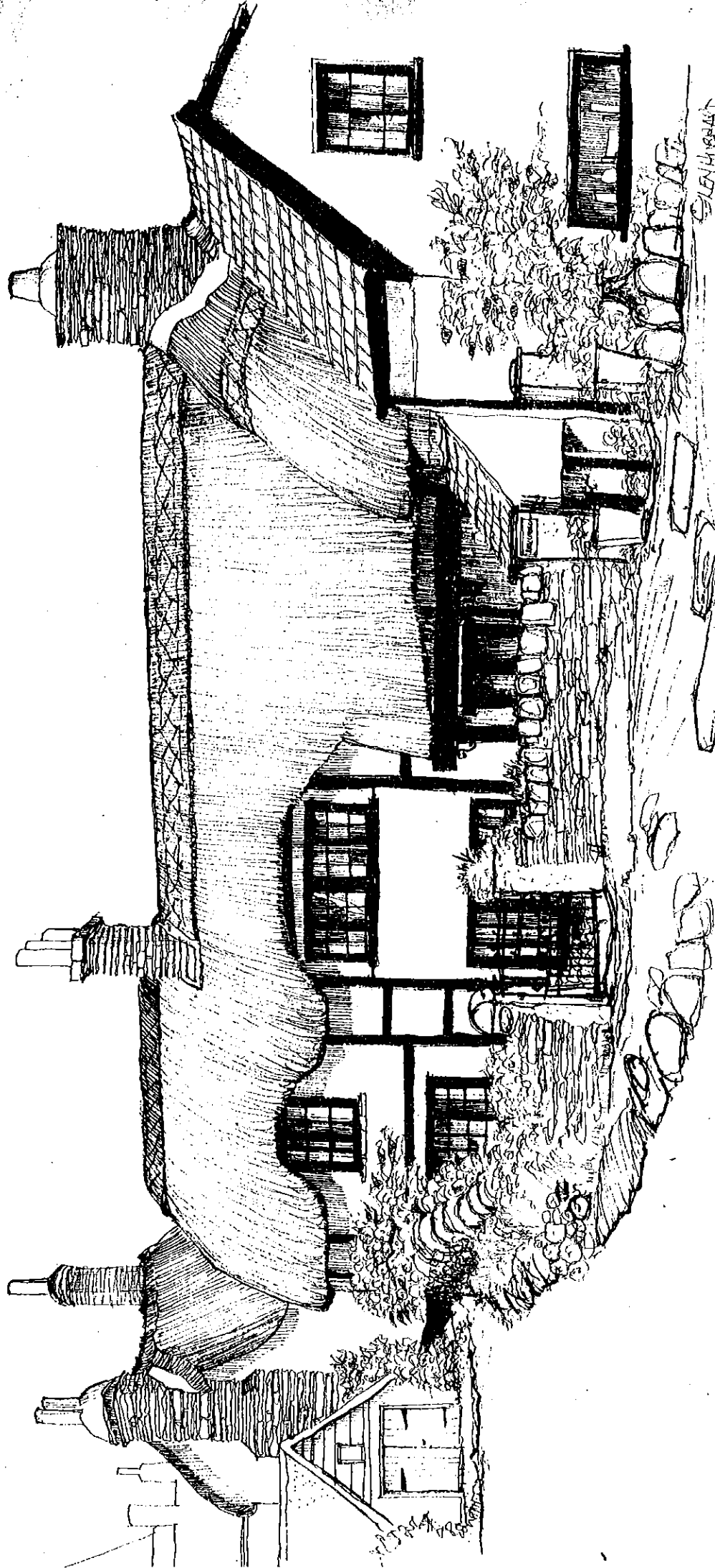


VILLAGE VOICE

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 1997



STOP PRESS.....

ARTS COUNCIL GRANT FOR VILLAGE VIDEO PROJECT

The Arts Council has agreed to offer the Parish of Thurlestone Society a grant of £3,120 towards the making of a video documentary on the history, life and times of the people of the Thurlestone, Bantham, East and West Buckland. The aim is to complete the documentary in time for the Millennium, as reported in the previous edition of the 'Village Voice'.

Filming has already begun, and will go ahead now with greater energy. This is a village project, and POTS hope for plenty of ideas, and support - you do not have to be an expert in filming to join in! News of the Arts Council grant only arrived in the past few days, as the Voice was going to press. We will publish full details of how the project will proceed in our next edition. Meanwhile anyone interested in helping, or who has ideas for inclusion in the film, should contact Len Hubbard, (560731), or David Smeeton (562041), or Phil Deare (560378)

.....STOP PRESS



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FIFTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1997

What a wet June! It seemed as though someone might just have taken St. Swithun's name in vain, so we asked Weather Wag to try and put the record straight for us. If a scorching drought ensues you'll know who's responsible.....!

It's been a good period recently for at least some of our residents, whose exploits and successes appear in a new feature entitled "Village News Round-Up". We hope you'll like it, and that you will let us have details of suitable items for inclusion in future issues.

At the end of August the Annual Fair will be held in the Parish Hall. Do make a note of the date (see inside for details) and come along to help support this fund-raising effort for the Parish Hall.

As this is now the height of the visitor season we have given them due attention in this issue, with both Villager and Greenfinch (who can that be?) presenting new aspects of incomers for your consideration. Is there, perhaps, a patron saint of grockles? Rumour has it that some of them, foiled in their attempts to apply for membership of the new Fencing Section of the Golf Club, may well require his ministrations!

See you at the Annual Fair!

"I, FRED GROCKLE, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR that if I am allowed to buy a house or building plot in the parish of Thurlestone and dwell therein I will keep to the following agreement. Should I sell or part with my dwelling at any time in the future I will not complete the sale unless the buyer also signs the Agreement on oath before a bona fide solicitor....."



The idea of such a binding agreement between an incomer and the residents of the parish or the Parish Council is not so far-fetched as you may think. I was surprised to realise that such a thing might be possible when the national press took up my originally light-hearted suggestion that those who bought the new properties planned for the land around the church on the site of the present farm should have a codicil in their deeds forbidding them from complaining about or taking any legal action against the ringing of the church bells.

If such a restriction can be inserted into the deeds of a new house, just think what can be done with a more extended agreement with the parish as a whole. So what should the new **Parish Residential Agreement (PRA)** with F. Grockle contain?

Here are suggestions for the sort of restrictions which should be in this precious document. Fred G would have to swear **NOT**, repeat **NOT**, to complain about, or campaign against, or take legal or any other form of action about:

- * The lack of street lights
- * Muddy roads near farms
- * The sound of church bells (no matter how close any residence is to the bellringing)
- * The sounds of farm animals and the smells of their waste produce
- * Farm tractors in the lanes
- * Cocks crowing
- * Country pursuits - fox-hunting, shooting and fishing in particular (if these are still permitted under the law)
- * The heating or other arrangements in the Parish Hall
- * Parking in village streets
- * Footpaths across the golf course
- * Other residents (particularly those who were born here or who got here first)

The PRA would also ban F. Grockle from owning or using a jet ski, from water-skiing on local rivers, from building huge extensions to existing properties, and from behaving as though he owned the parish until he has been in residence (not just a holiday-home owner) for over 20 years.

He would also be legally bound by the PRA to use the village shops for the majority of his shopping, to buy milk from the local milkman, and to employ only local labour or firms for any building work or repairs to his property or to keep his garden under control.

Failure to comply with the PRA would in severe cases lead to a heavy fine or in the extreme with the withdrawal of the right to reside in the parish.

Could any punishment be more horrific?

Now here's a nice little puzzle for you.

No, I am not stealing Pat Machin's corner. This puzzle has been set by Somerset architect Jeremy Gould in a letter to me.

Mr.Gould is researching modern architecture in Devon for an exhibition to be held in

Exeter next year. He is particularly interested in the work of Fred Harrild, who was a pupil of Lutyens and had an office in Totnes from 1919 to the 1930s when he returned to London. Now Mr.Gould knows that Fred Harrild worked on two houses in Thurlestone during 1920-26 and he would like to have a look at them.

But he can't find them.

Fred Harrild listed them as "The Thatched House" and the other, because his handwriting was so bad, can only be deciphered as "D*****us" (or something like that). Now who knows which Thurlestone houses are those two today? The names must have changed, but they are, says Mr.Gould, "*likely to be symmetrical with steep roofs and tall, tapering chimneys*" and with Lutyens-like details. If your house might fit, why not take a look at your deeds to see what your house used to be called?

Please tell Pat Macdonald, the Editor of Village Voice, if you can help Mr.Gould.

She is offering a special prize to the reader who can spotlight those two houses - a free subscription to Village Voice, no less!

TRICKS OR TREATS?

Neville Oswald saw a newspaper article on an ingenious way of teaching bridge to youthful beginners and suggested I might bring it to the notice of the bridge-playing grannies of Thurlestone. Just the job for a wet morning when the beach is out!

First of all you have to establish how points values are arrived at. Then how many tricks you need to take to achieve a score or a game. All cards are dealt round the 4 players and placed face up.

The person with the most points is the winning bidder and calls the suit and amount of tricks it is hoped to take. Don't forget to explain the trump suit and also what no trumps would be. Play then proceeds.

How easy it is to make that finesse when you know where that elusive King is! It is always difficult to explain a finesse to beginners but, done in this way, it will be brought vividly to light!

Rosemary MacKay

Village News Round-Up

A FELLOW IN THE VILLAGE

The British Dental Association has bestowed one of its highest honours on Keith Millman, MBE, by giving him a Fellowship. This award - limited to 25 at any one time - is made only to members of at least 20 years standing who have rendered outstanding and distinguished service to the dental profession.

The ceremony took place on 17th June at the BDA annual conference in Bournemouth, where Professor David Lloyd, President of the BDA, invited Keith to accept the Fellow's medal and scroll. Presidents of dental associations from all over the world and representatives and professors of all branches of the profession applauded as the citation of his activities for dentistry, and of his commitment to the advancement of the dental profession, was read.

Qualifying in 1956, Keith has not only been highly involved in local and regional dental matters, he has also been very active for his profession nationally. He received an MBE in 1989 in recognition of his services to his profession.

Village Voice sends warmest congratulations on this honour.

A GATHERING OF WRENS

On the 6th June, the 53rd anniversary of the D-Day landings, some 50 or so ladies and their partners came to Thurlestone. The women had all been members of the WRNS, attached to the Royal Marine military school which was stationed at the Thurlestone Hotel during WW2, and they had gathered to renew memories and meet old friends. Two of them, Ida Smith and Rosemary Stocken, are still living here, and two came over from Australia. Several of them had married Marines.

Rector Peter Stephens conducted a short

church service and a wreath was laid on the altar in memory of Anne Pyne, a 19 year old Wren from Exeter who was tragically blown up by a land-mine which had been laid on the beach here for defensive purposes.

The company later attended a celebration dinner at the hotel, during which a letter from HM The Queen, sending her best wishes for the reunion, was read. There was great excitement as old friend greeted old friend, recognising each other and recalling memories of their stay in Thurlestone over 50 years ago.

