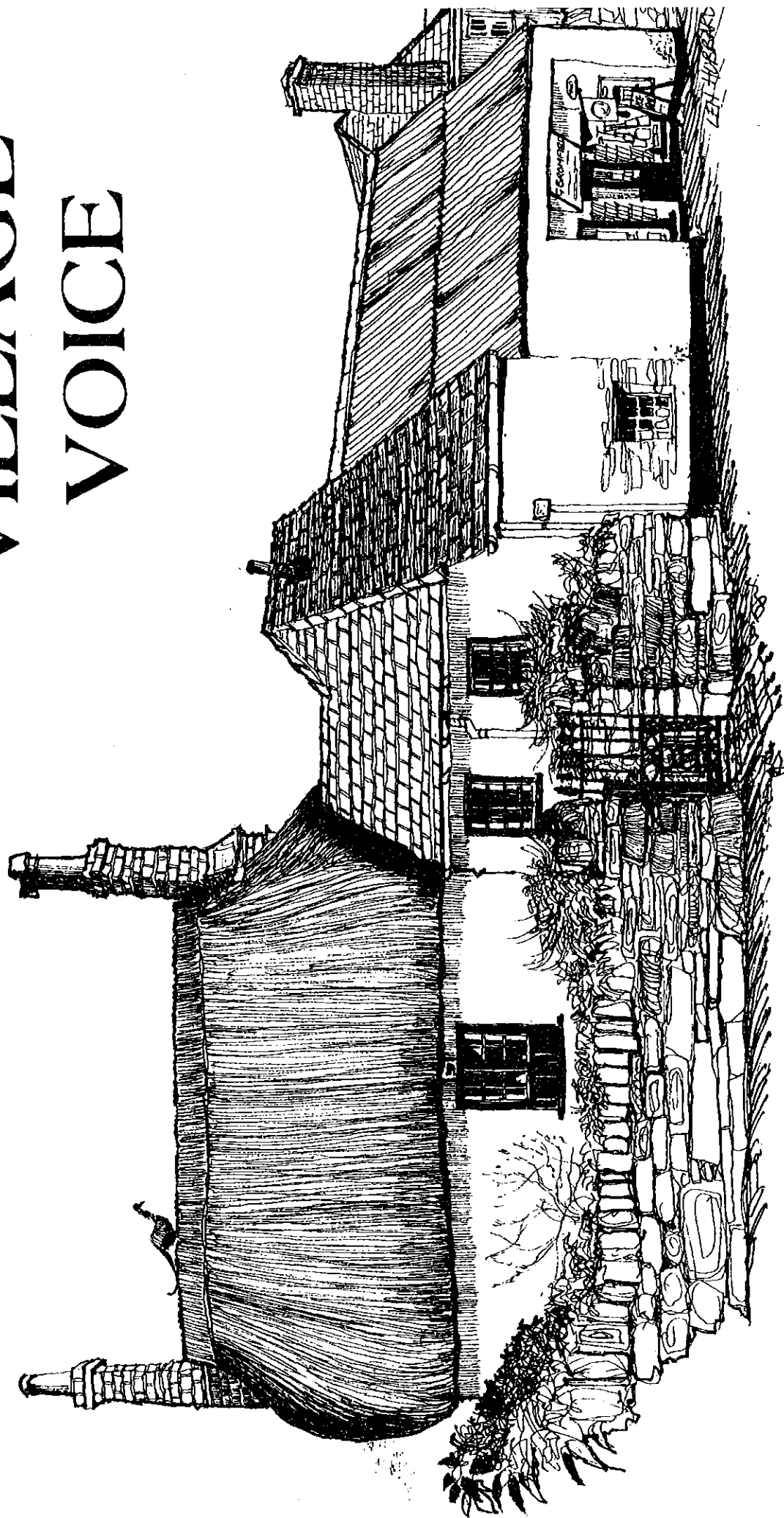


VILLAGE VOICE



JUNE & JULY 1997

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Founder **Dudley Drabble**

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

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

Production **AL PARKER**

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JUNE - JULY 1997

Well, at least we've seen the back of the Election for a year or two. And didn't it drag on? What with election posters spreading like a blight through the village, and loadsamail from an increasingly bizarre range of hopefuls, our senses have taken quite a battering. Perhaps we can now get back to the tranquil village round, with its only occasional ups and downs (like those of the parish hall stage). Thankfully we saw no election bunting, but Harry Huggins brings us one of his own to celebrate in this issue, and Susan Dwyer sheepishly admits to spinning us a yarn. Our historians continue to have a field day with Thurlestone past, but the Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) has its eye very much to the future. Its Millennium Project is our scoop-of-the-month and is sure to create a great deal of interest and activity right up to the turn of the century.

With the golf club centenary celebrations already in full swing, Tennis now makes its seasonal re-appearance in this issue; and while Kate remembers her salad days, the snails are kept strictly for the school field (or French visitors). The Yeomans conclude that India is not for the faint-hearted, so it could suit Neil Adams, and our rambles (who seem to be spreading their wings as well as their feet). We offer this summer cocktail to divert you from thoughts of the onward march of the '97 Grockles - now only just over the horizon. Happy days!

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY

.....that I met a man sobbing in the street. Fearing that he had just heard the *General Election* result, I counselled him with comforting words, telling him to dry his eyes because the worst was yet to come. He reacted so violently, bursting into more heart-rending sobs, that I feared I had met the only Tory in the parish - or at least the only one who would admit to it.

How wrong I was. He was crying, he told me, because he had just read the Centenary Book of Thurlestone Golf Club with its astounding revelations about the **Thurlestone That Might Have Been**. My tear-stained villager then told me that he would have much preferred the TTMHB instead of the one in which we have been forced to live by those dreadful Tories.

He had a point, as you will see if you get a copy of this excellent Golf Club book. It has been edited by Derek Roberts of Pearse's Farthing (husband of Jenny, who has just won the Devon County Ladies Golf Championship for the second time). The centenary books are primarily for the delight of Thurlestone Golf Club members, but I am told that once their needs are satisfied those books left at the end of the year will be sold to other residents of the parish. Even if you are not a golfer, I would get your name down as soon as possible for a copy of this fascinating read.

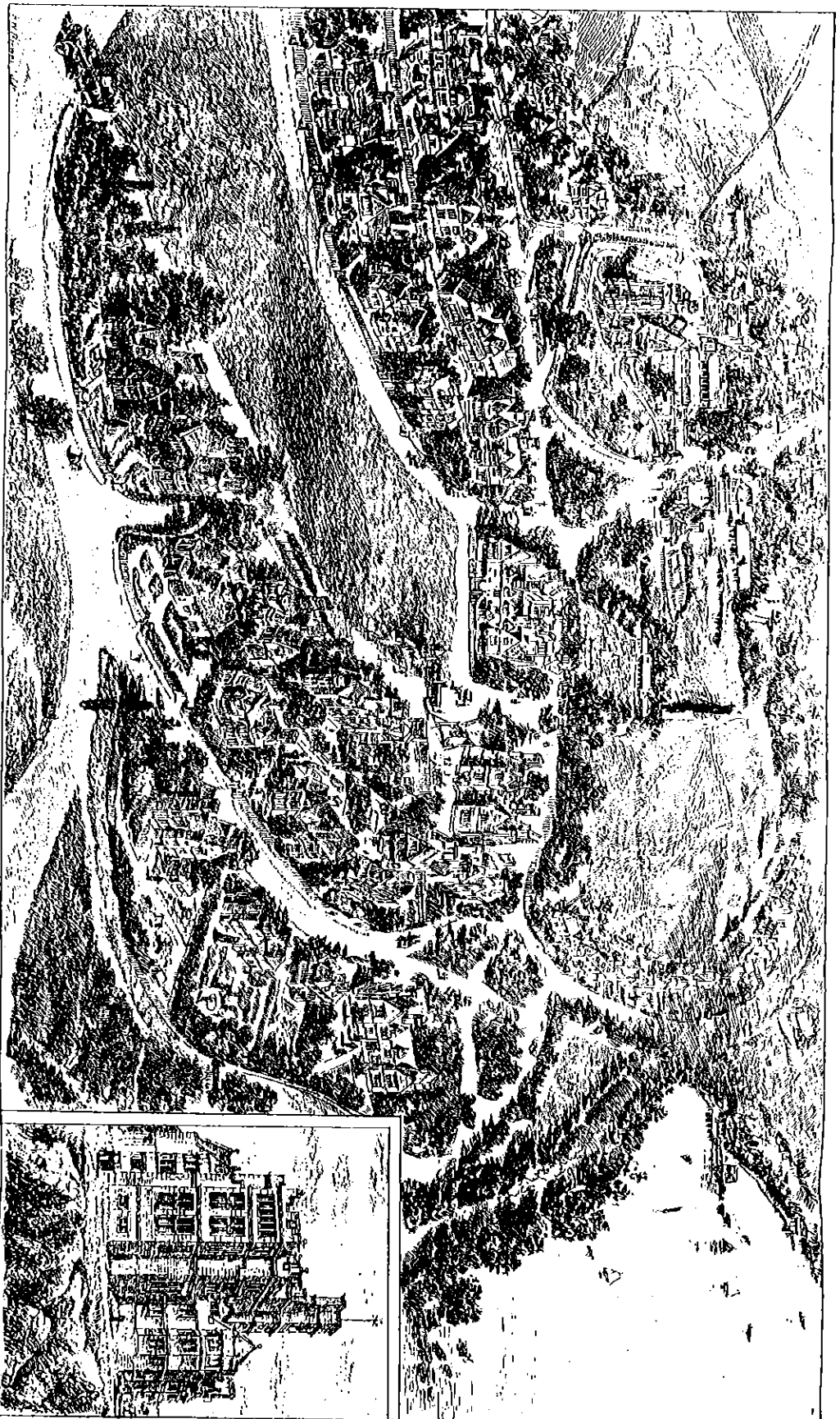
The book is of course all about the history of the Golf Club but, in the telling of that story, covers a great deal of the Victorian history of the parish. For example, I am told that there was great panic, just before publication, when Michael Manisty of Bowringsleigh found in one of his lofts a dust-covered prospectus dated 1895 about "The New Watering Place, South Devon" issued by a company called Thurlstone Limited (yes, spelt wrong, but serious all the same). This last-minute discovery entailed much rewriting of the early history prepared for the book!

Thurlstone Limited was formed in 1895 for *"the purpose of acquiring and developing about 760 acres of freehold land in the parishes of Thurlstone and South Milton, South Devon."* What they planned for those acres was a sort of Bournemouth or Torquay. In fact they specifically mentioned those places as examples of *"watering places"* which had brought investors considerable profits. At Bournemouth, they reported, land bought at a few pounds per acre was, only 30 years later, resold at £50,000 per acre.

To carry out a similar coup, Thurlstone Limited was to buy the whole 760 acres at Thurlestone and South Milton for a mere £46 per acre and would sell 20,000 shares to investors at £5 each. They implied this was an absolute snip. Investors apparently didn't agree, and so the grand design to build Thurlstone-on-Sea and create another Torquay never happened....but it came close.

Just look what we missed. A grand hotel on Warren Point, just to the right of Leas Foot, a cricket ground just behind the beach there and, slightly further back, a huge pleasure boating lake. The lake, which makes today's talk of a Thurlestone marina an even bigger possibility, was described in the prospectus like this: *"The lake (about 22 acres) which existed formerly, but was drained for agricultural purposes, will afford additional facilities for both boating and fishing. Ornamental islands will be formed, and other steps will be taken to make it an attractive feature."*

Local "squire" Hubert Brunskill, who was one of the men behind the plan, started the project off by building Thurlestone a 9-hole golf course, but the full 18 holes would have been played over what is today The Mead. The Tennis Club and its courts were planned for land now part of Thurlestone Hotel land opposite the Swallows. Much of the village development would have looked somewhat similar to the layout today, though the village



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW (LOOKING LANDWARDS) OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND LAKE.

PROPOSED HOTEL.

green would have been replaced by a sort of roundabout containing a clump of trees! To give you the fun of sorting out what happened and what didn't, reproduced here is the drawing of the **Thurlestone That Might Have Been** taken straight from the Thurlestone

Limited brochure, together with part of the map which went with it as well. Would you have cried over the TTMHB?

More important, perhaps, would you have risked a fiver for a share in it?



