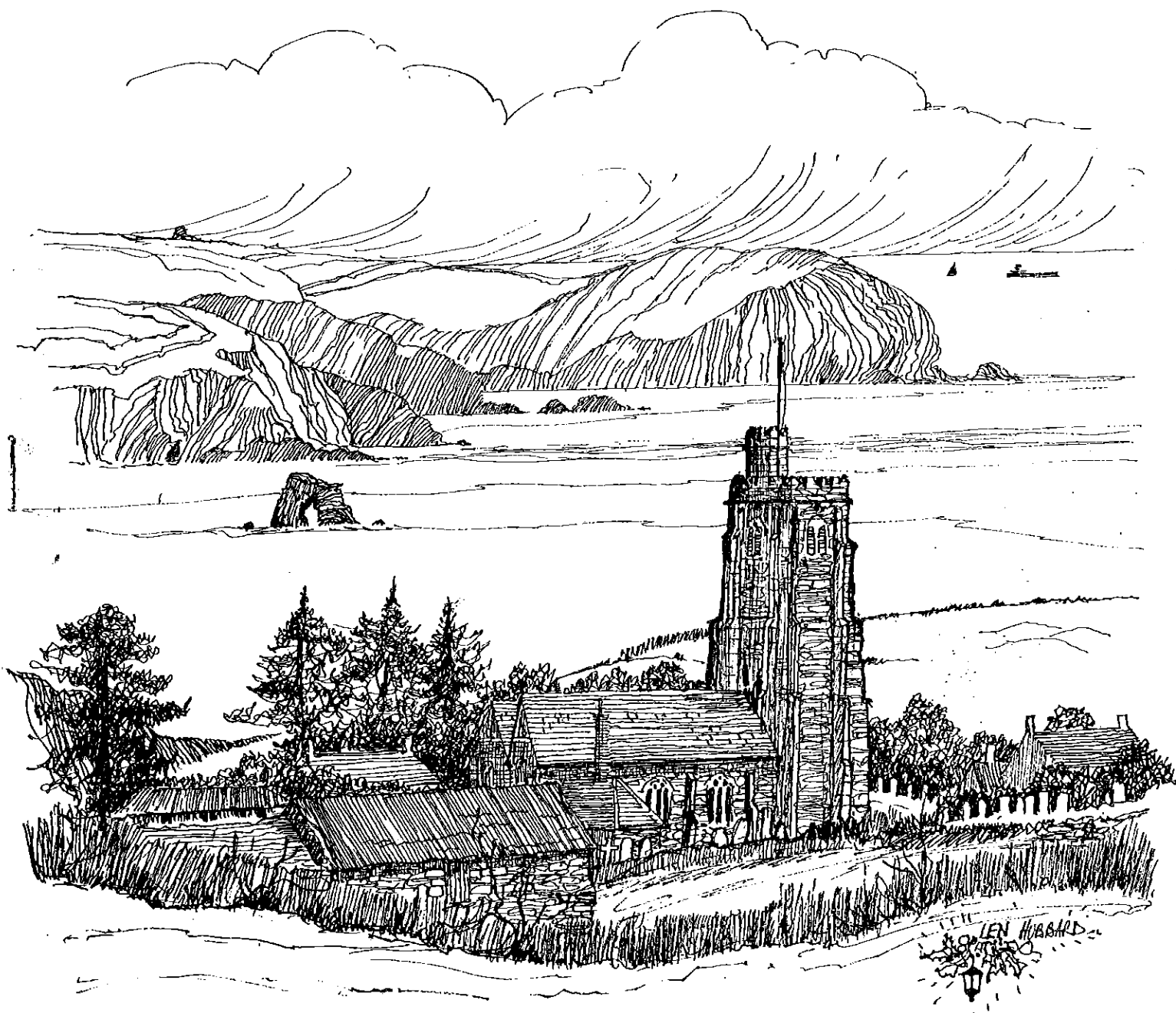


VILLAGE VOICE



DECEMBER 1997 - JANUARY 1998



NUMBER 88
DECEMBER 1997 - JANUARY 1998

In the second week of this month the Millennium Video Project team will be holding two Open Meetings in the Parish - the first at the Sloop Inn, Bantham, on Thursday (11th) and the second at the Parish Hall, Thurlestone, on Saturday (13th). From 7.30 pm there will be free "mince-pies and punch" as well as the opportunity to find out all about this exciting project - and to ask questions - and to have your say, and make your own contribution.

Len Hubbard has prepared an interesting visual exhibition of the project, and Village Voice urges EVERYONE in the parish to clear one of these dates in the diary, and to go along to what is sure to be a very "stimulating" evening.

For those who cannot attend, the columns of your own magazine will welcome your thoughts on the matter. Apathy will be your only excuse!

The members of the Village Voice team present this issue (including a new cut-out directory feature) for your Christmas enjoyment, and wish you all the best of good health and happiness for the coming year.

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Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

Autumn's over, half-term's gone, and now the Big Blow-Out isn't far away.

It is into this tail-end of the year that people from "up country" start dropping down to Thurlestone to uncover their village roots.

There are two sorts of these diggers into our memories.

Type One says *"Excuse me, do you remember a Charlie Brown, lived round here somewhere, only he's my great-uncle and we used to come down here on holidays so I'd like to show my husband where it was we stayed...it was thatched and small and round here somewhere...."*

And Type Two says *"Excuse me, I thought you'd be interested in this photograph...."*

On a sunny day recently, I had both types call within ten minutes of each other. And fascinating they all were. But I think I got more information from them than they got from me!

Type One was Mrs Pauline Winter, who is the daughter of Albert Henry Foote, who was born in Torquay on 1st April, 1884, and was brought up in Thurlestone. He tells of going to school in Thurlestone when he was three, but Mrs. Winter is not sure where he was living then. Interestingly, he told his daughter that he was called Foot when he first went to school and it was the local school mistress who added the "e" to his name. He had to leave school at eleven - *"I could not stay at school any longer as I had passed all the Standards"* - and went to work for the man he called "the Baker of the Parish". After that he was employed at Clanacombe House by Mrs. Jenkins, whom he noted in his memories was "the Squire's wife".

His jottings about his life then paint a picture of a lifestyle long gone. *"I had a pony to look after and I used to take the old lady for little drives in the pony carriage. I was there for two*

