyage to the West Indies, he died at sea off Portobello.

**HUMPHREY GILBERT** (born 1541 at Greenway, a large house overlooking the Dart estuary) sailed out of Plymouth with five ships in 1583 with a view to founding a colony in Newfoundland, where cod had been caught in great numbers from little Devon craft since the 1520s. He landed at the harbour of St. John where he claimed the island as the first

British colony in North America. He was drowned in the high seas on the way home. Many Devonians followed his lead and emigrated to Newfoundland in the following years.

**JOHN DAVIS** (born c.1550 at Sandridge overlooking the Dart estuary). He was an outstanding navigator and was convinced there was a way to China around the top of America. He failed to find one, but discovered Davis Strait and explored Baffin Bay. Later, he made several voyages to the South Seas and East Indies. In 1605 he was

killed by Japanese pirates off Singapore.

These men, and there were others who are now less well known, had much in common. From a seafaring race, they knew the meaning of bravery. They longed to sail beyond the horizon and realised the risks they were taking. They were variously explorers, navigators, merchant seamen, sea-captains during war, privateers and pirates at a time when it was not possible to draw a line between legitimate trade and piracy. Drake was all of these.



Drake's statue  
Plymouth Hoe

London with its wealth dominated trade throughout the country and was delighted to finance exploration of distant lands with the aid of Devonians. Why Devon, why not some other county? Chiefly because Devon had the seamen and in Drake it had someone who was able to promote understanding and co-operation between financiers, which included Devon landowners and others, mercantile mariners and the Navy.

World trade up to then had been based in the Mediterranean, to which treasures from India and the

Far East were transported, mainly overland, and then shipped in oared craft to Spain. With the discovery of America, Spain was quick to find Mexican and Peruvian gold and take it home with the authority of the Pope, no less, who decreed in 1493 that the Americas should be divided exclusively between them and the Portuguese. The English saw it otherwise.

Queen Elizabeth fully approved the piratical attacks of Drake and Hawkins on the Spanish ships and colonies in the West Indies and willingly accepted a share of the swag they



brought home. Whilst she and Philip of Spain sought to avoid open warfare, the threat of an attack on England by Spain, which already occupied most of the Netherlands with troops, was real. For the time being, with a population of less than 5 million and few resources, she hastened to strengthen her fighting ships. Eventually, the knighthood conferred on Drake and the murder of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots made war inevitable. The glorious yet sad victory over the Armada, with its lightly-gunned ships packed with infantry waiting to form boarding parties and the newly evolved English ships firing broadsides through portholes, was a turning point in English and Continental history and the end of both Spanish supremacy and of Devon's place on the national stage.

After the Armada, Devon's seafaring tradition continued in a calmer environment. **WALTER RALEIGH** (born 1552 at Hayes, a large barton behind East Budleigh) with his polish and broad Devon accent, found favour as a young man at Elizabeth's court. His adventurous spirit drove him to found his colony in Virginia and to explore Guiana. Much later he was unfairly accused of treason, was condemned to death and then reprieved to spend the next 13 years imprisoned in the Tower of London. Released, he sought a gold mine up the Orinoco where he was involved in an affray with a force of Spaniards. Partly to satisfy the Spanish Ambassador, he was beheaded in

London, on the order of King James I. It was not long before Devon merchants and shipowners were taking a major share of overseas trade to the East by way of the Cape of Good Hope and, more importantly, arranging the emigration of thousands from all over England, besides Devonians, to the New World. The departure of the Mayflower in 1620 and the royal grant of extensive territory in the present New Hampshire and Maine to Sir Ferdinand Gorges, Governor of Plymouth, two years later greatly increased the numbers of would-be emigrants.

During the following century they went, from Plymouth, Barnstaple and Bideford, to one or other of the thirteen colonies that were established along 500 miles of the American seaboard from New Hampshire to the Carolinas. Each colony was a separate entity and drew up its own rules, whilst retaining the English language and common law. In the north were the hardworking puritanical settlers, in the south "plantations" with negro labour, cotton and tobacco. In between lay the Middle Colonies based on New York (formerly New Amsterdam) with a more flexible democratic society where immigrants from Northern Europe were encouraged. Many Devon place-names persist all along the seaboard, especially in New England, as do the descendants of those enterprising Devonians who sought a new and exciting life so long ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

## POSITIVE THINKING

Two molecules went to the Sloop for a beer. After several rounds one of them exclaimed "Heavens, I've lost my negative ion!" "Are you sure?" the other asked. "Yes," insisted the first, "I'm positive." (N.O.)



# School Field Project

Dear All

Just a quick report this month! Lots to say 'thank you' for. The car boot sale at the parish hall raised £73.50 and thanks to all of you who took part in it in any way! Another thanks to the Village Inn for the donation of £26.50 from their Quiz Night.

We have now completed two more projects. Our pergola is on the field complete with climbing honeysuckle and plans for sweet peas, clematis, runner beans and peas in the spring. Thank you Mr. Gunner and Mr. Lewin-Titt. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Howey, Mrs Henderson and Mrs Bushell dug tyres into the ground (in pouring rain!) to make a Loch Ness monster to jump and balance on; also we have obtained a dinghy which we will park on a "beach" area for imaginative play as we are, after all, a seaside school.

We want to plant seashore plants such as Thrift, Tamarisk, Sea Campion, and Sea Holly there. Does anyone have seeds, or plants of this type? Or a thornless climbing rose to climb the pergola?

Our next two projects are, first to make a "hill" over a 6 ft length of clay pipe, large enough to stand up in (if you are a child!) for a play tunnel. We are having problems locating this - can anyone point us in the right direction? Secondly, we want to begin a collection of rocks (using fairly hunky specimens!) for our geology garden to help the children learn what granite, sandstone, slate, chalk quartz and the various local schists and flints look like. But here we run into more problems. We need an expert geologist to tell us all about local rocks and to help us locate samples. Anyone

geologically minded out there? If you can help, please phone our chairman, Alison Bushell (560370).