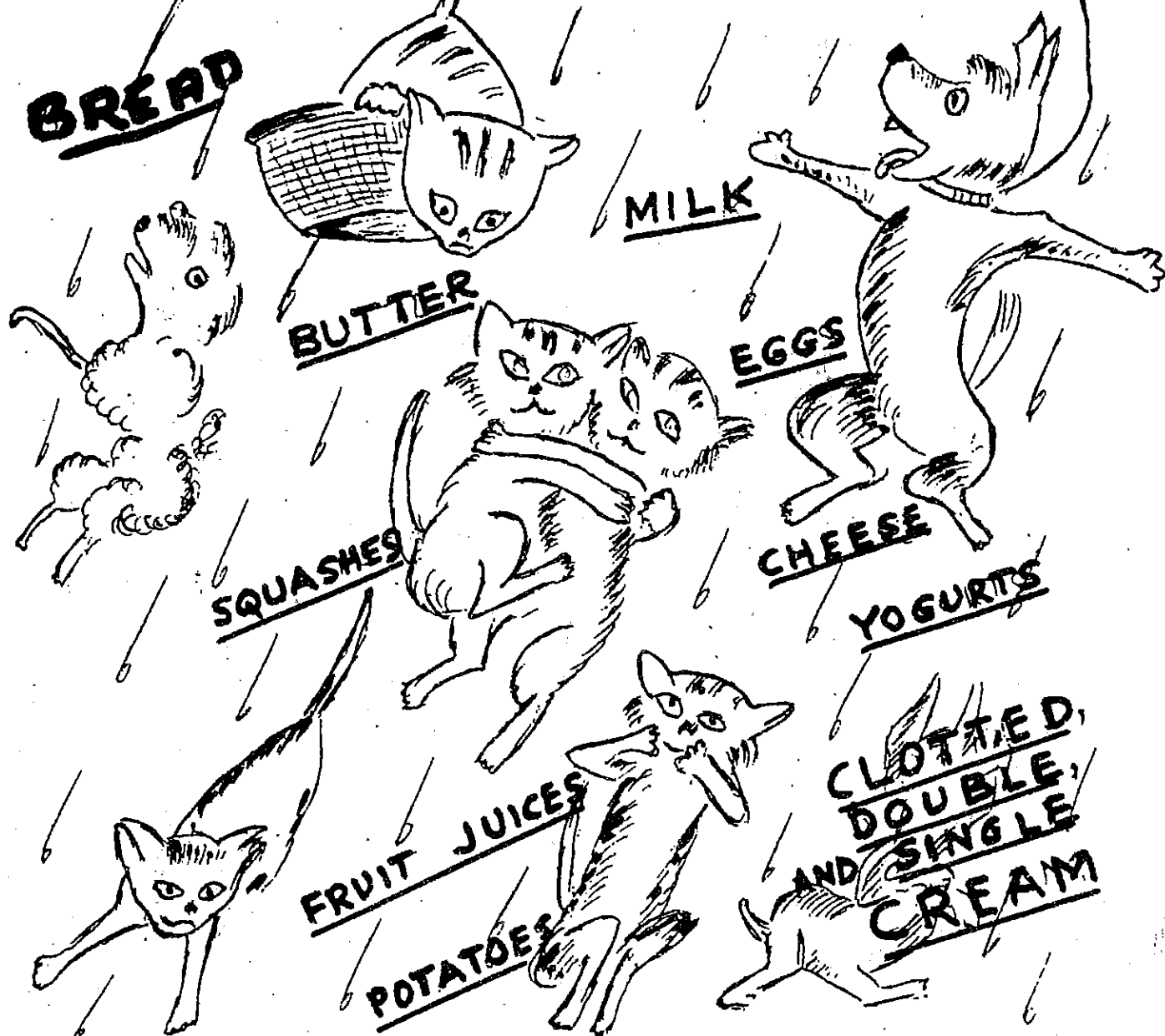
Incidentally, I hear that shares in the New Thurlestone Marina Limited will be floated soon (subject to Lottery grant). Don't miss this titanic new boating investment opportunity.

And while on the subject of boats....it was wrong of me to say in the last issue that the Boathouse at Bantham was that of the

Bantham Yacht Club. It was in fact built by Evans Estates in 1936 to commemorate the Coronation of George VI. It is used today by Hugh Cater, the Bantham Harbourmaster, as a boat-building and maintenance yard. *And many a fine boat he has built there too.*

Villager

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Parish of Thurlestone Society



P.O.T.S.

MILLENNIUM PROJECT - "THE LAND OF THE FIVE BEACHES"

The Parish of Thurlestone Society is proposing a Millennium project for the community....the production of a video on the life and times of the people of our rural coastal parish of Thurlestone. The idea was first discussed last September by a group of POTS members and the Society's chairman, Len Hubbard.

The aim is to produce a lively record of the people and events of Thurlestone, East and West Buckland and Bantham, that will not only be of interest to local residents but will also inform the numerous visitors to the area, and will form a valuable archive of life in the parish.

The project would involve residents of all ages in recording the major historical and social developments of the parish, drawing on old records, old photographs, film of recent events, the recollections of the oldest residents, the artistic life of the community and the activities and changes now taking place. The primary school would be involved in the creative process. It is a unique opportunity to produce a 'time capsule' of two thousand years of life, and change, in a socially and environmentally 'rich' area of Britain. A fitting record for the coming generations.

Research has already begun and an interview with one of our oldest residents, Mrs. Ida Smith, has already been filmed. This year will

be taken up with more research, contacting many people throughout the parish to find out how they may contribute. We want as many as possible to join in. Discussions are shortly to be held with the headmaster, Mr. Alun Williams, as to the best way to involve the children in the project.

By the start of 1988 we expect to have a shooting script, and during the year and into 1999 we will be filming round the parish. Later in 1999 we shall move to editing and production of the video. The aim is to have it completed well before January 1st 2000!

The Society has applied to the Arts Council in London for a £5000 "Arts for Everyone" grant to help finance the production of the documentary. A similar sum will need to be raised to safeguard the budget. **You were all good enough to help us raise £3,600 to save the pumphouse so, with your help, matching the £5,000 grant should not be an impossible task.** We plan to produce a first-class video. We need plenty of ideas, and later shall need assistance. It cannot be done 'on the cheap'.

We have sought, and received, advice from the South West Media Development Agency and several skilled television documentary producers in the South West. All think it is a marvellous idea. We have the official support of the Parish Council, and our District councillor, Mr. Martyn Grose, has backed the

project with a letter of support with the application to the Arts Council. We shall know within the next few weeks if we have been successful in securing the Arts Council grant. When that happens we plan to hold a public meeting in the Parish Hall to explain in more detail how the project will develop, and to seek ideas from all the residents.

We have already sourced many old photographs and records but no doubt there are others around. Many residents will have stories of life in the village. We want to know about them! The characters, the events, the activities. It will be Thurlestone's own documentary, so please give us your ideas. If anyone knows of the existence of film shot in older days that we can use, please tell us.

We shall include the history of the parish from earliest times; look back over the period of living memory from a hundred years ago; and modern times. We shall not forget our environment - the landscape, farming, the natural history, the beaches. The working title for the documentary is "The Land of the Five Beaches".

We shall record all the social and leisure activities of the parish, and the strength and wide variety of its cultural life, art, music, crafts. We shall shortly be contacting all the leisure groups in the parish. We shall need to know when we can film.

And we shall look to the future. This is a key

element in the project. Whither Thurlestone in the next century? Will it stay the same? If not, how might it change? Will we be affected by changes in the environment, by the onward sweep of development in South Devon roads, housing, tourism? The social structure has changed remarkably in the past hundred years but how might it change in the next century?

What do you think? We shall be filming residents on their hopes, concerns, and forecasts for the future. Please let us have your ideas and, dare we say it, your donations too would be very welcome.

So that's the POTS project for the Millennium. Please give us your support. It should be great fun and produce a lively visual account of "Our Place" that we can hand on to succeeding generations. If you want to help please write to, or contact, one of the following:

Len Hubbard, Burwood Gallery,
Thurlestone (01548-560731)

Philip Deare, 7 Mead Lane,
Thurlestone (01548-560378)

David Smeeton, 41 Mead Drive,
Thurlestone (01548-562041)

And finally, to Village Voice readers in other parts of the country or overseas....please send us your recollections, ideas and thoughts on the project.

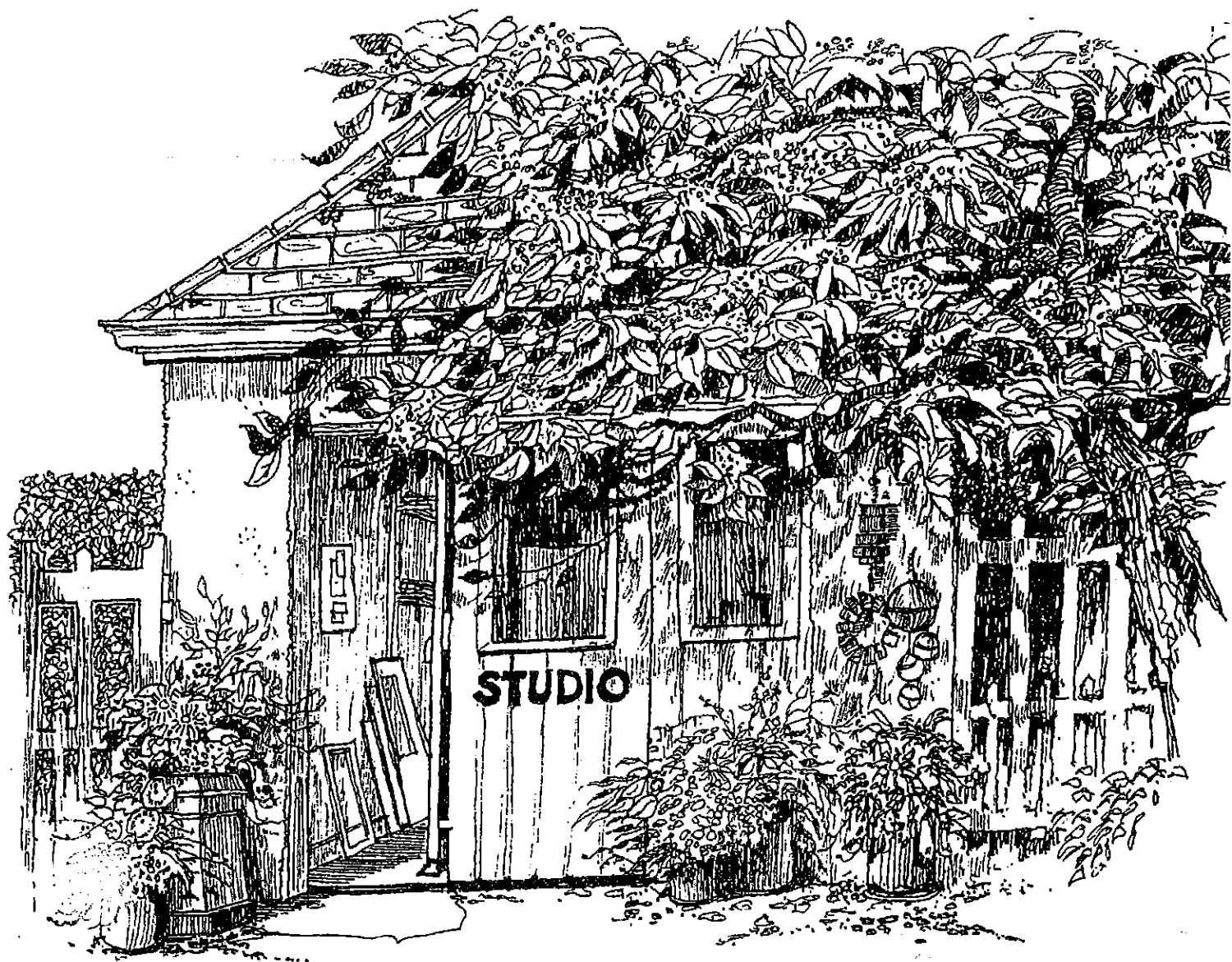
Are there, perhaps, any other places named "Thurlestone" around the globe?

DEVON AIR AMBULANCE

A vital link with the land-based ambulance service. Please help to support this important service which has to depend on voluntary contributions to allow it to continue. To raise funds for its helicopter service the WI will be holding:

A JUMBLE SALE
Saturday 7th June
2.30 pm Parish Hall

Contributions of goods for sale or raffle prizes would be most gratefully received on the morning of the sale (between 10 and noon) or earlier by contacting 560436.



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MARATHON MAN

20-year old Neil Adams of Parkfield has raised the magnificent sum of £1700 for the Meningitis Trust by getting sponsorship for running in the recent London Marathon!

Neil, son of Herbie and Stephanie Adams, has lived all his life in Thurlestone, attending the village primary school and Kingsbridge School. Seventeen months ago, whilst he

was studying Applied Biological Science at the University of the West of England in Bristol, he contracted meningococcal septicaemia and it was for this reason that he chose, on his recovery, to fund-raise for the Meningitis Trust to help research into, and raise awareness of, this life-threatening disease.



Neil Adams all set for the start of the 1997 London Marathon

A footballer, tennis player and member of Thurlestone Golf Club, he has always wanted to take part in the London Marathon. He completed the course in 4 hours and 40 minutes, hitting the dreaded "wall" at about 16 miles with leg pains - but with the help of a massage and encouragement from the crowd, he continued to the finish line.

He says *"It was a wonderful day and I will never forget the atmosphere, the friendly people and the tremendous organisation*

involved to stage such a memorable event".