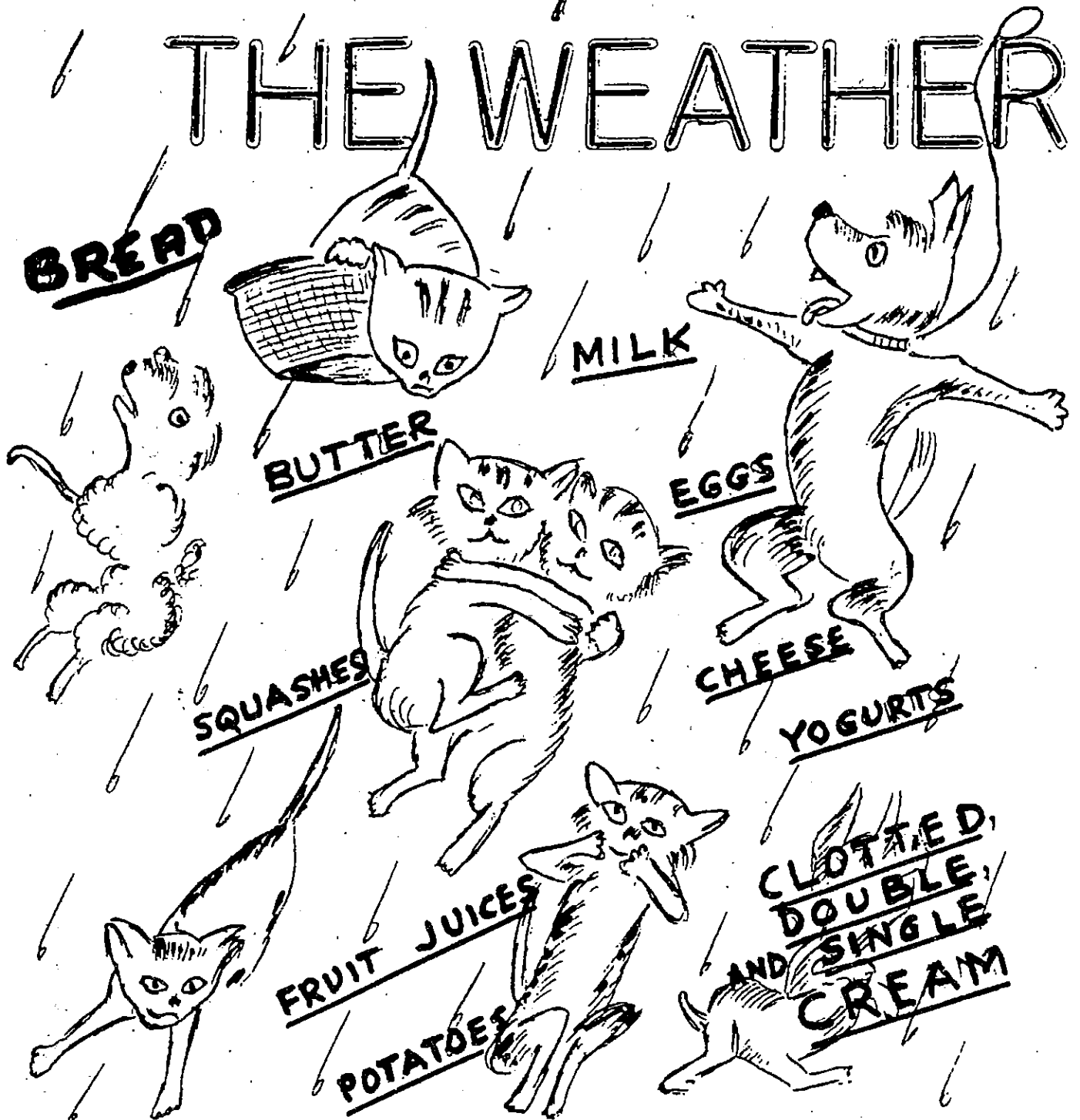


years, then I got a job at the Thurlestone Hotel, which was previously Thurlestone Farm House. My wages at Clanacombe were three shillings and sixpence a week and at Thurlestone five shillings a week".

After that experience Albert Henry Foote worked in London for the Cavendish family and then the Earl and Countess of Ancaster. **No jokes about footmen please.** His life after that until he joined the army in the First World War seems to have been a great round of travelling from a shooting party at one country house or castle to another - Normanton, Grimsthorpe Castle, Drummond Castle and Glenartney. That is when not in Town, in Chesterfield Gardens, of course!

But despite all that, one of his strongest memories was of Thurlestone in the Great Blizzard of 1891. *"We had so much snow we couldn't get out of our house and I remember my mother having a bit of bread in her hand and saying 'This is the last bit of bread we have and God knows where the next will come from!'"* That piece of bread had to last for several days before men carrying sacks of food dug their way through from Kingsbridge.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER



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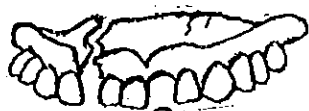
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There is much more of the Foote saga but for the moment we'll leave it there with the thought that we'd better all check our store cupboardswinter is a-coming-in!

My Type Two caller was Mr Morgan, son of builder Morgan who changed the outline of Thurlestone up near the top of the village, and had his workshop where Elsie Brewster has her garage today. Mr Morgan showed me one photograph which I had seen, but he promises another which I can hardly wait to see. It is of the Thurlestone football team which some years ago got into a big Devon cup final. If the Editor is kind, and the machine is willing too, maybe we can run the picture in Village Voice for your delight. The match, says Mr.Morgan, was played on a field by Huxton Cross, opposite Huxton Wood - and there were nearly 500 spectators. Without a single hooligan among them! *Times do change, don't they?*

The past was even more firmly kept in mind when I spotted the third of Devon WIs books - "**Devon : A Century in Photographs**" - in a local bookshop. The first two - "**The Devon Village Book**" and "**Devon Within Living Memory**" - were both first class reads. This one is a first class look. Behind all of them is the project co-ordinator, our very own Pat Macdonald. Pat should be very happy with this latest work of hers, which has over 170 photographs and wise words dividing the century into six sections - 1900-19; 1920-38; 1939-45; 1946-59; 1960-79; and after 1980.

Our little piece of the South Hams gets a good show among the photographs which WI members from all over the county have dug out of their family albums and their attics. Among the local ones of particular interest is that of Joe Elliott, the Bantham stonemason, standing in the early 1900's in front of the locked wall



recess which housed the village water tap. Each cottage had its own key and the tap was in regular use until 1931. The "cupboard" was knocked down recently.

Another photo of the same period shows volunteers queueing up to join the army at Salcombe in 1914. How many of them came back? Much later is the photo revealing Kingsbridge Quay in 1946. Scruffy it may be, with the creek running right up to the front of the present Boots, but to me it is somehow more in keeping than the "town square" of today.

"Devon : A Century in Photographs", which is published jointly by the Devon Federation of WIs and Countryside Books, will cost you **£6.95** in local bookshops or less if bought through the local WI. And worth every penny!

The village has been yielding up more than one secret recently. Almost un-noticed in the right royal furore over the uncovering of the school's bust of Queen Victoria, was the discovery of the date of **1683** carved into a stone high up in the left front wall of Pearse's Farthing in Thurlestone village street. The find was made by stonemasons Raymond Jeffery and Dean Raspin while stripping off the covering of the outside stones to cure an inside damp patch. The date has been covered again now for fear that the damp would work its way in again if that particular stone was left uncovered. Was

this the date of the building of the Farthing? Could be. The building has long been suspected to be an ancient farmhouse and is clearly marked on the map of the village of 1777.

Incidentally, while considering all these times past, I wonder what you should call the old boys and girls of our villages.

Are you an old Thurlestonian, or an old Banthamian, or an old Bucklandian?

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

..... NEWS IN BRIEF

There was a meeting of the Parish Council on 14th October 1997, when some 11 members of the public were also present.

HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

A meeting of the Headmaster, the Pre-School and the Police has been arranged to try and sort out parking problems which from time to time occur outside the school.

The potholes in Post Office Lane were considered to be dangerous. The Parish Council is to take the matter up with the Coast & Countryside Service and write to Eagle Properties.

Moves to establish the presence of the Eddystone Road footpath over the golf course and the footpath by the Bantham lime-kilns on the definitive map have to wait until a review..... which would take place within the next two years.

The Coast & Countryside Service are improving facilities on the Avon walk by repairing and replacing stiles and installing additional waymarking.

The obstructive brambles outside Furzey

Close have now been trimmed back.

The South Hams District Council field officer has advised the removal and replacement (with like) of the damaged trees at the War Memorial.

SCHOOL

Councillor Stidston has had to retire as the Parish Council's representative on the school Board of Governors, and his place has been filled by Councillor Mrs White.

PLANNING

The application to build a dwelling house adjacent to Mallards has been withdrawn.