Far in the future are plans for a proper bird hide. We are supporting the RSPB in feeding the rare Cirl Bunting and have been asked to report all sightings. We have been donated some binoculars which will help, but an old shed would make a good hide because they are very shy.

Perhaps this is not such a "short" report, after all! But it's all very exciting - even in this wet and windy winter weather.

Our thanks for your continuing enthusiasm and support.

Jackie Jackson



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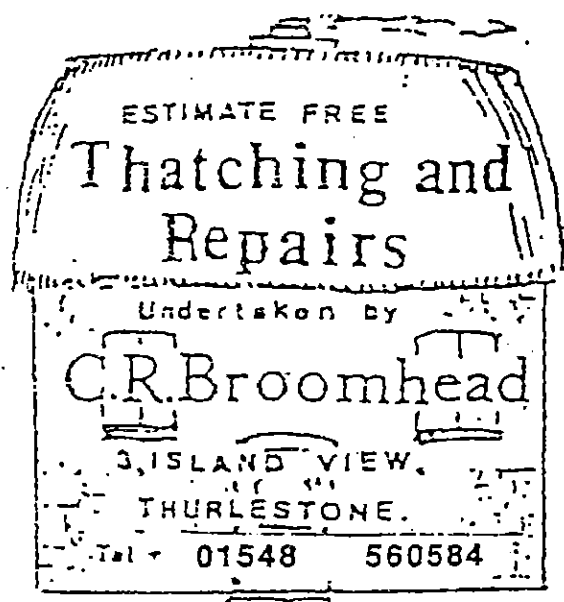
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# PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER



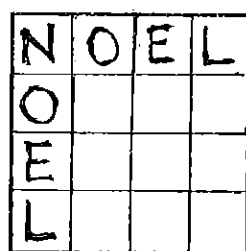
## 1. MISSING LINKS

Find the missing links between these pairs of words by filling the space in the bracket with a word associated with both. Each word has FOUR letters, e.g. **back (ward) robe**. When completed, the initial letters of each word in brackets form the first line of a well-known Christmas hymn.

- |                 |         |                   |         |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Wood ( )     | Roach   | 17. He ( )        | Crafty  |
| 2. Horse ( )    | Grip    | 18. Is ( )        | Slide   |
| 3. Rambling ( ) | Mary    | 19. Newcastle ( ) | Tyne    |
| 4. Cast ( )     | Monger  | 20. Cock ( )      | Spin    |
| 5. 'Thou ( )    | Dune    | 21. Imp ( )       | Way     |
| 6. At ( )       | Tube    | 23. Willow ( )    | Robert  |
| 7. Not ( )      | Lolly   | 24. Which ( )     | Lasting |
| 8. Pal ( )      | Age     | 25. Cow ( )       | Bound   |
| 9. Wry ( )      | Lace    | 26. Amen ( )      | Bodied  |
| 10. Win ( )     | Where   | 27. Water ( )     | Neck    |
| 11. Norman ( )  | Bishop  | 28. Swimming ( )  | Table   |
| 12. Cake ( )    | About   | 29. Back ( )      | Stick   |
| 13. Sub ( )     | Marine  | 30. Ham ( )       | Turtle  |
| 14. Man ( )     | Red     | 31. Wide ( )      | Prison  |
| 15. Speak ( )   | Easy    | 32. Tor ( )       | Free    |
| 16. Vouch ( )   | Breaker | 33. After ( )     | Tide    |

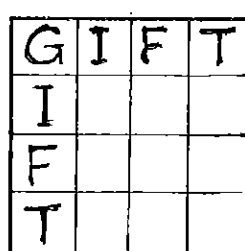
## 2. MINI CROSSWORDS

A



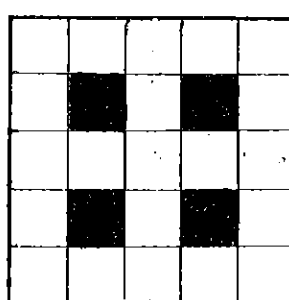
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B



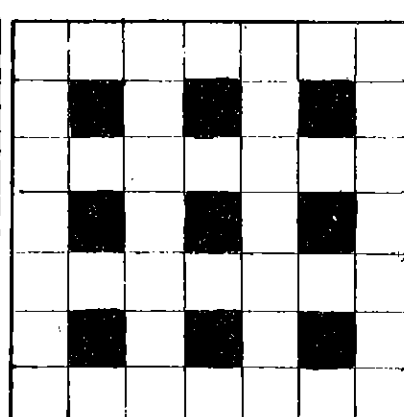
EEELLSTXX

C



ACTOR PRINT  
SUPER NAIAD  
SANTA RIDER

D



AIRWAYS LEAKAGE  
SATISFY RETRACT  
CANDLES NATURAL  
SILVERY CEREALS

In A and B, place the letters to make two-way crosswords (across and down).

In C and D, position the words in the grids to make two-way crosswords.

# Rosemary Mackay's Bookshelf

## **LOST FOR WORDS**     Deric Longden

I am equally lost for words to describe the charm, humour, and word-pictures that continually fall out of the pages of this book to give one a quiet laugh. I wonder how he can find so many varied ways to add the fun to everyday happenings...particularly the mishaps!

## **FLORA BRITANNICA**     Richard Mabey

I fingered this in a book shop and came back to ponder who, of my relatives, deserved this expensive book (£30), or who to persuade it was just the present for me. It has hours and hours of reading and information, so put it on your Christmas list "for" or "from".