Neil would particularly like to thank everyone who kindly sponsored him for their interest and their generosity. He also has special *thank you* appreciations to record - to his Mum, Dad, sister Kate and Grandma, and to other family members and friends who obtained donations on his behalf.

Village Voice salutes this great effort and splendid result. Very well done, Neil!

WHO'S FOR

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION

Programme of Events for Summer 1997

The Tennis Section will again be running a series of tournaments during the summer holidays commencing Saturday 26th July. Lists for entry will be displayed on the Tennis notice board a few days before each event. The meeting point for each tournament will be the Tennis Pavilion.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAYS (starting 9.30 am)
TWO JUNIOR PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

Ages 10 - 13 and 14 - 16

First 29.7.97 - Last 26.8.97

TUESDAYS (starting 2.30 pm)
LADIES DOUBLES (Round Robin)

Organised by players

First 29.7.97 - Last 26.8.97

THURSDAYS (starting 9.30 am)
TWO JUNIOR ROUND ROBIN EVENTS

Ages 10 - 13 and 14 - 16

First 31.7.97 - Last 28.8.97

THURSDAYS (starting 2.30 pm)
MENS DOUBLES (Round Robin)
Min. age 16 years (organised by players)

First 31.7.97 - Last 28.8.97

SATURDAYS (starting 2 pm)
SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES
(Round Robin) Sliding Handicap

First 26.7.97 - Last 30.8.97

Before any event can commence there must be an entry of at least 5 couples.

NEW JUNIOR EVENT

STARTER TENNIS ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT

Each Tuesday and Thursday

10.15 am to 12.00 noon

First 26th July - Last 28th August

This event is organised for young players who do not have the experience to compete in the regular tournaments.

Lists for entry will be on the Notice Board. The Tennis Committee would like to ask for assistance in running this event from the players' parents.

Entry fee and playing fee £1.00 per player

JUNIOR CLUB TENNIS SESSIONS

These will be organised throughout May, June, and July. Starter tennis coaching for the young complete beginner will be run in June and July. Members and non-members welcome.

Please contact Lindsey Fletcher for information on 01548 - 580789

COACHING

Val Brewer, professional coach, is available to give individual lessons throughout the year on the club courts.

Contact number: 01548-560157

TENNIS?

REGISTRATION

ALL MEMBERS' PLAYING GUESTS AND NON-MEMBERS MUST BE SIGNED IN AND REGISTERED IN THE VISITORS' BOOK IN THE GOLF PRO SHOP BEFORE PLAYING. A DAILY PLAYING TICKET WILL THEN BE ISSUED.

CUP COMPETITIONS

Seniors: **BRYAN BROWN CUP**
Saturday 16th August at 2 pm
Min. age 16 (No sliding handicap)

Juniors: **EGAN CUP**
Tuesday 12th August at 9.30 am
Age group 10/13 years

Juniors: **LEONARD CUP**
Tuesday 12th August at 9.30 am
Age group 14/16 years

NOTE

If unable to play on above dates, events will be played on Thursday 14th August.

There will also be some
FAMILY DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS
from time to time, fitted in between Monday and Friday where there is a demand.

ENTRY FEES FOR COMPETITIONS

All junior events

Members and temporary members:

50p. per competition.

Non-members:

50p entry fee + **£2.00** playing fee.

Seniors Tournaments

Members and temporary members:

£1.00 per competitor

Non-members:

£1.00 entry fee + **£3.00** playing fee.

Bryan Brown Cup

£2.00 per competitor

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

TENNIS SECTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held

WEDNESDAY 13th AUGUST 1997
6.00 pm in Tennis Pavilion

Thurlestone Golf Club Centenary Year

TENNIS CLUB DANCE

Dinner and Dancing - Saturday 16th August 1997

In the Clubhouse 7.15 for 8.00 pm

Dress: Casual (no jeans or trainers)

Tickets available through Golf Club Office

BOOKSHELF

The English Patient by Michael Ondaatje

This book is not a new one, as it won the Booker Prize in 1992, but I do not think it was widely read at that time. It has of course recently received wide publicity following the film, which was awarded nine Oscars. I don't suppose I will see the film, but from the reviews I read I noticed that the two stars who were portraying the "English Patient" and his mistress did not receive Oscars although the woman playing the nurse, Hana, did. I was pleased about that because I regarded Hana and the man who played the bomb-disposal expert as the stars of the book.

It is beautifully written, spellbinding in fact, and one has to read every word.....it is impossible to skip. I really think one needs to read it two or three times to grasp it fully, so it is well worth buying the paperback.

Basically, the story is of the spectacular and **amorous adventures** of the English Patient in the Egyptian desert before and during the war and his terrible accident, which culminated in his being nursed by Hana in a deserted Italian villa. A secondary but by no means minor plot involves Kirpal Singh, an Indian who also lives in the villa whilst carrying out his bomb-disposal activities. He started these in England before going to Italy and his fascinating story is one of great courage and resourcefulness.

I will not tell you any more, but do read it, it has a lovely ending.

G.W.

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks.

Many of you may already have this excellent book, but those who haven't should remedy that before long. It is on Waterstone's list of the 100 Greatest Books of the 20th Century, at

number 47, which is quite remarkable for a book written only four years ago. Its reviews have been full of the highest praise both for the story and the standard of literature.

It is an unusual and moving love story intertwined with some of the most harrowing descriptions of life in the trenches in the First World War. Don't let that put you off reading it, because I think that everyone should be made aware of the amazing heroism of ordinary British soldiers - in doing what they themselves regarded as everyday routine. The descriptions of the privations and mental pressures they suffered are most moving and serve to enhance the touching romantic interludes. *Birdsong* really is a MUST!

G.W.

To Hell with Picasso by Paul Johnson

A series of essays by this very erudite writer, who feels the Booker Prize has done more harm to English literature than anything else.

R.M.

Britannia's Daughters by Joanna Trollope

Before she got on to the "Vicarage Roundabout" (or the Aga Sagas) Joanna Trollope was a serious historical writer, and this is an interesting account of the many pioneering women Britain has produced. What a lot of wimps we present-day women are, compared to the stoic ladies written about who ventured into the far unknown. No jumbo-jets and package tours for them!

R.M.

The Art Forgers Handbook by Eric Hebborn

Just the book for the many retired artists among us - improve your technique and choose your style!

R.M.



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THE PEOPLE OF THURLESTONE

Why have so many people decided to come and live in Thurlestone in recent years?

The simple answer, for most of them, is that they liked the look of the place and found a suitable new house awaiting them to replace the one they had occupied elsewhere during their working lives. That is a modern explanation, far removed from the ambitions of former generations that were mainly concerned with making a living from the fertile soil. Indeed, it is the soil that has dominated the social scene. It has done so in three distinct phases. First, the development of a simple yet virtually self-supporting community which lasted until mid-Victorian times. Then came the difficult years in which earnings from the earth did not satisfy the ambitions of those who owned the land. Lastly the extraordinary influx of strangers following the opening of the golf course in 1897.

In the centuries after 1066, the population of Thurlestone increased from a dozen or so farmers and their families to about 350. During this time, with their cattle, sheep, horses, crops and fish from the sea, they were able to feed and clothe themselves and to develop a way of life that the environment offered. They had their festive occasions, many based on the Church calendar, and sought the flotsam and jetsam of shipwrecks.

Some form of hierarchy was necessary for the management of the parish. With successive Earls of Devon (Lords of the Manor and living in distant Powderham Castle on the Exe) owning all but the northern fringe, most of the land was rented from them. There was no resident squire, nor indeed any aristocrat or grandee within miles of the place. Hence there was an opportunity for local initiative. In 1850, when the parish had reached its peak as a prosperous self-contained community, White published the first of his three Directories in which he listed the names and

occupations of its leading personalities. Among these were eight who were placed first. They were:

THURLESTONE

Square, Henry Roe	Esquire
Square, Mr. Thomas	
Ilbert, Rev. Peregrine	Rector
Elliot, Nicholas	Corn Miller

BANTHAM

Whitton, John	Victualler
	Owner of Sloop Inn

BUCKLAND

Elliot, George	Butcher
Elliot, Mr. William	
Mordaunt, Osborne	

Henry Square has the suffix Esquire and two others the less exalted prefix Mr. The most important resident then was Henry Square who lived at Clanacombe, an impressive Elizabethan residence with a dovecote that few of the present parishioners have been allowed to visit. He owned extensive land in Thurlestone together with Square's Quay, a busy shipyard and now the main carpark along the estuary at Kingsbridge.

White goes on to give the names of seventeen farmers, of whom four owned their farms, two blacksmiths and three shoemakers. These, then, were the notable members of the parish of whom more than half, seventeen of thirty, were farmers. The parish register of baptisms, at a time when virtually all births were registered, show that fifteen of the thirty were so baptised, most of them with names well known in the parish such as Square, Elliot, Sherriff, Moore and Hannaford. That one half of the prominent members of the parish should have been native born is in keeping with other studies of mobility of rural population in Devon. Several attempts have been made to trace those whose names do not appear after baptism. The general view is that most, even

as many as 90%, went to Cornwall, Somerset or London for the most part.

These figures fail to convey the essence of rural existence much of which comprised over-crowded farmsteads and dwellings, often with the younger children boarded out in larger houses where they worked and were taught by the farmer's wife, especially in the long summer evenings, before the village school was opened in 1844. Anyone trying to raise six children in a thatched cottage might well seek employment for some of them beyond the bounds of Thurlestone.

By 1850, Thurlestone's centuries of near self-sufficiency came to an end as communications transport and the industrial revolution led to a more complex and expensive way of life. Land owners and farmers could no longer afford both to employ large staffs and to purchase machinery. In the event, machinery prevailed, leading to the present situation in which a farmer with his herdsman may need three or four items of heavy machinery to manage a hundred cattle and two hundred sheep and raise crops to feed them.

This completely altered the structure of society, with the loss of work for husbandmen and their departure from the parish. The censuses of 1851 and 1901 show that the population of Thurlestone fell by fifty. Despite national prosperity, there was little cash to spare for farm houses, which were frugally appointed right up to the 1930s, as has been described recently in Hubert Snowdon's book.*

The opening of the golf club in 1897 transformed the whole social structure of the parish. In the short term it attracted the new Thurlestone Hotel and luxury homes nearby. The process continued with the development of Yarmer, Court Park, The Mead and council houses so that the population has more than doubled during the present century, despite

two world wars. The only comparable parish in the district is Salcombe with its influx of visitors and retired people.

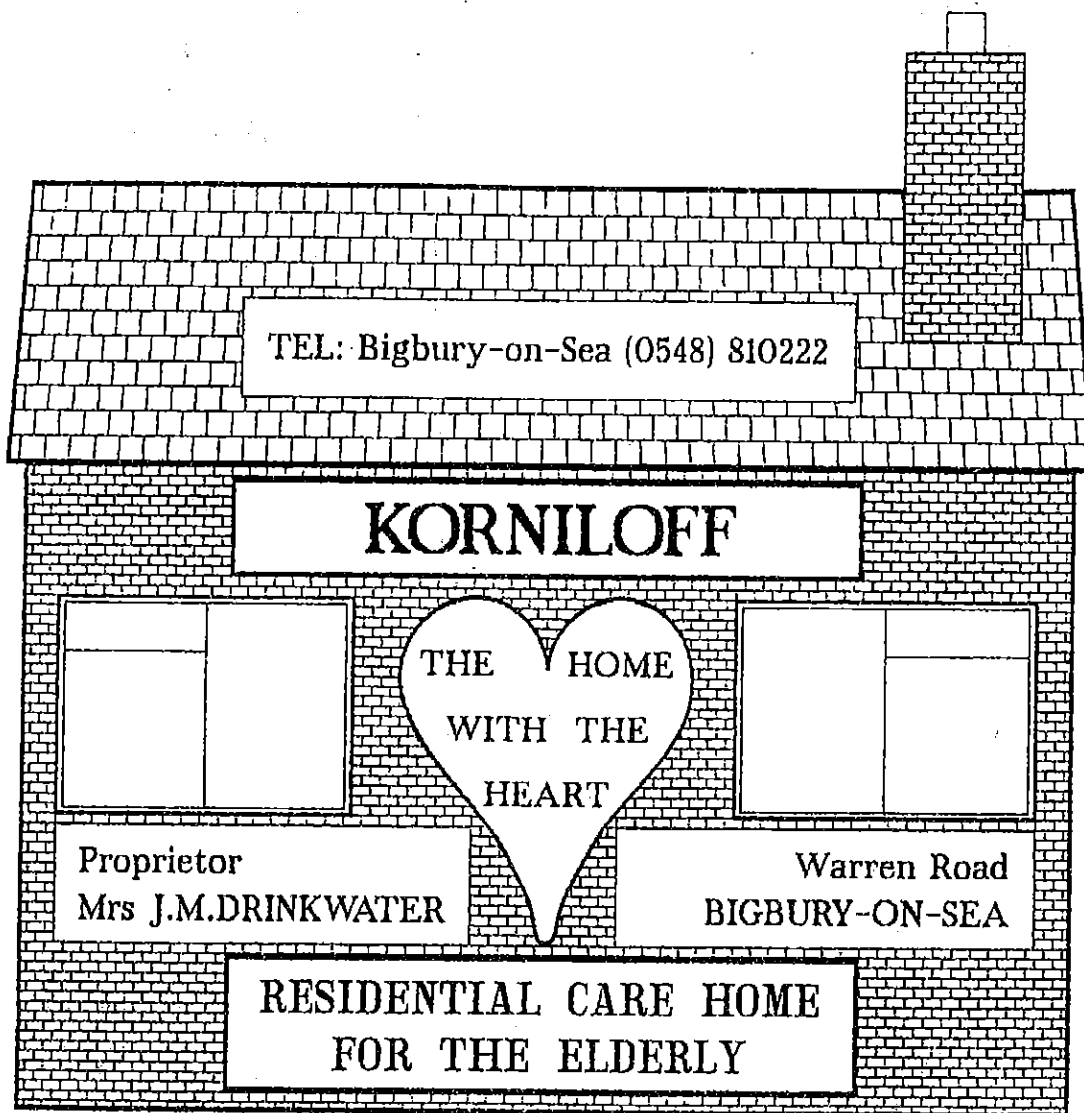
Whilst a small - and no more than a small - nucleus of parishioners can trace their families in Thurlestone back to World War 1, almost one half of the population is at least in part of West Country stock. They include farmers and many who work or have worked directly or indirectly with the newcomers. Their children go to the village school and, on the whole, they prefer new council houses to old thatched cottages. They have activities in association with the Church, the WI, the Bowls Club or the Horticultural Show. The newcomers, mainly retired people from London and the Midlands, arrange diversions to suit their needs, whether it be golf, bridge, or fund-raising for charity. A group of mature ladies - known as the Whirling Dervishes - perform their exercises to music on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall. Recently line-dancing has become the "in" thing on Monday mornings.