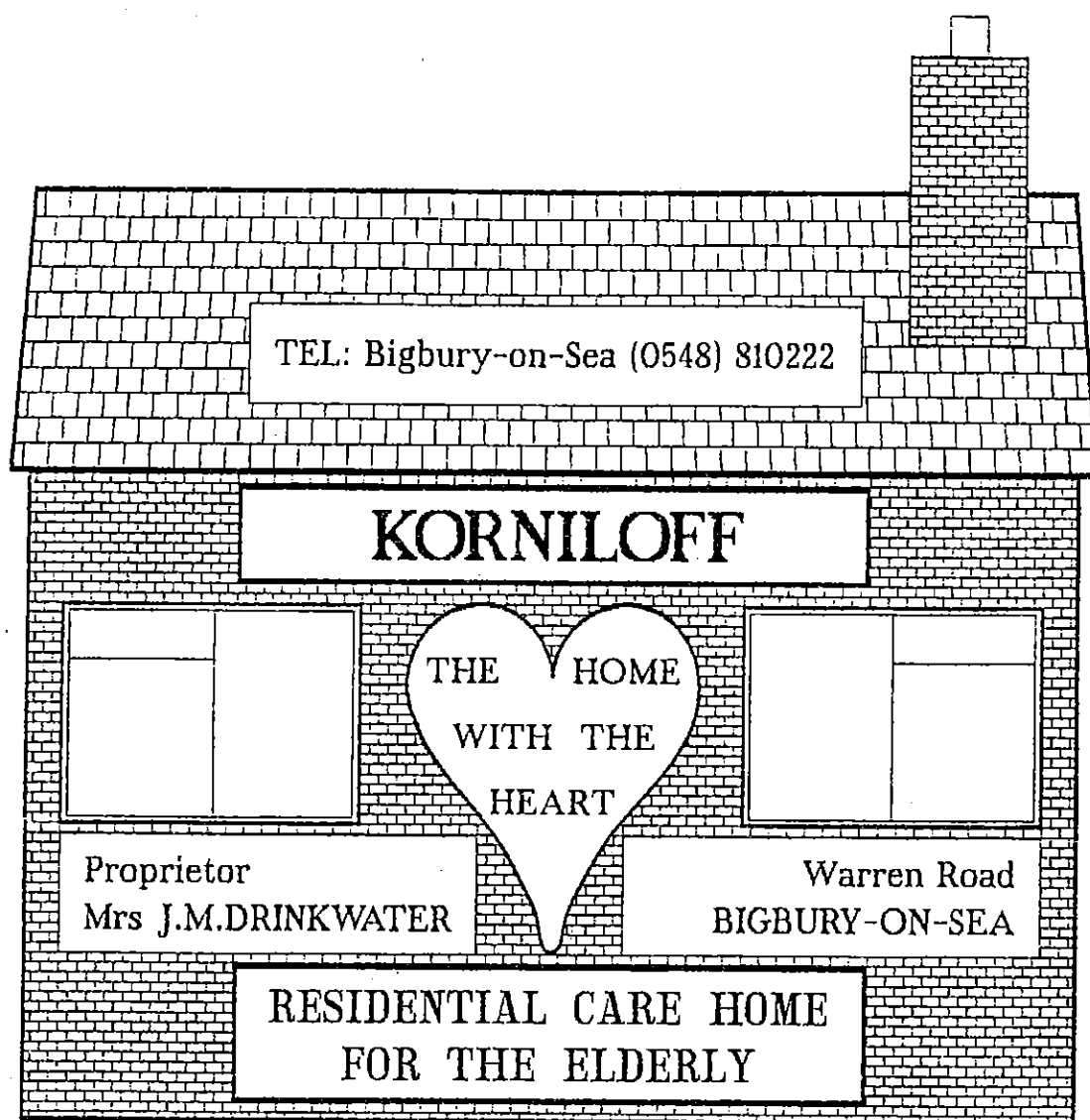
The Parish Council's application for the parish's two remaining wells, at West Buckland and at Thurlestone, to be listed has been rejected.

RUBBISH

Councillor Mitchelmore expressed concern about the Torre Quarry re-cycling depot regarding lack of space, skips not being emptied quickly enough and Friday closure.

RARE PLANT SURVIVES

Some two years ago Village Voice published a letter from the Botanical Society of the British Isles saying there was a very rare Red Data Book wild plant, polycarpum tetraphyllum, or four-leaved allseed, growing on a footpath near the Mead. To quote the Society's letter *"It is an insignificant plant but it is nationally very important ...it would be appreciated if the small patch of ground it is growing on was not sprayed, fertilised or dug over."* It was not as scarce as was thought, as one resident said her vegetable patch tended to get overgrown with it! The Society was duly grateful for this news and said it was happy to let her be its guardian. The footpath colony appears to have flourished - but still flourishes in the vegetable patch. Nice to explain the patch's untidiness as *"Oh, that's an endangered species I'm nurturing for the Botanical Society of the British Isles!"*



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Village News Round-Up

NEW BOBBY

We now have a new community police constable working for us, WPC Jan Utting. Jan has been stationed at Kingsbridge for the past year and we look forward to the opportunity of meeting and greeting her if she is able to come to our next parish council meeting on the 9th December.

Meanwhile PC Steve Mutton is going to sort out the Neighbourhood Watch problems in the Chillington area. We send him our thanks for the period he looked after us and wish him well in his new work.

YOUTHFUL VIEWS

Required for the millennium video (The Land of the Five Beaches) - young people to volunteer to talk about Thurlestone today and tomorrow. If you are interested in your parish and would like to be involved please contact Al Parker - 560330.

USE IT OR LOOS IT

The public conveniences near to the golf club are possibly on the hit-list of loos to be closed during the winter, or permanently, because according to a South Hams Council cost-cutting survey they are under-used. If eleven of the least-popular public loos are closed during winter a saving of £12,400 could be made, they say, but the Health & Safety committee has further investigations to complete before decisions are taken.

NEARLY

Michael Barton's second appearance on television's Fifteen-to-One was screened on November 13th. He didn't win this time, but he made it to the final four....so well done that man for getting so far!

FENCING

Thurlestone Golf Club, after negotiation with the planning authorities, proposes to reduce its much-criticised protective fencing to more acceptable levels. This, say the planners, would reduce significantly the visual impact of the fence.

It was suggested that a planting of fast-growing shrubs and bushes would also help.

COOK BOOK WITH A DIFFERENCE

A novel cookery book in flip-up three-part form - one section for starters, one for main courses and one for puds - has been produced by Thurlestone resident Peter Wright. You can design your dinner party menu by flipping through, selecting and having on view the three recipes of your choice at once!

These are all from the Peter Wright Collection, and jolly good they are too. The "NEW DEVON GUIDE TO EASY ENTERTAINING" is on sale at just £4.00 a copy, all profits to the Friends of Thurlestone Church funds. It would make a wonderful Christmas present....and not expensive to post. Ring 560216 to enquire.

BRIDGE CLUB

The Friday Bridge Club held its Annual General Meeting at the Parish Hall on Friday, 31st October. Dorothy Stone was elected Chairman for the coming year, along with Dr John London (Treasurer) and Sheila Tootill (Secretary) as the other elected officers.

David and Kitty Cook took the 1997 prize for the highest overall aggregate, and also the prize for the "best improvers" over the year.

There's just no holding them!

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AND

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- * Learn how the Video Project is progressing
- * Hear David Smeeton outline the ideas researched to date
- * Put forward your own views and ideas on the project

Everyone is welcome!

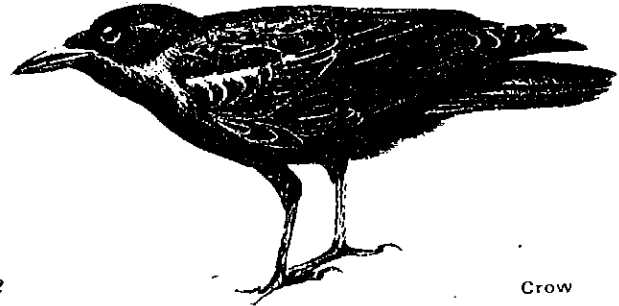
FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

Something strange, very strange, has happened. We never thought the day would dawn when we would feel affection for a Crow, or to be precise a pair of Crows. But it has.