Lillanne Hale, who now lives in Yorkshire and who married a Marine in the church here in 1942, undertook the giant task of organising the celebration - the first time they have all been together since the war. A wonderful day was had by all.

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Terry and Jim Woodrow were recently fortunate enough to be amongst the couples celebrating their Golden Wedding at the same time as HM The Queen and HRH Prince Phillip. They were invited to attend a Service of Thanksgiving on 27th June at Exeter Cathedral and here is what they say about it.

"This was a great occasion, full of emotion as the 600 couples who were also celebrating 50 years of marriage were asked to hold hands and re-affirm their marriage vows. Laughter rang out as the Rev. Canon Kenneth Parry said that the service was being held in June ".....because the weather is always so much better!"

The cathedral was packed by couples from Devon. One thousand had applied to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 15th July, for which only 100 invitations were allocated to the county.

The service began with Mendelssohn's

Wedding March, and included many favourite hymns. The Lord Lieutenant of Devon, the Earl of Morley, read the lesson and the blessing was given by the Rt. Rev. Hewlett Thompson, Lord Bishop of Exeter.

After the service there was a party in the Bishop's Palace garden, and we were able to meet up with friends from Salcombe, Plymouth and other parts of Devon. It really was a 'Great Day'!

QUIZ CHAMP

The more sharp eyed of our readers who also happen to be fans of the Channel 4 quiz show "15-to-One" will have spotted a Thurlestone resident winning the contest shown on 21st June. Michael Barton was always too busy working in his legal practice to see the programme. Since he retired, however, he has enjoyed answering the questions...but from the comfort of his armchair!

It was his wife, Jeanne, who wrote for an application form for reticent Michael to take part. Eventually he became one of the would-be participants called to the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth for a mock show and audition. He answered his questions correctly, so it was then on to the Real Thing. This entailed a trip to London and an overnight stay, all expenses paid. Again, he won through and describes the experience as "good, but I was a bit nervous". He is now bracing himself for a further appearance this autumn. Look out for the date in the next issue. We'll be rooting for you, Michael!

NATIONAL AWARD FOR JULIE

Julie Baugh, the Manager of the Thurlestone Hotel, has just been voted "**Hotel Manager of the Year**" by the national trade journal Hotel & Caterer. At a reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London, tv celebrity Jill Dando presented Julie with her "Catey" (catering's equivalent of an Oscar), which is now on display in Reception at the Thurlestone Hotel. *"I am delighted that I was able to fly the flag for Devon tourism*

as well as for the Hotel!" was how Julie summed up her success. Village Voice sends her warm congratulations.

WRITER WINS CUP

There were four categories of writing in the South Hams Writers' Circle this year - book length works, poetry, articles and short stories, and Village Voice is pleased to report that Thurlestone's Pru Elder has again walked off with the short story cup. There were 51 entries overall this year, an unusually high number for the Circle.

COASTGUARD AWARD

Peter Hurrell of West Buckland has recently retired after 31 years as an auxiliary coastguard. The presentation of HM Coastguard Valedictory Certificate was made at a dinner at the Hope & Anchor Inn, Hope Cove, in recognition of his long service. His family has long associations with the service and Peter is already the holder of the Coastguard long-service medal. Not only that, he was a former volunteer lifeguard at Bantam Surf Lifesaving Club and is the present chairman of Thurlestone Parish Council. How's that for service to the community?

The picture below shows Peter (right) receiving the Valedictory Certificate from Dave Lewis, district Coastguard controller.



Kate's Kitchen



Mention the word "coconut" to some people and they conjure up visions of hot, white sands, palm trees and girls in grass skirts. For me its curries, madeleines and coconut pyramids!

I always keep a block of creamed coconut to grate into a curry or to give a different flavour to a creme caramel. Dessicated coconut goes into fruit crumbles and treacle tarts, and occasionally in a base for a cheesecake.

The combination of pineapple and Malibu makes the following delicious summer dessert.

MALIBU MAGIC

Ingredients

3 ozs. butter
5 ozs. Nice biscuits (crushed)
2 ozs. dessicated coconut (toasted)
8 ozs. cream cheese
2 eggs (separated)
3 ozs. castor sugar
Half an ounce gelatine
5 tablespoonsful unsweetened pineapple juice
4 tablespoonsful Malibu
5 fl.ozs. double cream
Pineapple and kiwi fruit for decoration



Preparation

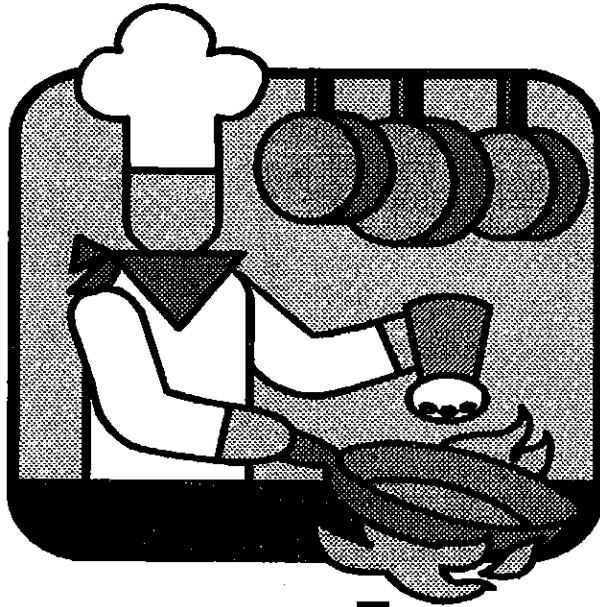
Mix together the biscuits and coconut
Melt the butter and add to the crumb mixture
Press into an 8 inch loose bottom tin
Soften the cheese and beat in the egg yolks and sugar
Combine gelatine and juice in a bowl, melt over a pan of hot water until gelatine dissolves
Add Malibu then leave to cool
Stir gelatine mixture into the cheese etc. and leave to thicken
Whip cream until thick, and egg whites until stiff
Fold into mixture, then pour into the the tin and leave to set

Serve decorated with pineapple and kiwi fruit

This can be made and put into the freezer...but remember to take it out approximately 4 to 5 hours before serving at room temperature. *Then just taste and enjoy the magic of Malibu!*

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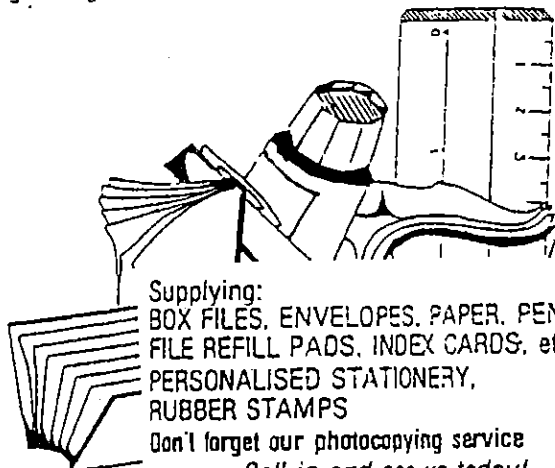
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David Grose 560375

Charles Mitchelmore 560602

Geoffrey Stidston 560695

Veronica White 560236

### Parish Clerk

John Lonsdale 560742

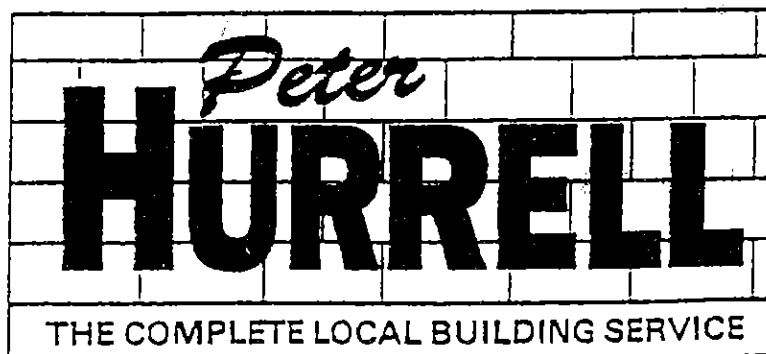
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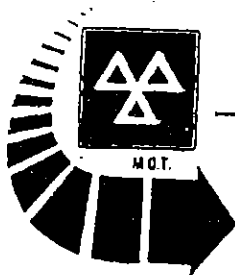
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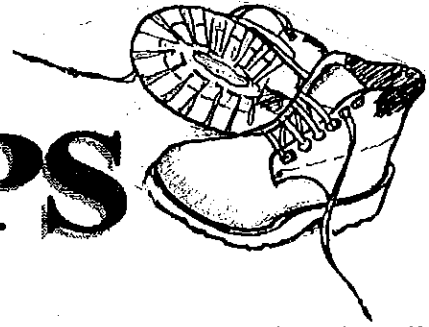
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# TRAMPS



**1** Not very early one fine May morning we left the cars by the paper mill in Ivybridge and set off along the path through the woods on the bank of the Erme. After a while we left the river and by field path and lane came to Harford, where part of the programme was a visit to the church. It is an attractive building dating from about the fifteenth century and has some interesting features, the carved ribs and bosses of the roof, for example, and the tomb of Thomas Williams who was a sixteenth century Speaker of the House of Commons. A short way up the hill out of Harford we left the road and climbed up on to the moor. We made for a smallish tor which afforded some of us, at least, shelter from the wind whilst we dealt appropriately with our picnics. From the top it was possible to make out the stone row where we would turn south to follow, more or less, the Two Moors Way back down to Ivybridge. To complete our day's enjoyment, as a special treat, and because it was still quite early, the fourteen of us (and two dogs) having walked at a good pace, our kind leaders invited us all back to their lovely house for tea and cakes.

**2** For the second time in not much more than a month TRAMP ventured into foreign parts (but only just - and we shall probably not be making a habit of it). It was not without trepidation on the part of at least one member of the group that we embarked on the Cremyll Ferry to cross over to Mount Edgcumbe but we rejoiced in the warm sunny weather after the relentless rain of the previous day. To begin with we walked through the trees near the shore towards Millbrook past one or two highly desirable residences basking in the sun in grassy bays.

Through fields of barley, already quite tall, and lucerne the going was easy. The stiffish climb up to Maker church was more testing and provide a good opportunity to turn round and admire the view. We all visited the church (is this becoming a habit?) and it was well worthwhile. The Mount Edgcumbe family memorial is there and we also noticed a tablet commemorating certain ill-fated male members of another family who all contrived to perish abroad far from their native Cornwall.

When we came down into Kingsand only a few thirsty ones were attracted by the pub, and the rest had their picnics on the beach or up on the cliffs. It was then that a few drops of rain fell, though not enough to worry us. The final stretch took us through the woods with glimpses of the sea below and down to the Mount Edgcumbe gardens. Before catching the ferry several of us succumbed to a cup of tea in the elegant surroundings of the Orangery and there was just time for a quick trot round the gardens.