What of the hierarchy which for so long was a feature of rural society in England? We have a sort of egalitarian hierarchy which for an outsider may be a little difficult to understand. Having lost our village policeman some years ago, authority rests with the parish council, whose members are strikingly similar to the eight men who were singled out by White 150 years ago; unfortunately they have little legal authority. The farmers with their long hours are self-contained whilst the other "villagers" are for the most part fully employed. At times they are overwhelmed by the new residents who, in their turn, are overwhelmed by visitors during the summer season.

This may sound an unlikely formula for bucolic bliss but in practice it works well, allowing all of us to live in a beautiful place and go our respective ways in harmony.

Neville Oswald

* "Born to Farm in Thurlestone" by Hubert N.Snowdon - £3.95 in local shops.



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PUZZLE CORNER

by Pat Machin

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 will spell out a much photographed and painted local beauty spot.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------|----------------|----------|
| 1. Skip () | Russell | 7. Bus () | Cock |
| 2. Speak () | Going | 8. Fish () | Side |
| 3. Nick () | Sake | 9. Plug () | Duckling |
| 4. Bar () | Cobra | 10. Marble () | Bishop |
| 5. Pig () | Monger | 11. Leap () | Ling |
| 6. Ear () | Box | | |

2. WORD PAIRS

From the list of words on the right, take out two which go with each other to answer each of the clues on the left. This will remove thirty-eight, leaving just one. Which one is it?

CLUES

- (a) Two puddings
- (b) Two dwarfs
- (c) Two connected to gun
- (d) An item of furniture
- (e) A Thackeray novel
- (f) Two with window
- (g) A European capital
- (h) Two gates
- (i) A thief
- (j) Two going with powder
- (k) Two joined with side
- (l) Two anagrams
- (m) Two rivers
- (n) A savoury dish
- (o) Two make a palindrome
- (p) A protective jacket
- (q) An instrumental dance?
- (r) Two joined to crest
- (s) A beach jumping insect

WORDS

- (1) Bay
- (2) Cup
- (3) Keg
- (4) Run
- (5) Fair
- (6) Gold
- (7) Holm
- (8) Horn
- (9) Lych
- (10) Pick
- (11) Pipe
- (12) Sand
- (13) Wind
- (14) Board
- (15) Rummy
- (16) Stock
- (17) Tamar
- (18) Cheese
- (19) Effect
- (20) Fallen
- (21) Grumpy
- (22) Hopper
- (23) Nurses
- (24) Pocket
- (25) Talcum
- (26) Vanity
- (27) Avenger
- (28) Bushful
- (29) Cabinet
- (30) Cheater
- (31) Cleaner
- (32) Engrave
- (33) Kissing
- (34) Electron
- (35) Plymouth
- (36) Torridge
- (37) Whiskers
- (38) Yorkshire
- (39) Cauliflower

KATE'S KITCHEN



SALAD DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN...

And with them....lettuce in all shapes and sizes! A sixteenth century herbalist wrote this about lettuce. "It cooleth the heat of the stomach called heartburn, quencheth thirst and causeth sleep". I'm not at all sure about any of these claims but I do like all salad leaves to be cold and crisp.

Here are two recipes for salads and one for a celery loaf - a nice accompaniment to either.

CHICORY SALAD

- 4 heads chicory, leaves separated and washed
- 2 large oranges, peeled, pips and pith removed and sliced into rings
- 2 ozs. walnuts, coarsely chopped; 1 oz. raisins
- Qtr. pint vinaigrette dressing; salt & freshly ground black pepper

Put chicory into a bowl; sprinkle with a little salt and pepper. Add orange rings, walnuts and raisins and mix together. Just before serving drizzle over the dressing and toss well.

RUNNER BEAN SALAD

- 1lb. runner beans, sliced in 1" pieces, cooked until just tender,
then refreshed in cold water
- 2 fl.ozs. white wine vinegar
- 3 fl.ozs. hazel nut oil
- 2 fl.ozs. sunflower oil
- 2 eating apples, unskinned but cored and then diced
- 2 ozs. hazel nuts, chopped, then lightly roasted under grill
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- Fresh parsley or chervil (chopped)

Put beans, apples and nuts in a bowl and mix together well. Mix the oils, vinegar and seasoning together and pour over the beans etc. Add herbs and toss lightly.

CELERY LOAF

- 4 ozs. cottage cheese; 2 ozs. sugar; 2 sticks celery (finely chopped);
- 2 eggs (well beaten); 4 ozs. s.r.flour; 1 tablespoon fresh parsley (chopped);
- Salt & pepper to taste

Grease and line a 1lb loaf tin. Mix together cheese and sugar, add eggs a little at a time, then celery and parsley and finally fold in the flour. Pour into tin and cover with a piece of buttered greaseproof paper. Bake for approximately 45 minutes at 160 - 170C. until set and firm. Turn out, leave to go cold, then chill slightly in the fridge before serving.

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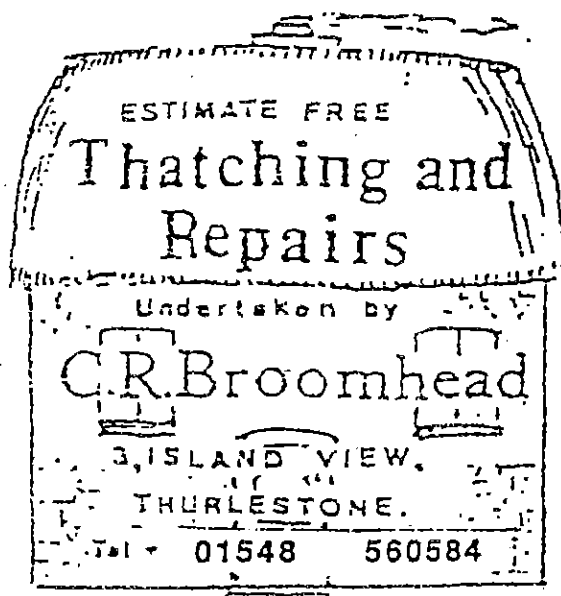
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HORSWELL DIARY



The passage of Hale-Bopp through our heavens has coincided with a period of such intense change and activity that I too have felt I was a traveller through time and space. It has been an extraordinary few weeks in which people, places, and cultures have tumbled and swirled together like brilliant beads in a kaleidoscope, forming first one pattern and then another to delight and amaze the eye.

It began in Thailand where, with my mother to celebrate her 70th birthday, we strolled along silver sands and swam in warm turquoise seas. The greyness of an English winter was lost in a riot of tropical colour, lush vegetation and the warm smiles of a gentle nation. Talking with my sister, who joined us from New Zealand, I was reminded of my colonial roots and of gloriously carefree days together travelling to one South Sea island after another, living off rice and fish, and gazing up at the stars through the gaps in the palm thatch.

Back in London, having exchanged bare feet and a sarong for an evening dress and pearls, I accompanied my husband to his Livery Company dinner held in the Barber Surgeons' Hall.

The ancient traditions and essential Englishness of the evening's ceremony chased sweet memories of Thailand from my head like butterflies in the wind. Asian smiles replaced by British sang froid.

Home to Horswell and our menagerie, now extended to include ornamental ducks on the pond. Horatio and Sir Francis, two Carolina drakes, stand on an overhanging branch looking, with their fore and aft 'hats', like admirals on the bridge surveying their fleet. Dogs rush to greet us and the peacocks screech their welcome. The Ansaphone is laden with messages from people who want to come and stay, or who are already *en route*, and the garden screams for our attention.

We roll up our sleeves and throw ourselves into a maelstrom of cooking, cleaning, gardening and laundry, entertaining visitors from all corners of the earth, so numerous and continuous that their names and faces stream from memory like the tail of the comet, their passing marked most noticeably by the increasing mountain of sheets and table napkins waiting to be laundered. Shrouds discarded by departed ghosts.

We escape to Egypt and a dream come true. A time warp. We cruised from Luxor to the Aswan Dam. Our ship became our time-machine, carrying us from the wonders of man three thousand years ago to the advanced technology of the twentieth century. We grew to know and recognise gods and goddesses, pharaohs and queens from their cartouches and images carved in the ancient stone of magnificent temples and



lives portrayed in such visual splendour one could feel them live and breathe, mingling in the crowd around us, whispering of love and battles won or lost.

Returning to Britain and reality, my New Zealand passport precludes me from passing through Customs with my husband. Instead I join the queue marked 'Aliens', and contemplate waving my tentacles and oozing green slime. However, I find it preferable to exchanging my smart navy passport for a nasty plastic red one that resembles an edited edition of "The Thoughts of Chairman Mao".

Although not keen to become one, I do like Europeans, especially one particular family of French people. Which is fortunate because they came to stay within days of our return, replacing thoughts of ancient Egypt with those of croissants and Carte Noire coffee. Whilst I try and dissuade Mme Normand from cooking the snails she has collected from the garden, which she assures me would be delicious with a little parsley and garlic butter, my husband finds an urgent need to visit the farm, family and friends in Oxfordshire. The duration of his stay? One English-speaking week.

My French-speaking week was exhausting - but amusing too. Especially when my guests offered to deadhead all the daffodils in the

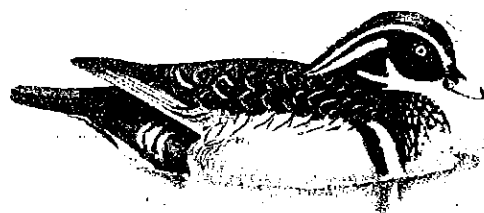
orchard. Cutting off noble heads seemed such a peculiarly French thing to do. I felt like getting out my knitting and whistling the Marseillaise....except I can't knit or whistle. Another reason for not being European perhaps.

A 5.00 am start to take them to their ferry meant the possibility of having a much-needed day to ourselves. Returning from Plymouth my heart lifted to see my husband waiting on the front doorstep to greet me but was quickly dashed when, finger to his lips, he whispered that we had three unexpected guests waiting upstairs.

Appalled, I fix a smile on my face and follow him reluctantly upstairs, to be greeted by a sight bizarre beyond belief. There on the landing, stretched out contentedly on the beige carpet, were our three visitors..... Imran, Genghis and Jemima, three of our peafowl, their beautiful feathers gleaming in the sunshine. They seemed quite surprised to be asked to leave but slowly got up, one by one, and walked elegantly down the stairs, their tails rustling like taffeta ballgowns behind them, along the stone corridor, across the kitchen and out through the door to the courtyard - through which they had entered - thankfully leaving no mess behind them.