Always Crow was the enemy. It took, still takes, or is supposed to take, eggs and young of other birds. It is supposed to peck at weakly lambs. It would take you and me alive if small enough, or the size we are now if dead enough. So, when I was a teenager, and fanatical about shooting - rabbits and partridges mostly, some pigeons, the occasional duck - we slew Crows in every way we could. Seldom did we manage to get an old one, they were much too wary for that. But we could sometimes creep up and shoot the female on the nest. Or we climbed up and took the eggs. Once in a while we managed to catch the just-fledged young in our hands.

Obviously they did no harm to rabbits - after those there were stoats, which we shot occasionally. Whether Crows really did any serious harm to Partridges I do not know. In those days, sixty-odd years ago, Partridges were plentiful. At that time intensive farming had not just about done for them, as it has now. But it was traditional to hate Crows, and we did.

To distinguish it from other members of the crow family, Raven, Rook, Magpie, Jackdaw, Jay - the books call it Carrion Crow. Maybe in days of yore, when things which died were left where they lay (in New Zealand they just seem to throw the odd sheep which dies into a ravine), Crows did live on carrion. But our countryside is much too tidy for that now, and it is no more appropriate to call them Carrion Crows than it is to call those things which yowl on our chimneypots Herring Gulls. That name must have been accurate enough when monster shoals of herrings came round our coasts, the fishermen came to catch them, and the fisher

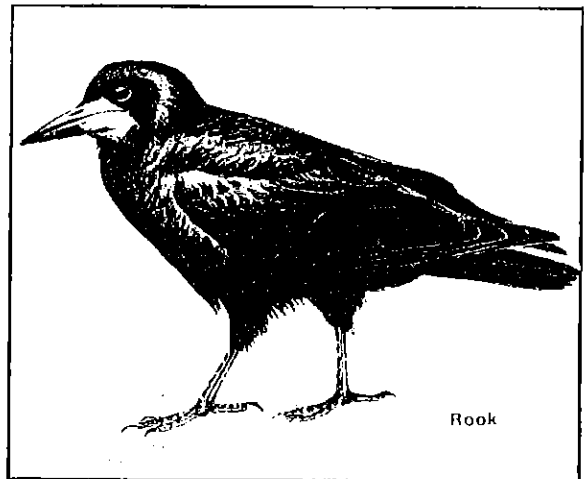


Crow

lasses came too, to gut and pack the fish. Herring Gulls must then have lived on herrings or bits of them.

But the shoals have gone, fished out, and the nearest our gulls ever get to a herring is when someone throws on the lawn the backbone of a soused one. The name now ought to be Rubbish Gull - if you want confirmation go to the Chelston Meadow tip, where you will see thousands of them. You go into the little road just this side of the Laira Bridge, Plymouth, where the dust carts turn in. There are several small car parks; you can look at the gulls on the tip on one side of the road and at those washing themselves in the River Plym on the other. Then you can walk along through the grounds of Saltram House.

Crow's nearest relative is Rook. They look so similar that they must have been one species only a few million years ago (birds have been around for a long, long time....they were here long before our ancestors came down from the trees). How do you tell one from t'other?



Rook

Well, there is the schoolboy saying "If you see one Rook it is a Crow, and if you seen twenty Crows they are Rooks". In other words Rooks are gregarious and Crows are not. Of the slides I show when I talk to people about birds, just about the most popular are the one of a Crow and the one of a Rook. "Ah, now I know how to tell the difference" they say. Crow's beak is black, and feathered well down from its flat forehead. Rook's head has a bump on top, its bill is grey, and its face is bare grey skin, without feathers. Why? Because a Rook makes its living digging into grass and soil for insects, leather-jackets and the like. Feathers on its face would get mucky, and it doesn't have them. But Crow does not dig for food in the same way and its face is fully feathered. There are other differences, but that is the main one.

In the last year our garden has become part of the territory of a pair of Crows. We think these were the ones which used to nest in the garden of Mallards, at the bottom of the Mead, in the big old macrocarpa tree which grew there. Latterly they deserted it. It died; they seemed to know. Maybe they regard dead trees as unsafe because the twigs might snap. After Ian Heelas passed on the tree was cut down and where the Crows go to now I do not know - there are plenty of big trees around the hotel golf course and maybe they have chosen one of those. Unlike the gulls, they don't seem to go on people's roofs here, though it is not unknown.

If you go to the car park at Middle Soar - you drive through as though for the Soar Mill Cove Hotel and take the turning on the left just before going down the hill towards the hotel - and then walk out to the coast path you pass the

ruined farm, which some years ago an optimist tried to renovate. A nice place to sell as time share for holiday accommodation, there being no road, no services, no nothing. It all came to a halt; the bit they did, what had been the house, with the barns, muck heap and other facilities adjacent to it, is now shuttered up. There is a tall chimney stack, and each year a Crow nests on that.

It seemed that in the spring our pair must be nesting somewhere near, because they came for the scraps which June put on the lawn for the little birds. We were quite touched: if they came together the one we took to be the male would stand guard while she fed and would take nothing himself until she had had enough. If he was by himself he would gather up as much as his mouth would hold and fly off, presumably to feed her. But they didn't seem to take enough to feed young, and maybe they were not nesting; perhaps one was not yet of breeding age.

After the spring they have just taken to haunting our area. They cannot get enough to survive on what June puts out. It may give you an ego trip, but it is wrong to make birds or animals wholly dependent on you. But I expect someone else is putting out food too. At all events, as soon as she trots out with the little red pot in which she puts their scraps they appear on a nearby roof, and they descend for the food as soon as she comes back indoors.

They are still very shy, which is right and proper, but they are part of the family now and we have become quite fond of them.

Harry Huggins

The Daily Telegraph, in its pursuit of bizarre misprints and editorial howlers, came up with this gem from the East Belfast Herald & Post on 25th November.

SCENT TO COVENTRY

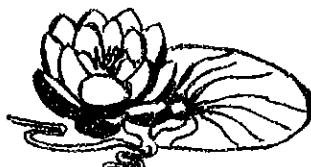
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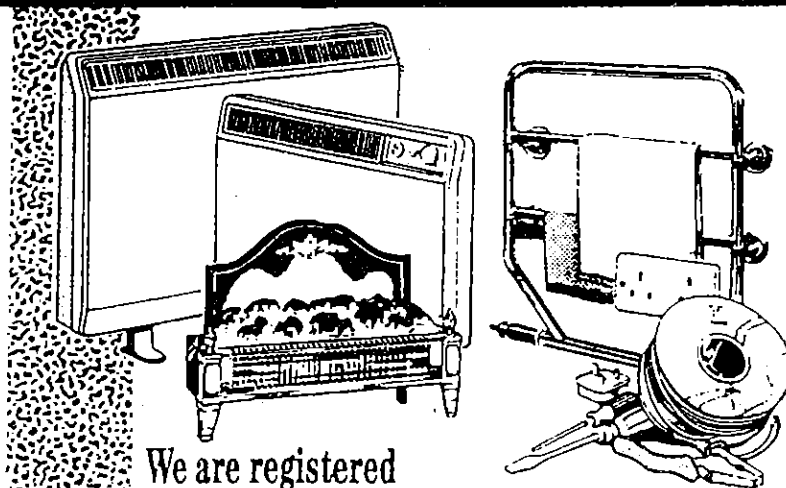
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Weather Wag

By now we have usually experienced several frosts and periods of fog as the winter anti-cyclonic gloom and short clear periods herald the approach of winter. However as we know nothing is that simple. You will have heard many references to El Nino in the media, and I am convinced our present abnormal weather conditions are in some way linked to it...plus increased levels of global warming.

