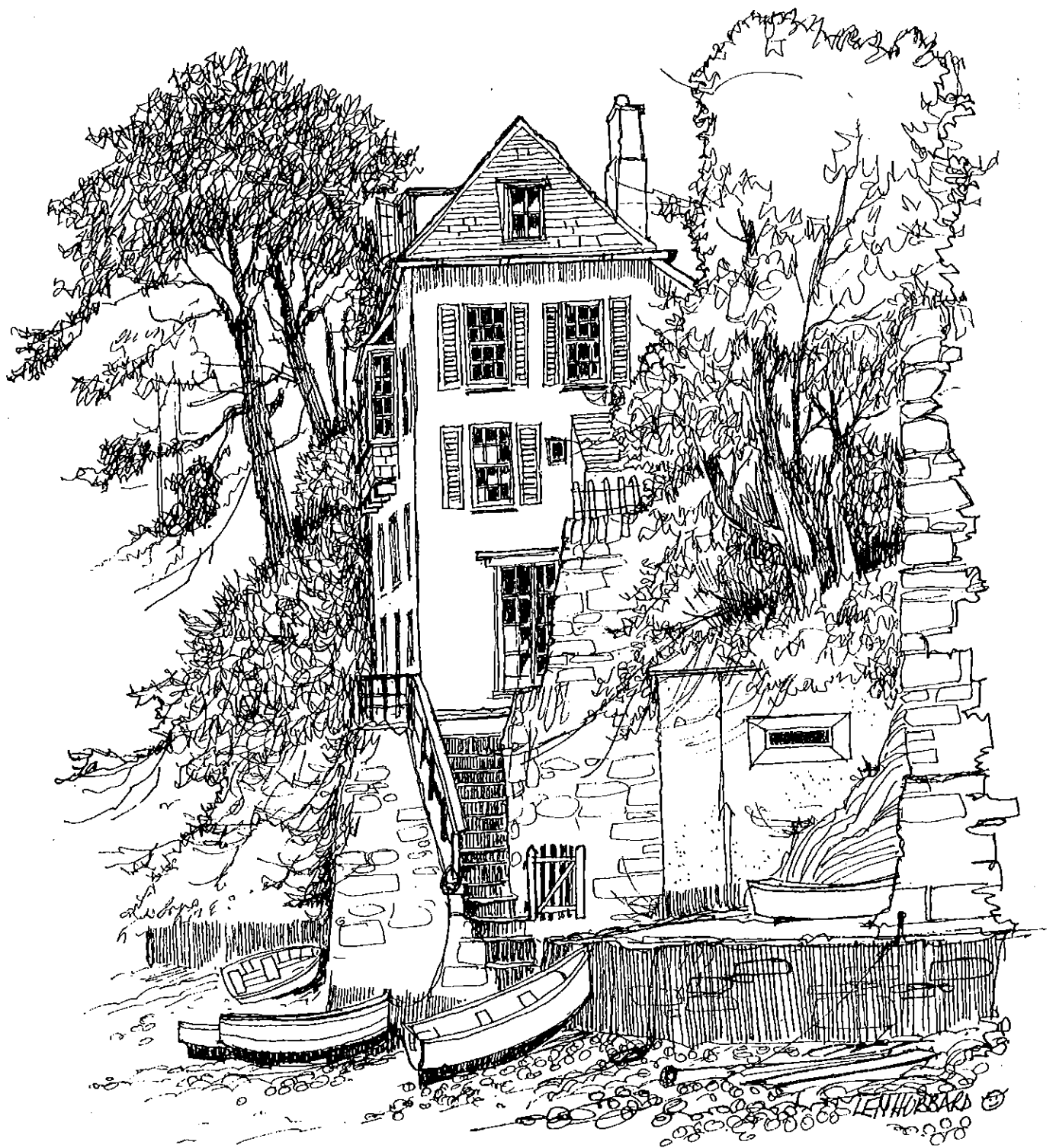


# VILLAGE VOICE



**APRIL - MAY 1997**





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**FIFTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION**

**APRIL - MAY 1997**

The start of the golf club's centenary celebrations was suitably marked by the appearance of a spectacular astral body (apparently referred to in the clubhouse as Scarfe's Comet), but the Club has produced a more permanent record of the event, in the form of an excellent illustrated centenary book by Derek Roberts, which is a 'must' for the whole parish, not just for golf club members. Beg or borrow a copy, if you don't have one. Following the path of the comet, Village Voice spirits you away in this issue first to Islay and then on to India, while "Traveller" takes a hand (or two) on the bridge.

Villager provides a list of future development sites and also elaborates on some fishy aspects of a recent planning application. Sea fever, however, seems to have given way to the latest contemporary craze, line dancing, which is currently sweeping through the W.I. and the Parish Hall. Does this mean the village will be voting with its feet come 1st May?

Finally, Village Voice would like to send Dudley and Lillian Drabble sincere good wishes for their move from South Milton to Strete. They were the originators of this magazine, and the parish owes them a considerable debt for their pioneering work in the 1980s. They will both be missed hereabouts. May they enjoy every happiness together in their new surroundings...and we will be keeping them in touch with a regular posting of Village Voice!

# PILCHARDS AHOY!

by Villager

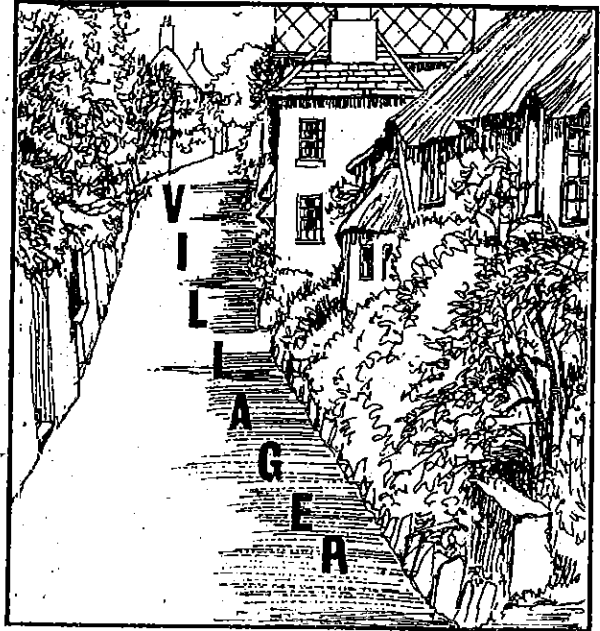
What timing! No sooner had Villager drawn attention to the matter of development in the parish than some residents rose up in wrath over a planning application to South Hams District Council for changes to the Pilchard Cellars at Bantham. The latest news, as Village Voice goes to press, is that the application has been withdrawn but, I'm told, is expected to reappear in revised form.

However, it was surprising amid all the hubbub to note that even as the Pilchard Cellars became the focus of villagers' attention, many people were unaware of the reason for the name of the house, or even of the role that the pilchard played in the history of the area.

*It was fishing for pilchards which created Bantham as a village and kept it in existence for centuries.*

We are not talking about something small and local, confined to just a few boats hauled up on the bank where the Boathouse now stands. It seems incredible now, but it is a fact that the fishermen of Bantham, Aunemouth, Bigbury and Challaborough would catch as many as 12 million fish in a single day! And they would then export their catch to France, Holland, Italy and even Spain. This export trade was in cured fish. Some were cured at Bigbury in a building opposite Burgh Island. But a significant part of the catch was cured at Bantham in a stone "pallace" (as the fishermen called it) which is probably the walled-up thing like a lime-kiln on the right hand side of the little road down to the Boathouse and opposite the top of the Pilchard Cellars, which bears the date 1779.

They called the place where they cured the fish a "pallace" presumably because of their belief that the shoals of pilchards were led by one giant fish, which they called the Pilchard



King. But it wasn't much of a palace during the pilchard season. Then it must have been a stinking, reeking place.

Pilchard fishing in South Devon is noted in the 15th century and lasted until 1866 when, for some reason which no one knows, the pilchards just stopped coming. No Bantham fisherman until that time ever believed that the vast supplies of pilchards would ever dry up, but they did.

The pilchards wintered deep to the south of the Scillies, but each year at the end of July they came to the Devon and Cornish coasts in millions. Their shoals were so vast that it was said they could actually impede the passage of ships and it is true that the fish discoloured the water as far as the eye could see when they came up Channel and flooded into Bigbury Bay. The fish sometimes reached Start Point, but for another unknown reason never went any further up Channel.

And that was not the end of these vast fish supplies. In the middle of October fresh shoals of pilchards headed this way. At first

the Bantham men went out to beyond the Eddystone to catch them with drift nets, but soon the shoals were back in Bigbury Bay and the great slaughter began again.

Imagine Bantham when the fishing was at its height. The yacht club Boathouse was not there - that was built in 1936. But before that thatched buildings huddled against the high bank on a stone quay, part of which you can still see today when the tide is low. The quayside, which was called Lower Cellars, would have been packed with moored boats as it gave access to deep water. If you looked up river, there was another collection of boats on the mud on the south side of the river at Aunemouth Sands - in front of another collection of shacks and more than 13 cottages. Now all you can see there are a few ruins, but then it was a hamlet occupied entirely by pilchard fishermen.

*An armada of boats was in the river. Biggest were the pilchard seiners carrying great nets to wrap around the shoals. Next to them were the volyers or followers, in which the thwart or stop nets were stowed. And all around were other even smaller boats called lurkers. What men were aboard (and not in the Sloop) worked with one eye on the river entrance with its headland on which today is the much-photographed thatched boathouse of Jenkins' Quay (built in 1912 on the site of a much older cottage).*

Men stood on that little headland and they were watching other men, dark silhouettes, on the top of Burgh Island. These men were called "huers", taken from the French verb "huer" (to shout). The huers were watching for the first sign of the pilchard shoals. Often a great gathering of gulls told them where to look. Then the sea took on a reddish tinge from the mass of fish. Now it was time for the huers on the island to signal to those on shore by means of an uprooted furze bush or big stick

The men on the Ham headland passed the signal on, shouting "Heva, heva, heva" - the

Cornish word for "found" - and the Sloop was empty in seconds! And so was the Avon as the crews strained at the oars to get out of the river mouth, using their sails as well if they could. The most important boats in that fleet were the seiners. A look-out in the bow of each headed the boats to the fish shoals. When the boat was very close, he raised a stick with a cloth tied to it above his head and the killing business began.

Five crucial minutes now would decide whether a hundred thousand fish would be trapped or whether the little fish would escape. For they were little fish. Though the pilchard can grow to ten inches long, the ones caught by seine netting were usually under six inches and better known to us today by the alternative name of sardines.

Now the fishermen rowed round the shoal, shooting the 1,000 foot long net as they went. So skilled were they at this that the whole net was out in under five minutes. One of the volyer boats had kept one end of the net and now the two ends were warped together. The stop-nets of the volyer boats sealed the entrance after the lurkers had moved into the gap and kept the fish from making a break for the open sea by banging on the boats' hulls and splashing with their oars.

So the fish were trapped but no boat could lift a whole netful of that size. The fish were left trapped in this circle of net until the next low tide. Then another smaller net was lowered inside and finally hauled up. The fish inside it thrashed about as they were hauled to the surface and made so much splashing noise that the men on opposite sides of the trap could only signal to each other. Slowly the net was pulled in close to one of the larger boats and men stationed in pairs on the gunwhales literally bailed the fish on board with corn scoops or buckets. The skill of the master-seiner was in making sure that no more fish were taken from the main net than could be salted down each day in the "pallace". A good shoal could contain five million fish, so emptying the nets could take over a week.

*fewer shot*

As each boat reached the quay at Bantham the pilchards were put into "cows", which were tubs or barrels carried on a pole by two men, up the steep track to the "pallace". The women and girls did the actual salting. They piled the fish edgeways-on in great tiers against the walls of the building. Each tier of fish was covered with coarse salt before the next layer was stacked on. Then the great fish-and-salt "sandwiches" were left for about six weeks and oil and brine ran out of them on to the floor, which was sloped so that all this muck ran into a pit. And it was not wasted. Curriers bought it for dressing their leather after it had been tanned.

After six weeks the fish were taken from the heaps, sifted to save any excess salt and then washed. The liquid from the washing was not wasted either. When the coagulated oil rose to the surface it was taken to a soap-boiler. The cleaned fish were now packed in hogsheads, large casks of fifty-two and a half gallons capacity which each took 2,500 fish on average. But that wasn't the end of the work. The fish in each hogshead were now pressed by means of weights and levers so that the oil from them ran out of special holes in the casks. They reckoned on getting three gallons of fish oil per hogshead of the summer pilchards and two gallons a cask from the winter haul.