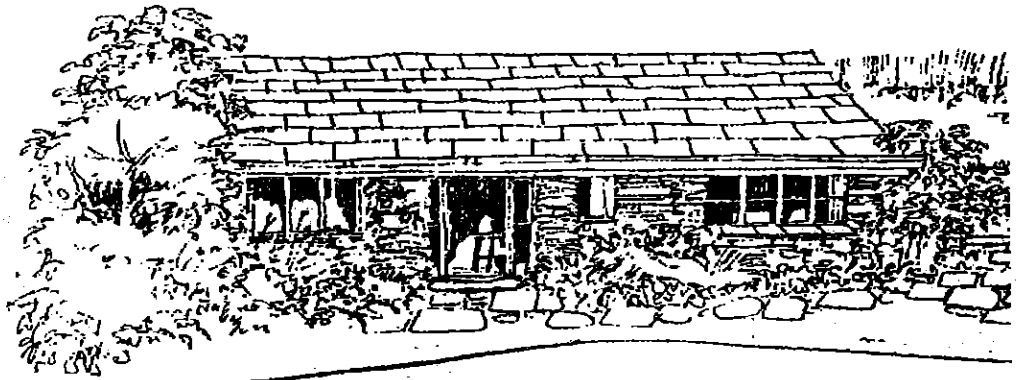
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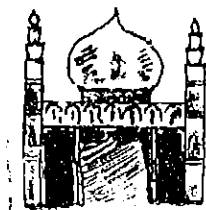
**Future Church Events:**

**Barbecue on the Village Green on Tuesday August 12th at 6pm**

**St Crispin's Fair in the Parish Hall on Thursday October 23rd at 10.30am**

# SOME IMPRESSIONS OF RURAL RAJASTHAN

( PART TWO )



One of the advantages of going to Rajasthan at the time of year we did is the complete absence of mosquitoes - it is far too cold for them in the evenings. One word of warning, however. Don't consider a holiday in this part of the world if you don't like curries. Every lunch or dinner seems to consist of either curried lamb or chicken with curried cauliflower, curried potatoes, curried parsnips and carrots..... but peas and French beans were not curried. Fresh fruit or very sweet concoctions followed, which you either liked or hated. Fortunately we both like curry, but at the moment we do tend to avoid the thought of an Indian take-away!

Briefly we either visited or stayed at Fort Chanwa in Luni, just south of Jodhpur, lunched at Sardar Samand Palace (the old hunting lodge of the Maharaja of Jodhpur), stayed at the 17th century fortress of Rawla Narlaiof at Narlai and the exquisitely restored Raj Mahal Fort at Deogarh and, finally, three nights at the Samode Palace.

What are the thoughts that will remain with us? Cleaning our teeth with bottled water in a glass whilst in a most luxurious bathroom. Very old beds, some with canopies, some painted in a bygone era, some with very hard foam mattresses and no springs. The garlands of flowers placed around our necks with a red dot on our foreheads. The strange music of the drums and the wailing from the temples between 2 and 6.30 am on some of the days. The wonderful birdlife. No one shoots them or harms them in any way in this part of India, so they have no fear except from natural predators. Stretches of desert disappearing into the distance, dotted with scrub and maintaining - goodness knows how - black buck, deer, camels, and monkeys. There are tigers in the more remote and forested area -

but these we didn't see. The Aravalli Hills which run due north-south across Rajasthan divide the state into two distinct halves with desert and scrub to the west (the Thar Desert) and arable land to the east. These hills are claimed to be amongst the oldest in the world...so the locals told us.

The village children are for the main part clean, healthy and full of fun. They are beautifully and neatly dressed when off to school - and so well-behaved and anxious to learn. They are taught English, their second language, from the age of ten. Both men and women wash clothes in the river or lake, but in separate areas, as neither by custom is allowed to look upon the other. We discovered this from our guide when the men in our party tried to film the women. This had to be done by the women in our party.

Men would load stones into a basket, only to lift it on to a woman's head so that she could carry it to another male who would take it off and deposit the stone where required. This process was the same for large or small jobs, from building roads to filling in a small hole. We saw very little sign of mechanisation, not even a wheelbarrow, the theory being that labour is cheap, time is not important, and by employing as many as possible everybody is contributing - however inefficient this may seem to us. There is no such thing as unemployment benefit, only the facility for those on very low pay to buy food and seed etc. at a greatly subsidised price.

The village houses all seemed to be swept spotlessly clean even though they have mud floors. All the family live close together as long as the land they own lasts out. When a son marries he just builds another room on to the house, either on top or alongside. There is

no running water, only the village pump or well, and the electricity comes in fits and starts. Some villages are now producing bio-gas - methane from animal dung - which is processed through a series of pipes and tanks with the resulting gas being used for cooking.

Most villages are self-supporting, with potters, weavers, cobblers (these being the so-called Untouchables as they have to handle cow-hide), brick and tile makers, and a metal worker or blacksmith. We were lucky at Luni to see all this work taking place at close hand and were also able to buy some excellent embroidery. The village women form animal dung mixed with chaff or something similar into pancake shapes, about 12 inches in diameter, each having identifying palm and finger prints. These are then dried in the sun and burnt like peat. Sometimes children on their way to school carry not only their books but have milk churns, containing either cow or buffalo milk, slung over the crossbar.

Long, slow, goods trains travel through the night, whistling as they journey from one large town to the next. It can take as long as 20 minutes from the time one hears the first whistle until the noise fades into the distance.

The whistling, I was told, is to scare cows off the line...but I think that, like the lorry drivers, train drivers just like making a noise!

Finally, we had the opportunity of watching a Panchayat (or in English a Parish Council meeting) taking place in the grounds of an ancient cave temple at Deogarh. On this occasion it was a gathering of many local village leaders to discuss the siting

of a new temple and while the men talked the women prepared food. No decision was made that night - except that they would return next year to continue the discussion. This, we were told, could go on for many years. Our final stay was at the Samode Palace, the jewel in the heritage crown. It really is a fantastic building and staying there for three nights gave us the opportunity not only to enjoy a gala evening with all the entertainment and good food that involves, but also of watching other business and tourist groups doing the same. On one of the nights we visited the Royal Gardens, or Samode Bagh. We slept in luxurious tents with the monkeys bombarding us from above all night long. We were curious to know what kept hitting the tent roof and found out in the morning when the bucket and shovel brigade arrived to clean up...and fertilise the roses!

And what of our preconceptions about India? Yes, we had blue skies every day and, once the temperature had risen by around 10 am, we saw many brightly-coloured saris. (The men seemed to wear their brown blankets most of the day, however, so we think the women must wear thermals). Poverty is relative; what we think of as poverty they consider normal. Begging, overcrowding and unhealthy lifestyle? In the encampments on the city fringes without doubt these conditions apply. In the villages we visited the answers to these points would be "no". If appearances are anything to go by, they are very happy with their lot.

So ended our brief but very memorable stay in Rajasthan. It represented only a very small part of India, but it gave us a real insight into village life as well as a chance to see some of the famous tourist sights. But, as the brochure warned, definitely not for the faint-hearted.

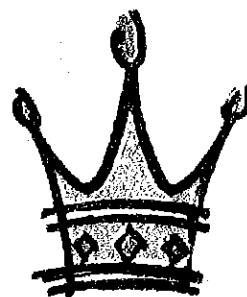
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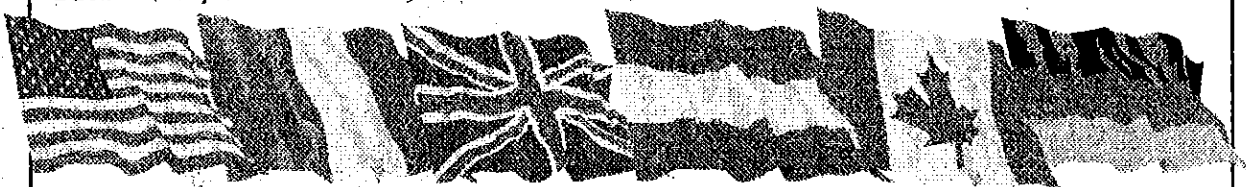
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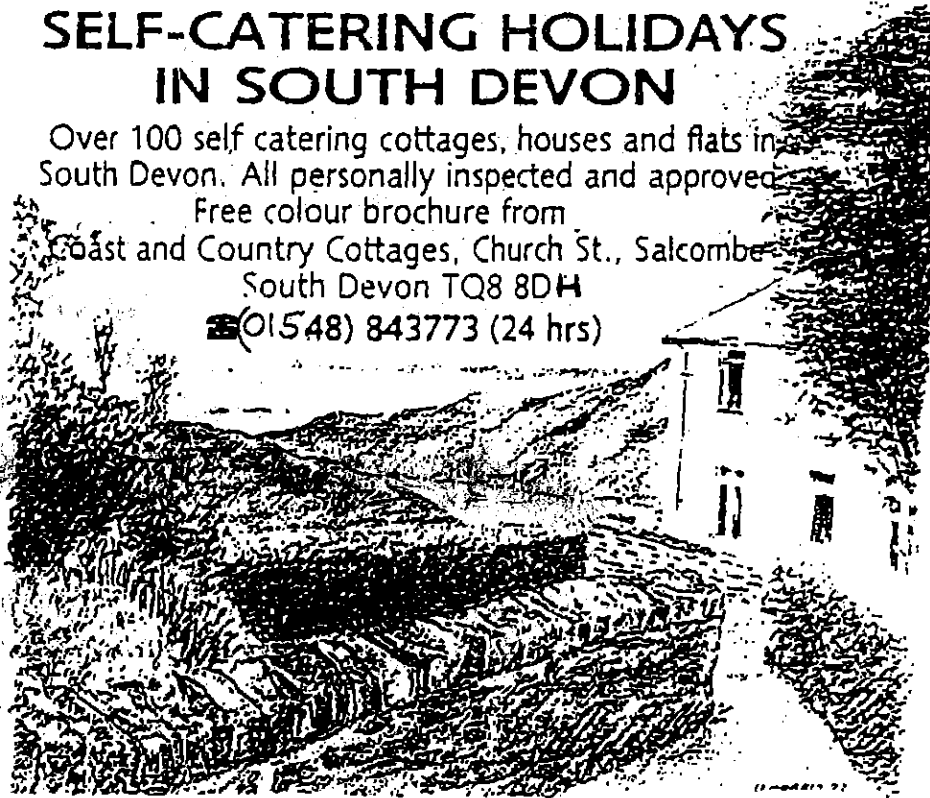
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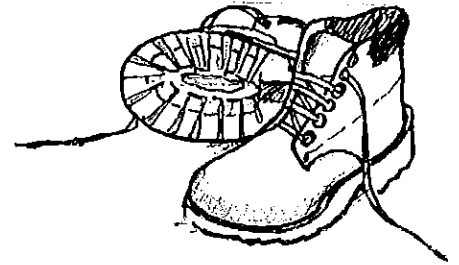
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# TRAMPS

## Set off up the Plym Valley.....



*Those who were deterred by the prospect of a slightly longer-than-usual walk in early April did not realise what they were missing. To begin with, it was a perfect day, just right for walking, sunny with a cooling breeze - and then it was a beautiful walk.*

A respectable group - ten plus two dogs - set off from the Plym Bridge car park and crossing the road we were soon following the path through the woods beside the Plym, which looked lovely in the dappled sunlight. The woods were full of enormous wood anemones; two mallards were identified. It was not hard going although we were walking upstream. However, our leader, with commendable regard for our physical wellbeing, had included a steepish climb up from the river valley so that we could then go down again to Bickleigh Bridge to rejoin the path by the river. Another beautiful stretch followed, past Dewerstone Wood and then through more open country to Clearbrook.

There on the open moor, sheltered from the breeze by a convenient gorse bush, we had our picnic.

After lunch, two walkers fewer, we followed a track over the moor which brought us down to the disused railway, now a cycle track. The gentle downward slope made for easy going, although it was a trifle hazardous on account of the cyclists, who were numerous and swift...but of course it was their right of way. There were other excitements: a high viaduct, which gave us a view down to the valley below, and a long dark tunnel where the torches we had brought were indispensable. Then there was the old, deserted station.

When the track almost converged with the riverside path of the morning we chose the latter; it was prettier and less perilous. It made a satisfying end to a totally enjoyable walk.