## **PRINCE OF TIDES**     Pat Conroy

I read this in Canada and I believe it has been made into a movie. It is set mostly in South Carolina and is so beautifully descriptive of people, scenery, and life as it evolves. It has a rattling good story running through it. Some of the language is a bit "modern" (and therefore my husband wasn't too keen on it...but then, he doesn't live in the real world, he lives in Thurlestone).

Incidentally, I have tried to read **Anita Brookner** and **Shena Mackay** (no connection) both of whom have had nominations for, and won, prestigious literary prizes. Although well written, they don't really seem to have much purpose or story. What do VV readers think of these two authors?

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THURLESTONE RANDOM RHYMES**

P.M.M. reviews Hilda Roscrow Davies's new book of poems.

Hilda Davies, Thurlestone's poet and artist, and a proud great-grandmother, has now produced and illustrated the promised further book of almost 100 poems - and a few limericks for good measure.

In **Thurlestone Random Rhymes** she covers a wide range of topics, reaching back in these short works to her early orphanage days in Falmouth, through a happy marriage, her family, even a televised England v. Scotland soccer match. No subject escapes her ever-busy pen. She even writes about writing poetry, such is her love for it. "**Odd Thing**" caused me to ponder on the identity of the gentleman who offered her a mystery gift!

To use Mrs Davies's own words *"These poems are a glimpse into my past life which has been very varied and fraught at times. But my guardian angel was never far away."*

Copies of this newly-published book available from Mrs Davies at Celts Corner, price £10.

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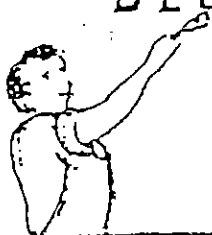
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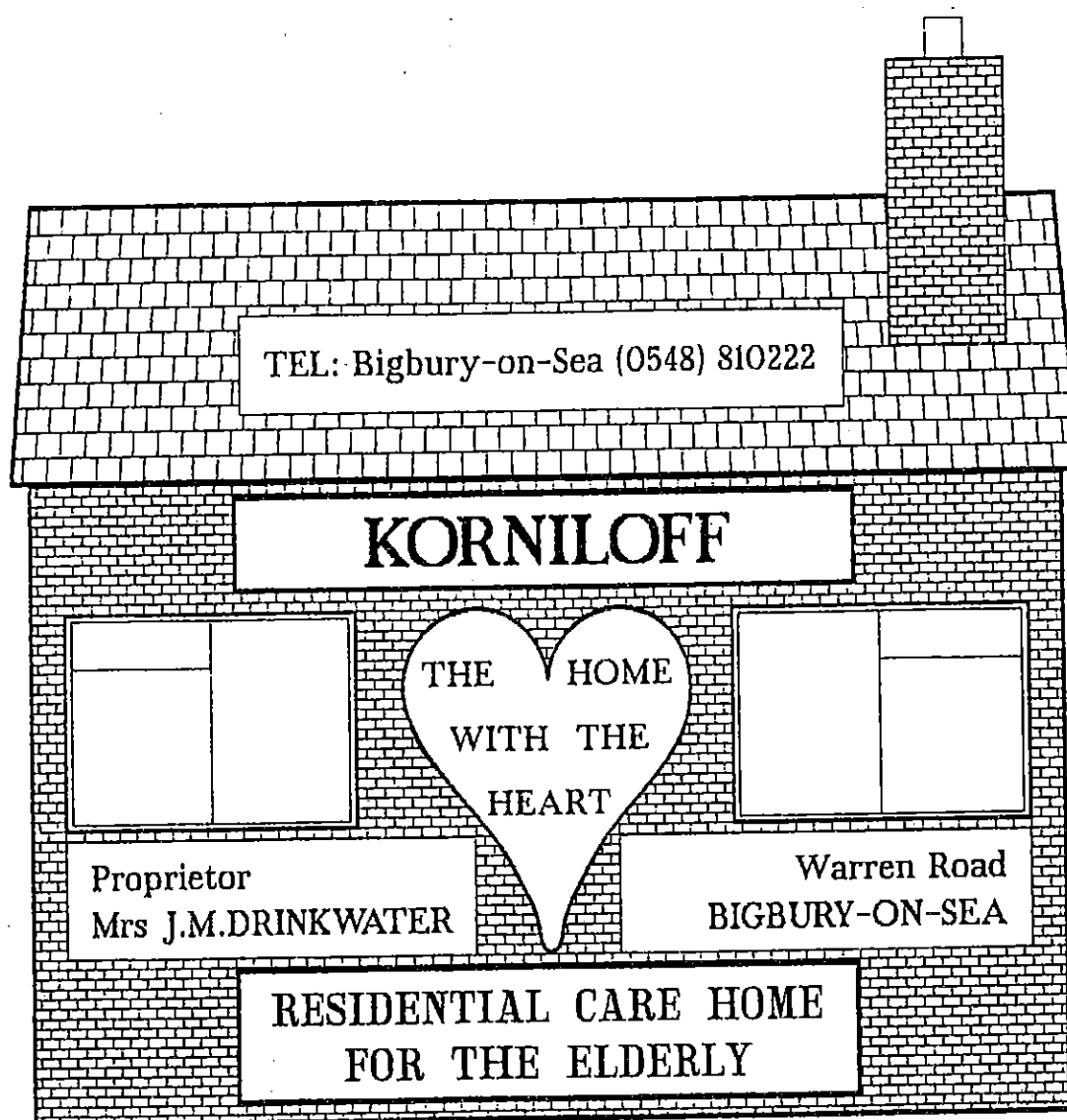
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---



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Your support of "The All Saints Carollers" enables Miorica to be sponsored.