The starting point for the first June walk was the carpark by Puslinch bridge.

**3** We set off along the shore of the river estuary until it became too squelchy and then we took to the woods. The path meandered close to the shore and was clearly little used; a machete would have come in useful. However, we soon joined the broader track which leads down to Newton Ferrers. As arranged, the ferryman was waiting for us. Three journeys were necessary to transport us over the creek, not because we had a cabbage, hen, and fox problem to solve, but because there were twelve of us and two dogs and the ferryboat was licensed to carry only five



Once safely across we walked out to the cliffs towards the mouth of the Yealm. Sheltered from the breeze by a strategically placed wall we picnicked, looking over towards Wembury church, HMS Cambridge, and the hazy shape of the ferry bound for Spain.

After a mile or so along the South West Coast path, since it was not our intention to follow it to Lyme Regis or beyond, we turned inland thus avoiding a steep descent and an equally steep ascent which our leader wisely thought might prove too much for fragile knees and the flagging energy of those who recently had indulged only in eight-mile ambles. Field paths, tracks, and lanes eventually brought us, after a dramatic moment or two, back to the car park. A more demanding walk than some, but no less enjoyable for that!

**4**

For once, your forgetful correspondent, having been the leader, could give a fully detailed description (map references and all) of TRAMP'S mid-June walk...but will refrain; it would be very dull and no one really wants to know. Suffice to say that a merry band of 18, plus our two furry friends, set off from Norsworthy Bridge in fine weather and by way of Roddick Lane and by dint of some skilful compass-work soon reached the Devonport Leat (about which the leader imparted some reasonably accurate information.....to those few who were listening!). Up the Leat and past Nun's Cross (about which the leader could remember nothing), having duly examined the lower and upper ends of the tunnel through which the Leat flows, we circled round to the Eylesbarrow tin mine

(disused) which afforded shelter from the somewhat chilly wind for our picnic. On the way to Sheepstor we paused to admire the scout hut. A little later, in the village, we made an educational visit to the small church. This is interesting not only for the memorial inside the church to Rajah Brooke of Sarawak and his descendants, and their impressive (though not very attractive) Aberdeen granite tomb in the churchyard, but also for the carved screen and pew ends, and an unusual roof. From there it was not far back to our starting point along the path skirting the plantations.

**Pam Brewster**

Craig Rich had forecast a sunny morning and a wet afternoon for our early July walk...and he was right! Twelve hardy walkers and two dogs set off from East Prawle

**5**

Green to Woodford Farm and then on to Higher Borough Farm. We then followed the road to Lannacombe Green in glorious sunshine.

When we reached Lannacombe beach it began to rain, at 12.00 precisely. We decided to have our picnic at Wood Sands and one of our party was overheard to remark that "only the Brits would have a picnic by the beach in the pouring rain"!

We travelled on, following the coastal path to Prawle Point and then, because of increasingly heavy rain, decided not to proceed as planned to Gammon Head. We were glad to get back to East Prawle and drive off to our various homes to have a hot bath. The dogs needed one too! *But it was a most enjoyable walk.*

**Ian Fraser**

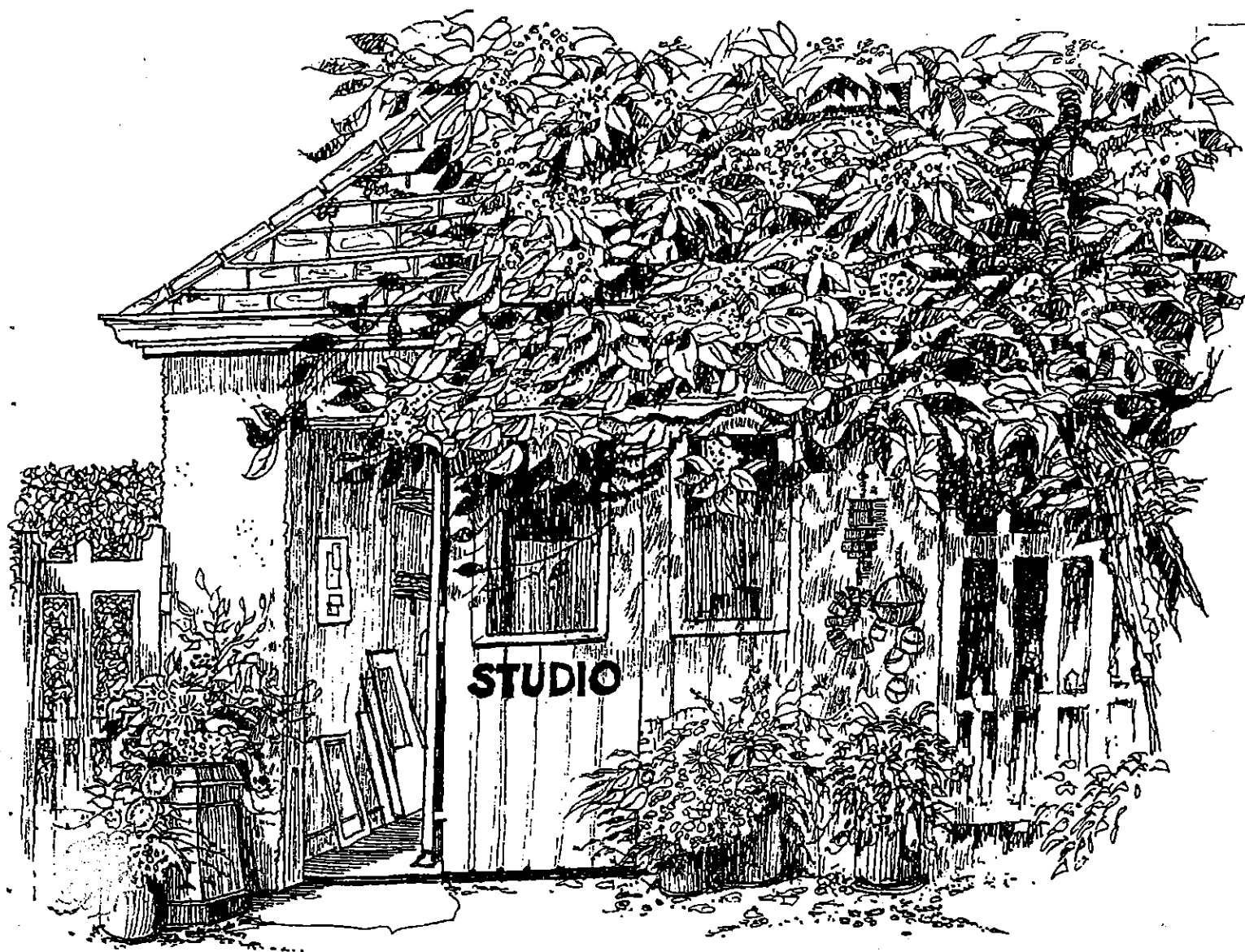
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#### BLOOMER OF THE MONTH

"Between us we have some spectacular pants. This is a great opportunity to let other people see them"

(The Saxifrage Society's Newsletter - re-printed from the Daily Telegraph)





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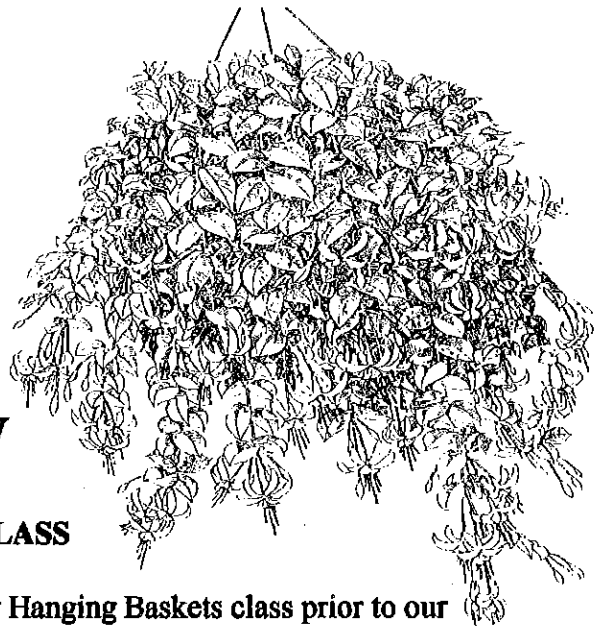
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# THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

## HANGING BASKET CLASS



We are delighted to say that we had 9 entries for our new Hanging Baskets class prior to our annual show. Judging took place a little later in July than planned, due to the long run of poor weather. The results of the competition (maximum points 600) were as follows:

|               |                                                    |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FIRST</b>  | Mrs Janet Fraser, 1 Meadcombe Road<br>(475 points) |
| <b>SECOND</b> | Mrs Tricia Millman, 11 Mead Lane<br>(445 points)   |
| <b>THIRD</b>  | Mr Derrick Yeoman, 8 Parkfield<br>(415 points)     |

In judging, the following points were taken into consideration:

initial impact of colours, textures, and scent  
presentation, balance, and symmetry  
quality, health, and vigour of plants  
potential for long-term display.

A full report on our Annual Show, which will be held in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone, on Saturday 2nd August at 2.30 pm, will be given in the next edition of Village Voice.

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## PETUNIA PANOPLY PERFUMES PUMPHOUSE!

A profusion of petunias (Surfinias) in the shape of a huge globe hangs from the basket that Derrick Yeoman has created for the decoration of the Pumphouse.

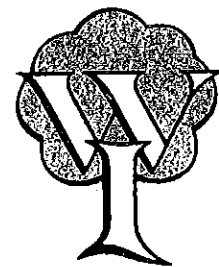
It provides particular pleasure for pedestrians and other passers-by. Our picture portrays the proud providers (Jean and Derrick) with the petunias pendant from a pole, parading to the pumphouse prior to placing this pretty proliferation of petals in position.

A big thank you from the Village to Derrick for the gift of this splendid display.





# NEWS FROM THE W.I.



## DEVON AIR AMBULANCE

Sacha Anfilogoff, the local DAA representative, was thrilled when we were able to present him with a cheque for £276 after our June jumble sale. We are grateful to our members and other kind people who gave contributions and helped to make this possible.

## ANDREWS WOOD

Martin Catt was our guide round this Loddiswell wood which belongs to the Devon Wildlife Trust. It stopped raining just before we set out at 6 pm and long enough for us to enjoy the flora and fauna of the wood. As we entered the California Inn for supper about 2 hours later, the heavens opened again. Nineteen of us, including husbands, enjoyed the evening. The hat was passed around and a collection made for the Trust.

## BIRMINGHAM VISIT

Two of our members joined other WI members on the coach from Kingsbridge and went off to the NEC to attend the National Federation's big two-day triennial general meeting. They were duly impressed by the organisation of the event, and by the huge WI exhibition. There were many interesting speakers, including Jonathan Porritt the well-known environmentalist, who encouraged us to play an active role in Agenda 21 at local level where it could have enormous effect.