**Pam Brewster**

## ...and find the gardens of Heligan

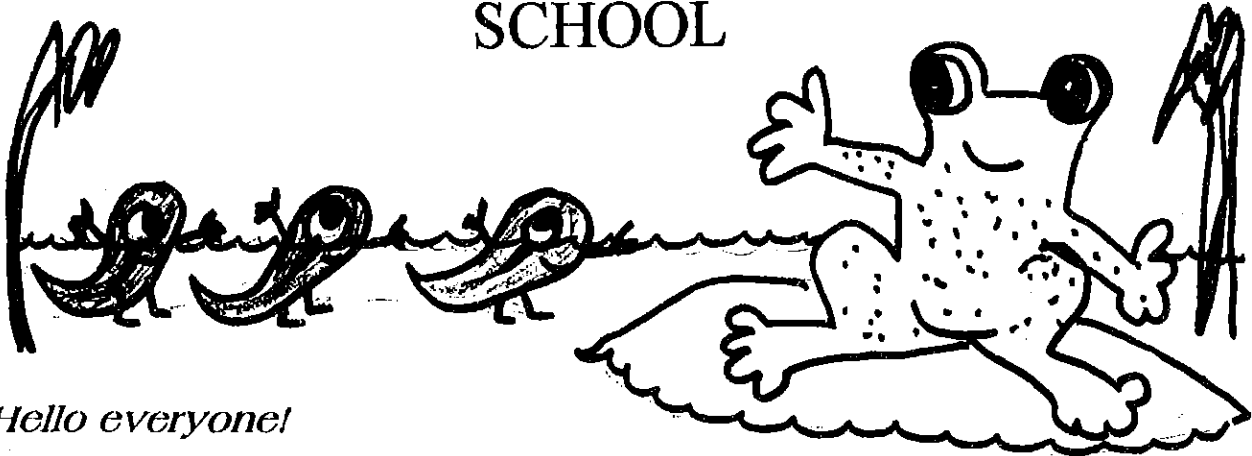
Sixteen people met in the carpark at Heligan at 10.45 am on 16th April and were joined by Lee Evans, an ex-Tramps member who now lives in Heligan House. Lee showed us around the gardens, which were looking lovely - the rhododendrons just flowering, the camellias just finishing, but everything delightful in the bright sunlight. After visiting the northern gardens and the jungle, we were taken to the hidden valley, an area just opened to the public. From here we crossed through some private land of the estate to join the path to Mevagissey, where everybody ate their picnic sitting on the quay of the small inner harbour.

Half an hour later we climbed a steep path to join the coastal footpath where we enjoyed magnificent views over dark blue sea, both east and west. There were several steep inclines but Pentewan Sands were reached (too cold for a swim) and thence via fields and an old carriage trail we reached Heligan at 3.40 pm in time for a welcome cup of tea.

*Despite the hour-and-three-quarters drive, everyone thought the day was a success as the first 'outside' visit of the group.*

**Susan Dwyer**

# ALL SAINTS SCHOOL



*Hello everyone!*

*Spring is sprung, and on the school field wild life is appearing in many different forms (apart from the children!).*

*The pond is full of frog and toad spawn. It amazes me how the frogs and toads find out that there is a new pond, and know where to come to! There are dragonfly larvae too.*

*Under our log and stone habitats there are many small mini-beasts, and in school there is a wonderful arty frieze in the infants' classroom, with huge collage versions of the creatures that the infants discovered there. The children are very aware of their outdoor classroom and the wonders to be found there. New plants are creeping up the pergola and our baby trees are growing too.*

*Please watch out for posters around the village, because we want to hold an open afternoon soon, to thank everyone who has helped us. We have not decided quite what we will do yet, and children and staff will be consulting each other on the matter.*

*In the meantime, we will be out there at every opportunity enjoying the facilities on our field!*

*Jackie Jackson*

## **S.O.S.**

If anyone is about to throw out an old - but still functional - vacuum cleaner, could they please throw it in the direction of the Rectory Barn, as the maid-of-all-work there is tired of crawling round on her hands and knees with a dustpan and brush. Many thanks!

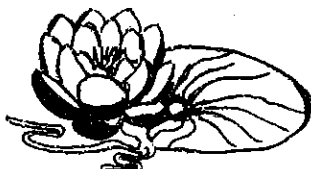
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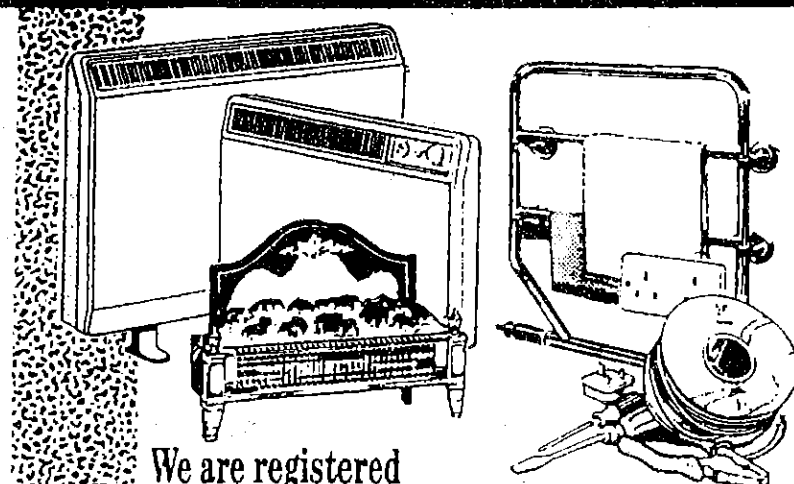
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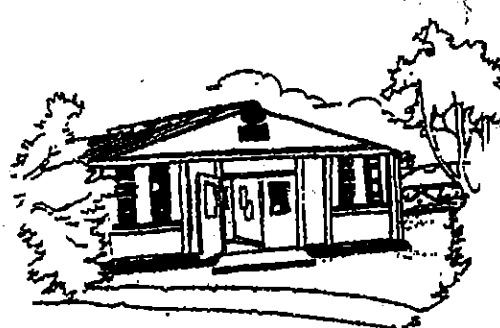
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# NEW PARISH HALL OFFICERS ELECTED



The failure to elect Officers on the retirement of Chairman Mr Derek Yeoman, Secretary Mrs Pat Townsend and Treasurer Mr Bill Clarke at the Parish Hall A.G.M. on 7th April, meant an Extraordinary General Meeting had to be called for 12th May to find replacements. 32 parish residents attended.

With Mr. David Grose taking the Chair for this meeting, the following were duly elected:

**Chairman: Mr. Roland Cole, West Buckland**  
**Treasurer: Mr. Bill Clarke, Thurlestone**  
**Secretary: Mrs. Joan Lane, Thurlestone \***

The appointments were greeted with pleasure, Mr. Grose thanking the "willing volunteers"!

In order that the way could be made clear for the new Officers and the Trustees to revise the hiring contract entered into with users of the hall, it was agreed that the resolution passed at the 7th April A.G.M. regarding the dismantling and replacement of the stage should be rescinded. It was stressed by the chairman that such hiring contracts are legally binding and the conditions laid down should be rigidly applied. If hirers did not abide by them they could be refused use of the hall.

It was proposed and agreed that Mr. A. Chapman be appointed Auditor for the year 1997/98.

Mr. Grose was given a warm vote of thanks for chairing the meeting and also the earlier meeting of the Trustees.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* **Footnote:** Very sadly Mrs Joan Lane, who accepted the post of Secretary on a purely temporary basis, has been taken ill and at the time of writing is in hospital. Is there anyone in the parish who has a little time to spare and who would be willing to take over as Secretary? Have a think about it, readers. Remember the Officers are elected annually, so it need not be a life-sentence....you could give it up after twelve months if you wished to! Why not 'give it a go' for a year?

(A comment was passed during the chatter following the meeting on 12th May "*Why didn't any young people come this evening? Very few here tonight are under the age of 60 - it's so different in South Milton, where the young of the village seem to take a great interest in their hall and village events*". If this is true, can anyone suggest why this might be? Perhaps our readers in South Milton can enlighten us! Please send your answers to Postbag as soon as possible. Editor)

\* \* \* \* \*

Thurlestone & West Buckland Parish Council  
Annual General Meeting  
13th May 1997

- I was struck again at the Annual Meeting by our good fortune in having conscientious and willing parishioners to look after the affairs of the parish. The Chairman of our Parish Council was first elected in 1973 and the Vice-Chairman in 1976. Both were re-elected to office.
- The concern of the Council for the young people of the parish was very evident in the discussion on continuing the access to the school playing field outside school hours. Councillors were firmly in favour and concluded they had little option but to bite the bullet on meeting the rising cost of insurance. Curiously, although the field belongs to the County, the parish is responsible for its insurance.
- Did you know S.H.D.C. had a legal duty concerning the 'wholesomeness and sufficiency' of water supplies? This is in addition to all the civil servants we pay for in the offices of the two central regulators OFWAT and the Drinking Water Inspectorate, and those in the Environment Agency controlling abstraction! Anyway, the Chief Environmental Health Officer at Follaton House, Mr J H Bloomer, wants our help. He has written to ask that we tell him of any instances where the Quality and Sufficiency of water is not good enough.
- The Heritage Coast Officer has been in touch about a sign at the War Memorial to Broadsands, and a warning sign to mountain bikers.
- As Villager predicted in his piece last month on Pilchards Ahoy the planning application for changes to Pilchards Cellars has re-appeared. Councillors are to pronounce later. It seems that the beautiful perspective drawn by Len Hubbard for the cover of the last Village Voice may be changing.
- The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 17th June.

Report by "Citizen"

---

## PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

### 1. MISSING LINKS

(1) Jack (2) Easy (3) Name (4) King (5) Iron (6) Nest (7) Stop  
(8) Quay (9) Ugly (10) Arch (11) Year

making **JENKINS QUAY**

### 2. WORD PAIRS

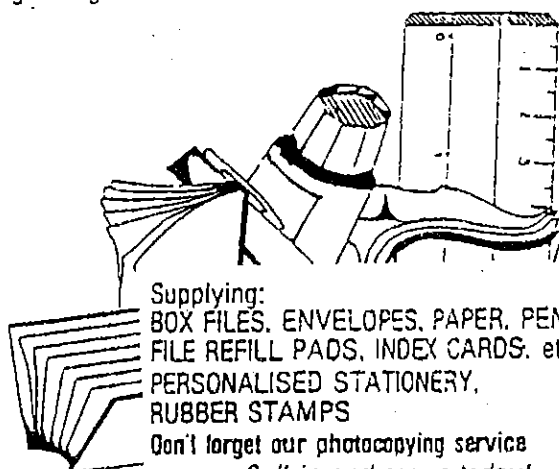
(a) 29 + 38 (b) 21 + 28 (c) 15 + 35 (d) 2 + 14 (e) 5 + 26 (f) 1 + 31 (g) 7 + 16  
(h) 9 + 33 (i) 10 + 24 (j) 3 + 25 (k) 19 + 37 (l) 27 + 32 (m) 17 + 36 (n) 4 + 23  
(o) 4 + 23 (p) 13 + 30 (q) 6 + 20 (s) 12 + 22

leaving **ELECTION**



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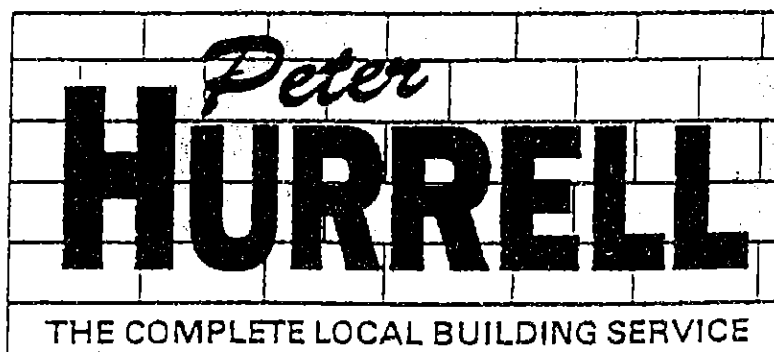
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| <b>Vice-Chairman</b>       |                |
| Derrick Yeoman             | 560607         |
| <b>Members</b>             |                |
| John Dayment               | 560295         |
| David Grose                | 560375         |
| Charles Mitchelmore        | 560602         |
| Geoffrey Stidston          | 560695         |
| Veronica White             | 560236         |
| <b>Parish Clerk</b>        |                |
| John Lonsdale              | 560742         |
| <b>District Councillor</b> |                |
| Martyn Grose               | 560396         |
| <b>County Councillor</b>   |                |
| Simon Day                  | 01752 - 691212 |
| <b>Parish Emergencies</b>  | 560607         |



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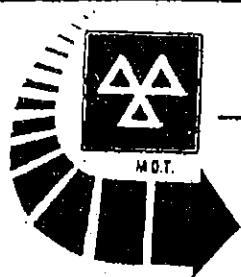
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# PLANNING APPLICATIONS.....

## ..IS THE PARISH COUNCIL IGNORED?

Week by week the Parish Councillors conscientiously study all the planning applications forwarded to the parish by the District Council. Comments are made and these are returned by the Parish Clerk to the District Council.

*But are Parish views listened to at District?*

*Are Parish Councillors wasting their time?*

Recently-published advice by Government has reiterated the view that local opposition, or support, for a proposal is not in itself a ground for refusing or granting planning permission - unless the opposition or support is founded upon valid planning reasons which can be substantiated. So, unless the Parish Council

raises 'valid planning reasons', the District Council will have to 'ignore' the Parish view.

The role of the Parish Council must be to raise all issues of concern to the District and accept that some may not be 'valid planning reasons'. If the District Council failed to determine planning applications solely on planning grounds then it would, of course, be open to challenge at appeal, via the Ombudsman, and by judicial review, with potential for financial payments in compensation.