---

Unfortunately it is not possible to sing at every house in the Parish. If you would like us either to sing at your house or do not wish us to call, please tell Pam Brewster (560345) or Liz Webb (560090).

# The Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine not only contains information about services at All Saints' Church, Thurlestone and All Saints' Church, South Milton but also local information, Exeter Diocesan News and The Sign, a National section. All this for only £3.50 a year. If you would like the Parish Magazine delivered to you each month, please contact:

Joan Galloway at Edens, Warren Road, Thurlestone

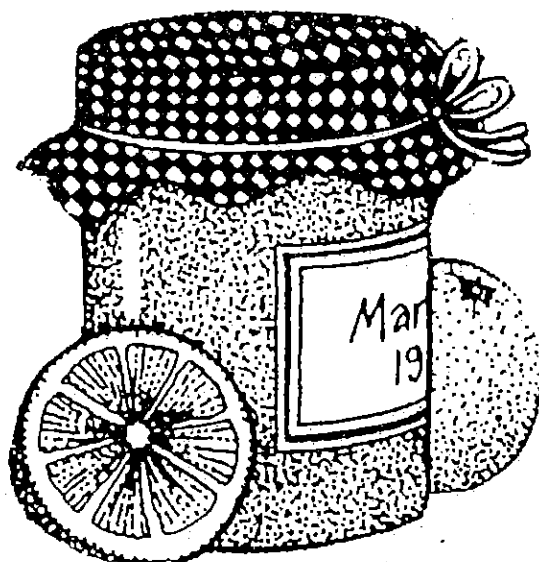
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*What happens when we die?*

*What relevance does Jesus have for  
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*How do we deal with guilt?*

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Rector: Prebendary P.S. Stephens,  
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Tel: 560232

Dear Friends,

**ALPHA 1997**

We are nearing the end of our first Alpha Course and our next course is being planned. This will be on Monday evenings, starting on January 13th. The Alpha Course is for anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. It is free but a small charge will be made for the evening meal.

Details and application forms for this 12 week course of talks by Nicky Gumbel on video tape, may be obtained from the Parish Churches of All Saints, Thurlestone and All Saints, South Milton or from the Convenor: Mr Richard Boxhall, Cedar Rose, Court Park Lane, Thurlestone - Tel: 560410.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter S. Stephens, Rector

***What is Alpha?***

**Alpha is for:**

**A**n anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. People of all ages are welcome.

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**H**elping one another. The small groups give you a chance to discuss issues raised during the talks.

**A**sk anything. Alpha is a place where no question is regarded as too simple or too hostile.

# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 1996

FOR THE PARISHES OF  
ALL SAINTS, THURLESTONE WITH  
BUCKLAND AND BANTHAM AND  
ALL SAINTS, SOUTH MILTON

## SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

*'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols'*

11.10am Thurlestone

6.00pm South Milton

## MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER - ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

*Placing the Figures in the Christmas Crib*

3.00pm South Milton

4.00pm Thurlestone

## CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

*The First Communion of Christmas*

10.15pm South Milton

11.45pm Thurlestone

## CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY DECEMBER 25TH

*Holy Communion (said)*

8.00am Thurlestone

*All-Family worship for Christmas*

*Morning*

*followed by*

*shortened Holy Communion*

9.30am South Milton

11.10am Thurlestone



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# TRAMPS PROGRES

## A VISIT

My dog and I, who were staying with Pam Brewster, joined the tramp held on the fine but very blustery day of September 18th. The party consisted of 17 people and 5 dogs.

Pam told me that there would be no problem - we would only be walking nine and a half miles. My heart sank at this reassurance, as I know I begin to flag after about six miles.

We started and finished at Malborough. En route we passed Batson Creek, then went on to round Snapes Point, from where we curved round to Lincombe. We sat down to eat an early picnic nearby, then waited a while for the tide to fall so that we could walk along the shoreline of Blanksmill Creek.

It was here that one of the dogs - not mine, of course - went lolloping out into the mud and put up a pair of swans, who displayed their great strength by taking off into a furious head wind that would certainly have grounded a light aircraft!

From Blanksmill Bridge the route plunged

lasted nearly seven and a half miles, then flagged, and eventually accepted a lift for the very last stretch of the route. After all, why suffer?

The places where I normally walk are in the Derbyshire Peak and in North Yorkshire. Compared to the stern colouring and contours of those regions, the South Hams, with their busy green slopes, patched with red ploughed fields and views across creeks, are excessively pretty.

I noticed colour differences even with the local sheep. In Yorkshire there are snowy-white Swaledales with jet black noses and legs grazing under the grey limestone scars: here the flocks in the fields were pinky-beige...stained, I presume, by the local soil.

Warm thanks to all the other Trampers for their friendly company on the way round, and I wish them all pleasant walking for the rest of the year.

**Jenny McWilliam**

## THE PUFFBALLS WERE DELICIOUS!

On October 9th, having parked the cars along the road to Bowcombe, the fourteen walkers and three dogs continued to cross the bridge without getting run over and set off along the edge of the creek.

Despite the distinctly slippery nature of the terrain, slimy rocks and squelchy seaweed only recently uncovered by the receding tide, the more observant of the group noticed some interesting architectural features.

Soon the sun came out and warmed us for

most of the rest of the walk. Soon, too, the two enthusiastic and impatient spaniels, their owners in tow, disappeared round a corner and never saw the rest of us leave the creek edge and take to a path beside the fields. They were never seen again and it was assumed that they got home safely!

Now reduced to twelve and one dog we followed the path to Frogmore, enjoying the view and the sun. On the way we regaled ourselves on blackberries which, despite (or perhaps thanks to) the devil's best efforts,

re covered amazingly speedily. We paused only to admire the platform beside the road overlooking the creek, with its illustrations, some of them worked into the wooden parapet, to help with the identification of the birds of Bowcombe Creek.

sp.