Carolyn Faulder of Breast Cancer Care paid tribute to what the WI has achieved through its campaigning for cervical screening in 1964 and for breast cancer screening in 1975. The aim now is to campaign for breast screening to continue beyond the age of 65, for more specialist breast care units and for more breast care nurses. Thurstlestone WI was recently represented at Derriford

Hospital to hear Dr. Linda Campbell talk about the proposed new breast care unit there.

## GARDEN LUNCH

Thanks again to Rosemary and Bruce MacKay who very generously allowed us the use of their home (no, not the garden this year, it was too wet!) for our annual summer nosh. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and it was agreed that the resulting small profit of £25 should be donated to Parish Hall funds.

## SPEAKERS

Basil Smallman gave a delightful talk in June, supplemented by beautiful piano playing, about his life during wartime service with the RAF. A couple of brave husbands, lured by recognition of the speaker's skill, also enjoyed the occasion.

Elizabeth Bewley-Jones came in July to tell us about the benefits physiotherapy can bring.

## PARISH HALL FAIR

The W.I. will be running the cake stall at the Fair on 30th August. If you would like to place an order in advance for any baked goods, please ring Pat Clarke on 561982.

## LINE-DANCING RE-STARTS

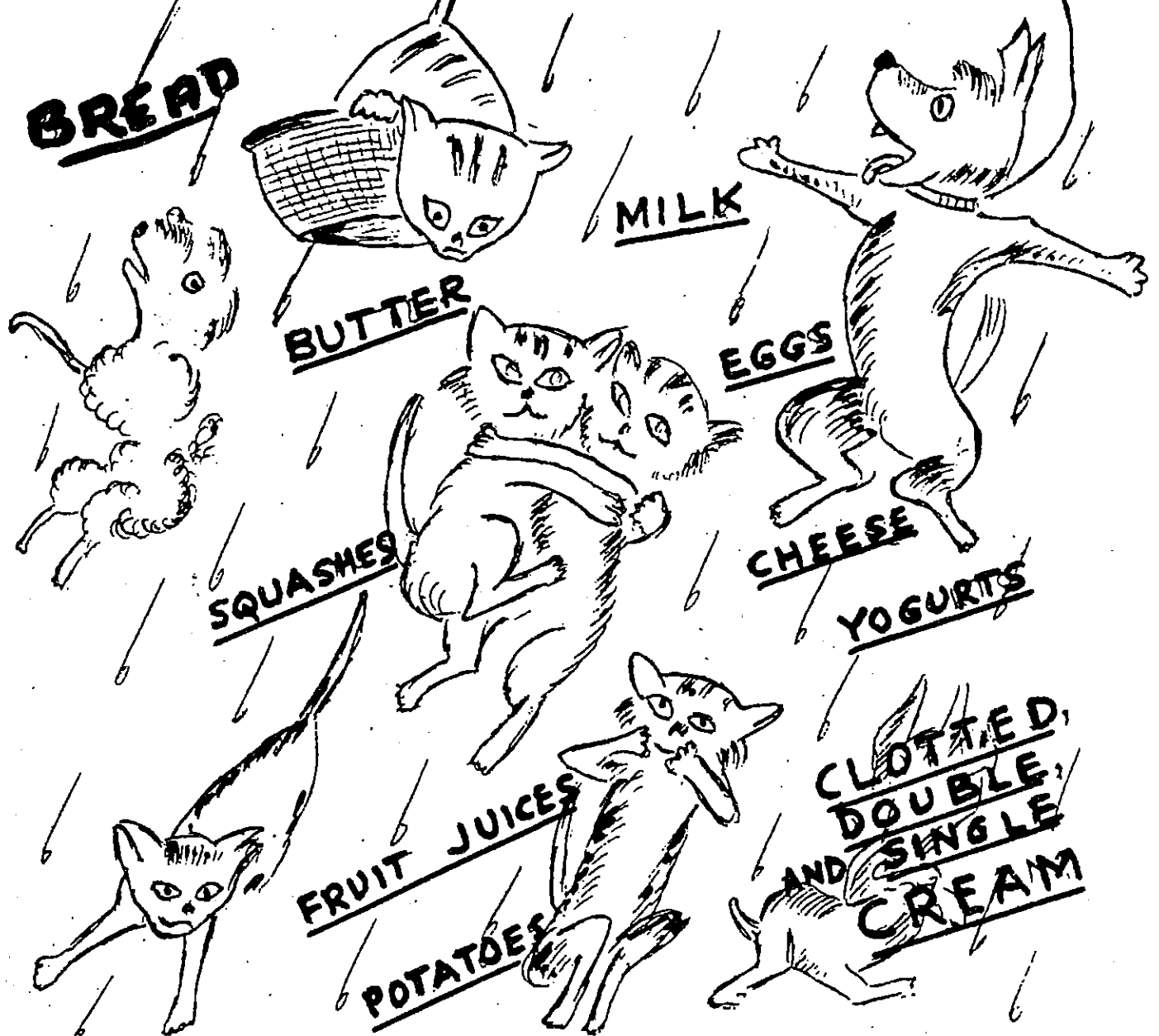
Monday 29th September will be the date - *see y'all at the Parish Hall, 10.30 am!*

## VISITORS

Visitors have an open invitation to our meetings and are always given a warm welcome. See SUPERGUIDE (inside back cover) for dates and details of our forthcoming meetings and speakers.



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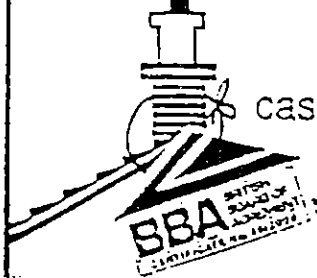
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# Postbag

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## Dear Editor

Reading the account in Thurlestone Golf Club's centenary booklet of the murder of Sir Michael O'Dwyer by a Sikh who had obtained a position of trust in the employ of his victim, one cannot but be impressed by the parallel with and connection between this killing and that of Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India.

The account records that when the murderer's remains were returned to India in 1974, they were treated by Mrs Gandhi as those of a great hero whose exploits should be applauded and revered. His body was laid in state for four days, his ashes were ceremonially scattered on the Holy River in Amritsar, and the anniversary of his death dedicated to his memory.

It must have been obvious to Mrs Gandhi that to glorify murder and treachery in this way was to incite people to commit further acts of the same kind.

In 1948 Mrs Gandhi was herself assassinated by her own Sikh bodyguards in retaliation for an attack on the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar by Indian troops controlled by Mrs Gandhi's government. Those who killed Mrs Gandhi were Sikhs whose mental attitude must have been profoundly influenced by the adulation accorded to the murderer of Sir Michael O'Dwyer. If Mrs Gandhi had not endorsed the murder of Sir Michael O'Dwyer in the way she did, she might not have suffered the same fate herself.

The essence of the concept of poetic justice is of a wrongful action which, by its very nature, rebounds on to the head of its perpetrator. It would be hard to find a more

vivid example than the relationship between Mrs Gandhi's glorification of the murder of this man and her own end.

**Philip Candy  
Thurlestone**

## Dear Editor

No-one can be prepared for sudden hospitalisation and surgery. It has thrown our lives into chaos and emotional turmoil. Just as unexpected, however, on the more positive side, was the incredible support and care we received as a family from villagers, school, and our neighbours. We have had so many offers of both practical support and shoulders to lean on it has touched us deeply.

We would like both to acknowledge and to thank all those people for carrying us through the crisis period into the recovery.

With much gratitude from

**Ralph, Julia, Zoi, Joanna, and Oliver  
Parkfield**

## Dear Editor

I am disappointed that only one reader (and anonymous at that) seized the opportunity to challenge the statement that "*the sun travels in an elliptical path around the earth*", as appeared in the October/November 1996 issue of Village Voice. This at least proves that one person reads the article.

Watch out for 1997's deliberate mistake!

**Old Wag  
Thurlestone Sands**



# Pat Machin's

# Puzzle Corner

## WORD-SEARCH ONE

The answers to the clues can be made up by combining three sets of three letters from the grid. When complete, three sets of three letters should remain. Combine these letters to find another 9 - letter word.

1. An English mountain
2. A source of water supply
3. Name of an artist
4. A garden implement
5. A comeback weapon
6. An Eastern potentate
7. An ocean
8. A vegetable
9. Study of earth's features
10. A snack food
11. A soft drink
12. Boy's name
13. A sea battle
14. A monk's residence
15. A bed cover
16. An author
17. Breed of dog
18. Cathedral city
19. A playground game
20. ????

|     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| COU | AST | CES | ANG | PHY | LYN |
| GAR | ERV | HAM | MON | TIC | ERT |
| WER | RIE | VEL | ORA | ARA | RET |
| ONS | GRA | THA | NDT | FAL | RGE |
| EID | ARC | ADE | SCO | OIR | RAY |
| BRA | SOL | NMO | BOD | SEB | TER |
| NGE | TCH | TRA | UTI | GEO | REM |
| VER | MER | OWN | HEL | WOR | BUR |
| JAH | IAN | MAH | HOT | ANT | ERY |
| AST | RES | TTE | GER | CKE | LAW |

## WORD-SEARCH TWO

Find the flowers (listed below) in the grid. Their names may be found written up, down, to the left, to the right, or even diagonally. Once all the flowers have been found the remaining letters, when read left to right and downwards, will give the name of another flower.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | X | O | L | H | P | Y | S | N | A | T |
| I | C | R | O | C | U | S | P | E | R | E |
| L | L | O | T | H | R | I | F | T | U | O |
| A | A | S | P | I | R | A | E | A | M | N |
| C | S | E | P | W | E | D | N | U | S | Y |
| I | A | T | A | I | N | U | T | E | P | E |
| N | L | R | E | G | L | L | U | P | I | N |
| O | V | O | N | R | I | U | O | G | N | I |
| R | I | R | I | S | U | P | T | E | K | R |
| E | A | I | N | O | G | E | B | U | M | E |
| V | I | O | L | A | I | S | E | M | E | N |

## FLOWERS

ARUM, ASTER, BEGONIA,  
CROCUS, DAISY, GEUM,  
IRIS, LILAC, LUPIN,  
NEMESIA, NERINE, PANSY,  
PEONY, PETUNIA, PHLOX,  
PINK, POPPY, ROSE,  
SALVIA, SPIRAEA, SUNDEW,  
THRIFT, TULIP, VERONICA,  
VIOLA