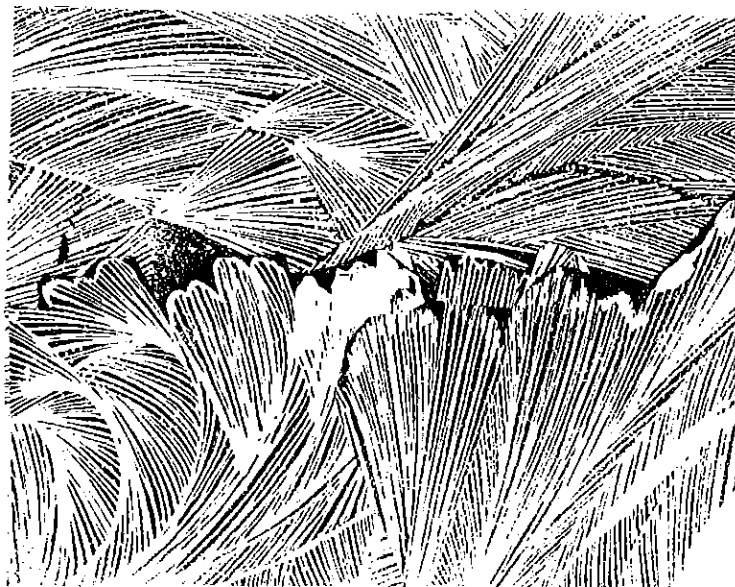
A brief mention therefore regarding FROST.

This phenomenon can be, and is, both delightful and deadly. It is always associated with clear skies and therefore fine weather and generally little or no wind. As a child (and things don't change!) frosty playgrounds at school in the early morning were great fun, and sliding and falling were the order of the day. We also enjoyed smashing ice on puddles, buckets, or wherever else we found it. There is a very special noise associated with cracking ice (the thin type, not ice sheets or glaciers) which I associate with my childhood at Shute Farm.

There is one general rule for frost to be evident. Temperatures must be on or below 0° Centigrade at ground level with enough water vapour in the air to be extracted and deposited as frozen particles on other surfaces. As always there are variables to this rule and these give us all the different types of frost. Here are some of the more common ones and the reasons for their forming.

AIR FROST. This is when the temperature of the AIR is at or below 0° Centigrade. It is after, though not always accompanied by, ground frost.

GROUND (HOAR) FROST. Water vapour from saturated air is deposited on cooled surfaces e.g. plants and hard objects near ground level. Higher up there may be no hoar frost at all. Thick layers of frost crystals on a cold frame can in fact insulate the frame and protect



the plants inside from damage. Plants are rarely damaged beyond repair by hoar frost - it is air frost that kills plant tissue.

FERN FROST. This occurs on the inside of windows during severe weather. Condensation occurs first as dew and remains super-cooled for some time after its temperature has fallen below 0° Centigrade. The first ice crystals which form trigger off a chain reaction throughout all the super-cooled drops, which freeze one by one to form beautiful patterns like ferns, Christmas trees, or curled feathers.

GLAZED FROST. This occurs when rain falls into air that is below freezing at ground level. The rain freezes on contact with all cold surfaces making roads like ice rinks and coating shrubs, telegraphs wires and all other exposed surfaces in sheaths of ice. The situation may last only a short time but the effects can be devastating. Councils dread this as little can be done in time to grit roads to any effect. The other frosts are most considerate and allow the data to be collected from roadside observation points which monitor the situation and alert the highway authorities - sparking them into action with grit and determination!

Once more, there is so much more to this topic - but time is of the essence. I quite look forward to the scenes of frost on the car window. Double-glazing does away with this pretty phenomenon in the house nowadays. I'm thinking of getting a generator as a standby this winter!

Jan Turner

Pat Machin's

Christmas

Puzzle Corner

1. 'DROP-OUT' LETTERS

First, write down the six-letter answers to the clues in the numbered columns of the top frame. Secondly, "drop" the letters from the **three** shaded squares of each column (but **two** only in columns 16 and 18) into the frame below in the same vertical sequence.

When completed, the lower frame will provide a seasonal Beggars Rhyme (Anon) when read from left to right. **Column 1** has been filled in to get you started. Now continue - and good luck!

Clues:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Thin fried potatoes | 7. Not ancient | 13. Loutish | 19. Hot and wet |
| 2. Angelic being | 8. Dormant | 14. Adult or ripe | 20. Two-wheeled cab |
| 3. Big packing cases | 9. Fond of sport | 15. Winner | 21. Makes fun of |
| 4. A buccaneer | 10. Italian resort | 16. A wax light | 22. A Japanese hostess |
| 5. Cleans with broom | 11. Person who sins | 17. Swallowed fast | 23. Be disloyal to |
| 6. Aiming point | 12. Convincing | 18. Showy feathers | 24. Urge strongly |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
C																							
R																							
I																							
S																							
P																							
S																							

C																	#						
S															#								
P																							

Answers: The answers to the 'Drop-Out' puzzle will be found further on in this issue

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(Kingsbridge) Ltd.

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Cactus for Eldorado
Banana Tree for King Kong*

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Maintained

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Kingsbridge
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Landscape Industries**
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A KINGSBRIDGE firm has claimed its position among Britain's best landscape gardeners.

The Garden Shop is celebrating after earning membership to the prestigious British Association of Landscape Industries.

Owned by James Tregelles, the business underwent a rigorous appraisal to satisfy stringent conditions of management and quality of workmanship.

Before awarding approval, inspectors visited several sites completed by the firm's landscape department over the past two years.

"We are naturally delighted at being elected to membership of this national body, and we feel that this reflects the high quality of our work and the satisfaction it gives our clients," said James.

The landscape department mainly reshapes private gardens but also boasts a number of business customers.

Full time maintenance and construction teams are at work

throughout the area, tending everything from hotel grounds to a small holiday home gardens.

Owing to the firm's position, the expert team specialises in the building and planting of coastal gardens, many of them sloping and difficult.

They are guided by the expertise of James, who holds a diploma in garden design and construction.

He shares his time between designing gardens, preparing estimates and running the Fore Street shop, which is packed with a cornucopia of flowers, greenery and garden equipment.

Up until the end of June, the firm was known as Avon Mill Landscape Department based at the Garden Centre at Loddiswell.

The office is now relocated to the Garden Shop in Fore Street to where all enquires are now channelled. In fact, because James is based in the shop, potential customers in need of the firm's expert services can call on him first hand.

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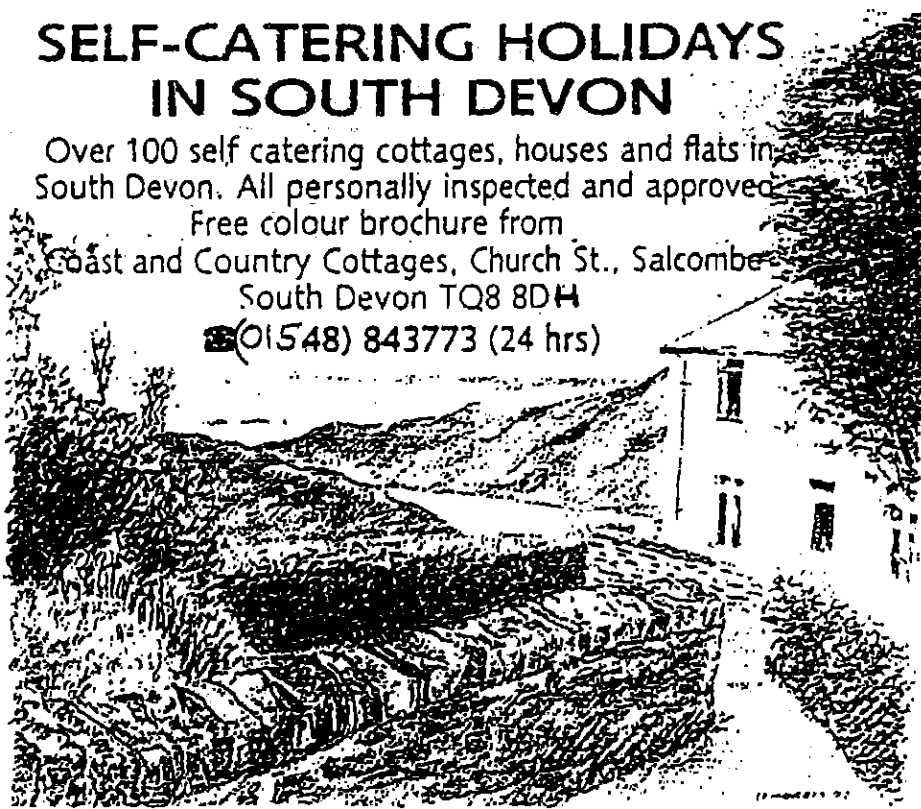
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2. CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Each number in the frame below represents a letter. For example **1 = P** , **2 = A** , **3 = T**. Enter these letters where their numbers are shown in the frame. Then try to identify the letters for the remaining 23 numbers, and enter each one in the frame wherever it occurs.