*Can you imagine the pong which hung over Bantham? No wonder the cellars were down the bank below the village! Pressing for oil took another nine days and then the cask containing about 476lbs. of fish was sealed for export. Many casks from Bantham were taken from the cellars at the riverside and sent to Naples and other Italian ports. A popular toast in the Sloop and other pilchard fishermen's haunts was "Long life to the Pope and death to thousands!" The "thousands" were presumably the pilchards!*

Other casks from Bantham went to Spain where the fish were known as "fumadoes", which roughly translates as "smokies" (which is odd; perhaps the Spaniards smoked the fish

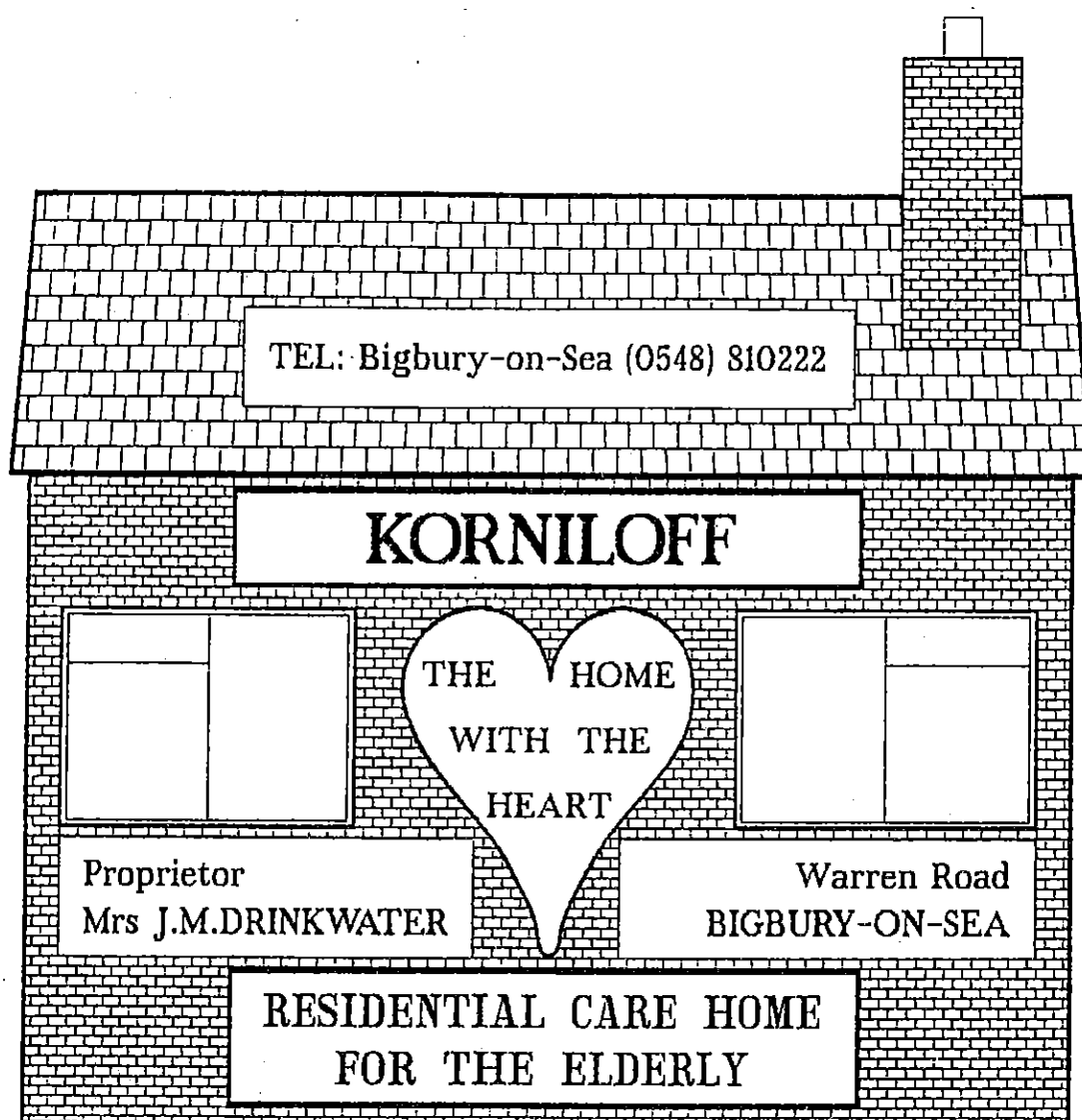
on arrival) but it led to more confusion. The Devon pronunciation of this was "furrmaides", which left many with the impression that pilchards in Spain were called "Fair Maids" - in fact one diarist of the time wrote that "fair maids served with oyle and a lemon, they are meat for the mightiest Don".

However, back in Bantham, nothing of the catch was wasted. Smashed fish and entrails went for manure. The fish oil from the casks was used for lighting in earthenware or tin lamps with a wick made from rushes collected further up the river. They gave more of a yellow glow than a clear light and the smell of the smoke was awful. Oil which was too dirty for the lamps was heated up to form a kind of paint for outdoor use.

In 1859 a hogshead of Bantham pilchards sold for 50 shillings. Huers received 21 shillings per week and a master seiner 13 shillings. The salters, both girls and women, were paid three pennies an hour. And if you wanted some pilchards for your supper, a dozen retailed at one penny.

The pilchards stopped coming some time around 1866, when the whole fleet of fishing boats could only catch some 200 hogsheads between the lot of them in a whole year. A tiny amount when only 19 years earlier, in 1847, exports from this area alone were 40,883 hogsheads - a mere 102,207,500 fish! In the latter part of the 19th century, the pilchard shoals completely changed course. Then it was Spain and Portugal's turn to export "fair maids" to Bantham in tins. And if you see fresh sardines in a fish shop or restaurant they have probably come from the very small Cornish or Breton fishery for pilchards which is all that is left of the great shoals of yore.

Perhaps we should count our blessings. If the pilchards had kept coming to Bigbury Bay, perhaps Bantham would now be only one of a chain of giant sardine canneries along the South Hams coastline. *And what planning applications those would have needed!*



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# Pat Machin's PUZZLE CORNER

## CLUELESS CROSSWORD

No clues are given but each number represents a letter.

For example, 1 = P, 2 = A, 3 = T

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

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

### REFERENCE GRID

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

# THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB CENTENARY YEAR

Around 350 members and guests crowded into the Clubhouse on the evening of the 13th March for the launch of the Centenary celebrations. A detailed account of the evening appeared in the Kingsbridge Gazette (21st March). Bob Scarfe, and the members of his Centenary Committee, have put together a very varied and exciting calendar of events to mark the Club's 100th year, and took advantage of the occasion to reveal some of the projects that had been completed to coincide with the inaugural reception. These included the magnificent new **Trophy Cabinet**, with the specially crafted "**Foundation Trophy**", and copies of the **Centenary History** of the Club - distributed free to every member of the Club. This book (of which Derek Roberts and his editorial team can be rightly proud) provides fascinating insights, and pictures, of the personalities and projects that have shaped the course and clubhouse into what you see today.

Centenary committee chairman Bob Scarfe's newsletter outlines the principal events organised for the year, which include a **Summer Ball** (Saturday 24th May), a **Concert Party** in the Marquee (Sunday 25th May), and a **Jazz Concert** (Monday 26th May).

On the course, there will be a **Charity Golf Day** on Thursday 26th June.

A number of Social Events are planned for August, and a **Centenary Banquet** will take place at the Thurlestone Hotel on the evening of Thursday 13th November.

The Concert Party evening and the following afternoon's Jazz Concert will be open to non-member local residents and friends. Look out for posters nearer the time.



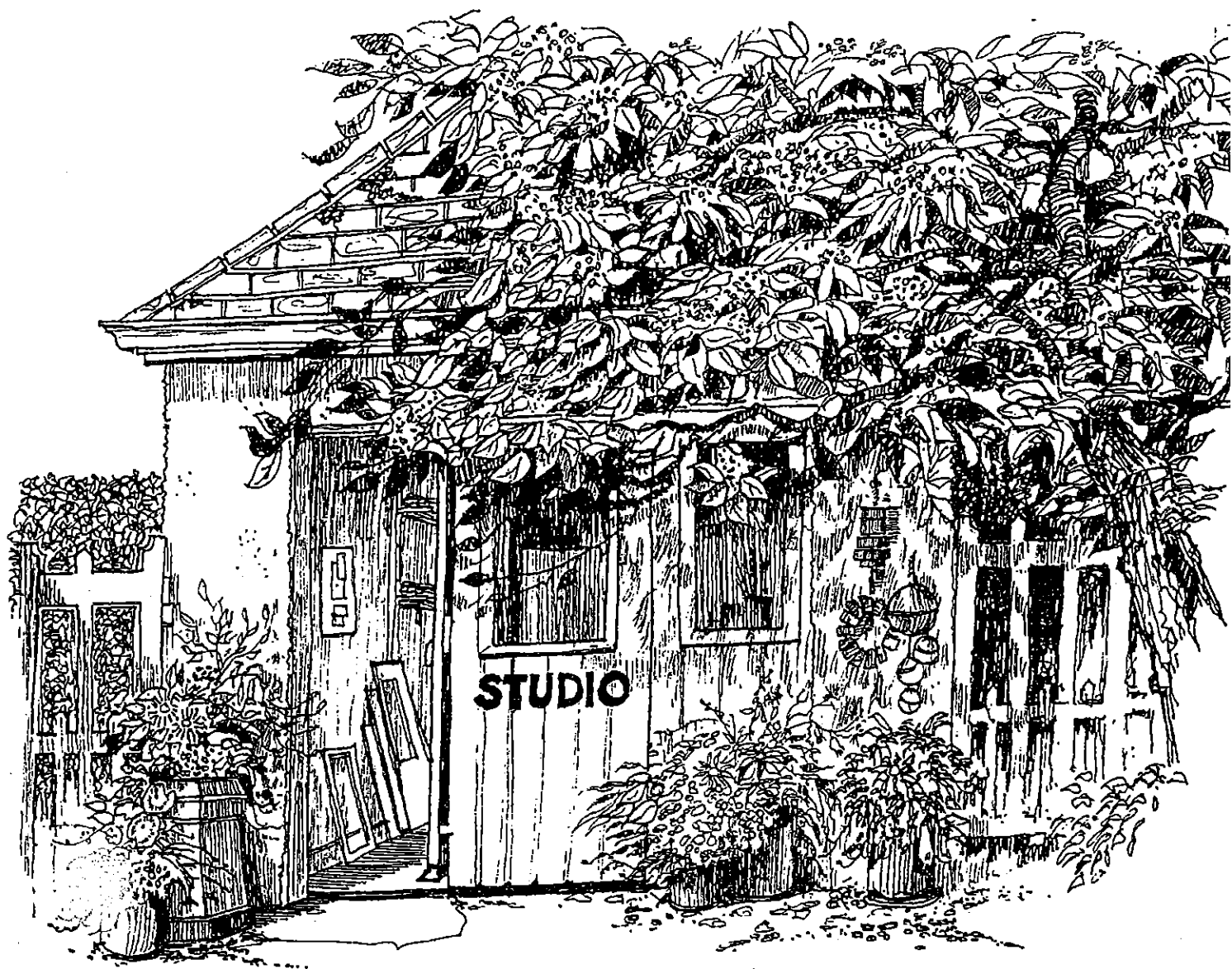
The two oldest surviving members of Thurlestone Golf Club, Mrs Teresa Bryan-Brown, and Mr John Davenport, cut the special birthday cake with its centenary icing crest at the inaugural evening in the clubhouse. Together, their membership of the club is more than 150 years.

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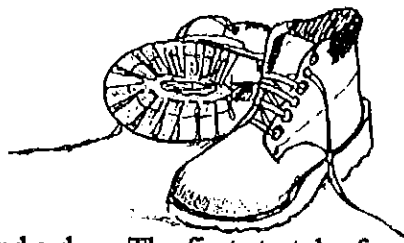
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Mrs Shirley Chapman  
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Dr Joan Golding  
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Mrs Terry Woodrow  
560206

# TRAMPS PROGRESS



In January New Year resolutions were to the fore as usual, with a record turnout for our first walk of the year. Because of the very unsettled weather we decided on a local walk, joining a number of paths previously tramped to others new to many of us.