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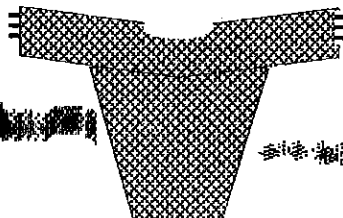
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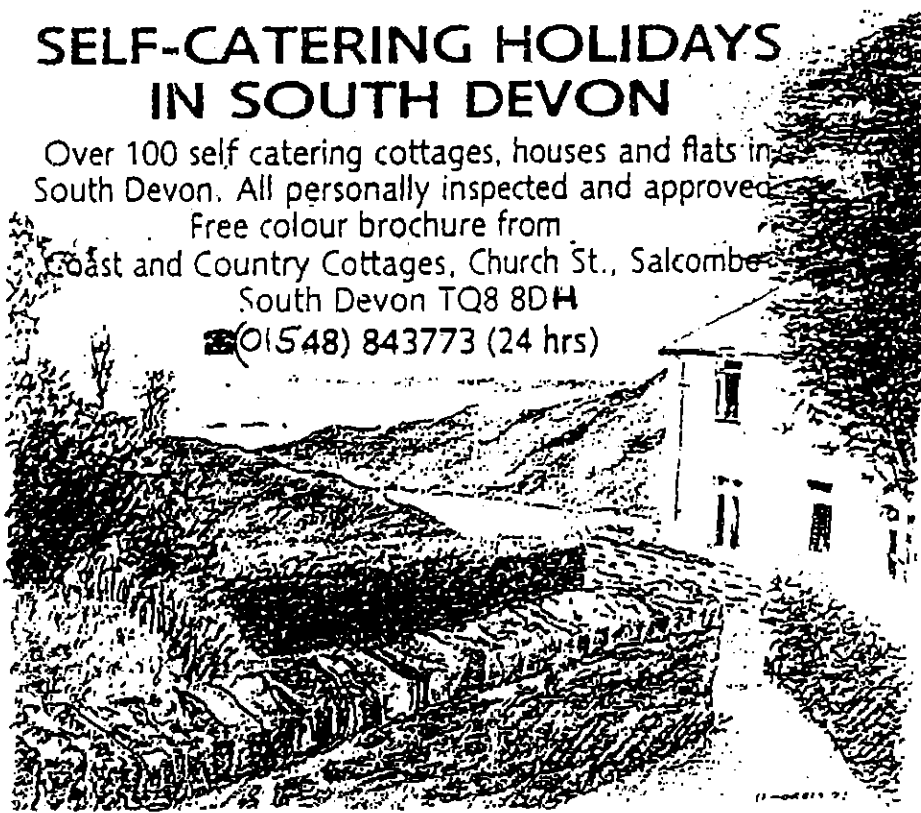
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# Close Encounters of a Desert Kind

*Neville Oswald...on the circumstances which led to his becoming the overseer of a brothel...in the Sinai Desert.*



Stories of World War II are old hat and, on principle, should not be encouraged. The only reason I write now is because a well-known and respected member of our community urged me to do so.

In the summer of 1944, long after the battle of El Alamein and the departure of the Eighth Army on its epic advance across North Africa, the military hospitals left behind in the Middle East were still clearing up the mess. Most of them were full to overflowing partly because, with the Mediterranean closed, the only means of evacuating the seriously ill and wounded was by sea around the Cape and there were few places in the available ships. Then the decision to allow some non-UK troops to be cared for in RAMC hospitals further aggravated the situation.

One of the biggest problems was soldiers, suffering either from psychiatric disorders or tuberculosis of the lung, who were scattered all over the place away from specialist care. The Brigadier consultant physician in Cairo decided to dump all non-UK patients in a recently vacated 1000-bed hospital near the Suez Canal. He arranged for three psychiatrists to go there, but there were only three trained chest physicians in the Middle East forces, two of whom were in Jerusalem looking after UK troops with tuberculosis in a converted monastery on Mount Scopus. I was the third. He came up to Gaza and asked me to go down to the new hospital and open up the tuberculosis side. Of course I agreed to do so. It was not the type of posting I would have chosen when I breezily joined the TA some years before, but it was

certainly a change after more than two years of desert hospitals in Palestine.

The hospital, curiously called the Mixed Hospital, was sited in the Sinai Desert, some three and a half miles east of Kantara. Soon after I arrived the commanding officer returned to the UK and I was appointed CO in his place...in addition to looking after the tuberculous. We had a couple of rows of huts with almost all the hospital beds in tents. Some metalled roads of a sort had been laid down here and there. The UK staff detailed to run the place comprised six doctors, 12 nursing sisters and 30 other ranks. We were soon joined by about a dozen Italian and Greek doctors.

In no time the place was full of patients... 400 Italian prisoners-of-war, 200 Greeks, 200 African natives and a mixed bag of Germans, Russians, Eastern Europeans and, of all people, Chinese with tuberculosis who had been crew members on British ships. For protection, we had a detachment of 35 East African Riflemen commanded, very efficiently, by a UK officer and a sergeant. They patrolled the barbed wire perimeter regularly and took care of any disturbances that occurred within the hospital.

This was naturally a rather unstable population and we reckoned to have a riot of some sort about once a month. When that happened, the officer with an appropriate posse of East African troops came along, with fixed bayonets if necessary, and usually sorted things out pretty quickly. I remember only one shot being fired, and that was into the leg of a ringleader who would not have been controlled by anything less.

The African patients were always a source of anxiety after a ruling that if any of them



committed a murder or serious bodily harm they were not to be charged but labelled "psychiatric" and sent along to us. Thus, we always had half-a-dozen to a dozen murderers on our hands. Believe me, we took every possible measure to find accommodation in any ship bound for South Africa. In practice, apart from one of them who killed a patient in bed with a club before he could be restrained, they gave little trouble.

Fairly early on, when conducting a routine inspection of the barbed wire perimeter, I tripped over an electric cable which led from the hospital into the desert. It went to a square concrete building about the size of a two-bedroomed house, some quarter of a mile away. There was no other building in the vicinity and it had obviously been there for several years. I asked what it was and was told it was a brothel. Alongside it were two vehicles - one of our water carts and a wagon of the kind known in the army as The Bombay Mail, for removing waste. There was no sign of life at that time in the morning but, judging by the footmarks in the sand, the place appeared to be well used.

My first reaction to finding a brothel devoted solely to the needs of our unit was mixed. Was it legal, for instance? I did not know of any other military hospital in the Middle East with its own brothel. Then I imagined a letter from GHQ Cairo headed "Ref. your private brothel" and which went on to ask who was paying for the electricity supplied to it. On reflection I decided to leave things as they were for the time being, and in this was supported by several colleagues whom I

consulted. After all, the 400 Italians and the 200 Africans had no women from their native lands to support them - although the Greeks were well supplied with nurses of various kinds. The Germans and the Russians kept themselves to themselves. Eventually my overriding thought was for the safety of our twelve nursing sisters who lived in huts alongside our mess. Fortunately no trouble came to them; they did a remarkable job in maintaining standards of nursing and administration in the tents. I decided to let the brothel stay.

One of the happiest aspects of medical practice is the way so many people do voluntary acts of kindness, either by service or with gifts. Our hospital quite unexpectedly received large bales of light blue blankets from the Canadian Red Cross. They were a blessing because the nights can be cold in that part of the world. As a matter of fact, I brought one of them home and still have it.

Towards the end of the war in the autumn of 1945, when we were waiting to hear when our release groups would be going home, I made my last inspection of the brothel. One wall was stocked right up to the ceiling with our fine new blankets, which had obviously been accepted in lieu of payment. I shut the place down, rescued the blankets, and that was that.

I have often wondered whether I was right in allowing the brothel to remain open for so long, but I am sure I was right in closing it when I did.

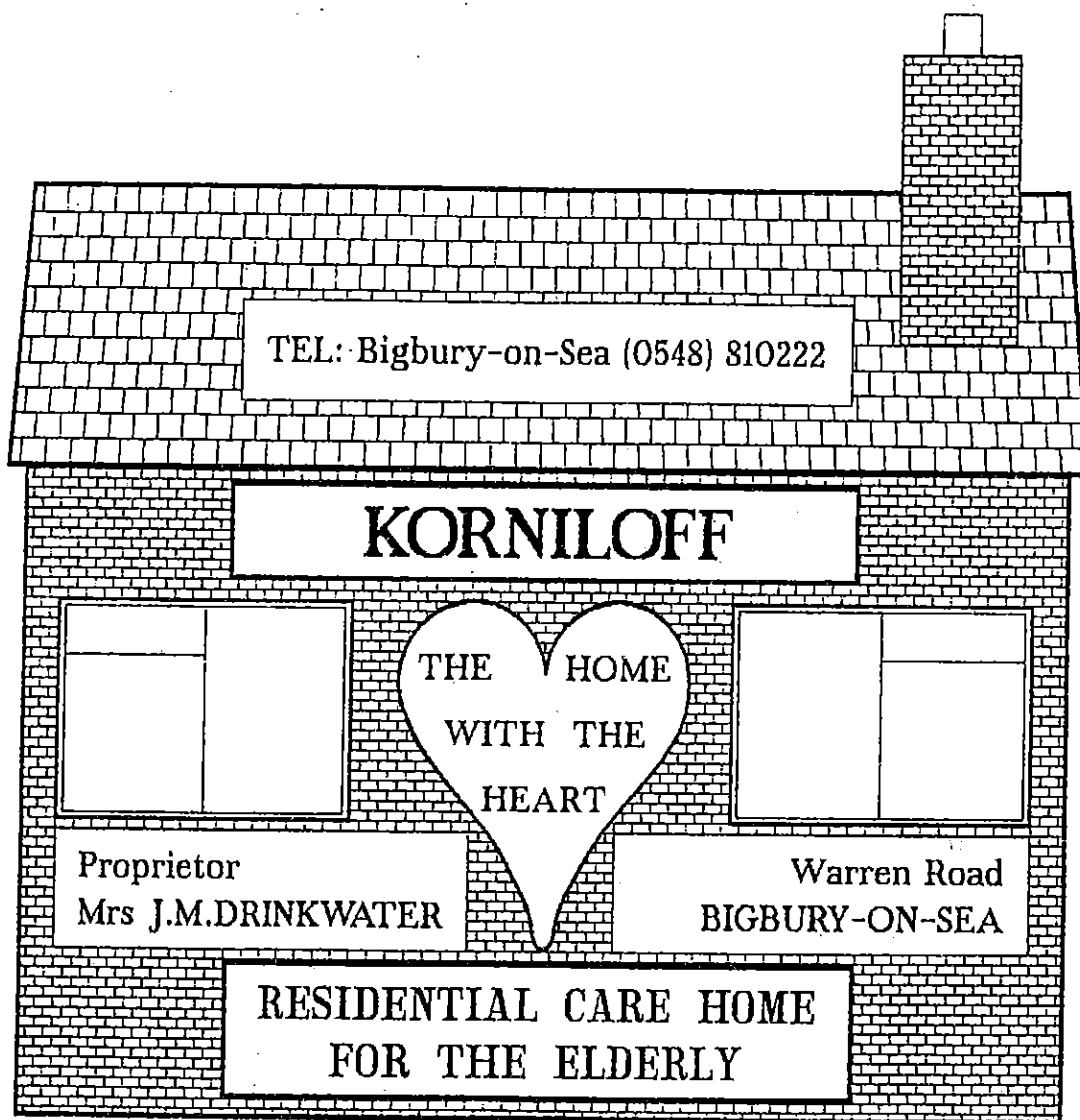
**Neville Oswald**

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Speaking at a recent planning committee meeting our South Hams Councillor, Martyn Grose, said: "We are subject in Bantham to a creeping despoliation of our parish by those who are sometimes referred to as the Chelsea farmers and the Birmingham navy, and who come down and spend their money on holiday homes".