The last stretch back down to the stream below Bowcombe, crossed by a pretty stone bridge, and then along the lane to the cars,

It was a shorter walk than some but no less appreciated for that.

*And the puffballs were delicious!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE LURE OF LOCAL LIMERICKS

Philip Candy has sent in the following, saying it might be fun to invite other readers to contribute limericks about local places. Here are some of his, to start us off:

### THURLESTONE

A certain young girl of Thurlestone  
Would spend many hours on the phone  
Her Dad said "Its too bad  
I feel sad and so mad  
As you've forced me to take out a loan!"

### THE MEAD

The people who live on the Mead  
Appear a peculiar breed  
Although thoughtful and kind  
They seem weak in the mind  
'Cos they'd rather go golfing than feed

### BANTHAM

A cocky young cockerel in Bantham  
Was small - indeed only a bantam  
But each day at dawn  
He'd fortell the new morn  
By crowing the National Anthem

### DEVON

The good folk of Devon count-ee  
Who are forced to let Spain fish their sea  
And are told by EU  
When and where cows may moo  
Will be voting for U.K.I.P.

### SALCOMBE

A naughty old witch of Salcombe  
Used to ride round the town on a broom  
If I told what came next  
You would get very vexed  
And ask me to "Please leave the room"

### SOUTH MILTON

A Scotsman who lived in South Milton  
Made a cheese that tasted like Stilton  
Brussels said "You can't sell"  
He replied "What the hell!  
I know where I'd put it if you had a kilt on!"

Not from the Candy pen come the following:

A resident, name of P.Candy,  
At writing fun limericks was dandy.  
He said "Penning a verse  
Like this is a curse  
For a Welshman in old Tonypandy.

But inhabitants of Thurlestone (bar none)  
May indulge in some literary fun  
With a limerick or two  
(They're quite easy to do!)  
Come on now! Get started! Well done!"

# ***NEWS FROM THE W.I.***

## **Current Events**

At the time of writing, thirteen members and friends are due to join a federation coach outing to Bath for a day's **Christmas shopping**. Rehearsals have been in full swing ready for the entertainment at the **Eastern Supper** at the end of November. (With a little skilful coaching the "Sand Dance" is coming on a treat!)

## **New Committee**

At the annual meeting the following members were elected to form the committee for 1997: Val Brown, Dorothy Candy (Treasurer), Pat Clarke, Margaret Cullum, Alice Foster, Janet Fraser, Margaret Illingworth, Mary Johnson, Norma Kendal, Joan Lane, Pat Macdonald (President) and Tricia Millman (Secretary). Warm thanks were expressed to the three members who retired from the committee - Pam Brewster, Wyn Cousins and Joan Reece - for all their work for their WI.

## **Robert Owen Foundation**

David Wilson gave a short talk about this Devon-based charity. Its aim is to offer young adults with learning disabilities a chance to develop independence and self-reliance, thus helping them to lead more purposeful and satisfying lives and also enabling them to contribute to the quality of life of others.

## **Christmas Lunch**

The Christmas Lunch Party will be on 12th December at 1.00 pm, when Jean Lee will be the guest of honour and will give one of her highly entertaining talks. This is an event not to be missed!

## **Seminole Patchwork**

On 27th January there will be an Area HE Seminole patchwork day (machine), from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm at the Parish Hall.

## **1997 Programme**

We have booked the following speakers for our monthly meetings:

**January :** Lesley Austin "Living on the Edge" (remote Pakistan)

**February :** Sacha Amfilogoff  
"Devon Air Ambulance"

**March :** Alan Simm  
"Humorous Verse & Worse"

**April :** Bill Simpson - Antiques Quiz

**May :** Public affairs resolutions for the NFWI Triennial General Meeting

**June :** Eric Wallis  
"Tutankhamun the Boy King"

**July :** Professor Basil Smallman  
Some aspects of music

**September :** Sylvia McGregor - "The art and history of jewellery"

**October :** Elizabeth Bewley-Jones  
Physiotherapy

**November :** Annual Meeting

**December :** Christmas Lunch Party

## **Other Attractions**

In between the monthly meetings we also plan to have the following:

Cookery demonstration (fish & desserts)

Hand patchwork day

Hanging Baskets workshop

Walk through Andrews Wood and

Blackdown Rings; and other Outings

Garden Lunch

Social Supper and Entertainment

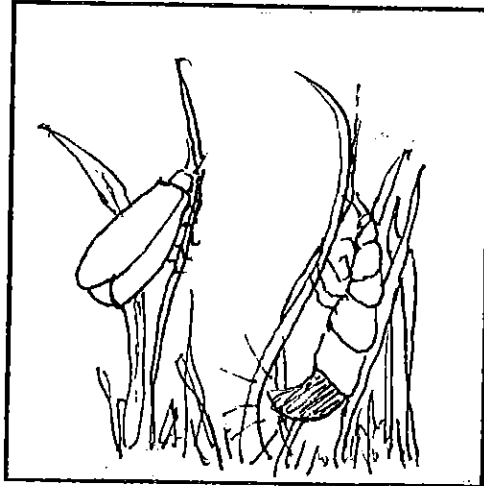
# A LIGHT IN THE DARK . . . . .

After a jolly evening had by all, I escorted my dear friend, from London, to the car. "Gosh, look at all the stars...something we never see in London," she exclaimed. It was at this moment I noticed a little light on the lawn. It was a tiny insect whose existence relies on the darkness of the night.

In the summer months, the wingless female often climbs a tall grassy stem, a vantage point which helps to show off her luminous rump in order to attract a male; hence continue the species.