Thirty one walkers met at the Parish Hall car park, together with three dogs, and set off towards Whitlocksworthy on what turned out to be one of the better days this winter. It was then up hill and down dale via Horswell, where we picked up two new members, to South Huish, Galmpton, and on up to the Ridge path, thence to Hope Cove for an excellent selection of soups, etc., at the Hope & Anchor.

After lunch the return journey followed the coastal path back towards Thurlestone. Some went direct, others extended it by going round the golf course.

All in all an enjoyable if easy outing for the start of the season, though a group of thirty three walkers of varying ability did have its problems - particularly when eight of the group, in the middle of the party, went 'walkabout'. However, we all met up again after about twenty minutes, well in time for lunch!

Our February walk had to be postponed until March, as the very wet and windy weather conditions were considered unsuitable for a walk involving a long stretch of exposed coastline.

**Derek Yeoman**

For the postponed outing in March, despite the overcast skies, the treacherous waters between Salcombe and East Portlemouth were scarcely choppy and the crossing was accomplished without ill-effect by those trampers who had gathered at Thurlestone. On the other side, their numbers were

swelled to 18 and a dog. The first stretch of the walk down the estuary and along the cliffs to Gara was delightful, the weather almost bright at times and the coastal views beautiful as ever. No dawdle this, however, as we had to beat the incoming tide to Waterhead.

After Gara we took to the fields and fairly beaten tracks, scarcely touching roads until we came down to Waterhead where the stepping-stones were high and dry still. The path up again was a test of our stamina and the pace slackened appreciably. A field path or two and a short stretch of road brought us in record time to the Millbrook Inn at South Pool. It was pleasant sitting both inside and outside with the brook running past.

The church was well worth a visit. Its position, high on the north side of the village, is impressive and inside there is a lot to look at: the wooden medieval rood screen, the windows, dedicated variously to St.Nicholas, St.Cyrian and St.Francis on the north side and the exuberant east window illustrating a text from the Book of Revelation; an intriguing family monument and the font, almost certainly from the same font-making 'firm' that produced the one in Thurlestone church.

After lunch there was but one defection, although by now a determined drizzle was falling. However, there remained only about four miles still to go, by a different route, back over the creek - higher up where the tide did not matter - crossing our path of the morning, back through East Portlemouth village and down again to the ferry.

It was unanimously agreed that it had been an excellent walk and one it would have been a shame to have abandoned entirely when the February weather turned nasty.

**Pam Brewster**



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# WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

**What about Monday 3rd March then?**

A **WET** day you could say! I recorded 30mm in my electronic gauge (wind was in the east) and 37mm in my manual one exposed to the east, and at ground level. Mr. Clifford Turner (Gazette weather man) recorded 56mm at East Portlemouth. Salcombe cross the estuary has an official station and recorded the highest rainfall in the country that day, up until 6 pm, and you know what happened after 6 o'clock. Their reading was 32mm or 1.26 inches so by the morning there would have been a great deal more, near to Clifford's reading, I guess. Since then things have gone quiet and there has even been some sunshine. There was more rain on that day alone than there was for the whole of January.

I thought that this time I would tell you a little about some of the requirements for running a weather station. The Meteorological Office rely a great deal on voluntary observers sending in their recordings at certain times according to the type of station they are operating. However, the Met Office has a special network of stations sending in information for use on a day to day basis.

There are four main types, all operating on a voluntary basis.

## **1. RAINFALL STATIONS.**

There are about 4200 of these in the UK. At the end of each month the observers send in forms showing the daily totals. The Met Office supply official forms and the instruments are all the same and set according to the rules laid down.

## **2. CLIMATOLOGICAL STATIONS.**

There are about 500 of these more detailed observers. They record the same information as I do, plus cloud amount, visibility and the temperature of the ground.

## **3. HEALTH RESORT STATIONS.**

There are some coastal and inland resorts that keep records in the normal way, but take part in the Health Resort Scheme. Here it is the 6 pm reading that counts. Under the scheme a limited amount of data is telephoned to the nearest Met Office Collecting Centre. It is then forwarded on to the London Weather Centre, released to the press through official channels, and included in the next day's press. Not all stations operate throughout the year, e.g. Salcombe. They have just started again now in the lead-up to the 1997 season.

## **4. (AGROMET) AGRICULTURAL METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS.**

These stations are manned by people or organisations interested in the effects of weather on horticulture, forestry and agriculture. Generally they are maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food. Some additional information may be recorded by these specialists.

Data is also obtained from a great variety of other sources, e.g. aircraft, shipping, satellites, even train travellers. Anyone can phone in to report an unusual happening, weatherwise. An enormous number of people take advantage of the forecasts which result from the conclusions arrived at when the experts have finished their deductions.

My figures are of interest only to the Met Office. This is because all data must be recorded on the same instrumentation and under as similar conditions as possible. There are three general requirements which must be met before actual co-operation can be agreed. These are (a) observations must be made each day of the year at the fixed time of 0900 Universal Time Co-ordinated (GMT) - 9 am clock time in winter and 10 am clock time during British Summer Time (b) the instruments in use must be of a standard design and, where applicable, must be

certified by the appropriate body (c) the instruments must be set up on a grass plot which is on generally level ground away from the immediate influence of obstructions such as fences, plants, trees or buildings.

There has to be an enormous commitment to keeping the records, which means there must be a stand-in observer (should you want to go away) who will complete the data at the given times. There are very strict deadlines for sending in the information collected. Additionally, training can be given to ensure that all data is correct for use by the Met Office. There is a huge **Observers Handbook** published by HMSO that contains all the rules and regulations for the collection of data for forecasting use. I am going to stick with my very interesting amateur machinery and follow a fascinating hobby.

At the moment (8th March 1997) there is a wonderful temperature inversion operating over the coast. The Rock and Bolt Tail keep disappearing and reappearing in the fog, and the temperature is going up and down like a yo-yo! Up to 13C and down to 10C in just a few minutes. The sun is there and trying hard to burn off the fog. I am optimistic that it will be successful as my washing machine is working away.....and anyway I told Bob Morley that it would burn off by mid-morning! Here's to a good summer, with sun and rain in moderation and no hosepipe ban!

#### FOOTNOTE

Please amend the rainfall figures given in the last issue to read as follows:

Total rainfall 1996 = 679mm,

Wettest month November = 109mm.

Sorry !

## WHERE ARE ALL THOSE HOUSES GOING?

Those readers who were appalled at Villager's revelation in our last issue that there were sites for over 80 houses with planning permission in Thurlestone parish, have been asking where all those houses are to go. Village Voice is able to tell you. Here is the listing:

1. Thurlestone Mead, which was originally granted planning permission in the 1960s, has forty-one remaining sites plus four under construction.	45
2. The redevelopment of the telephone exchange at Parkfield accounts for two.	2
3. The starter homes off Seaview Road add another twelve.	12
4. Homefield Farm buildings will give way to eight.	8
5. Lower Aunemouth Farm adds one already under construction.	1
6. A site adjacent to 1 Seaview Terrace adds another.	1
7. Homefield itself, with Bromfields shop, makes room for six more.	6
8. There is another one in Old Rectory Gardens.	1
9. Warren Road/Ilbert Road, Yarmer Estate, has one.	1
10. 23 Eddystone Road is yet another.	1
11. The thatched house rising near Thatchways counts as one more.	1
12. A site opposite Highfield in Eddystone Road adds another.	1
13. If you add in Stidston's Court Park Farmhouse,	1
that brings the total to	81

This April 1966 tally doesn't list all the sites in the parish with planning permission. Only those sites which will mean a gain in the number of "housing units", as the planners call our homes, are included. Replacements for houses are not included, nor are extensions, unless they form additional self-contained accommodation.

K.M.

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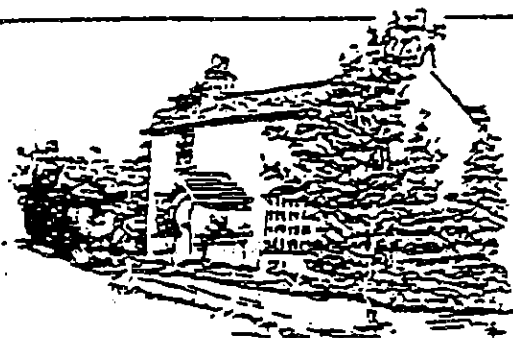
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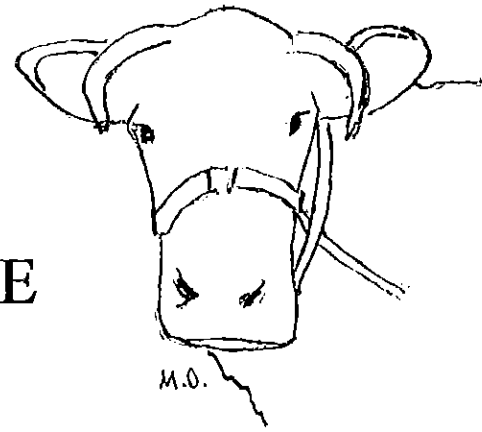
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# NEVILLE OSWALD discusses MAD COW DISEASE with GORDON BROMFIELD



*During the past few years a formidable epidemic of "Mad Cow Disease", or rather Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE), has swept through the land, bringing disruption to the farming community. Gordon Bromfield, with his dairy cattle based in his farm buildings alongside the church, has seen the havoc that has been caused from the beginning. Like other farmers, he has been bombarded with orders from various Government departments which he has tried to carry out whilst maintaining his herd and indeed his livelihood as best he could.*

The extent and course of the outbreak of BSE have been reported regularly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (MAFF) giving total numbers of confirmed cases and their distribution by counties. Between 1988 and November 1996, no fewer than 164,258 cases were confirmed, that is three to four per cent of the 4.5 million cattle in Britain. The epidemic reached a peak in 1992 with 36,681 cases, averaging about 700 a week, and then fell to 5,704 or 100 a week by 1996 (see table). Devon, with its lush meadowlands and considerable cattle industry, has been one of the most severely affected counties with 2,723, or about three-quarters of its farms, accounting for 14,282 confirmed cases of BSE. Some have occurred in the half a dozen farms in Thurlestone, but the precise number is uncertain because farmers do not ordinarily make known details of happenings in their herds.

In 1985, a herd of cattle on a farm near Ashford, Kent, developed a mysterious illness, causing some of them to lose control of their legs and fall to the ground. An infection or poison, or possibly a metabolic disorder was suspected but all tests proved to be negative.

The illness appeared in neighbouring herds and then spread throughout the land from the Orkneys to Cornwall. A few cases appeared in Devon in 1986 and were notified to the veterinary authorities, but most farmers knew nothing about them and those with affected cattle were assured that there was no need for alarm. Indeed, up to 1988 there were few cases in the South Hams and little attention was paid to them.

In 1987, the first account of BSE was published after post-mortem examination of the brains of the affected cattle showed small holes which gave them a spongy appearance. This observation transformed the approach to the previously mysterious illness because similar changes in the brain had been observed in other circumstances. As long ago as 1952, cannibals in New Guinea had died from Kuru after eating human brains. Scrapie, quite a common disease of sheep for the past 200 years, causes spongy brains as does the rare human Kreutzfeld-Jacob disease of elderly people. They all had similar symptoms with shakiness and weakness of the limbs. Whilst none showed any signs of infection or other agent, they all had abnormal plaques of protein in their brains, so the group became known as PRION disease, with Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis as one of them.

**In 1988 BSE was made a notifiable disease by MAFF and all farmers were fully informed of the implications.** They carefully watched their cattle for early signs and, having seen them virtually every day since the birth of most of them, were able to detect the slightest changes in behaviour. For example, a normally restless one might become more restless whilst losing some control of its limbs, a subdued one might tend to stand away from

the herd with its head held low, another might become shaky and nervous with a diminishing yield of milk. Later, after about six months, one might fall and have difficulty in getting up, but few farmers now would allow their cattle to reach that advanced stage.

Whenever a case was suspected, MAFF had to be notified and a veterinary surgeon called, usually within 24 hours. If BSE was suspected or confirmed, the animal was killed by an injection of barbiturate, to avoid shooting and the possibility of injuring the brain, and became the property of MAFF. The head was cut off for autopsy, and the carcase incinerated. The farmer was sent a copy of the autopsy, the diagnosis being confirmed in about 80 per cent of the cases. He received a cheque for a reasonable amount; the system has worked well.