A close liaison between Parish Council and Planning Officers, with the assistance of the District Councillor as a go between, will help to dispel the understandable concern that the Parish Council is 'being ignored'.

---

## WHAT NUMBER DO YOU DIAL TO CONTACT THE POLICE?

- If your call is an  
EMERGENCY

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Life is threatened, persons are injured,  
offenders are nearby, or immediate  
action is required

- Central Switchboard

**0990 777 444**

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the service, department, or police station  
you want, or if you do not know the  
direct dial number

- Force Enquiry Centre  
If your call is NON-URGENT

**0990 700 400**

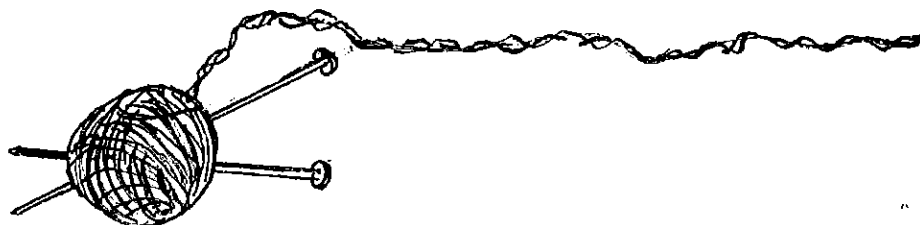
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# SHEEP TO SHOULDER



*I joined the South Hams group of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers in July 1995 after trying to teach myself to spin from a book...for about four years.*

I would try, fail, and the spinning wheel would be left for six months before being used again. In June 1995, after six hours of perseverance, I managed to spin a very hard, uneven, and thick rope, but had managed to co-ordinate feet, hands and fleece to produce my first yarn! I was informed that my elegant wheel was for spinning thin Shetland wool for shawls and, as a beginner, I would be better trying a simple model. I was loaned the group's spare wheel, a basic Ashford, and could spin without any more difficulty, producing soft, thin yarn from which I now knit sweaters and so on.

In January 1996 volunteers were asked to join a team for a "Sheep to Shoulder" competition. I put up my hand, not thinking I would be included, but I was. After several practice runs, 8th June came and we were in business. I was a delegated knitter but did a little spinning at the beginning. The chosen sheep was brought into the hall at Endsleigh Garden Centre - it had been shampooed the day before to remove as much dirt and grease as possible. Jack Connabeer of Dartington was on hand to shear it and the seven members started to spin and then ply the yarn. After about 45 minutes I started to knit, followed by three others. The jumper was to a set pattern and we completed the exercise in eight hours and 55 minutes.

*We came eleventh out of twenty-two worldwide and felt we could have improved on our performance, but we were all given a badge to show we had taken part.*

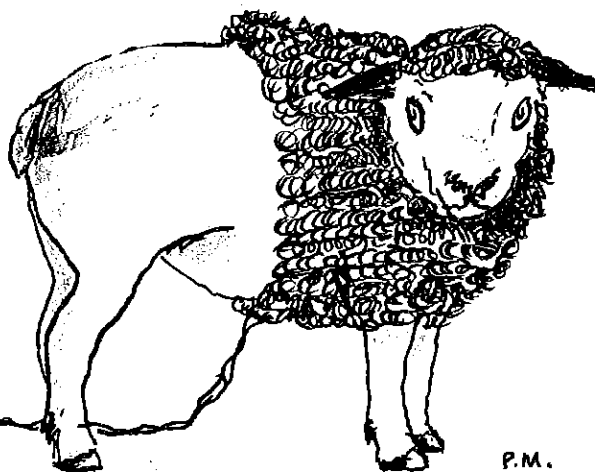
In January 1997 there was confirmation that

the competition was to be run again on 7th June, this time in aid of Cancer Research, so the team came together again. We have practised extremely hard and have discovered methods of saving time here and there, so we are sure we will be quicker than last year. We have devised a different strategy so that more spinning and plying are performed initially for the first two hours, and the jumper then divided into six pieces - the back and front into four equal sections and grafted together at the end - so equalising the amount of knitting by each knitter, and having enough spun wool to start so there is not a wool famine.

If you are interested, do come along to Endsleigh Garden Centre on 7th June between 9 am and 6 pm to see the team in action. There will be a display of our work, people on hand to demonstrate spinning, Jack Connabeer will demonstrate hand shearing, and there will be a Tombola. All times are faxed to Australia by an official timekeeper at each venue, and by lunch-time the next day all results are available.

As to the next day, 8th June, I expect as last year my hands will feel locked into position from knitting the sticky, dirty wool...but I will have enjoyed every minute of it! Please come along - bring your children and grandchildren. Any support you can give would be very welcome. Please contact me on 560648.

**Susan Dwyer**

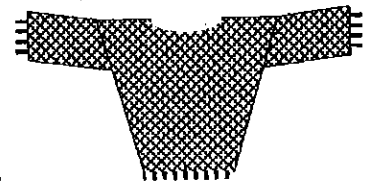


P.M.

# INTERNATIONAL WOOL CHALLENGE SHEEP TO SHOULDER



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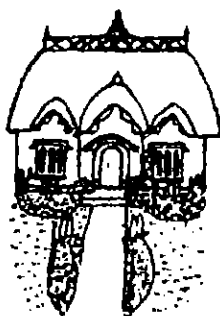


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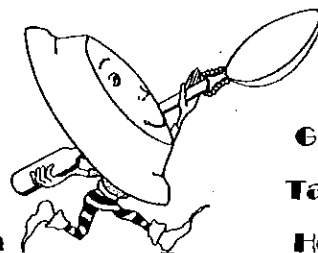
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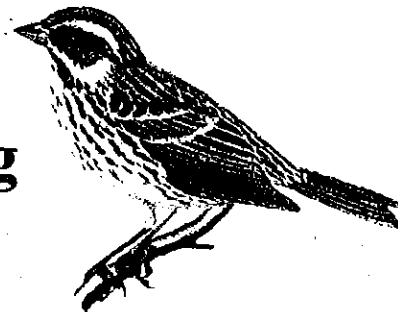
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# A Little Bunting and Twitching



*At the end of January Bob the Warden rang. Would we photograph a bird?* This was afternoon, better than his usual time, which is when we are still in bed. Birds are most active at first light and if you want to be after them you have to be ditto. We did not mind such a time in Israel, when we could be out of the hotel and drive the couple of miles to the bird-ringing station before sunrise, then back to the hotel by nine for a prodigious Israeli breakfast - prodigious except on Saturdays, when nothing was cooked. It was fine weather - warm, and no hardship. But the temperature of an English winter morning - or summer one for that matter - puts us off.

After ten minutes his little blue van trundled up outside, to be parked on the hill in case of starting difficulties. (You have to think of these things when you run a vehicle so old you pay no road tax.) In he came, clutching the usual small cotton bag - white originally - which he said contained a Little Bunting. Ringers put their birds in these bags when they take them out of the trapping nets. The bird will lie quite quietly until it is weighed and measured and a ring put on its leg. Then it is released. I am not altogether sure I care for the practice, but in the hands of one as gentle as Bob they seem to come to no harm.

He caught it at South Milton Ley. If you walk down that footpath which goes towards Horswell House you pass the South Milton sewerage works. On the right by the stream is a picture, rather a jolly one, showing the plants and birds in the ley. There is also a gate. If you go through it (only members of the Devon Bird Society are supposed to do that but many others do, especially if there is a rare bird) you find a stone wall. Standing by itself, for no apparent reason. When, in the early nineteen nineties, South West Water enlarged the works to perpetrate Operation Clean Sweep they bought a little bit of land from the D.B.S. and part of the deal was that they should provide this wall, about 40 yards long, as an extra piece of habitat. At the far end of it Bob puts down grain to feed wintering birds.

*This day he saw that as well as the usual Chaffinches and things there was a Little Bunting, quite a rarity.*

So he enticed, or chivvied, it into his net. He knew we would like to see it, but he didn't bring it entirely out of the goodness of his heart. With something so rare he likes a photograph in case the recorder refuses to believe what he says he has seen. And he hopes to have a picture in one of the twitchers' magazines. In which respect I disappoint him, because I refuse to waste maybe most of a film to get his pictures done quickly, and by the time I have finished off the film the nine days' wonder is over. Now, if there was something really, really rare, like a Hoopoe Lark or a Tristram's Grackle....!

Buntings are sparrow-size birds, seed eaters with stout beaks. According to the field guide there are 21 species in Europe. Few of them are to be seen in Britain. Most of the males have a striking breeding plumage; most of the females, and the young ones, are so alike that I for one have difficulty in telling one species from another. Around these parts you might see Reed Bunting, Cirl Bunting and Yellowhammer, but not many of them for present-day farming, which does not leave grain or weed seeds lying about, has played havoc with their food supplies.

As its English name implies, Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla* to the scientifically-minded) is the smallest - a quite undistinguished-looking bird, mostly brown with darker stripes. There is a pale stripe over its eye, and another below its chin. You can pick it out because it has bright chestnut cheeks (well ear coverts is the proper name) but this bird did not have those. You may wonder how it was that Bob identified it; but he is a very knowledgeable birder and he has had them at the ley before.

The books say the nearest place where it breeds is far northern Norway, and not many there. Mostly they are in Russia and right across Siberia, almost to Alaska. This is in summer: such territory is no place in winter for a seed-eating bird not much bigger than your thumb. So they all go to Southern China. Except this one, and the few others which turn up in the west of Europe from time to time. Its navigation had gone wrong and instead of flying east it went west. Remember these small things have no one to guide them on their migrations. You cannot help thinking that if, with presumably every modern aid at its disposal, the container ship, the Cita, could navigate its way up the beach at St Mary's, it is hardly surprising that a small bird, with just what is in its tiny noodle to guide it, can make a mistake. Doing a reciprocal we called it in our sailing days - when you got the needle of the compass pointing the wrong way and went east instead of west.

So we all trooped into the garden and Bob drew the bird out of its bag. This one was very frisky. Usually a ringer can hold a bird by its feet so that it sits on his hand to be photographed. The highly-experienced can hold a bird with one hand and wield a camera with the other, thus obviating the need for third parties like me. But this bunting was so lively that he had to hold it with one finger over its neck, and the picture did not show as much of it as we would have liked. Never mind, what we got would be enough to convince recorders and such that he really did have a Little Bunting and was not romancing.

Bob shook with excitement and the bird frisked and I quivered with nervousness in case I might mess up taking the photographs. But eventually it was all done, he seized our telephone to tell Birdline about his find, then dashed off back to South Milton Ley to release the bird (which was none the worse for its adventures) and await the twitchers and listers. They came.

If you are a twitcher you go to see rare birds. There is a bit of a twitcher in most people - if anyone asks us about our birding they always want to know if we have seen something rare. Twitchers don't usually find their own rarities; they can find them and like to do so but most of the time they are much too busy seeing birds other people have found to look for any of their own.

We twitch, if it is not too far to go, but none of this *from one end of the country to the other* stuff for us. Nor are we bothered if it is something we have just seen in foreign parts or will see when we go abroad next. We don't list except when on special holidays.

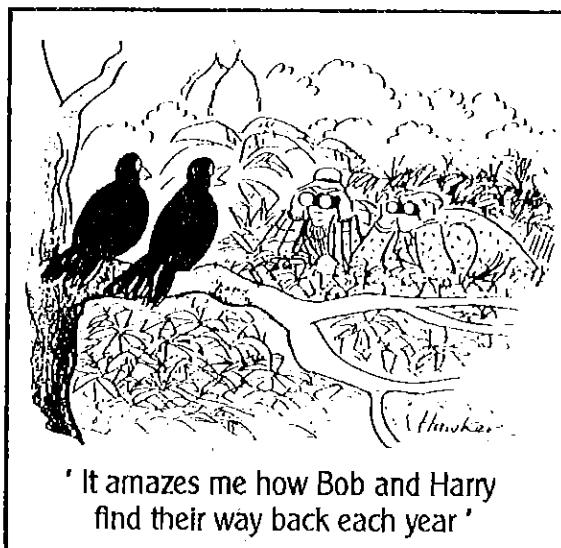
However, nearly all twitchers are also listers. People keep life lists, county lists, garden lists; we have a friend who keeps a spending-a-penny list. The real fanatics are the year listers. They feel compelled (1) to see in Britain as many birds, common and rare, as possible during the current year and (2) to see more birds than anyone else. This last is the bitter bit! I do not know whether any of them has seen more than 400 species. I do not think so, but they get close to that figure. The top-notchers have no occupation but to drive, and fly, thousands of miles annually, looking at birds.