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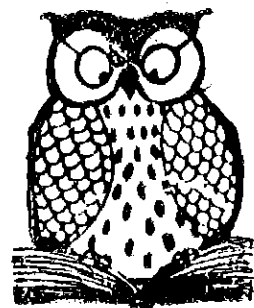


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# Pearson Pre-School



*I would like to introduce Village Voice readers to (or up-date you on) the Pearson Pre-School (formerly Playgroup).*

The village of Thurlestone has had a pre-school since 1981, but in fact Pearsons was run from Mr & Mrs Pearson's home at Bantam as long ago as 1974; serving the surrounding area with quality childcare and education. The building that is "Pearsons" was given to the parents upon Mrs Joan Pearson's retirement and remains to this day upon church ground within the Thurlestone Primary School. To extend this valuable service to the rural community would be of great benefit to yet further generations of children.

We are a registered charity and committee-run concern. Our building has, like many things, grown old gracefully but, sadly, the wear and tear is becoming more and more noticeable. She is loved, has served well, but cannot go on forever, and we have the 'space' inside the building to consider too. Those who have visited us will be aware of our cosy little room. Registered to take 12 children with 3 regular paid staff, we only just manage to squeeze in - it's tight but due to our organisational skills we do manage. However, a new building would enable us to have 15 children and still have a high adult-to-child ratio, and more space for activities. We could have our sand pit and water tray inside, plus extra work tables (we have only 2 at present).

Somerfields are running a community charity nomination card scheme, whereby you get the chance to nominate us for some of their money. They count up the nominations and

decide just how worthy a charity is. If they view us favourably, they award money to us.

We need cash to buy a "Devon Lady", or similar building to place on the existing site, but obviously using more of our garden to expand the premises (we share the outside playground with the school, with whom we work quite closely). Although donations, pledges and our own fundraising is vital to the cause, help us reach for the stars by completing Somerfields form below. Every signature received will help Somerfields to recognise our building fund as a most worthy cause.

Please help us by completing the form below, and putting it in one of the collecting boxes at the two Thurlestone shops (by kind permission of the proprietors). Alternatively, please hand them in at Pearsons - we are open Monday to Friday from 9 am until noon. We also have a Rising 5s session on Monday afternoons from 1 until 4 pm. If you would like more information, or a visit, please ring Paula on 560816. As supervisor I will be only too pleased to speak with you.

|                                                                                                                          |                              |
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# BOOKSHELF

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## **Good Housekeeping Book of Short Stories** (Published by Arrow Books £5.99)

This paperback contains 24 short stories, some by well-known authors such as Joanna Trollope, Maeve Binchy, Ruth Rendell, William Trevor, etc., and they have all appeared in Good Housekeeping - so some of you will already have read them.

It is an excellent selection covering a wide range of topics - domestic, comedy, romance and the supernatural, which will be a treat for those who like contemporary fiction. I liked the last story the best "Theatre Street" by Eva Ibbotson. It is a beautiful and moving love story, in itself worth the purchase price. When I finished it I had to re-read it immediately. Just the sort of book to take on holiday. (Not on the shelves at Kingsbridge Library, but it can be ordered)

G.W.

## **The Brass Dolphin** by Joanna Trollope (writing as Caroline Harvey)

I find that when Joanna writes as Caroline it is quite a different style. I wonder how she manages to be two different writers? I prefer Joanna, but this is still an entertaining book.

It is about a 20 year old Suffolk girl and her irresponsible but loveable artist father who, through various circumstances, find themselves going to live in Malta just before the outbreak of WW2. There are intriguing romantic episodes interspersing her absorbing life during the ensuing bombardment of the island, and dramatic descriptions of the conditions in Malta at that time.

A book for the ladies, really, but I enjoyed it.

G.W.

## **Snow Falling on Cedars** by David Guterson

I first read this book about two years ago and as I was impressed with it I have re-read it and enjoyed it very much. A young fisherman is found dead in the nets of his boat off a small island near Seattle, and the main story is of the enthralling court room drama of the trial of another fisherman accused of his murder. There is a considerable amount of relevant background material and threading through the book is a poignant love story in addition to an explicit and harrowing account of a US Marines attack on a Japanese atoll. The detailed and vivid descriptions of the environment and the wonderful character portrayals make it a book you will not want to put down.

G.W.

## **Ottoline Morrell** by Miranda Seymour

A woman of considerable influence in the Bloomsbury Set days, it is an interesting account of life as lover, confidante, adviser or mother-substitute. Probably a mixture of all of those to people like Bertrand Russell, Augustus John, Aldous Huxley and many others. It is now all history.

R.M

## **More Please** an autobiography of Barry Humphries

A complete contrast to the above but, surprisingly, very well written (I had to consult the dictionary to find out what some of the words meant!). Talented in so many ways, and quite an artist, it would be a pity to remember him only as "Dame Edna" or "Sir Les Patterson". I believe he is about to play a leading role in 'Fiddler on the Roof'

R.M.



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# ALL SAINTS FELLOWSHIP

Those who are maybe slightly curious about the activities of All Saints Fellowship, or have had the misfortune to be otherwise committed on the appropriate Thursday afternoons, have but to read on to discover what they have missed.

In the past season's meetings since October the talks have ranged over topics as diverse as "Life on Dartmoor", "Old Wrecks", the work and play of the Young Farmers, the work of the charity Headway for people with acquired brain damage (one of the charities, incidentally, supported by this summer's cream teas in the Rectory Barn), and paper making. In December we had our traditional carol singing accompanied by mince-pies. If the industrious cake-makers ever hoped to feed the family on the remains of their creations they hoped in vain: their efforts were too hungrily appreciated.

The grand finale was not, as usual, a musical tea-party but instead a day's outing to the Chown china factory near Hayle in Cornwall. Sixteen of us set off, in as small a fleet of cars as could be contrived, in time to reach our first port of call, Trevaskis Farm Restaurant, by midday. We were warned not to be late if we wanted to find our reserved tales still free: the restaurant is very popular.

The reason for this was soon apparent. The food is good and most abundant: choose a larger helping at your peril. Only the invincible could tackle any of the cream-laden puddings. The Cornish must be made of sterner stuff. After a visit to the farm shop - where the home-grown strawberries were irresistible - we went on to accomplish the main part of our mission.

It is Joyce Stephens' cousin who owns and runs the Chown china factory and so we were allowed in to watch the various stages of production. This was quite fascinating. So much skill, craftsmanship and time are needed that it is no wonder the finished articles are quite costly. Then we visited the shop...

When finally we managed to drag ourselves away we headed, not for home - the day was yet young - but for Godrevy Point, from where there were lovely views over St. Ives Bay in one direction and towards Portreath in the other. There was also a Cornish ice-cream van. Then it was straight home for some but home via Land's End for those still fired by the spirit of adventure. Thus ended Fellowship (but only with a capital F) until October.

**Pam Brewster**

---

## THURLESTONE HOTEL GOLF MEMBERS

We only meet once a year! We now have our own resident professional - Peter Preston. Would you like to meet more often and enjoy friendly contests, ladder, round robin, and other events? Peter and Toni would help us. If you are interested, please put your name and phone number on the list posted in the golf hut. No official handicap required.



---

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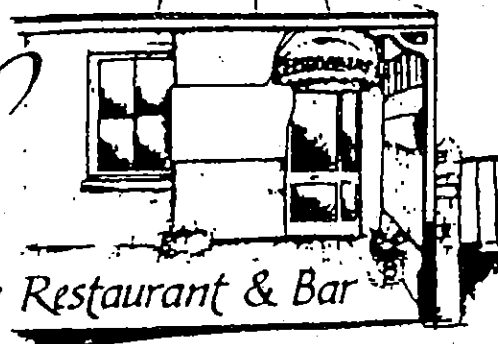


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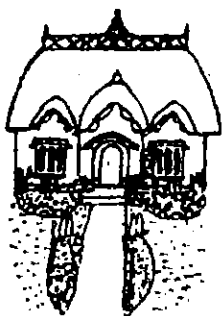
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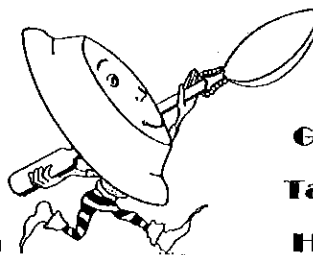
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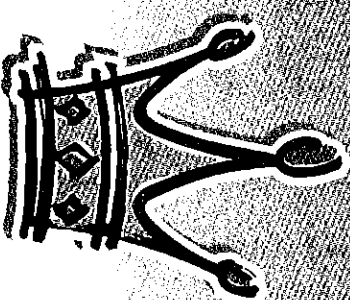


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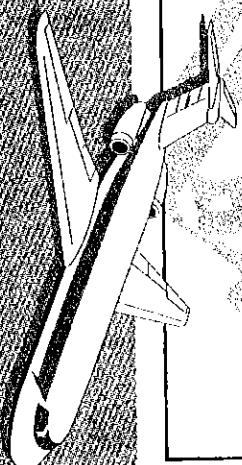
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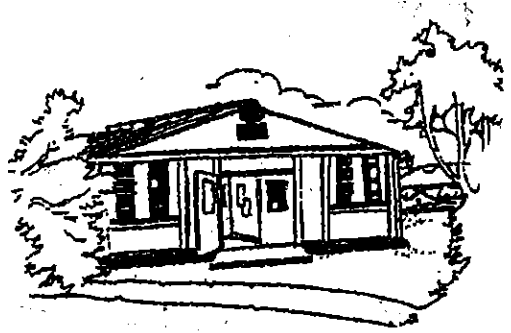


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# THURLESTONE PARISH HALL



The Hall's main fund-raising for the year will be the **Annual Fair**, to be held on Saturday, 30th August, at 2.30 pm.

The organisations which use the Hall will each (hopefully!) run a stall and contribute the funds they raise to the Hall, so there will be all kinds of stalls to tempt you! We are most grateful to them.

**The Parish Hall belongs to us, the residents of the parish, and it is therefore up to us to help support our meeting place. Where would we be without it?** Hiring fees alone will not cover the whole cost of running the Hall and of maintaining it in good condition, so we have to seek ways to augment funds.

Donations of goods for sale and raffle prizes would therefore be most gratefully received at the Hall on the morning of the sale, or earlier if you would kindly ring Roland Cole on 561006.

We very much look forward to seeing as many residents of the parish as possible at the Fair! Make a note of the date and come along and help support your Hall.

The Committee would also like to remind car owners that making use of the hall's car-park only without taking part in the activities within the hall **DOES INCUR A FEE**, details of which are displayed in the car park. There is also an 'honesty box' on the hall's outer wall into which users can place their fees.

If you do not already pay the fee due directly to the Hall treasurer, Bill Clarke, they would be grateful if you would place your parking money in the box. Should you wish to make arrangements for a longer period of car parking, please ring Bill Clarke on 561982.