Also in 1988, food supplies were suspected as a cause of BSE. Following the examples of Kuru and scrapie, especially if the brains and spinal cords of cattle were included. Routine slaughterhouse procedure comprises killing the cattle and removing saleable meat. The non-saleable remains, including brains, are then cooked at high temperature and 'rendered' into nuggets, containing about 20 per cent protein, for sale as has been done in many countries worldwide since the 1930s. Maybe some change in the protein, or an error in the rendering process, failed to destroy the BSE, which passed on to cattle as a feed. As a result, the feed was banned in 1988 as was offal of all kinds in 1989. These measures prompted considerable publicity in the national press, which has continued ever since, and was followed by the banning of British beef in 15 countries including the USA in 1990; other countries followed.

By 1990 MAFF was increasingly concerned about two major problems, namely the future course of the epidemic and the possibility of the spread of BSE to man. With responsibility to both producers and purchasers, it tried to avoid the destruction, at massive public cost, of an industry worth 4 billion pounds a year

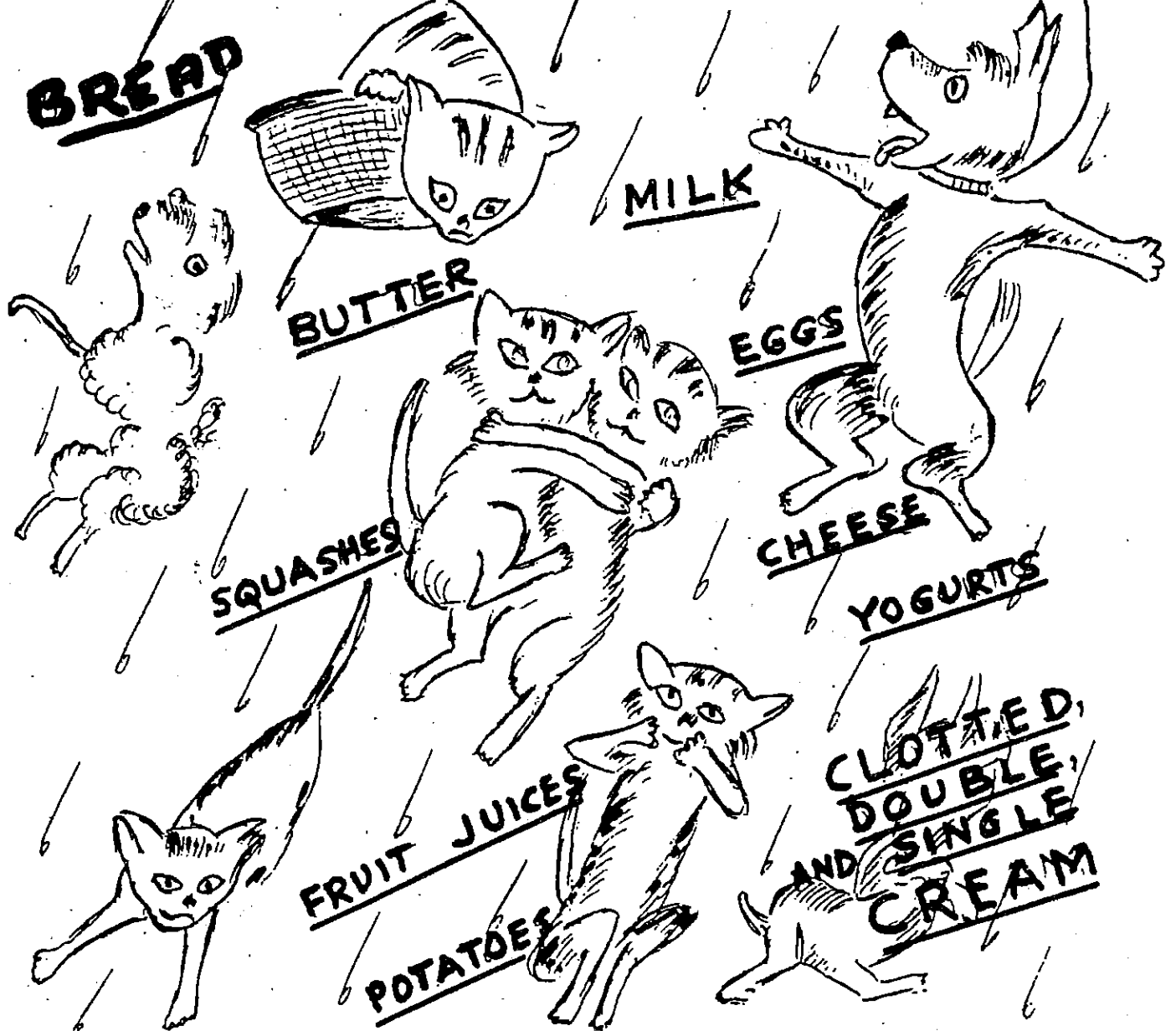
and employing 130,000 people. Yet the number of new cases of BSE was rising each year with no sign of a peak in sight. A major cull at some time was becoming increasingly likely. Meanwhile, some deaths in elderly people seemed to have been caused by BSE, but the differentiation of BSE from Kreutzfeld-Jacob disease was proving difficult. As farmers in a rather remote part of the country, we felt far removed from these problems; we gained most of our information from the newspapers, whilst being repeatedly assured by politicians that there was no cause for alarm. This state of uncertainty continued in the following years, with suggestions that MAFF was favouring the providers rather than the consumers, and butchers complaining of falling sales of beef.

In March 1996, after about a dozen deaths in man had been attributed probably to BSE, some apparently with an altered strain of prion, a worldwide ban on British beef was ordered. No cattle over the age of 30 months were to be eaten by man, which meant they were to be slaughtered. This soon led to a fall in the price of beef by about 25 per cent and a loss of the export market which accounted for 20-25 per cent of total sales. Since then, over 1.2 million cattle have been incinerated. Now, with reduced sales, farmers sometimes have to retain cattle until they are aged 30 months and are old enough to be incinerated. The cumulative effect of these measures upon farmers' livelihoods has been sad for all of them and tragic for some. Beef producers have fared worst, while dairy farmers, with their income from milk, have suffered less.

## COMMENT

The epidemic of BSE has been disastrous for a successful and prosperous industry which has suffered severe losses in business both at home and overseas. It has changed the eating habits of many people. The cause is almost certainly a prion or aberrant protein in the brains of affected cattle which can transmit the disease to laboratory animals. If it has been transmitted to man, it seems to be from cattle

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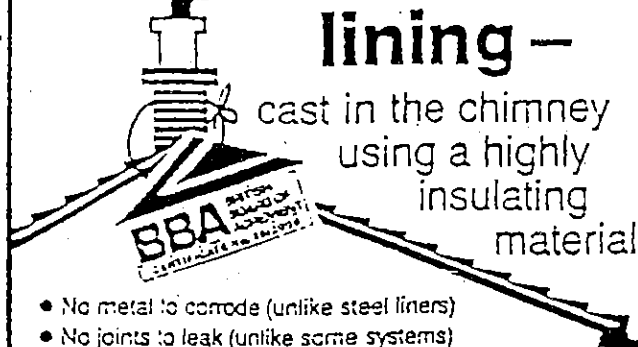
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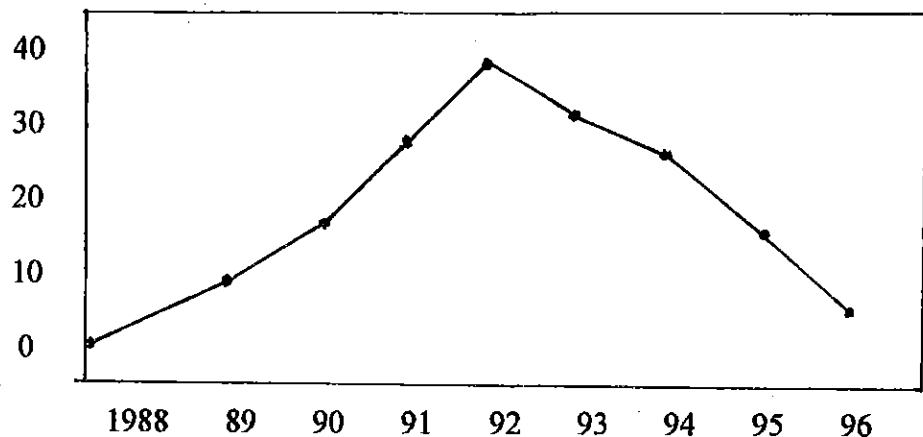


which were fed upon high protein nuggets of rendered offal which had been given to stimulate the production of milk. **The BSE epidemic, although declining, is by no means over and still accounts for up to 100 cases a week.**

With millions of Britons having eaten meat for many years a massive, if unintended, clinical trial has taken place and has so far yielded 14 cases of possible BSE in man. Whether more human cases occur depends on the incubation period from the eating of affected beef to the onset of symptoms, something which is unknown and may well be 5 to 10 years or more. Only when new cases in cattle have

subsided and no more appear in man can the epidemic be deemed to have come to an end. Meanwhile research, tantalisingly slow as it inevitably is, seeks to clarify several questions. The possibility that about 10 per cent of the calves of affected cattle acquire BSE may lead to further culls. Nothing is known of the origin of prion or of the circumstances in which it proliferates. **No test for BSE has been devised, nor is there any vaccine or other treatment.**

We look forward to the lifting of the ban on exported beef in due course, and welcome the signs of a return of the British public to its former eating habits.



**Total confirmed BSE cases in Great Britain (in thousands per annum)**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Reflections on seeing rarely-cared-for garden furniture ...  
...bought in summertime*

**"Neglected, the bird table stands..."**

Fluttering, frightened,  
Hungry birds come flocking  
To table unadorned.

Voyeurs uninvited  
From their shelter, neither  
Comfort, sustenance deny.

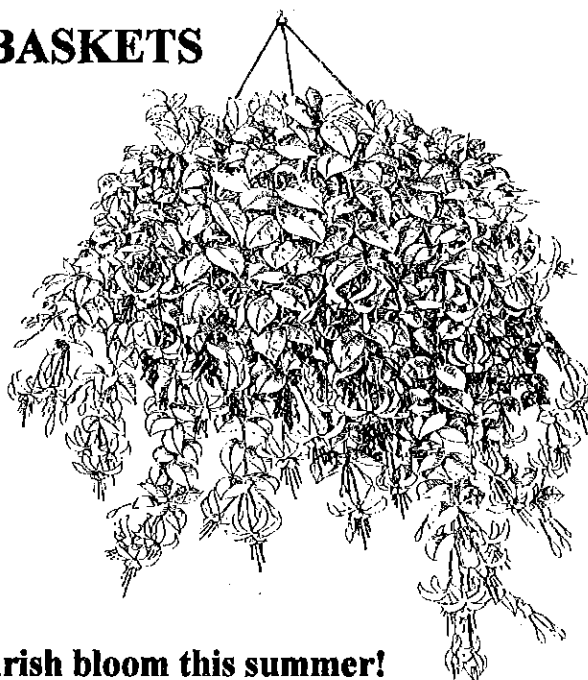
Carpeted, crusty snow,  
Footprints undisturbed:  
Human greed revealed.

**C.K.M.**

## THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

### HANGING BASKETS

Why not enter your hanging basket into our Show this year? There will be a new class for this item, which will be judged **IN SITU** between July 1st and 5th. An award will be made to the winner at the Show, on **SATURDAY, 2nd AUGUST** at Thurlestone Parish Hall. Special entry forms **FOR THIS CLASS** will be available in village shops from mid-April. The complete show schedule will be available at our **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** which will be held on May 17th, 2.30 pm, in Thurlestone Parish Hall.



**Let's all help to make our parish bloom this summer!**

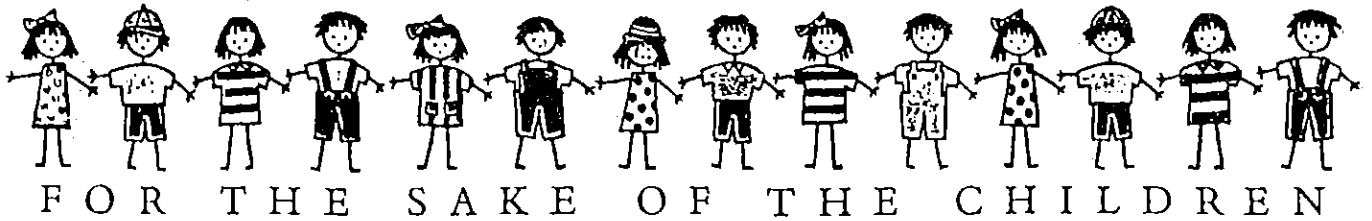
### THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

Overheard at a Bridge Evening in aid of the NSPCC. *"I do congratulate the members of the local committee on having raised over £4,000 last year, but I would like to know how the money is used"*. Doubtless there are others in the parish who would also be interested.