When completed, it should show a normal crossword grid. Each letter of the alphabet is used. The top and bottom lines, correctly completed, will reveal a seasonal phrase. And a Merry Christmas to all Village Voice puzzlers!

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

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



HORSWELL DIARY



The trial of the English nanny accused of murdering a young American baby in her care has made me think how society becomes desensitised by an over-exposure to horrific events. How, after a while, one fails to react in a normal way and begins to accept what is horrible as the norm. It is only when death occurs that we seem to register real shock, stop in our tracks and re-evaluate a situation.

This awareness was reinforced by the controversial **Sensation** exhibition at the Royal Academy. The exhibits, often shocking, present familiar objects in unfamiliar ways, extending one's perceptions, activating thoughts and altering perspectives. But above all, jolting the viewer from his apathetic acceptance of the status quo. The fact that it takes an image as provocative as a dead sheep in a tank or a picture of Myra Hindley to do that is a harsh statement of the times in which we live and the level of normality which we now accept.

Returning from London on the train, I felt my heart lift the nearer we got to home. That part of the journey from Exeter St. David to Newton Abbot, beside the water, via Exmouth and Dawlish Warren, must surely be one of the most scenic bits of railway in England. I love the intellect, the culture, the variety and the pace of city life but the taste of the salt in the air as I arrive home is like nectar and the greeting of husband and dogs sheer heaven.

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner when only yesterday the dogs and I were at the beach, swimming in the sea and making the most of the November sunshine. At the farm in Oxfordshire hard frosts have already turned the trees and hedgerows wonderful rich autumn colours. Spindleberries and wild cherry leaves stand out red against rusty oaks and golden beech, whilst here our milder climate allows summer to linger on with roses and geraniums still in flower and trees still quite heavy with leaves. Only the chill wind and the long dark evenings remind us that winter is on its way.

The dogs, too, sense the changing seasons and

creep in to lie beside the Aga after a hard day's squirrel-chasing. Except Bertie that is. Bertie sees ghosts in the kitchen and suddenly scoots off to hide under the long tablecloth in the breakfast room, eventually peering out with wide frightened eyes like a big black wolf in Red Riding Hood's bonnet.

We're not too sure whether Bertie actually knows he is a dog. Since we took him in as a stray he's grown into the most extraordinarily independent character with a distinct mind of his own. We sometimes think he might be the reincarnation of a previous owner of Horswell and that he regards us, somewhat disdainfully, as his personal cook and butler.

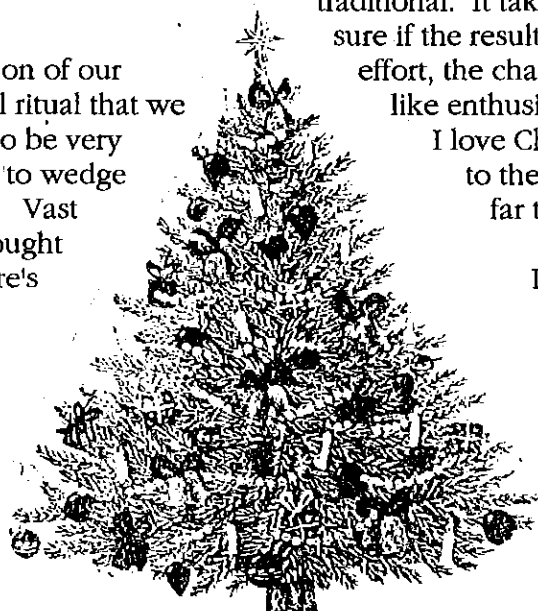
He has spent so much time in the office recently that we call him the Secretary. He even has his mail sent here now, addressed simply to the Secretary, Horswell House. He seems to be working to a secret agenda, sloping off to the office chair as soon as our backs are turned ...and feigning sleep whenever we discover him. A particularly high telephone bill coincided with the recent plunge in the stock market and we're beginning to suspect Bertie of some covert share dealing. Certainly I found him with my Times portfolio card clenched between his teeth and the business pages in shreds all over the floor after a particularly rough day's trading.

My mother returns from America this week, where she's been staying with her sister and cousins various. The Oregon connection are a wild bunch. The men are big, salmon-fishing, elk-hunting sort of men. Men with fists of steel and hearts of gold. The women are small and feisty, women for whom "going shopping" means making a visit to the hardware store. Aunt Margaret at 75 and 5'2" drives a red Jeep, carries a Smith & Wesson .38, plays a mean game of poker and rules them all with an iron will. Their warmth, generosity, and spending power, are legendary. I call them the Hole in the Wall Gang, with Aunt Margaret as the cashpoint queen.

A rather shy girlfriend is collecting my mother from Heathrow for me. She's worried she may

miss her. I haven't dared tell her that it's highly unlikely as last time she returned draped in an Indian blanket, wearing a stetson, and with a vast set of moose antlers mounted on her trolley. At least she'll be home in time for Christmas.

The selection and decoration of our Christmas tree is an annual ritual that we all enjoy. The trees have to be very large. Ideally, big enough to wedge between ceiling and floor. Vast quantities of boxes are brought up from the cellar and there's lots of excitement as old favourites and forgotten treasures are unwrapped from their tissue-paper. My girlfriend and I then run up and down step ladders



placing decorations whilst my mother, fortified with sherry and mincepies, gives stage directions from a suitably positioned armchair. We normally do two trees - one silver, gold and twinkly, the other red, green and traditional. It takes us forever and I'm never sure if the resulting weariness is from the effort, the chatter, the sherry or the child-like enthusiasm. I suspect the latter.

I love Christmas. From midnight mass to the last pine needle it all goes by far too quickly.

I hope you too have a very happy Christmas with special moments to treasure and can look forward to a bright new year.

Prunella Dart

Pat Machin's Christmas Puzzle Answers

①. DROP-OUT

- | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. CRISPS | 2. CHERUB | 3. CRATES | 4. PIRATE | 5. SWEEPS | 6. TARGET |
| 7. MODERN | 8. LATENT | 9. SPORTY | 10. RIMINI | 11. SINNER | 12. COGENT |
| 13. OAFISH | 14. MATURE | 15. VICTOR | 16. CANDLE | 17. GULPED | 18. PLUMES |
| 19. STEAMY | 20. HANSOM | 21. TEASES | 22. GEISHA | 23. BETRAY | 24. EXHORT |

Beggars Rhyme: "Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat, please to put a penny in the old man's hat."

②. CLUELESS CROSWORD

ACROSS: **Christmas**, Acres, Lying, Eagle, Treats, Ordeal, Zeal, Hub, Orgy, Pea, Elf, High, Mil, Flea, Opiate, Issues, Ideal, Swift, Arena, **Greetings**.

DOWN: Quartz, Cornea, Reset, Song, Miler, Skiver, Jiggly, Ashamed, Lobelia, Retip, Alpha, Doffs, Agree, Housed, Giving, Lumens, Askari, Title, Slain, Exit.