Most of us hear about rarities by being told by the Bobs of this world, or by telephoning Birdline. The people who find the rare things ring in their information to this. What they say is noted and the operators put it all in a recorded message which we hear when we telephone - 39p a minutes cheap rate, 49p otherwise. If you are a really keen twitcher/lister you use a pager. I don't know much about these, haven't got one and don't know anyone who has. It is a very small radio set tuned to a central bureau - the same as Birdline for all I know, because that is where the information must come from. When there is something to be announced it rings, or warbles, you press a button and its display shows a printed message such as "Little Bunting, South Milton Ley" or whatever. There isn't room for much more. It

gives only the real rarities (at times Birdline pads its recordings with quite common things, to make up the numbers). It has the advantage that you need no telephone and can take it anywhere. You live with it by you - in bed or in the bath - and as soon as anything you need to see is announced you go for it. Whatever you are doing you go for it. One of them was at his wedding reception. On hearing of a rarity he went for it. I don't think he took his new wife. I don't think the marriage lasted either.

Each species counts as one. This Bunting was one. The Chestnut-sided Warbler, from America, which arrived at Prawle a year or two ago, was one. So is a Blackbird. Listing, in the top league, is fiercely competitive. If you don't go for a bird others will get it, you are one short. If they see something which you have not, you try to rubbish it....wrongly identified, or an escaped captive bird (they don't count). Come midnight on New Year's

Eve it is all over and at 0001 hours on the 1st January they start again. Mad? It is not for me to say, but it doesn't appeal.



'It amazes me how Bob and Harry find their way back each year'

With apologies to Hawker and Punch

The Little Bunting stayed for months. It had a nice reed bed for shelter and Bob put out food - it led the life of Riley. For weeks there were bird-watchers trailing around South Milton. Often they got the wrong sewerage works, the little one down near the beach. How many really saw what was an unremarkable and elusive little bird I do not know.

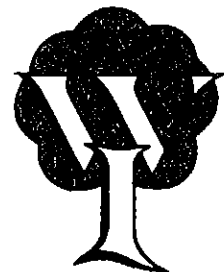
After about a month we said we ought to see it in the wild - after all the birders would have finished coming by now. Not a bit of it. When we got to the wall there were three or four people with telescopes standing in a line. We had come without our 'scope and went away.

A few days later we went again. There was a big piece of canvas against the wall, close to Bob's feeding place. We assumed he used it to cover one of his machines. After about 10 minutes a head came out and said "I am trying to film the bird". We went again at Easter, two months after Bob's original find. There were still birders there. One had come from Swndon - and this was the fourth time, he said. But he did let us look through his telescope and we saw it in the wild at last.

A few days later it went. I wonder if it got back to Russia?

**Harry Huggins**





# NEWS FROM THE W.I.

## LINE DANCING

There will be a pause for breath over the summer as the much-enjoyed line dancing has finished until the autumn.

## HANGING BASKETS

The latest aids to making hanging baskets were demonstrated by Sarah Bulbulian at an April workshop. In true Blue Peter style everyone went home with a finished item and loads of enthusiasm and ideas for numbers 2, 3, 4.....

## BURSARY

Dorothy Candy was awarded the Denman College bursary and has yet to make up her mind when to go and which course to take...not surprising, when you consider that there are over 400 to choose from!

## ANTIQUES

The April meeting had us all up and working, as our speaker, Bill Simpson from Marlton, an antiques valuer and writer (lately regional director for Sothebys) set us the task of identifying and valuing six small antiques he brought (including one fake!). It was not all work, however, for at the end of the appraisal he entertained us by explaining more about each of the items.

## EXETER MEETING

A small contingent from Thurlestone went to the large county meeting at Exeter University and enjoyed a well-filled day, part of which was taken up with two resolutions. The first asked that small post offices be allowed to issue motor vehicle licences. The second pressed for a tightening of the law controlling so called one-day sales. Both received mandates.

## COUNTY SHOW

Four members worked at the Devon County Show. Three made very efficient "nippies" in the refreshments section of the WI marquee, while the fourth helped to steward the exhibitions. The stint was for 2 hours, after which they were free to enjoy the show. All returned with aching feet.

## ANDREWS WOOD

In immediate prospect is a guided walk through Andrews Wood in Loddiswell which is owned by the Devon Wildlife Trust. Joined by husbands and friends, we start at 6 pm on Monday 2nd June from the wood's small carpark, with supper afterwards at the nearby California Inn. If anyone who is not a member would care to join us, they would be most welcome. Ring 560436 to enquire.

## SEWING

We have had some excellent patchwork days (machine and hand) with Brenda Marshall and are now forming a group to meet regularly to do different kinds of needlecrafts. The last session produced some very attractive cotton tote bags.

## LUNCHING OUT

A group of members took Margaret Savage for lunch at the Church House Inn, Stokenham, as a farewell party before she returned to live in Edinburgh. Several attended the Area Lunch at the Cottage Hotel on 1st May.

## COMING EVENTS

- June 7th: Jumble Sale in support of the Devon Air Ambulance, 2.30 pm
- July 3rd: Garden Lunch by kind invitation of Rosemary 12.30 - 1.00 pm

## THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Schedules and entry forms for our 1997 Show on Saturday 2nd August are now in the shops, so if you grow, bake, preserve, paint, photograph, or are at all crafty, please do your best to enter and help make it a bumper Show this year.

If you are no good at any of these things, well just come along and have a look at what others can do, have a cup of tea and a chat with your friends, buy a raffle ticket, and have a nice afternoon out.

The entry forms for the Hanging Baskets section, to be judged in early July *in situ*, are also available from Kay Morley at the Village Stores.

If you have any queries, please ring the Show Secretary John Lonsdale on 560742.



### NSPCC NEWS

The members of the Thurlestone committee of the NSPCC would like to thank the many readers and friends who produced such superior "junk" for the society's recent Jumble Sale. Over £500 was raised in a couple of hours, with any leftovers being distributed to local charity shops.....so nothing was wasted.

The next event will be a

COFFEE MORNING  
THURSDAY 10th JULY  
THE SKERRIES, SOUTH MILTON  
10.30 to noon

by kind invitation of Joy and Pip Wilson. Please make a note of the date NOW. We cannot guarantee the weather but we can guarantee a very pleasant morning!

**Mollie Oswald**

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# POSTBAG

*Dear Editor*

The news reached Thurlestone of the passing of Bill Robins. A few years ago he moved away from the village to Barnstaple, living in a flat adjoining his daughter and son-in-law's property, where he was more than happy to be in their company. They really worshipped him and likewise he them.

One of a large family, on leaving school Bill joined the staff of the Old Rectory, in the employment of Mr & Mrs Russell Yeo whose head gardener was Mr Henderson. Just before the outbreak of the second world war, he left to take up a job in the gardens of the Thurlestone Hotel, and from there he was called up for service in the R.A.F.

At the end of the war he re-joined the staff at the Old Rectory, occupying the Old Rectory Cottage. In 1953 The Old Rectory was sold by the Yeo family to Mr & Mrs Robert Lake and later on Bill and Mr Lake undertook much of the transformation work in the garden there, as prior to this several bungalows had been built in a part of the the gardens.

His gardening knowledge increased very much over the years, and his skill was acknowledged and admired by those who visited The Old Rectory gardens. He was a true friend to me, he possessed great character and an enormous sense of humour, bless him, and we shall all miss seeing him not only at Barnstaple but also on the occasions he came to visit Thurlestone.

**Ben Horn, South Milton**

*Dear Editor*

Many thanks for your "welcome" card and I am pleased to know that I am to continue

receiving copies of Village Voice. After what was apparently a transient stroke last year, I am gathering my wits together in the hope that I might succeed in producing some "Drabblemania" now and again which might just be worth publishing!

Lilian and I have settled in quite well with numerous items of our own furniture in a room that affords plenty of space to create a bed-sitting room. I have my electric 'scooter' but regrettably it is a single-seater. Even so, Lilian still maintains her walking ability, and together we have explored the area around. There are some large and attractive houses and lots of bungalows - many for sale! Lilian is able to do a short walk to church on Sundays, but a flight of concrete steps beats me.

Again many thanks for VV and your card and my thanks and belated congratulations to the 'team' now producing the magazine. Lilian and I had many a laugh at times over our production procedure!

**Dudley Drabble**

**Hyne Town House, Strete, TQ6 0RD**

*Dear Editor*

The coffee morning in aid of St.Luke's Hospice held in the Parish Hall in April was a great success. Support from the parish was exceptionally good and we would like to express our appreciation to all involved. In particular Thurlestone WI and also our church - they cancelled their own Thursday coffee morning and came and took part.

I have subsequently had a letter from Tony Morton of St.Luke's in which he says "Thank you for inviting me to your coffee morning.....I was delighted to meet so many of your friends. Jim has just delivered the

proceeds of £914 - a wonderful effort - plus the unsold goods which we will be happy to sell to raise more money. I am only too aware of how much work goes into these events..."

So to everyone who helped in any way a very big "thank you" from me.

**Terry Woodrow**

*Dear Editor*

With Barbara Marshall's death the village has lost a remarkable character and brought to an end, at least for a while, a long period of Marshall residents. Her father-in-law died here in 1945.

Born in New Zealand, she spent most of her childhood in Fiji before moving to Australia when aged 11. In 1933 she boarded ship for England to marry Vivian who was, at that time, farming in Surrey. Jonny and Kit were born before the war.

When Grandma Marshall moved to London in 1945, Barbara and family moved into Leaside here.

She was into everything - golf (Lady Captain), the WI, the WVS, church flowers, and so on. After hectic war years she visited Australia in a Sunderland flying boat which took ten days each way.

In recent times she was extremely appreciative of Rector Peter, who went down to Leaside to give private communion to those who gathered there.

The stained glass window in the church, known locally as the "All things bright and beautiful window" will ensure that Barbara - and all the Marshalls - are long remembered.

**C.J.W.**

*Dear Editor*

Who is this "Sunstruck"? He seems to believe that the Earth goes round the Sun because his eyes tell him so. But, oh dear, how easily one can be deluded.

If he had received a half-decent education he would know about the Retrograde Motion of the Planets which Ptolemy was aware of and explained by the ingenious idea of epicyclic motion; although it was Copernicus who showed that having the Sun at the centre and the Planets going round it, explained everything.

If there was a demand, perhaps the Editor could find room for a description of the Copernican Theory in a future edition.

**"Sunworshipper"**

(name and beach address supplied)

*Dear Editor*

Yes, it is true - it is cheaper to buy locally! Just three items that I noted in Sainsbury's Torquay last week:

- 1 Highland Spring Water 72p per litre. Peter Bromfield will deliver to your door for 64p.
- 2 McEwans Export 4-pack at £3.79. The Village Stores is cheaper by 10p per can, and yes the cans are the same size.
- 3 John Smiths beer. You have to buy a 12 pack to beat - and only just beat - the local price for a single can.

So it makes economic as well as social sense to shop locally. And the fun and the chat with the neighbours comes for free! How else would we know what's going on?

**Citizen**

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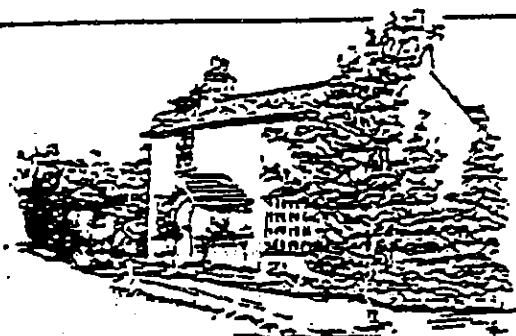
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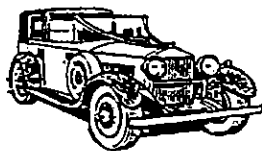
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# SUPERGUIDE

## MAY

Sat. 24th      Golf Club - Summer Ball  
Sun. 25th      Golf Club - Concert Party  
Mon. 26th      Golf Club - Jazz Concert

## JUNE

Mon. 2nd      WI - Andrew's Wood Walk 6.00 pm  
Wed. 4th      TRAMP - Yealmpton & Coast  
Sat. 7th      WI - Jumble Sale (Air Ambulance) 2.30 Parish Hall  
Sat. 7th      Sheep to Shoulder (Endsleigh) 9.00 am - 6.00 pm  
Thu. 12th      WI - Prof. Basil Smallman (Music) 2.30 Parish Hall  
Tue. 17th      Parish Council Meeting 7.30 Parish Hall  
Wed. 18th      TRAMP - Burrator

## JULY

Wed. 2nd      TRAMP - Merrivale  
Thu. 3rd      WI - Garden Lunch 12.30 for 1.00 Glen Lyon  
Thu. 10th      NSPCC Coffee morning 10.30 Skerries, South Milton  
Wed. 16th      TRAMP - South Moor  
Tue. 22nd      Parish Council Meeting 7.30 Parish Hall

## AUGUST

Sat. 2nd      HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2.30 pm Parish Hall  
Wed. 6th      TRAMP - Dartmoor  
Wed. 13th      Tennis Club AGM 6.00 pm Tennis Pavilion  
Sat. 16th      Tennis Club Dance 7.15 for 8.00 pm Golf Clubhouse

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**The Deadline date for the next issue is 7th July 1997.  
Please drop any contributions (marked "Village Voice")  
through letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date.**

# THE SLOOP INN

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