The NSPCC exists to prevent child abuse and neglect and has a network of 120 Teams together with Projects and Family Centres throughout Britain, each one offering children and their families expert help and care. The Society operates a free 24-hour **CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINE** which receives anything up to 1,500 calls every week from worried and unhappy adults and children. Trained Counsellors listen, advise and act to protect the children concerned, often in liaison with Social Services, the Police and the Society's own Teams.

When abuse has taken place Child Protection Officers, all highly qualified social workers, provide specialist therapy and counselling. Recently a Child Witness Support Project has been established to alleviate some of the terror and misery children experience when required to give evidence in court. Another aspect of the Society's work is its campaigning for children and giving them a voice by talking to policy-makers and influential figures such as MPs, councillors, mayors, and the clergy in order that children's rights are taken seriously. At any one time Teams and Projects may be dealing with an average of 2,500 cases involving 4,000 children and 2,500 adults.

All these vital services need about £43 million income annually of which at least 86% comes from voluntary donations. Getting nearer home, every year **more than £300,000 is spent on NSPCC services in Devon alone**, of which by far the greater part must be raised by voluntary effort. The Society cannot continue its wonderful work without our sustained support.



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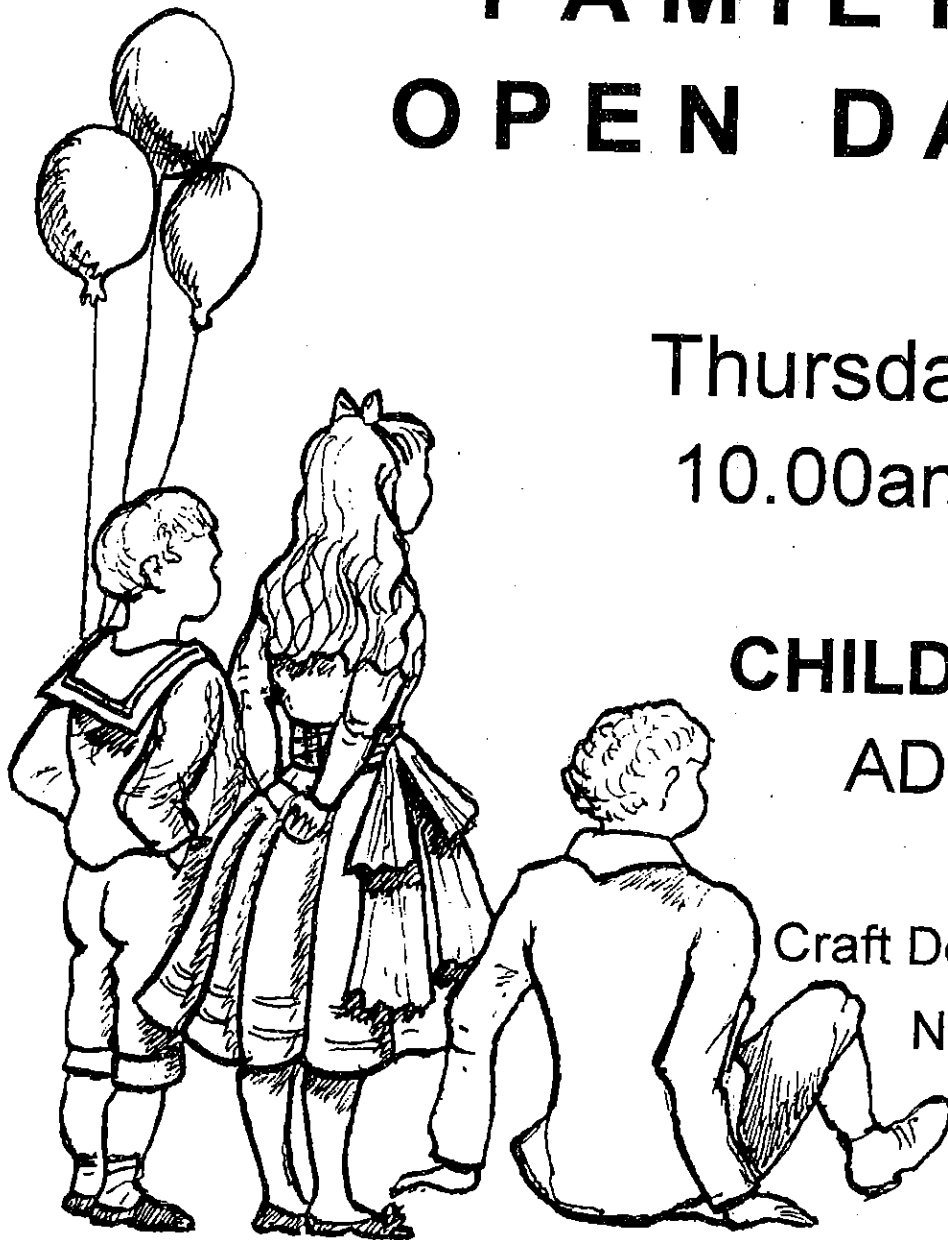
Activities

## FAMILY OPEN DAY

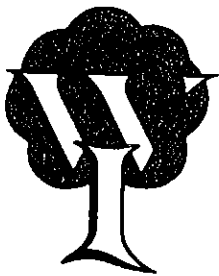
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## NEWS FROM THE W.I.

### NEW MEMBERS.

A warm welcome was given to new members **Anabel Beven, Solange Hodge, Rosemary Machin, Wendy Neukirchen, Joan Phillips, and Sheila Ward.**

### DEVON AIR AMBULANCE.

The importance of this vital service was brought home to members in February as **Sacha Anfilogoff and Brian Wrigley** told of the day-to-day involvement of the air ambulance with its ground-based counterparts. As a result of the vote in favour of reinstating a yearly fund-raising for a local charity, the Devon Air Ambulance will benefit from the proceeds of a **Jumble Sale** to be held on the 10th May.

### VILLAGE SHOPS.

Concern was expressed at the possibility of losing the Thurlestone Post Office due to proposed property redevelopments, and a letter was sent to the Parish Council on the subject. They have responded by endorsing our views and will be following the situation closely. **Dorothy Candy** also urged everyone to make it a habit to use our two village shops more, as just a little extra spent in the village by all of us would make a great difference to the shops' viability.

### FISH LUNCH.

On a cold day in February **Betty Goodman** came along to give a "Fish and Puddings" cookery demonstration to a very attentive audience. The results were eagerly sampled, and this was followed by an old-fashioned fish pie picnic lunch provided (and much enjoyed) by the members themselves.

### SKITTLES.

A jolly evening was spent, with husbands and friends, at **The Taverners** inn, Aveton Gifford. The matches played, as well as the fish-and-chip supper in the interval, were enjoyed by all - with the highest score of the

evening being obtained by the President.  
(*Who said it was fixed?*)

### HUMOROUS VERSE.

March opened with **Alan Simm** providing great amusement with his sharply-observed comic verse on everyday topics. In thanking him, **Rosemary MacKay** produced a couple of equally funny limericks of her own - from a book in her possession!

### PATCHING.

Two Seminole machined patchwork days have been held in February and March with **Brenda Marshall**, plus a day on cathedral window and secret garden hand patchwork.

### LINE DANCING.

This North American import has been the success of the season and has attracted a following of 60 members and friends - nearly all complete novices, but eager to learn and get into the swing of things under coach **Bobbie Fivien.**

In an hour of brisk activity, everyone is soon into the *strut*, the *electric slide*, and the *grapevine* with plenty of *hip rocks* and *double bumps!!* Mastering the steps leaves everyone with a feeling of great exhilaration....  
... and you soon get your breath back!



The re-start on April 7th is keenly awaited.

***C'mon now, get on your cowboy gear!***

# BOOKSHELF

## **PART OF THE FURNITURE**

*by Mary Wesley.*

I was disappointed in this book, but not really surprised because I thought Mary Wesley's last one was not up to her previous high standard. The blurb on the cover describes it as one of her finest, but I cannot agree and found it rather Mills & Boon in style - somewhat shallow and hackneyed.

It is the tale of an 18-year old girl who escapes from an air raid in London to help on a farm in Devon, and describes her chequered life thereafter. While easily readable and an interesting story, at times it seems to attempt to be shocking for the sake of it, and I found the end to be rather distasteful. Read it and tell me I am wrong.

G.W.

## **CLEAR WATER RISING**

*by Nicholas Crane*

This is an exceptional travel book, as good as any Newby. This young man, already an experienced mountaineer, explorer and traveller, sets out to walk alone from Cape Finisterre to Istanbul, traversing the intervening mountain ranges. He evidently derived his enthusiasm from his grandmother, who had walked part of the route herself. He expected the journey to take about a year, but it took nearly two, and his account of his trials and tribulations, as well as the delightful interludes, is a wonderful tale of sheer determination and fortitude.

He had only been married for six months, but his wife does meet up with him from time to time to see if she will ever get him back. He paints a vivid picture of the people he meets and the places he visits, and the excellent photographs help to make this a most absorbing book.

G.W.

## **KILLING GROUND**

*by Gerald Seymour*

This is a typical Gerald Seymour thriller, not everyone's cup of tea, but quite gripping. It is of additional interest because the heroine is a local girl who lived and worked in a village on the coast near Kingsbridge, and there are passing mentions of Thurlestone and Bantham!

She first went to work as a nanny to an Italian family in Rome for a short time, and returned to become a teacher in her village school. She was tracked down by a CIA agent who eventually persuaded her to return to work for the same family (now moved to Palermo, Sicily) whose head turns out to be the Mafia godfather. As a CIA 'mole', she is at the centre of an operation to bring about his downfall.

G.W.

## **MOSTLY MURDER**

*by Sir Sydney Smith.*

Just the thing for bed-time reading with great detail on how forensic medicine puts murderers behind bars...or even further.

R.M.

## **TO WAR WITH WHITTAKER**

*by the Countess of Ranfurly.*

An autobiographical account of how, newly married to a Territorial, she discovered she wasn't eligible to follow the regiment to the Middle East with the Regulars' wives at the beginning of the war.

Undeterred, she set off, and by hook and by crook (mostly the latter) she managed to spend the whole war in Palestine, Egypt and Italy. A lot of the time she seemed to be confidential secretary to various high-ups. Whittaker was their pre-war factotum, who flits in and out of the pages. An intriguing read.

R.M.

P. HODGE

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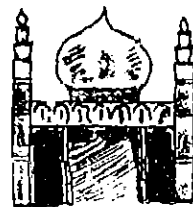
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## SOME IMPRESSIONS OF RURAL RAJASTHAN



The brochure looked exciting..... "*The Forts and Palaces of Rajasthan*". Reading on we came across the phrase "Not for the faint-hearted" and in this respect the details were certainly correct. Like most people we had preconceived ideas of **India**...blue skies, bright colours, warmth, and outstanding buildings on the plus side with poverty, begging, overcrowding and a generally unhealthy lifestyle on the other. A lot of these things proved incorrect, certainly as far as **Rajasthan** was concerned.

We approached **Delhi** airport at 9.30 am, having been advised by the pilot that it was quite foggy. He was Scandinavian and his comments were possibly a literal translation from his own language. What he meant to say was that a heavy industrial-type haze hung over the city.

Having landed, we anticipated being descended upon by hordes of Indians wanting to carry our luggage. Wrong again. Everything was very orderly, with trolleys to carry the cases and a considerable number of official gentlemen with rubber stamps whose job it was to stamp everything in sight each and every time one passed another barrier.

Outside the airport we found our guide, and then looked for the bright colours. Everybody seemed to be shrouded in brown blankets to protect them from the cold, and cold it was. We were all glad we had kept our sweaters on. It appears that, unusually, the winds were still blowing from the north and that this winter was the coldest for 10 years. So far three of our preconceptions had been shattered!