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

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH CENTRES

KINGSBRIDGE

Dr Roderick Holcombe retired earlier this year and two new doctors have joined the Quay Health Centre - **Dr Williams and Dr Baldwin**. With Dr Holcombe's retirement homeopathic treatment is no longer available, but Dr Holcombe will still be able to offer private appointments - please ring 853248.

The **Norton Brook Medical Centre** will be the name of the new town health centre and at the time of writing it was hoped building might start in December. There will be eight consulting rooms and a treatment wing run by the nurses. The integrated pharmacy will be run by one of the existing town chemists. Parking will be for 60 cars in landscaped grounds.

As all available capital is being ploughed into the new building, renovation and redecoration of the old building is not feasible. Queues sometimes develop at the reception desk due to there being only two stations but with the new building these problems will be overcome - please be patient!

The Friends of Kingsbridge Health Centre is a registered charity - an INDEPENDENT group of practice patients whose aim is to raise funds for specialist medical equipment and eventually to run other facilities such as transport services

for the benefit of patients. All basic and essential pieces of equipment are funded by the practice but there are many items (often expensive and high-tech) which, though not essential, would save patients a lot of time and inconvenience if accessible locally. These extra items when purchased remain the property of the Friends and are loaned to the practice. Their use does not benefit the practice financially.

SALCOMBE

We would like to draw readers' attention to the fact that a similar patients support group, **Friends of the Redfern Centre**, is working on behalf of the Salcombe medical practice. Its chairman is Mrs Pat Brooks of Malborough who has succeeded Mrs Jean Lee.

Every person who is registered with the Salcombe practice is automatically a Friend and equipment bought in the past year included an examination couch, nursing treatment chair, examination lights, autoclave, auroscope, and radio-surgery equipment.

FORC also reimburses the co-ordinators of the car service system - new drivers are always welcome and urgently needed! They send heartfelt thanks to members who have been bereaved yet in their time of sorrow think of FORC and ask for donations in lieu of flowers.

WHETHER YOU ARE REGISTERED AT KINGSBRIDGE OR AT SALCOMBE, PLEASE HELP THESE PATIENT SUPPORT GROUPS IN THEIR ACTIVITIES TO BENEFIT US ALL.

NEW N.S.P.C.C. CHAIRMAN

Monica Dickins has succeeded Mollie Oswald as Chairman of the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.



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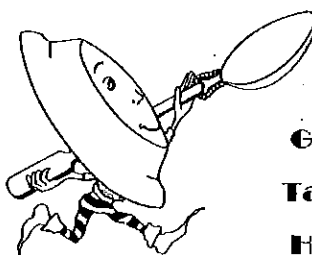
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Anyone is very welcome to join us for all or part of any evening, the more the merrier and the louder the singing!! All you need is enthusiasm and a torch! If you would like to come just turn up at the meeting place but if could let Liz Webb (560090) know in advance it would be helpful. Similarly if you would like us to sing at your house or would rather we kept away(!), please let Liz know. We cannot sing at every house in the Parish so it is helpful if we know where you would like us to call, so that we don't disappoint you, or where you don't want us to call, so that we don't annoy you!! We shall not be at the latter and it is much better than singing at a firmly shut door!



Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Every Thursday (excluding January 29th)	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
December 7th & 28th, January 11th & 25th	11.10 a.m.	MATINS
December 14th, January 4th & 18th, February 1st	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST

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The First Communion of Christmas: 10.15 p.m. - South Milton; 11.45 p.m. - Thurlestone

Holy Communion (said) 8.00 a.m. - Thurlestone
All-family worship for Christmas Morn 9.30 a.m. - South Milton; 11.10 a.m. - Thurlestone
followed by shortened Holy Communion 10.15 a.m. - South Milton; 12 noon - Thurlestone

FROM 10.30 - 11.30 A.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN,

Everyone, local or visitor, is welcome to pop in for a cup of coffee (or tea) and a chat. There is no charge but small donations to church funds will be gratefully received. Why not give it a try? Transport is easily arranged, please contact Liz Webb (560090).

"Sing Nowell" - THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH AT 2.30 P.M. IN SOUTH MILTON CHURCH

Come and enjoy carols and mince-pies

"1662 & all that" - THURSDAY JANUARY 16TH AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN

The Rector talks about the Anglican Communion

Everyone is welcome. If you need transport, please contact Liz Webb (560090)

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THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS BRING YOU HAPPINESS AND
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS REMAIN WITH YOU ALL YEAR.

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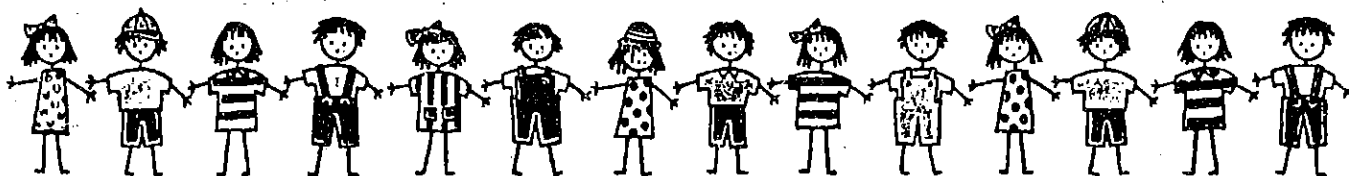
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(see All Saints page for information)



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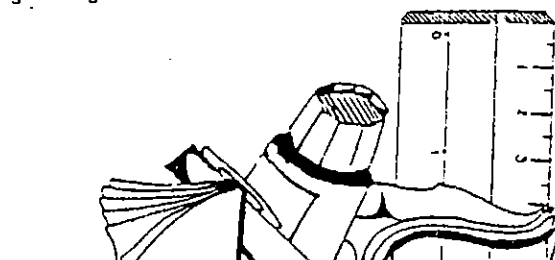
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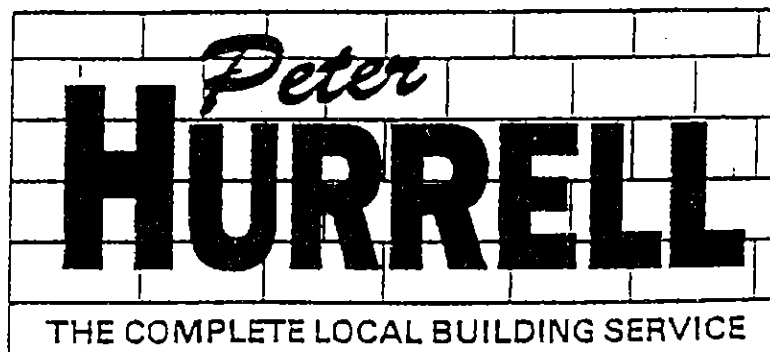
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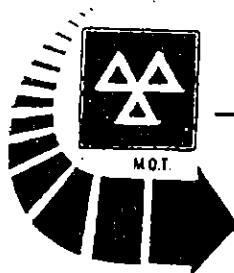
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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

Many Thanks!

I should like to say a very big thank-you to everyone who in any way supported the recent coffee morning for the Friends of Kingsbridge Health Centre. It really was a tremendous success, thanks to the generosity of so many people, as the total of £510 reflects.

My sincere thanks go to all my helpers, to Village Voice for the publicity and to Peter Bromfield for delivering the notices. Dr Brian Reeve, on behalf of the GPs at the Health Centre, is delighted to be able to obtain, through the Friends, a piece of equipment which will benefit the patients.

I hope you all enjoyed the coffee morning as much as I did. Thanks again!

Pat Townsend

Dear Editor

The Queen's Head

The excitement of the uncovering of the bust of Queen Victoria brought back memories of when I was at the school. I can remember HM very well, and we used to wave to her as we went home from school.