**Hall Secretary.** Readers of the last issue of Village Voice will recall that there was a vacancy for a Hall secretary. We are now happy to report that Linda Gray of Myrtle Cottage, West Buckland (561226) has agreed to accept the position, and we welcome her.

**Hall Cleaner Required.** The Committee was sorry to learn from Mrs Hunt that she is no longer able to continue, and so regrettably is now looking for a new Hall cleaner. Anyone wishing to be considered should ring the Chairman, Roland Cole, on 561006.

---

## ANSWERS TO WORD - SEARCHES

### WORD - SEARCH ONE

- |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. HELVELLYN  | 2. RESERVOIR  | 3. REMBRANDT  | 4. LAWNMOWER  |
| 5. BOOMERANG  | 6. MAHARAJAH  | 7. ANTARCTIC  | 8. COURGETTE  |
| 9. GEOGRAPHY  | 10. HAMBURGER | 11. ORANGEADE | 12. SEBASTIAN |
| 13. TRAFALGAR | 14. MONASTERY | 15. EIDERDOWN | 16. THACKERAY |
| 17. RETRIEVER | 18. WORCESTER | 19. HOPSCOTCH | 20. SOLUTIONS |

### WORD - SEARCH TWO

ANSWER = PELARGONIUM



# Nature Notebook



UGUST can be a month of great interest to the naturalist and botanist in the South Hams.

Many forms of migratory species appear only at this time of year and can readily be observed, particularly *homo-sub-sapiens*, or Holiday Man, and his associated species.

He is to be found in large numbers on the more easily accessible beaches and beauty spots, when the ritual of mass migration to perform the annual moult and anointing with oil can be seen. This, however, is largely dependent upon the weather. Normal habitats are changed in rainy weather. At such times the species tends to assume a protective camouflage and huddles together in any available shelter, especially in cafes and tea-rooms.

They may also be found clustering in large groups in dark places such as museums or stately homes which they do not frequent when the sun shines. In sunny weather they can be found near their main sources of food. They live mainly on a diet of fish and chips and potato crisps.

A small sub-species, *solitudinus*, which still has the use of its legs, can be found singly or in small groups, mostly in inaccessible places. Unlike the main group, it is usually silent and difficult to find.

Beaches are the most popular gathering grounds for the majority of these summer migrants, and many interesting behavioural patterns can be studied.

They appear to be generally gregarious, preferring to keep together, and often packing densely on one part of the beach, leaving another part empty.

The young of both species do not stray far from the parents and are often to be seen digging small structures in the sand which they demolish shortly afterwards.

Naturalists find it difficult to explain this action, but it is believed to be a remnant of the old nesting instinct. Older animals often join their young and appear to gain considerable enjoyment from the pursuit. Normally land-based, the species tends to become aquatic under these conditions, uttering shrill cries on entering the water.

Closely associated with this migration is a sudden increase in vegetation along the hedges and lanes, particularly in lay-bys and car parks and above the high water mark. *Bagus plasticiflorum*, or Traveller's Joy, appears overnight in the hedgerows and *Kleenex cartonibus*, or Sneezewort, sheds its leaves plentifully.

The colourful outer cases of *Lolium vulgare*, or Common Toothrot, collect around the outside of litter bins, although for some reason rarely inside them.

A closely-related group of Holiday Man is *homo caravanibus* which travels with its home on its back. This is slower-moving than the main group and tends to travel singly. Since it is unable to move backwards, trouble can occur if this animal meets a herd of the main group returning home in the lanes.

It is advisable not to approach such a situation as the males of the species can become disagreeable, and their tempers uncertain. It would appear from these encounters that *homo caravanibus* has few friends - even among his own kind.

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# HORSWELL DIARY



A consignment of plants ordered in the spring arrived unexpectedly, necessitating a massive clearing, weeding, digging and planting operation under monsoon conditions. Three saturated dogs lay on the cobbles watching us and looking as dejected as only a dog can look. Bedraggled peafowl with rain-flattened feathers peered down from the trees above us, hunched up like grumpy vultures.

We worked all day in rivers of mud, planting in what might have been a paddy field. At 10 o'clock at night we finished. Drenched to the skin and smothered in red earth we staggered wearily back to the house like a couple of Glastonbury revellers, Imran and Genghis screeching approval from their treetop roost. Its certainly been a very wet month.

The ravages of wind and rain have wreaked havoc on our garden flowers. Roses in particular have suffered. They were looking so beautiful but now many have rotted on the stem in full bud, and others have succumbed to the wretched black spot, testimony to my infrequent spraying.

Curiously, though, a pale blush pink rose called New Dawn continues to flourish, draping its profusion of blooms gracefully over the courtyard wall. Perhaps it is in tune with the age; "the new dawn" seems to be an expression much-used by politicians these days. The Labour party assured us we

would enter the "new dawn" if we elected them to power. We did, and it has rained ever since. At the hand-over of Hong Kong it rained too, the downpour beating the retreat on HRH the Prince of Wales's naval cap and washing a tear from the Governor's eye. The Chinese officials there also spoke of a "new dawn". It will be interesting to see if the policies of these new governments remain as pale pink as our rose.

Despite much posturing and dramatic flamenco footwork on the part of our peacocks, the peahens have either failed to be impressed or failed to raise their brood as no chicks have been seen. We suspect the crows may have taken their eggs. The ducks, too, lost their brood. After a lengthy sit on a great pile of eggs the Carolina duck was seen proudly swimming across the pond followed by a line of little dark ducklings no bigger than a bumble bee.

We have been feeding the trout in the pond for four years now, and although numbers of trout have decreased those that remain are very large indeed. Sadly, we think they may have been responsible for taking them as, within hours, one by one the ducklings disappeared. We were shocked by their loss. It makes one reflect on how very precious and fragile the gift of life is. Its something we take for granted, even moan about at times, and yet in a trice it can be taken from us.



I was reminded of this again when we were in London for our youngest grand-daughter's christening in Lincoln's Inn chapel. Sunlight shafted

through richly stained glass into the dark somnolent chapel. Unusually quiet young cousins looked on with eager expectant



faces whilst little Olivia, a beautiful baby with big blue eyes and rosebud lips, blinked away water poured over her head from a shell. Perfect. Safe. Surrounded by love, by family and friends. I thought of our ducklings and all the other babies equally innocent, trusting and vulnerable beyond the sanctuary of those ancient hallowed walls. That anything so pure, so perfect, could ever be unloved, starved, neglected, abused or violated seemed unbearably shocking.

And yet one reads in the news of such terrible crimes against society, against nature and against life itself. Its a conundrum that only experience of life can teach one to value it. Thus the dawn of realisation can often come too late to be effective.

I read in the paper that the recent landing of Pathfinder on Mars "ushers in a new era of exploring Earth's neighbours for traces of water and perhaps life". I sense that having trashed one planet we are looking for another. But wait a minute. With its dry rocky landscape, polluted dust and poisonous 95% carbon dioxide atmosphere doesn't it all sound a little familiar? Holes in the ozone layer, increased radiation, deforestation, water shortages, toxic waste, exhaust emissions.....are we sure we haven't been there before?

*Perhaps leaving Mars was civilisation's first step to a better life, and the colonisation of Earth was meant to be the real new dawn.*

**Prunella Dart**

---

## ST.LUKE'S HOSPICE

### NEW GIFT SHOP OPENS IN KINGSBRIDGE



Good news! On 9th July a special new Hospice gift shop opened its doors in Kingsbridge at 42 Fore Street, Gallery 424.

It is stocked with new (rather than donated) goods and the profit will be channelled into helping St.Luke's to continue providing care and support for those with advanced illnesses and their families.

A wide variety of giftware, including jewellery, china ornaments, table lamps, photo frames, decorative candles, greeting cards, pens, paperweights, African arts and crafts and many other things are in stock.

It can also offer information about the hospice and act as a collecting point for donated clothing and bric-a-brac for sale in other St.Luke's hospice charity shops.

This new venture follows the successful introduction by the hospice of an Out-Patient Clinic at the South Hams Hospital and of home visits by their consultant in Palliative Care (a joint initiative with the local Macmillan Nurse) - aimed at bringing hospice care deeper into the South Hams.

Please go along and buy your gifts in the knowledge that you will be supporting the hospice and contributing to its £1.5 million annual running costs.

Or, if you have a few hours a week to spare, you could act as a volunteer shop assistant.

Contact Cherrilyn Clarke, the manager, on Kingsbridge 856631

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# Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

Having written about using instruments to record and forecast the weather, and seeing that 15th July is a significant date, I thought I'd better cast a glance at forecasting before the use of instrumentation.

The word "forecast" was first used by Admiral Fitzroy, Chief Meteorologist to the Board of Trade in Great Britain in the 1880s. The word "meteorology" is much older. It is derived from Aristotle's 'Meteorologica - A Discourse on Atmospheric Phenomena'. However, there used to be a much less scientific way of predicting the weather or trends of weather, and these were 'traditional weather rules'. Developed over centuries, these 'rules' evolved into rhymes or sayings, and have become known as 'weather lore'.

The word 'lore' sounds slightly derogatory, suggesting that these simple 'rules' are all nonsense, but many can be used as a rough rule of thumb.

The moon figures significantly in many of these traditional tales, especially a full moon accompanied by high tides, strong winds and rain (*sounds rather familiar as I look out of the window on 2nd July*), with resulting storm surges on occasions. The upturned crescent moon neither retains rain nor does the downturned crescent spill water on the earth as rain! The moon does not cause any weather phenomena as we now know, but little sayings such as "*Clear moon, frost soon*" or "*Clear sky, frost nigh*" just remind us that - mainly in the winter months - clear skies allow rapid cooling of the earth's surface, so the possibility of frost exists.

Remember,

*"The moon and the weather  
may change together,  
But a change of the moon  
does not change the weather"*

The state of the weather on the day of a significant event in our lives can often persist in our memories. For instance at the Shute Farm sale on 17th May 1935 it snowed. When Ken and I had our wedding reception in Shute Farm garden, the sun was brilliant, the temperature was 80 degrees F .....and it was 20th October!

For centuries the lives of country folk were well tuned in to the highlights of the Church calendar, the Saints Days and the Special Days. Each generation passed on the information, so in this way weather patterns at particular times of the year were remembered and slipped easily into weather lore.

July has a particular Saints Day associated with the weather. St. Swithun wished to be buried where the rain could fall on him, and he was placed outside Winchester Cathedral in AD 862. In AD 971 the monks of the day attempted to move his remains inside...a more appropriate place for his godliness...but his spirit is said to have been so enraged it rained thereafter for forty days as retribution. The monks finally gave up and returned to more fruitful work.

*"Oh St. Swithun if thou be fair,  
For forty days shall rain nae mair,  
But if St. Swithun's thou be wet,  
For forty days it raineth yet".*

This quotation is from Robin Page's little book **Weather Forecasting** (Penguin Books) which has much to offer. I've selected some of these Saints Day and Special Day quotations to whet your appetite!