However we were proved right in one thing. Driving away from the airport towards our first stop in a village called **Pataudi**, some one hour's drive from Delhi, we experienced our first true sights of India. Not poverty initially, but definite overcrowding both on the roads and buildings. Cows, very sacred, water buffalo and camels vied for road space along with the buses, lorries, cars, bicycles,

and any other form of transport you care to think of. I doubt whether any one of them would have passed an MoT. We later discovered that very few of the drivers would have passed a test. The key to good driving, not only in Delhi but throughout our travels it seemed, was a good loud horn that had to be used continually even when overtaking a camel on an otherwise deserted straight stretch of road. Playing 'chicken' with oncoming drivers appears to be a national sport in India and the many overturned lorries showed who were the losers.

Now that we were away from the bustle of **Delhi, Jaipur and Jodhpur** - all of which we visited just to be able to say that we had seen the important buildings and other tourist sights - we headed towards the countryside and the villages, our real reason for choosing this particular holiday. Unlike the town dwellers, the villagers were charming and polite, anxious to show us their wares and sell to us if possible, but they didn't pester and accepted "no" first time.

The state of Rajasthan is divided into many small kingdoms. Since Independence (or '*Separation*' as some call it when *Pakistan and India became separate countries*), monies allocated from central government to these kingdoms has virtually ceased. That together with the transfer of land away from the rulers to the villagers etc. (some 30 acres per family or person, exact details we were unable to confirm) meant that many of the forts and palaces began to fall into disrepair. To reverse this trend, Delhi decided to grant some very attractive concessions to the former rulers but in return they were expected to convert the forts and palaces to 'heritage' accommodation to encourage tourism. It was in these buildings that we stayed and they were on the whole quite luxurious if not in the same way as the international hotel chains. Generally the rooms were large with high ceilings and well furnished, with bathrooms ranging from the exotic to the adequate. Most had either fireplaces or some other form of heating, as in January and February nights get very cold.

Our first night in India was spent at the palace of the **Nawab of Pataudi**, of Sussex Cricket Club fame. Although other tourists had stayed there before, we gathered that we were the first group. There were 15 of us plus the tour manager and an Indian guide. Many of the staff were obviously old retainers, used to hovering and supplying the Nawab and his guests' every need. We were accommodated in a guest house with three other couples. The rooms all opened on to a central entrance hall, but every room had other doors, one to bathroom and others to.....well, let me relate the story of our first night in India.

The rooms all had high ceilings, roaring log fires and four-poster beds. As we had to leave early in the morning we were asked if we would like an early call and "Bed Tea". At the due time there was a knock on one of the other doors to our room and in came a little man with a tray of tea. Excellent, we thought. But we were a little confused when he crossed our room to open the main door. He then returned through his original point of entry only to reappear on three more occasions with trays for the occupants of the other rooms. We related this to the other occupants of the guest house over breakfast, only to discover that we had been outdone by our neighbours.

The night before they had just got undressed and were getting into bed when their door opened, the turbaned retainer entered their room said "bed", and disappeared out through another of their doors. On analysing the position, we worked out that the only way to lock up the building at night was from the inside and that the only way the Indian could then get to his own quarters was by going through one of the bedrooms. His own quarters, it turned out, were only separated from our neighbours' shower room by a curtain. So ended our introduction to India.

Our main form of transport for this holiday was to be the coach, although we were treated to one internal Indian Airways flight (not to be confused with Air India). We left Delhi at the pilot's convenience, some two and a half hours late, on a direct flight to **Jodhpur**. We then learnt that a 'direct flight' in India means you don't have to change

planes, but in the meantime the plane can call at a number of airports on the way. We were lucky and only called in on **Jaipur** and arrived at our destination some three hours late. By Indian standards I understand that the flight was uneventful. The only bit of excitement was the unexpected opening of a small rear door, at 12,000 feet, which caused a sudden rush of air as the cabin pressure equated with that outside. The stewardess calmly closed the offending door...so presumably this had happened before. Two things arose from this incident. One, the oxygen masks didn't come down (I expect this facility had been disconnected to avoid inconvenience) and two, I discovered that my seat was fully floating, having moved back a few inches with the rush of air. As you can gather, we survived!

The forts and palaces we stayed in were equally exciting and of course all were different. The one common factor was the friendliness of the owners and their staff, their desire to do all they could for us, and the welcoming attitude of their villagers. Even when we stayed at the palaces the maharajah always put in a guest appearance, normally at dinner. The only exception being **Samode**, but more about that later.

At all our stops we were looked after by turbaned waiters and without exception we were entertained by either the villagers or wandering gypsies. The entertainment ranged from folk songs accompanied by a sitar, to dancing girls with bells around their ankles, wearing bright saris and rings through their noses, others were magicians. There were turban-tying demonstrations, and horse dancing to music played on a drum and an Indian accordian (I've forgotten its name). I will not describe in detail all the forts we stayed in and our experiences in each as it would run to many issues of Village Voice and bore you all to tears. Suffice to say our welcome at each was the same - friendly owners, a circle of rattan chairs around a blazing log fire, with hot soup being served before our dinner in a courtyard, or on a lawn under an awning.

**Sally & Derek Yeoman**

(To be continued)

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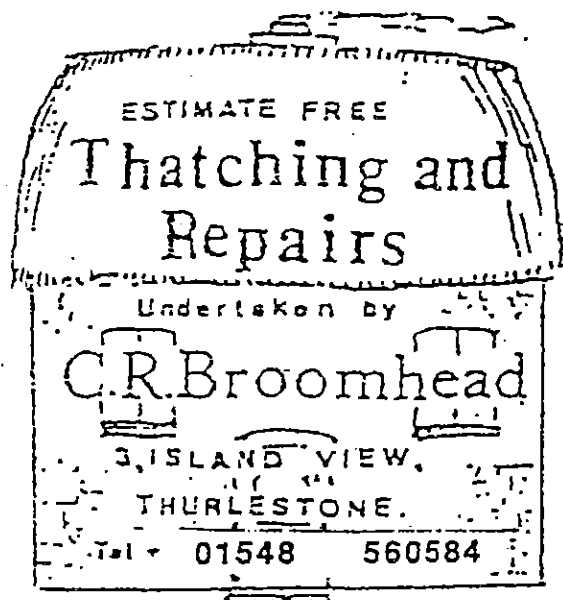
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# THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

*The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **TUESDAY 22nd APRIL 1997**  
at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone.*

**Below are the minutes of the 1996 Annual Parish Meeting, held on 23rd April 1996.**

Present Councillors P.Hurrell (*Chairman*), D.J.Yeoman (*Vice-Chairman*), C.B.Mitchelmore, Mrs.P.V.White, J.Dayment and G.L.Stidston, District Councillor C.W.M.Grose, Constables S.Mutton and M.Rushworth. Ms.Carol Arthur, (*South Hams District Council*), R.Toogood, (*South Devon Heritage Coast Service*), and Simon Day (*Devon County Councillor*), were also in attendance together with J.R.Lonsdale (*Clerk*) and 18 parishioners.

The Chairman, **Mr.Peter Hurrell**, opened the meeting at 7.40 pm. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 1995 had been confirmed as a record of what transpired at that meeting and signed by the Chairman on the 16th January 1996.

**Ms.Carol Arthur**, Recycling Officer from SHDC Technical Service Dept., was introduced and she addressed the meeting on the subject of household waste disposal. By the year 2005 existing landfill sites will have been used up. Currently 8% of household waste is recycled and the target is to increase this to 25% by the year 2000. Bottle, paper, and can banks which previously were only found in towns are now being sited in our villages. The range of banks is being extended to include magazine/glossy paper, clothing/boots/wellies and plastics. Since earlier this year we have had a bottle bank situated in the Hotel's top car park. The Ropewalk recycling centre for old tools etc. will become "Rope 2", near Fusion in Union Road, Kingsbridge. The "banks" system is financed by the sale of the waste, and is therefore an economic and ecologically sound disposal system. After answering questions from the audience Ms.Arthur was thanked by the Chairman for coming to the meeting.

The Chairman then gave his report on the events of the last 12 months. The Pumphouse had been restored thanks to Mr.Len Hubbard and his committee. Mr.George Yeoman was thanked for keeping it neat and tidy.

Mr.R.Stidston was thanked for his assistance in placing the cannon by the bus shelter. The "Thurlestone" signs at Milton Lane End had been moved to Langworthy Barn. Councillor D.Yeoman was thanked for organising the street party for the VE Day 50th anniversary celebrations and Councillor C.B.Mitchelmore for attending to the bonfire.

Councillor Mrs.V.P.White was thanked for her work in holding the fort between the departure of the former Clerk, Mr.W.Ladd, and the appointment of Mr.J.Lonsdale. 30mph speed restrictions have been introduced and yellow lines will be placed between the Hotel and the Post Office in the near future. Parking problems by the school had eased. A new notice board had been placed in the bus shelter, thanks to Mr.L.Hubbard.

Councillor Mitchelmore was thanked for his work as Tree Warden and carrying out the seat survey in the village. The trees at the War Memorial need to be replaced and advice and estimates are being sought. The pollution of West Buckland stream has been reported to the NRA and a meeting with the NRA is being sought. All Saints School's desire for a pond on the playing field worried the council for the safety of unsupervised children. The Sea View housing project survey had caused concern among elderly residents. The Salcombe Harbourmaster was looking into the concern of Bantham residents regarding water-skiing on the Avon. The Parish Hall committee had been encouraged to apply for

Millenium Commission funding towards a new Parish Hall. Mr.R.Stidston had very kindly offered to improve the footpath on Warren Hill. The police were thanked for their help at the opening of the Pumphouse and Mrs.Pat Macdonald for her work as Editor of Village Voice. Finally, the Chairman informed the meeting that the precept for 1996 would be increased by 2% to £4784 (£4600).

**Mr.Robin Toogood** of the South Devon Heritage Coast Service was the next speaker and told us that 25 years ago our area was listed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 10 years ago it was included in the Heritage Coast Service which is responsible for 70 miles of coastline. Local projects included the stabilising of shifting sands and sand dunes with the cooperation of local land owners and the help of money from Europe. Other areas of his responsibilities include: repairing and maintaining footpaths, stiles, and signs on all rights of way, assistance with free trees for planting in the parish to replace dead elms etc., providing guided walks and talks and information on the lesser-known aspects of our countryside.

In answer to a question asking if cycling on cliff paths was allowed, the advice was that only walking is permissible, if you cycle you are trespassing, but only the land owner can take action. A motor on a footpath is unlawful. In some areas the cliff tops are being buried in gorse and scrub but here the reverse is happening. The Chairman thanked Mr.Toogood.

**Mr.Simon Day**, Devon County Councillor, needed little introduction to the meeting, having been a regular speaker for more than 16 years. Mr.Day noted the Chairman's remarks concerning the pollution of West Buckland stream and offered to speak to the NRA. He discussed the granting of unitary status for Plymouth and Torbay and explained that this will not result in financial loss to the South Hams. He thought the right decision had been made with regard to Exeter. We have a free-standing Police Authority providing an extra 50 officers for Devon.

Inspector Patrick was praised for his excellent work.

Mr.Day said he would resist the proposal to create an extra 9000 homes including a new town in the South Hams. Mr.Day was asked if the South Hams would be squeezed between its powerful neighbours Plymouth and Torbay but he thought not and felt the South Hams was big enough to stand alone. In answer to a question about the need for 9000 homes, Mr.Day explained that 70% of this requirement was to cater for the predicted needs of one-parent families and the current feeling was that the prediction was wrong. Mr.Day was thanked by the Chairman for his contribution.

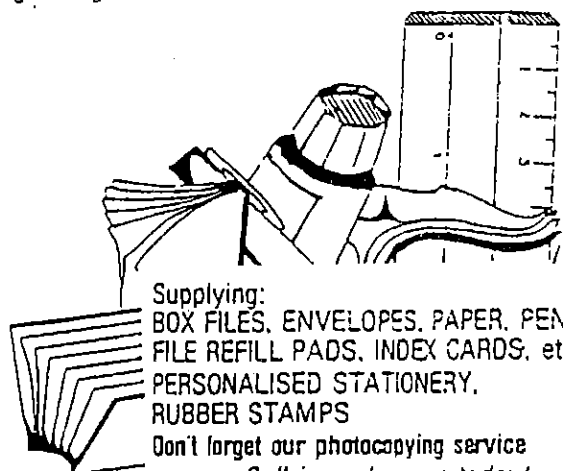
**Constable Mutton**, our community police officer, then told the meeting that the number of burglaries in Thurlestone had gone down but had risen in Bantham. The new phone-in system for contacting the police was to remain in place but if anyone experienced a problem they should write in. If anyone witnessed a crime taking place, e.g. a burglary, they should dial 999. Neighbourhood Watch will receive more frequent contacts in the coming year. The Chairman thanked PC Mutton.