Wonderful how nature works. But light pollution, together with liberal usage of chemicals, has put an end to much of this frolicking at night. The male, confused by

so many lights, may never find "the light of his life." How many of us, whilst walking in the evening, would have seen that incredible but familiar sight of tiny greeny-white lights, shining like twinkling stars in a clear night sky? Now we are lucky if we see any at all. So, when you next have another bright light attached to the outside of a building, or are asked to vote in favour of street lights, spare a kind thought for this harmless creature -



## THE GLOW WORM (LAMPYRIDAE)

May I take the opportunity to applaud those who play a part, no matter how small, in their efforts to preserve what fauna and flora we have left. Not only for us but our future generations.

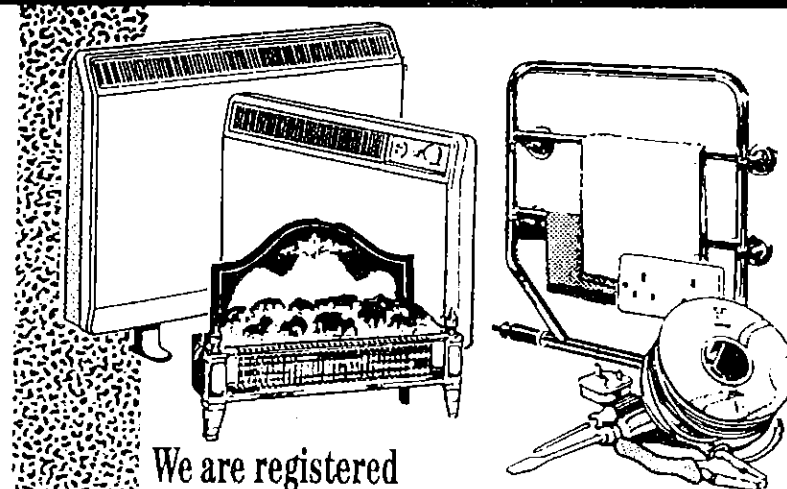
LINDA CHILCOTT

# . . . . . AND A SONG IN THE GARDEN

A recent survey by *The Wildlife Trusts* has shown that, sadly, our song thrush population is declining. While the precise cause remains something of a mystery, we can all try to make our gardens as thrush-friendly as possible by following this advice:

- \* Snails are hard to find in the winter so most song thrushes adopt a diet of fruit and berries. *Pyracantha* and *cotoneaster* are favourite sources, so these are two very good shrubs to plant in your garden.
- \* If you have a hawthorn hedge, be sure not to trim or cut it back until the end of the winter, giving the birds a chance to eat all the berries.
- \* Thrushes do not eat seeds (so many wild-bird food mixes are unsuitable), but relish fallen apples. Keep a supply of windfalls to put out once the weather gets cold.
- \* Birds welcome fresh water on cold winter days, and an ice-free bird bath can prove most attractive to thrushes, who are very keen drinkers and bathers. Change the water often - and keep the bath clean.
- \* Song thrushes frequently lay their first eggs in mid-March. These early nests are often built in exposed situations, and so raided by magpies. A mixture of evergreen shrubs and trees provides the birds with valuable nesting cover, and winter roosts.
- \* Avoid, at all costs, using slug pellets in your garden. Control slugs by other means.

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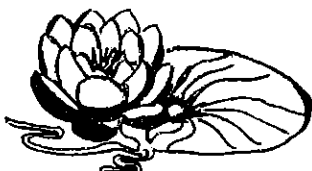
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# WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

Last time I wrote I promised you a heavy session on **GLOBAL WARMING**. Well I'll get to that in a minute. First, though, in case you haven't heard, here is the story of the Flying Pebble. It was on Monday 28th October at about 16.45 hours, wind was in the south-west and blowing a gale. Speeds in excess of 60 mph had been blowing for three days already. Ken and I were driving slowly down the road to our house, looking at the awesome sight in the bay, when a pebble about the size of a small egg was hurled up over the cliff edge and crashed straight through the window on the driver's side. There were what felt like a million pieces of glass all over me, the car and the road. When I later looked at the wind speed recorder the highest gust was 84 mph. I shudder to think what what would have happened had the stone hit a person. What power the elements have when they are wound up! So a new car window and the side panel resprayed was the price paid for daring to live so close to the sea.

Now to the topic for the month. There is much concern about the state of our atmosphere, although it has to be said that we are still not too sure about the real workings and how they can go wrong, or how exactly we rectify matters, or prevent further things going wrong. However, it IS established that we have a problem and that is up to us to try and sort it out. The HOW is the stumbling block.

In simple terms **GLOBAL WARMING** is an increase in the earth's temperature. There are several causes. The use of fossil fuels and other industrial processes have led to a build up of 'greenhouse gases' - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) - in the atmosphere. It has been known for a hundred years that carbon dioxide helps stop

the sun's infra-red radiation from escaping into space and thus functions to maintain the earth's relatively warm temperature. This is the so-called **GREENHOUSE EFFECT**. The question is whether the increasing levels of carbon-dioxide will eventually lead to a rise in global temperatures and possibly result in coastal flooding (we'll be the first to go!), and major climatic changes which will in turn have serious implications for agricultural productivity.

Evidence already exists to show that the level of carbon-dioxide has been increasing by 0.4% a year because of the use of fossil fuels and the '*slash and burn*' clearance of tropical forests. Other gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect are methane (largely from ruminant animals like cattle and sheep) and the good old CFCs. Added together, these could cause a worldwide rise in temperature estimated at 2 to 6 degrees C. over the next 100 years. This is the theory. However, since 1850 there has been a mean rise in global temperature of approximately ONE degree C., but this rise could be just a part of a natural fluctuation. Such fluctuations have been recorded for tens of thousands of years and operate in short-term as well as long-term cycles. At the present time there is a pressing need for all of us to look to the preservation of our atmosphere.