January 13th, **Feast of St. Hilary**. is often considered to be the coldest day of the year.

January 25th, **St. Paul's Day**.... "If St. Pauls



Day be clear and bright, then it betides a happy year" or "Fine day, good harvest", "Rain or snow a scarcity of harvest", "Clouds and mist, petilence", "High winds, war"!

**February 2nd, Candlemas Day** "If Candlemas be fair and bright, winter'll have another fight, but if Candlemas Day be clouds and rain, winter is gone and will not come again". There are other versions of this and it is said that the livestock farmer must have half of his straw and half of his hay left, emphasising that February has been reached, but winter has a long way to go.

**Lent**, "A dry Lent means a fertile year".

**Easter Day**, "Easter in snow, Christmas in mud", "Christmas in snow, Easter in mud", "If it should rain on Easter Day, there shall be good grass but very bad hay".

**June 15th, St.Vitus's Day** "If St.Vitus Day be rainy weather, it will rain for thirty days together".

**August 24th, St.Bartholemew's Day**, "If St.Bartholemew's Day be fair and clear, then a prosperous autumn come that year".

**September 29th and October 16th, St.Michael and Gallus**, "If it does not rain on St.Michael and Gallus the following spring will be dry and propitious".

**October 18th, St.Luke's Day**. The days surrounding this are often warm and balmy and are referred to as 'St.Luke's Little Summer'. Very late or delayed harvests can be gathered in.

**October 28th, St.Simon and St.Jude**. Traditionally this period has the reputation for bad weather...the break up of St.Luke's Little Summer, with gales setting in very quickly. Any boats at sea make for harbour as soon as the wind gets up.

**November 11th, St.Martin's Day**. He also has a 'Little Summer' named after him but as he is the patron saint of drunkards Robin Page thinks there should be heavy rain and lots of fresh water!

**December 21st, St.Thomas' Day**, "St.Thomas grey, St.Thomas grey, the longest night, the shortest day".

**December 25th, Christmas Day**, "Sun through the apple trees on Christmas Day means a fine crop is on the way". A sunny Christmas Day is said to ensure a good spring and few late frosts. Frost cuts the apple blossom and ruins crops, so sunshine on Christmas Day means a frost-free May and a good Autumn.

There are many sayings related to nature, plants and animals, far too many to record here, but I think they are fascinating. I haven't found one for a wet June except perhaps the Easter one...but Easter Day was DRY this year!

You may have seen an item in The Times of 23rd June 1997, about the return of the El Nino. This is a huge body of unusually warm water on the surface of the western Pacific Ocean. It spreads across the surface to the western shores of the Americas and changes the climatic conditions dramatically.....so watch out for reports of violent weather next winter in these areas.

Another article told about warm water fish and turtles coming to our shores at least one month earlier than usual. Global warming?

It was my intention to garden furiously this afternoon. It is still raining so I've written furiously instead.

You will find the weather statistics for the first six months of this year on a separate page.



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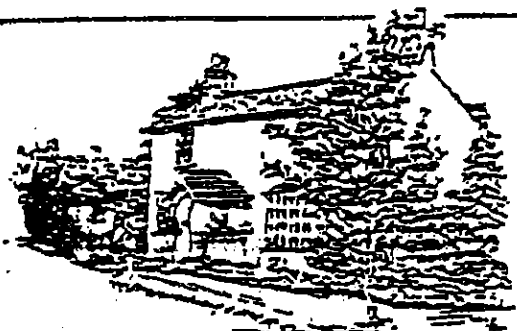
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# BASIL SMALLMAN'S MUSIC LECTURES

Those who attended Professor Basil Smallman's series of music lectures last autumn and winter will be delighted to know that he is giving a further ten lectures, under WEA auspices, starting on TUESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 1997 at the Dodbrooke Church Hall, Kingsbridge, from 2.00 pm until 3.30 pm. His subject this time will be:

## FRENCH MUSIC 1870 - 1940

Discussion will focus on works by Cesar Franck, Faure (his renowned Requiem), Debussy (L'Après-midi d'un faune, songs and piano music), Ravel (Mother Goose Suite and Don Quixote songs), and Poulenc (his Gloria for chorus and orchestra). Also to be considered will be the extent to which music was influenced by Impressionist art, and how the French language (chiefly in poetry) affected musical styles.

All the works will be studied through cassette recordings and live performance on violin and piano. All comers are welcome; no previous knowledge is necessary; enjoyment is guaranteed! Just go along to the hall for 2 pm.

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## MICHAEL ALLEN DOES IT AGAIN!

Michael's "Shore To Moor" cycle ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation has been another success story. He hopes to have raised in the region of £4,500, and is busy going round calling in the promised contributions for his 1997 marathon effort.

To use his own words *"I owe a great deal of gratitude to you all for making my efforts so worthwhile once again. Thank you"*.

---

## WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1997

|                         | 1st Quarter          | 2nd Quarter                | Total     |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| MONTHLY RAINFALL        | 181.35 mm            | 155.14 mm                  | 336.49 mm |
| DAYS OF RAIN            | 38                   | 42                         | 80        |
| WETTEST DAY             | 3/4 Mar.<br>28.13 mm | 2/3 Jun.<br>28.73 mm       |           |
| MONTHLY TEMPERATURE (C) |                      |                            |           |
| Average                 | 7.5                  | 13.20                      |           |
| Highest                 | 15.1 (21 Mar)        | 22.8 (18 Jun)              |           |
| Lowest                  | -4.4 (4 Jan)         | 0.7 (1 Apr)                |           |
| WIND DIRECTION          |                      |                            |           |
| West                    | 35                   | 36                         | 71        |
| East                    | 42                   | 49                         | 91        |
| North                   | 2                    | 4                          | 6         |
| South                   | 11                   | 1                          | 12        |
| HIGHEST WIND SPEED      | 17/18 Feb.<br>76 mph | 29 Apr. & 1 Jun.<br>42 mph |           |
| SUNNIEST DAY            | 30 Mar<br>12.8 hours | 24 May<br>17.01 hours      |           |

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# D R A B B L E M A N I A

My Western Morning News of the 21st June tells me that the National Trust have won a "landmark test case in the High Court" which paves the way for the Trust to fence off 160,000 acres of 'common land' which it owns across Engln and Wales! This must surely be a decision which could change the face of the countryside. Following this ruling 6,000 acres of land will soon be enclosed by 1800 metres of fencing along the busy A39 at Sherwage Woods and Woodlands Hill, Holford.

This should not worry those who use the Dartmoor roads - for the moment. The roads over the moor see many accidents, causing the deaths of roaming sheep, horses and cattle. In fact it must be accepted that hundreds of animals are killed annually by totally thoughtless speeding drivers.

These accidents end up by involving the police and the ambulance service where the human specie is injured. The cost for police, vets and paramedics is unsustainable at this period of financial limitation. The roadways

of Dartmoor are a drain on limited resources. It seems to me we could be in danger of an environmental disaster.....Dartmoor with roadside fencing!

\* \* \* \* \*

When someone sneezes it will often cause a bystander to call out "Bless you". It is a custom said to date back to the Great Plague period in the 17th century, as sneezing was believed to be the first sign of disease. In medieval times people thought that when you sneezed you could momentarily lose your soul which was left unguarded...but a quick "God bless you" could thwart the devil from capturing it.

\* \* \* \* \*

When I was young I used to think that wealth and power would bring contentment and happiness. I'll have the answer when the Lottery gives me the right numbers!

**Dudley Drabble**

## WHITHER THE RIVER?

This is an extract from a letter we recently received at Village Voice. Kendall McDonald has sent Mr Stafford a copy of the map referred to, but can anyone help with the question of *where* the river flowed out to sea?  
[Ed]

*"My property at Thurlestone Sands is The White House. This is the property down from the recently converted "Marsh Barn". It overlooks the wetland that I have been busy creating for the last 10 years or so. I would specifically ask if you can trace the date of the map in Village Voice issue No. 85 ("It seems like only yesterday"). I would be very*

*interested in obtaining a copy as it provides a clue to a mystery we are trying to solve. The stream that flows through our wetland runs under the National Trust car park (which many will remember were fully fledged sand dunes). I would very much like to know where the river flowed out to sea before it was piped under the sand. I have many old maps, but they are less than specific on this point. I think it flowed out below Rock House and down New Way Gut; but do any of your readers have evidence one way or the other?"*

**Peter Stafford,  
Bosinney, Polgooth, St.Austell, Cornwall**

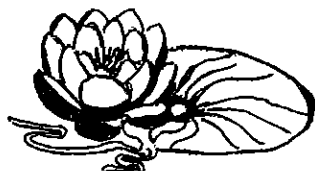


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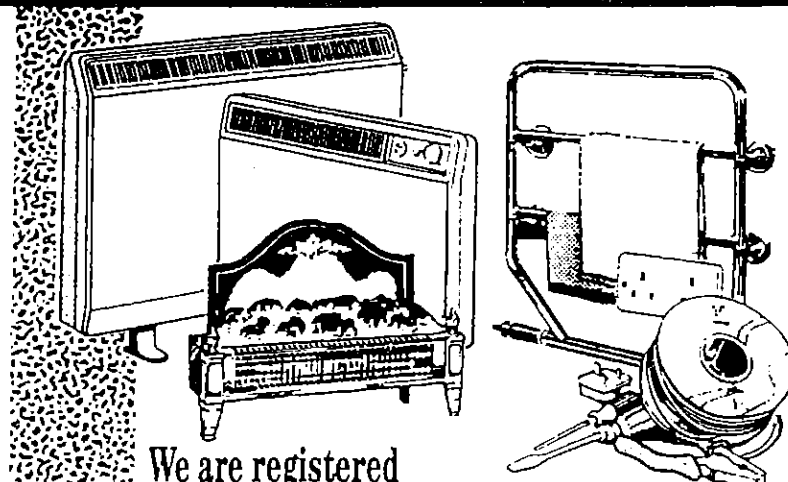
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# SUPERGUIDE

## 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  
Wed. 20th TRAMP - Dartmoor  
Sat. 30th PARISH HALL AUTUMN FAIR 2.30 pm

## SEPTEMBER

Mon. 1st Friends of the Church AGM 6.00 pm Parish Hall  
Wed. 3rd TRAMP - South Moor  
Tue. 9th Parish Council Meeting 7.30 pm Parish Hall  
Thur. 11th W.I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall (Local Radio)  
Tue. 17th TRAMP - Surprise Walk!  
Mon. 29th W.I. LINE DANCING 10.30 - 11.30 Parish Hall

## OCTOBER

Tue. 7th Basil Smallman's Music Lecture 2.00 pm Dodbrooke Hall  
Wed. 8th TRAMP - East Allington  
Thur. 9th W.I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall (Tutankhamen)  
Tue. 14th Parish Council Meeting 2.30 pm Parish Hall

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PLEASE APPLY TO JO PARKIN (561215)

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

\*\*\*\*\*



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