District Councillor **C.W.M.Grose** in his report outlined four important issues: Firstly the Structure Plan which contained the contentious issue of housing: he promised to do his best to oppose the creation of a new town in the South Hams. Secondly, Agenda 21, which promoted the concept of sustainability. Thirdly, large scale voluntary Council House transfer to Housing Associations which brought short term benefits but warranted more thought. Lastly, he reported improving service delivery by SHDC. In the future he saw waste management to be a challenging problem with recycling assuming a major role. He said that Japan recycled 40% of its waste and our target is 25% by the year 2000.

*Finally the Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance, and the meeting closed at 9.03 pm.*

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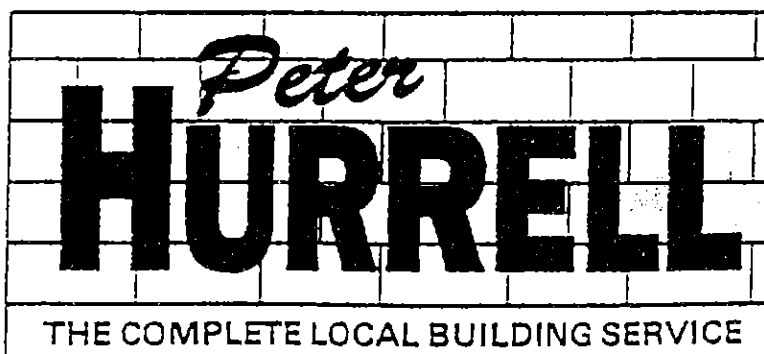
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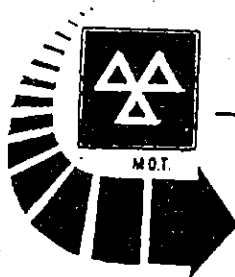
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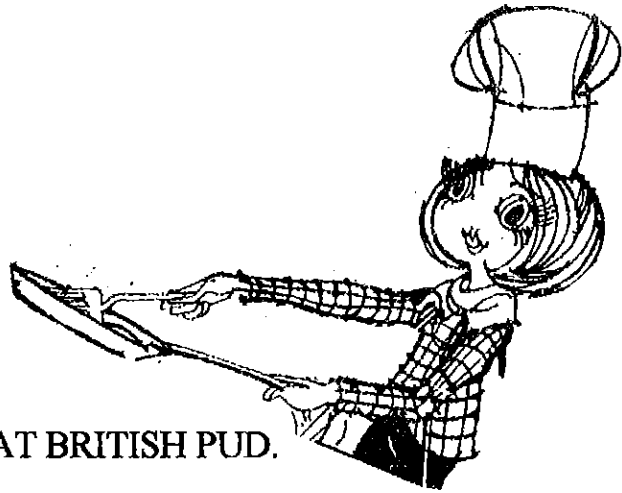
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So, if we are to keep "b & b p" alive and kicking into the 21st century, might I suggest another variation?

### **Thurlestone Bread-and-Butter Pudding**

#### **1. Ingredients**

4-6 slices of white bread (depending on size of loaf)  
One and a half to two oz. butter  
1 heaped tablespoonful marmalade  
2 large eggs  
2 tablespoonsful sugar plus 1 teaspoonful for the top  
2 ozs. chopped dates; 1 tablespoonful rum  
Quarter pint double cream  
Half a pint of milk (you can use more cream and less milk  
for a richer taste)  
Half a teaspoonful vanilla essence

#### **2. Preparation**

Butter a one and a half to two pint ovenproof dish. Sprinkle the rum over the dates in a small bowl and leave to soak for about 15 minutes (longer if you have time).

Spread butter on all the slices of bread and cut into triangles or squares. Put marmalade on sufficient pieces to cover the bottom of the dish, sprinkle over half the dates, repeat this again with another layer finishing with a layer of buttered bread.

Beat together the eggs, sugar and vanilla, then pour in the cream and milk and mix well. Pour this over the bread and leave to soak for approximately 30 minutes. Before putting in the oven, sprinkle with the teaspoonful of sugar.

Stand the pudding dish in a roasting tin and pour sufficient hot water into the tin to come approximately half way up the pudding dish. Bake for 45 minute at 170 degrees C (160 in fan-assisted ovens), then 15-20 minutes at 190 degrees C (180 in f.a.o) till well risen and golden brown.

# Minor Issues at Duplicate Bridge

by "Traveller"

When one side finds that it has the majority of strength, but based on one or both minor suits, the options are usually (1) to settle for a part score (2) take a chance in 3NT or (3) go to game in the minor suit. Two recent deals at Friday's Thurlestone Bridge Club illustrate the wide variety of possible outcomes in such situations.

**HAND 1** Dealer North Both Non-Vulnerable

North		East	
♠ 5 6 7		♠ Q 10 3	
♥ J 7 5		♥ A K 10 8 4	
West	♦ K Q J 4	East	♦ 9
♠ 9 8 2	♠ A 10 2	♠ Q 10 3	♠ K 9 7 5
♥ 6 3 2		♥ A K 10 8 4	
♦ 7 5 3	South	♦ 9	
♣ Q 8 6 3	♠ A K J 4	♣ K 9 7 5	
	♥ Q 9		
	♦ A 10 8 6 2		
	♣ J 4		

North is just short of opening bid strength and East may open with a heart. South has to choose which suit to bid first, and may prefer to come in at the one level with his spades. North's response could vary between 2 diamonds, and 2 NT. East may persevere with his Hearts at the 2 or even 3 level. South's heart doubleton will make him wary of 3NT unless North has called 2NT first, but the diamond fit excites both partners. In which case the decision is ....how many diamonds?

The bidding at eleven tables produced the following range of contracts for North / South:

- 2 Diamonds (3) made 10, 10, and 11 tricks
- 2 No Trumps (1) made 9 tricks
- 3 Diamonds (1) made 10 tricks
- 3 No Trumps (1) made 9 tricks
- 4 Diamonds (1) made 11 tricks
- 4 Spades (1) made 10 tricks
- 5 Diamonds (2) made 10 and 11 tricks

An E/W sacrifice in 3 Hearts (1) made 6 tricks

The actual play of this hand presents few problems. There are eight tricks on top in NT. Further tricks could be found in Spades (a finesse, and a 3-3 split), with a Heart and/or Club if those suits are led by defence. **Five Diamonds cannot be made**, unfortunately, if the defence leads a club before cashing its second top heart. Four spades, too, depends on the finesse for the queen, and also needs the trumps to split evenly. East is chancing his luck at the three level with both opponents bidding, and is asking to be punished. A 500 penalty would certainly give N/S a top over any game contract made elsewhere on this hand.

The very next deal threw up another minor suit teaser. This time it was East / West with the cards and the problem of finding the best final contract. Would 3 No Trumps be the easiest option this time? Or would the long club suit + singleton make trumps a better bet?

**HAND 2** Dealer East North / South Vulnerable

North		East	
♠ Q 5 2		♠ 10 7 6	
♥ J 8 5 4		♥ A Q 6	
West	♦ J 7 5 3	East	♦ 8
♠ K J 3	♠ 9 8	♠ 10 7 6	♠ Q 10 7 5 4 2
♥ 10 9		♥ A Q 6	
♦ A K Q 10 4	South	♦ 8	
♣ K J 3	♠ A 9 8 4	♣ Q 10 7 5 4 2	
	♥ K 7 3 2		
	♦ 9 6 2		
	♣ A 6		

West's strong hand (nine honour cards) is still only a One Diamond opening bid, in response to which East's options are to bid his six-card club suit at this first opportunity, or perhaps 1 NT (to show point count). West now has to find a forcing second bid. With no other four card suit, he can make a jump bid in his own or partner's suit, or consider NT (2 or 3?). East's hand now looks much stronger, but is there a best game fit..?

Out of the eleven tables, however, only one pair managed to reach a game call. The contracts were:

- 2 Clubs (2) made 8 and 12 tricks
- 2 Diamonds (1) made 8 tricks
- 2 Spades (1) made 6 tricks
- 2 No Trumps (2) made 6 and 10 tricks
- 3 Clubs (3) made 8, 10, and 11 tricks
- 3 Diamonds (1) made 9 tricks
- 3 No Trumps (1) made 10 tricks

As South held both missing Aces, and was on lead, **Five Clubs cannot be defeated**. All declarer needs to do is discard his losing spades and hearts on the diamonds, though he has to ruff out the jack of diamonds before his third discard. A spade lead won by the king allows two immediate spade discards on the diamonds. East then leads a trump to the queen to flush out the trump ace, trumps any spade return, and is left with only a heart loser. If the Spade ace is led to the first trick, East can then discard one spade and two hearts on his top diamonds. But if North had held AQ spades.....

**3NT is also unbeatable**. The best defence can only garner three spade tricks and the Ace of Clubs, if South leads; and just three tricks if North has the lead. Declarer must not duck any leads, but get in and flush out the Club ace, after which his eight tricks in the minors will see him comfortably home.

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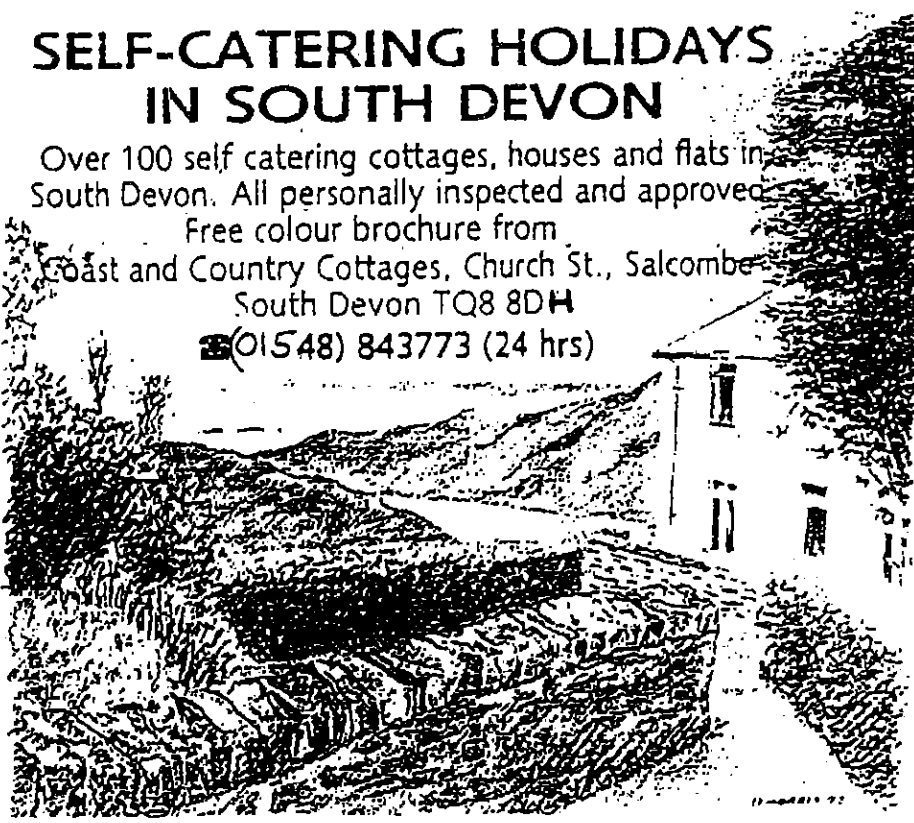
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# ISLAY, MY ISLAY

by Eric Williams

*The island of Islay has a magic of its own - but you have to earn the experience. Despite its insulation as a Hebridean island off the west coast of Scotland - on the left hand side going up and level with Glasgow, so to speak - it is easy enough to get there at any time of the year if you are determined.*

Take a flight to Glasgow, then a fascinating 40-minute morning or afternoon flight by British Airways Express on a small aircraft westwards to the landing strip of the island's airport. It was here that Prince Charles ingloriously ended his flying career in 1994 by overshooting the runway and almost literally becoming bogged down. I well remember the sight of the injured aircraft as it waited somewhat forlornly near the terminal hutments for the engineers to come over from the mainland to mend it - and contribute significantly to the island economy by the length of their stay. The operation of recovery and repair cost a million pounds, or so I was told. A sturdy Caledonian MacBrayne ferry provides the other link with Islay, with regular sailings from Kennacraig on Kintyre to Port Ellen in the south-west of the island (two-and-a-quarter hours), or to Port Askaig towards the north-eastern tip (two hours). The island is some 20 miles wide and 24 from top to bottom, with a clump of small mountains towards the south-east, the tallest being Beinn Bheigler at 1612 feet.