This leads me on to the other effect on our atmosphere, the **OZONE LAYER**. This is a naturally-occurring gas that forms a blanket around the earth from 12 to 30 miles above the surface. The ozone forms there by the action of sunlight on oxygen. This action has been taking place for many millions of years, but naturally-occurring nitrogen compounds in the atmosphere have apparently kept the ozone concentration at a fairly stable level. The same level found at ground level would be dangerous to human

health, but because the ozone layer protects life on earth from the full force of the sun's cancer-causing ultra-violet radiation, it is critically important. In the summer we have warnings about low level ozone being present under sunny conditions, this being the result of sunlight acting on nitrous oxide emissions from cars. Urban areas and heavily-frequented tourist spots are likely to be the worst affected.

Scientists were very concerned when they discovered in the 1970s that certain chemicals (CFCs) long used in fridges and in aerosol spray cans, posed a possible threat to the ozone layer. Their use is now banned in USA and other countries. We are encouraged to use environmentally friendly sprays.

The resulting deterioration of the ozone layer was first observed in the Antarctic when scientists noticed a loss of ozone high above that continent. This so-called **HOLE** develops in the Antarctic spring and continues for several months before closing over again. We now know that the thickness of the ozone layer is being reduced, and not only over the southern areas but over the Arctic as well. Very recently I heard an item on the radio that said the layer above Britain

was seriously affected during the summer. All of this holds real problems if allowed to continue unchecked. Skin cancer, climate changes and effects on plant growth are just the tip of the iceberg.

Another article - this time in the paper - says "*Decade of bad weather ahead*". This was put forward by a scientist from NASA, James Hansen. He cites four reasons for this gloomy forecast:

- (1) Volcanic ash from Mt. Pinatubo (1991) has now fallen out of the atmosphere allowing radiation in
- (2) Carbon-dioxide continues to rise due chiefly to burning coal and oil.
- (3) Ozone levels should begin to recover in the next five years.
- (4) The eleven-year cycle of sunspot activity will be at its minimum during the next year or so. This means more radiation will reach the earth's surface in the next 6 to 7 years.

By that time we will, he says, begin to notice the change. So there you are. Are you confused? I think I may be—a little!

*HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT AND FROSTY NEW YEAR!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLE CORNER

### 1. MISSING LINKS

- |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Cock  | 2. Hair  | 3. Rose  | 4. Iron  | 5. Sand  | 6. Test  | 7. Iced  |
| 8. Aver  | 9. Neck  | 10. Some | 11. Arch | 12. Walk | 13. Aqua | 14. Kind |
| 15. Easy | 16. Safe | 17. Arty | 18. Land | 19. Upon | 20. Tail | 21. Each |
| 22. Tone | 23. Herb | 24. Ever | 25. Hide | 26. Able | 27. Polo | 28. Pool |
| 29. Yard | 30. Mock | 31. Open | 32. Rent | 33. Noon |          |          |

**Answer: CHRISTIANS AWAKE, SALUTE THE HAPPY MORN!**

### 2. MINI - CROSSWORDS

- A. NOEL OILY ELAN LYNX    B. GIFT ISLE FLEX TEXT  
 C. (Across) SUPER NAIAD ACTOR (Down) SANTA PRINT RIDER  
 D. (Across) CEREALS NATURAL LEAKAGE SATISFY  
 (Down) CANDLES RETRACT AIRWAYS SILVERY



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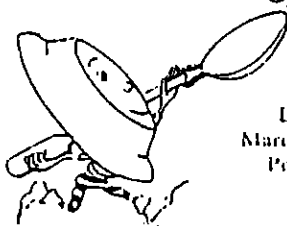
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# CHRISTMAS POSTBAG

**Dear Editor**

I enjoy reading the Village Voice. It is entertaining and educational. I especially like Weather Wag, as she always has something interesting to say.

Her last article was no exception. She confirms what I have always thought...that the sun goes round the earth once a day, despite what Galileo and Isaac Newton said. Anyone can see with their own eyes that the sun, like the moon, rises in the east and travels across the sky to the west, then round the other side, making the earth the centre of the solar system I suppose.

If this is incorrect, will someone please tell me how to prove the opposite, that the earth goes round the sun?

**"SUNSTRUCK"**

(name and address supplied)

**Dear Editor**

Members of the N.S.P.C.C. Thurlestone branch would like to thank the many readers and friends who once again supported our Christmas Bazaar, and without whose generosity the magnificent sum of £921 would not have been realised.

At this time of year particularly we should remember those children - regrettably some in the South Hams - who are neglected, abused, and so dependent on the help and care of the N.S.P.C.C. - a Society which can only meet the ever-increasing demands made upon it if people like yourselves continue to give.

**MOLLIE OSWALD**

**Dear Editor**

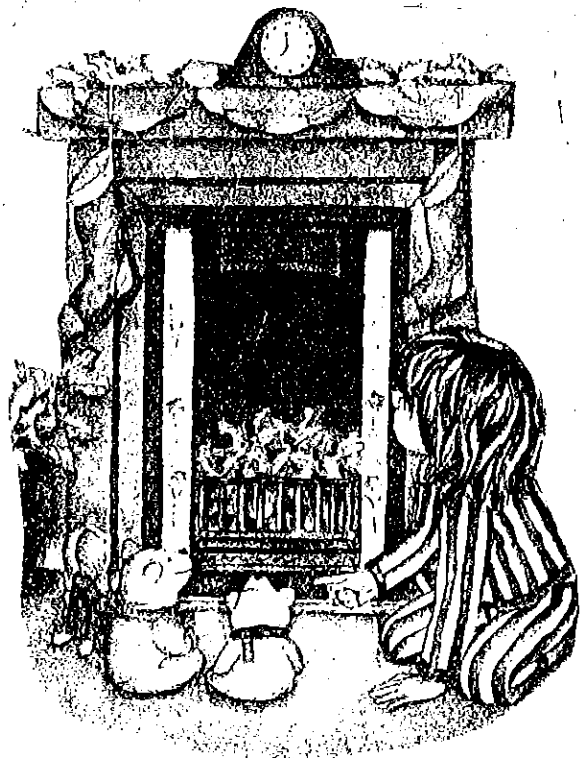
We have always appreciated the need for good neighbours and friends but since Roy's recent short 'holiday break' in the Coronary Care Unit we realise how blessed we are living here.