The panorama from the air, especially in the sunshine which graces the island during the long summer days, ranges over heathered hills and sullen lochs flashing in the sunlight,

with occasional glimpses of trees, rivers and streams, little sandy bays fingered by ragged promontories and with an overwhelming sense of freshness and clarity. Deep-rooted in history, the island was for centuries the seat of the MacDonalds of Islay, the Lords of the Isles. Today, however, it is perhaps better known as one of the world-famous centres of single malt whiskies, with seven working distilleries. Check them out at your wine merchant or supermarket. The names Laphroaig, Lagavulin, Ardbeg, Bowmore, Bunnahabhainn, Caol Ila.....you can almost taste the peat smoke as you roll them off your tongue.

When St.Columba brought Christianity to Iona it is thought that he sent one of his

missionaries down to Islay, where several monasteries were founded. Take the road east out of Port Ellen for some 10 miles and you will find the Kildalton Cross, the oldest Celtic cross in Britain, where it has stood for some 12 centuries. The date of the ruined church nearby is unknown, but there are several Crusader tombs inside the shell of the church and others in the churchyard, surrounded by a stone wall to keep out the sheep. The cross is in the local blue stone, belonging to the Iona group of ring crosses. To remember its importance as a Christian mark, a service is held annually in the open air, and a handful of the faithful bravely sing unaccompanied hymns and pray for the saints, warriors, and island folk in the

graveyard and beyond.



Provided your interests are energetically healthy, there is much to do on the island. Whether or not you stay at the Machrie Hotel (01946-302310), which has a number of self-catering cottages to let for guests who wish to

be more independent, you can play the adjoining 18-hole golf course which attracts visitors from far afield because of its glorious shore-side setting, less than a five minutes drive from the airport.

For the angler there is one main river, the Laggan, a short spate river running east to west through the middle of the island, entering the sea in Laggan Bay three miles north of the airport. There are no distinctive spring and summer runs for the grilse and sea trout waiting in the bay outside the Sea Pool and up the river for some five miles, as the season doesn't begin until July, when one good spate will bring the fish into the river to be topped up by more rain until the season's end in October. It was on the Laggan that I took my first salmon so, as an addicted angler, it has a special place in my affections. Although it can be wonderfully productive, the Laggan's sport depends upon rainfall: no water, poor fishing, is the usual rule. The fishing is booked for years ahead but day tickets can be obtained on the Dunlossit water by contacting the estate office on 01496-840232. There are several fishable lochs available for day tickets. Contact the Port Ellen Angling Club, 19 Charlotte Street, Port Ellen (01496-302264). Loch Kinnabus in the extreme south, towards the Mull of Oa, has a delightful setting, and I well remember fishing for quarter-pound brownies in bright sunshine one September afternoon and watching the effortless flight of two proprietorial golden eagles nearby. Loch Gorm in the west of Islay, off the B8018 through Bowmore and Bridgend, past Islay House and Blackrock, offers larger fish - up to two-pounders and perhaps more - from a much greater expanse of water.

If you are a bird-watcher, do visit the Loch Gruinart Nature Reserve at Bridgend, one of Scotland's foremost wildfowl centres, which provides hides, live remote tv and guided walks. And it's free too! Scuba divers can find facilities, including self-catering accommodation, through the Islay Dive Centre, 10 Charlotte Street, Port Ellen (contact Mrs. Iain Newman on 01496-302441), and if you prefer a covered, heated pool, Islay can offer the finest swimming pool in the Western Isles, at the Mactaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore, open year-round.

Apart from its native single malts, Islay offers a range of excellent restaurants with fresh meat - including venison and game - fresh fish, and a warm island welcome. Scallops are a speciality. The Harbour Inn in The Square, Bowmore (01496-810330) was runner-up in the Restaurant of the Year, Scotland competition. Also recommended are the Port Charlotte Hotel (01496-850360), The Croft Kitchen at Port Charlotte (01496-850230) and the Port Askaig Hotel (01496-840245). If you are a 'tweedy' type, or simply appreciate beautiful woollens made in the traditional manner and cut with fashionable stylishness, a visit to the Islay Woollen Mill, just off the road from Bridgend to Port Askaig, is richly rewarding. Gordon and Sheila Covell left their careers in the textile industry in Huddersfield and Wales in 1981 to take over the old mill, established almost two centuries ago, and which had fallen into disuse after the Christie family had run it from 1873 until 1977. Traditional methods of spinning and weaving are still used to provide a range of woollen clothing and accessories - from made-to-measure sports jackets, skirts and plus-fours, to travel rugs, scarves and shawls. Today their woollens are in demand from customers world-wide, including Hollywood film companies, who appreciate the authenticity and range of colours.

Whatever the season, Islay has much to offer. I have in mind a restored and refurbished farmhouse right at the end of a farm track on the Ardtalla estate, one of two which the estate has modernised (contact Catriona Leask on 01496-302356). It is on the edge of the world, overlooking a crescent bay with gentle waves whispering up the white sand as though asking permission to call twice daily. It has been transformed with everything necessary - even leather-bound classics on the living room shelves - but you will still have to eat by the soft light of oil lamps. You can cut the silence with a bookmark, and after a good meal you raise a glass of single malt to the summer horizon and wonder why it has taken so long to find this magical place.

It will not have changed next year.

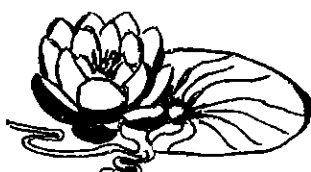
*On Islay, there is still time.*

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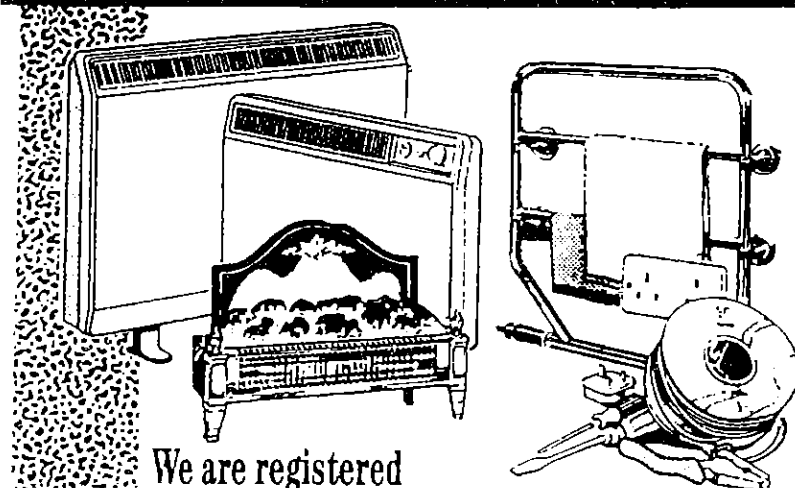
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# POST BAG

**Dear Editor**

In the October edition of Village Voice it was stated by Weather Wag that "the Sun travels in an elliptical path around us", and in my previous letter to you (December issue) I agreed with her because it is so obvious.

Now I read that in the third century B.C. Aristarchus suggested that the Earth went round the Sun - though he did not get much support from his fellow Greeks. Then Galileo went for the same idea - and he was punished severely by his Church. Even so, today, a heliocentric system is standard dogma.

*So please, will someone prove to me that this is so.*

**"Still Sunstruck"**  
(name and address supplied)

**Dear Editor**

Whitley Lodge is a Residential Home for adults with learning disabilities, whose ages currently range from 22 upwards to 60, most being in their mid-30s.

At Whitley Lodge we have a vision of creating a "sensory garden", which will be both good for our residents and good for the whole area around. Not only can a "sensory garden" be an important therapy, it can also be a rewarding hobby, acting as a stimulant for all the senses, an excellent form of exercise, and an aid to concentration and co-ordination. The raw ingredients are here for realising our vision - over an acre of land, a large greenhouse, professionally drawn-up plans, possible substantial funding and a lot

of enthusiasm from an eager workforce. *What we lack is the necessary gardening expertise to develop our plans.*

We wonder if there is someone living locally who would be willing to provide that expertise for just a few hours a week, in a purely advisory capacity, in return for a share in the produce. Some remuneration may be possible at a later stage.

We would really be grateful if anyone would be willing to become involved. We can be contacted on 560420, asking for me or Mac.

**Sarah Sessions**  
Whitley Lodge

**Dear Editor**

Over the past two years, Michael Allen, with generous backing from the local community, has undertaken heart charity rides around the perimeters of the South Hams, once clockwise and then anticlockwise. This year he is planning as a variation a "Shore to Moor" ride, setting out from Salcombe for Princetown, then returning from Dartmoor by a circular route back to Salcombe, yet again clocking up 100 miles in aid of the BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION.

Michael is most grateful for the tremendous financial support he had received over the last six years, enabling him to benefit the Foundation since 1991 by a sum of no less than £19,316.

This year, with British Heart Week commencing on 28th June until 6th July, he is planning his ride for Sunday 29th June, so he will be out and about looking for sponsor support once again soon. I feel you are all

well aware of the positive benefits already achieved from heart research, and fund-raising such as Michael achieves is vital for even further progress to be ensured, so I hope you will support him again.

I think you will all agree that he deserves it!

**W.R.Stevens**

Chairman, Salcombe & District Committee,  
British Heart Foundation

**Dear Editor**

Obviously "TADDYKIMS" (February-March issue) has not walked from the Mead to Court Park and Glebefields recently. The pavements are disgusting! It is clear that the £500 penalty notices have had NO effect whatsoever.

**C.A.D.D.O.**

(Campaign Against Dirty Dog Owners)

**WHAT BREED IS  
YOUR DOG?**

**IS IT A  
THURLESTONE  
DUMPER?**

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(Poop-scoops on sale at 'The Village Store')

## **ANSWERS TO CLUELESS CROSSWORD**

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

### **Across:**

jerks, oblique, support, cleft, old,  
yawn, accustom, irregulars, used,  
hazy, preventive, solution, isle,  
futon, entreat, gnu, longest, mixer.

### **Down:**

emu, scow, optical, lacquer, quests,  
entombs, awed, skylight, power, ago,  
adherent, axe, any, zestful, retinue,  
violent, issue, pegs, atom, ace.



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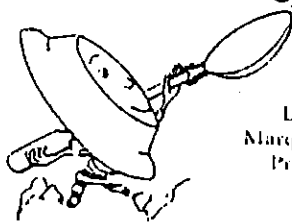
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# SUPERGUIDE

## APRIL

Wed. 2nd	TRAMP - Aveton Gifford
Sat. 5th	NSPCC Jumble Sale 2.30 Parish Hall
Mon. 7th	PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.30 Parish Hall
Thu. 10th	WI - Bill Simpson's Antiques Quiz 2.30 Parish Hall
Mon. 14th	Mead Property Owners Association AGM 7.30 Parish Hall
Thur. 17th	St Lukes Hospice Coffee Morning 10.30 Parish Hall
Tue. 22nd	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.30 Parish Hall
Mon. 28th	WI - Hanging Baskets Workshop 2.30 Parish Hall

## MAY

Thur. 1st	GENERAL ELECTION VOTING Parish Hall
Wed. 7th	TRAMP - River Erme
Thur. 8th	WI - NEWI Resolutions Debate 2.30 Parish Hall
Sat. 10th	WI Jumble Sale (Devon Air Ambulance) 2.30 Parish Hall
Tue. 13th	PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 7.30 Parish Hall
Sat. 17th	Horticultural Show Plant Sale 2.30 Parish Hall
Tue. 21st	TRAMP - Cremyll / Mount Edgcumbe
Sat. 24th	Golf Club - Summer Ball
Sun. 25th	Golf Club - Concert Party
Mon. 26th	Golf Club - Jazz Concert

## JUNE

Wed. 7th	TRAMP - River Erme
Thu. 12th	WI - Prof. Basil Smallman (Music) 2.30 Parish Hall
Tue. 17th	Parish Council Meeting 7.30 Parish Hall

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**The Deadline date for the next issue is 6th May 1997.  
Please drop any contributions (marked "Village Voice")  
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