Everyone has been so kind and considerate and we have been especially touched by the youngsters of Parkfield who have come to the house to enquire about Roy and brought their own very special cards of affectionate good wishes..."I am very glad that you survived because you are my friend" from a 7 year old and "I care about you" from another little girl.

No price can be put on this precious gift.

**PAT AND ROY TOWNSEND**

P.S. Roy is doing fine!



# Abbeyfield Opens in Kingsbridge

The newly-built Abbeyfield House has opened its doors to give a welcome and a home to up to ten residents who need the support, care and companionship which Abbeyfield all over the country can offer. Each Abbeyfield resident has the key to a warm, carpetted bed sittingroom, furnished with their own treasured pieces of furniture, and with an en suite toilet and shower room.

Free to come and go as they please, residents are encouraged to feel part of the community. Ideally situated at the lower end of Saffron Park, near the estuary, Health Centre, library and shops, the House is 'run' by a resident housekeeper/cook, supported by a small voluntary committee. The housekeeper is in daily contact with all residents by means of a call system, and she serves the two main meals - lunch and a high tea - in the communal dining room. Ingredients for each resident to make his/her own breakfast are provided.

*Do you know of any older person, living in the South Hams, who might benefit from the 'supportive' care?*

He or she may be finding the trials of daily living alone becoming increasingly a burden, but they may never have heard about Abbeyfield. Please mention this article to them or their families - there are several rooms still available.

The charge is £130 or £140 per week for accommodation and full board, with the use of many facilities including a laundry room, pay-phone, bath with hydraulically lifted seat etc. Statutory help is available for those with low capital and income. For more information and an application form please phone the house committee secretary Peter Mills (01548 - 856976)

Jean Stephenson (01548 - 560337)  
Chairman: Abbeyfield House Committee

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## "WHO", "WHAT", "WHEN" QUIZ ANSWERS

1. An old word for a division of a county, similar to a "hundred"
2. "Don Quixote" by Cervantes
3. Six agricultural workers who in 1834 formed a Trade Union, and were transported to Australia
4. Signed 1215 at Runnymede.
5. 1200
6. Malachi
7. Cheshire and Lancashire
8. A wild cow-like animal, ancestor of our herds
9. Scotland, famous for its oatcakes
10. A skulk
11. A skein
12. "Fog, Investigation & Dispersal Of" developed on airfields in WW2.
13. "Pipe-Line Under The Ocean" to France in WW2
14. A large yellow cloth star, which persons of Jewish descent were forced to wear by the Nazis
15. Marseilles
16. Paying of employees other than in coin, and forcing them to use such at company shops
17. A tea-cake, or Bath bun
18. The Mississippi in the USA, with its tributary the Missouri, is 4,814 miles
19. A rhyming word (eg hurdy-gurdy, tittle-tattle)
20. A word reading the same backwards and forwards (eg madam, and Napoleon's reputed line "Able was I ere I saw Elba")
21. Discontented workers, around 1812, who smashed factory machines which they thought would cause job-losses
22. Eureka
23. Arabic
24. Welsh rioters, in 1843, who destroyed Turnpike gates

(Quiz and Answers by Bruce Mackay)

# SUPERGUIDE

## DECEMBER

Sat. 7th NSPCC Bridge Evening, Parish Hall  
Tue. 10th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm  
Wed. 11th Tramps: Christmas Walk  
Thu. 12th WI Christmas Lunch Party 1.00 pm Parish Hall  
Thu. 19th Fellowship "Yule Be Welcome", Church, 2.30 pm

## JANUARY

Wed. 8th Tramps: See P.O. window for details  
Thu. 9th WI 2.30 Parish Hall "Living on the Edge" (Pakistan)  
Mon. 27th WI 10.30 - 3.30 "Seminole Patchwork"

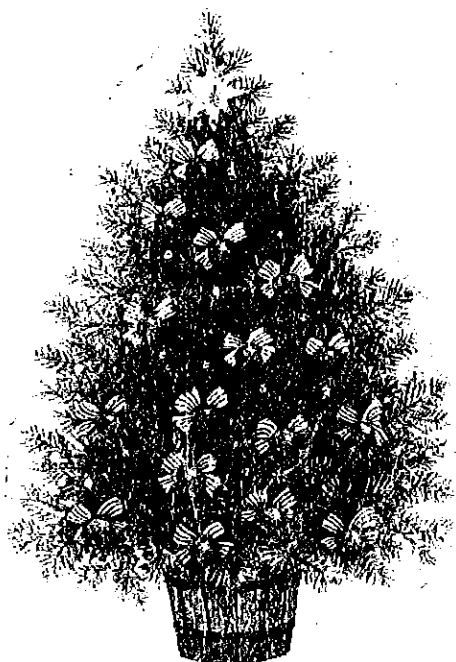
## FEBRUARY

Wed. 12th Tramps: See P.O. window for details  
Thu. 13th WI 2.30 Parish Hall. "Devon Air Ambulance"

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**The Deadline date for the next issue is 1st January 1997.  
Please drop any contributions (marked "Village Voice")  
through letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date.**

# THE SLOOP INN

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