As I remember it, it was intended to put a bust of the Queen in a niche on the school wall when it was built but there wasn't enough money to buy it at the time. The space was left empty until, with the help of the Rector, the Reverend Coope, the children raised the money to buy her with concerts. By the time the money had been raised the Queen had died and the price of the bust was reduced, so Reverend Coope travelled to Plymouth to bring her back.

As work on the new extension to the school continued I was afraid she might be lost forever, so I asked my friend (Mrs. Lane) to see the builders and ask them if they could remove a brick or two to see if she was still there. We tried to contact the Headmaster, Mr. Williams, but he was busy teaching at the time. The builders were as good as their word and the next morning we heard she had been found and that a niche would be made for her in the new wall.

I am not sure when she was covered up, or why, but my daughter Margaret can remember her when she went to the school at the beginning of the war.

Ida Smith

Dear Editor

Notes from a Cold Climate

Greetings to our Thurlestone friends from Canada. What a nice surprise to receive our first mailed copy of Village Voice.

Memories flood back to the serene summer days we spent this year. Golden moments trekking the coastal path to Hope Cove and playing tennis in Kingsbridge were only marred by the odd trip to Trago Mills.

Now home in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, we are enjoying a warm fall with brilliant foliage of oranges and reds. What could be more English than the name "Kitchener-Waterloo"? Lord Kitchener and the Battle of Waterloo are enshrined in English history but who would suspect that this community was settled by Pennsylvania Dutch and called "Berlin" before 1914?

There was such resentment against the German settlers at that time that a bust of Kaiser Wilhelm was tossed into Victoria Lake and street fighting erupted. The militia from

Galt were called in to quell the rebellion!

We are now a large urban area, home to two universities, insurance companies and technically-based autoparts firms. Kitchener-Waterloo is also the Canadian home of the 'Octoberfest', complete with Bavarian beauties, beer tents and a huge parade with oompah bands. Sausages are to us in Kitchener as pasties are to Devon!

By the time you dear readers see this letter [written 17.10.97] we shall be blanketed in fresh white snow, preparing for Father Christmas. It is a magical time of year with the bustle of shopping and the warmth of families coming together again. We always miss the great green beauty of South Devon but thoughts of the sombre sea and the joy of Thurlestone village will keep us warm all winter!

You will be happy to know that Village Voice has brought us so much pleasure! Enjoyed the Tramps summary by Derek Yeoman, the Sloop advertisement gave us a shiver of nostalgia, while the cover picture shows a vista we have admired many times.

Say hello to our neighbours, the Dawes, and generous golfing friends Bob Nicholls, Ian Fraser and Ron Parkin. We won't be back this Christmas but our thoughts are with you all and we send best wishes.

*Paul & Cheryl White
Kitchener - and
"Thatchways"*

Dear Editor

Flavours of the Twenties

The Daily Telegraph (21.11.97) in a feature about Colchester, referred to the children's poem "Twinkle, twinkle, little star" as one of the "Original Poems for Infant Minds" composed by Jane and Anne Taylor of that town. Readers may like to compare this alternative "scientific" version which was circulating in the late 'twenties. Can anyone supply the author's name?

*"Scintillate, scintillate, globe vivific,
Fain would I fathom thy nature specific,
Loftily poised in the ether capacious,
Strongly resembling a gem carbonaceous."*

Another ditty of the day - a "commercial" for an early Oxo-type product - ran as follows:

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Are there any former members of the Beetox brigade in Thurlestone? Or readers who remember other similar "ditties of the day"?

**Roy Frederick
A Visitor**



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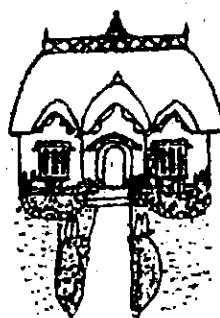
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BOOKSHELF

The Feminisation of Nature

by Deborah Cadbury

After reading Horswell Diary about trashing our planet, this is a confirmation of the view that the benefits of the last 50 years are not without great dangers. The chemicals we are using in our homes and bodies, the plastics everywhere (what's happened to the old-fashioned paper bag?), the pesticides on our land, should make us think of what we eat and how it is produced.

RM

Each Returning Day - the Pleasure of Diaries

by Ronald Blythe

This is a series of snippets from notable diaries dating from the 17th century to people who are still alive. One of the diarists, John Evelyn, went off on an early version of the Grand Tour in about 1642, after three years at Balliol.

RM

The Shipping News by E. Annie Proulx

This author is as unusual and fascinating as her name. She has had a lot of publicity lately for her book "Accordion Times", which achieved one of the "big" awards, but I found it rather boring. However, it reminded me of her earlier book "The Shipping News" which certainly is not boring, but strident and colourful.

It is the story of a rejected and downtrodden journalist (with marital problems) who finally makes good, with the help of his indefatigable and indomitable aunt, in the wilds of Newfoundland, from whence his ancestors originated. The author's terse and explosive dialogue paints wonderful word pictures of the diverse characters and their chequered lives in this remote and desolate area of Newfoundland. For the sailors amongst the readers each chapter is headed with an extract from either the Ashley Book of Knots or the Mariners' Dictionary!

GW

Bridget Jones's Diary

by Helen Fielding

This book has been top of the best sellers list for weeks and weeks, which I realise does not necessarily make it any good, but I think it deserves its success because of its originality, wit and irreverent sense of humour.

It really is very funny indeed in parts....though I must warn you that the language is pretty basic at times and therefore not for the prudish.

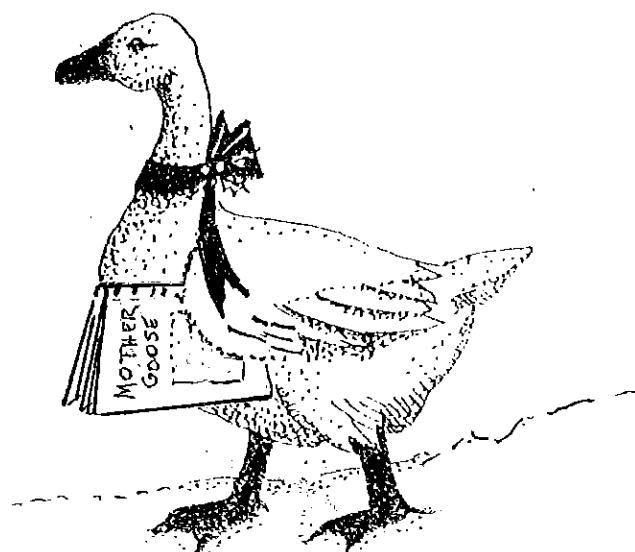
GW

Notes from a Small Island

by Bill Bryson

After living in Britain for almost 20 years, American Bill Bryson returns to his native land. Before doing so he makes one last trip around our country to try and analyse what it is that makes him love us so! It's a very entertaining and readable book - it's hard not to laugh out loud - at the conclusion of which the author's final verdict on Britain today is refreshingly heartening. *"It is still the best place in the world for most things - to post a letter, go for a walk, watch television, buy a book, venture out for a drink, go to a museum, use the bank, get lost, seek help, or stand on a hillside and take in a view...and I know without doubt I'll be back".*

PM



BANTHAM SURF LIFE-SAVING CLUB

Though the beaches at Bantham and Bigbury are used by tens of thousands of families every summer in perfect safety, it was not always like that. In olden days - and some not so long ago, Bantham had a dreadful reputation for deadly currents. Tombstones - "drowned bathing at Bantham" - in nearby churchyards show that the risk to swimmers was not exaggerated by locals' warnings.

All that changed in 1960, when Mr. Maitland Tribe, the local expert on beach safety, formed the Bantham Surf Life-Saving Club. A small number of local residents and strong swimmers joined at once and started training. At first they had to learn from established surf life-saving clubs. A team from Perranporth, Cornwall, for example, came to Bantham to demonstrate the latest use of the reel and line.

Gradually, the members became expert in all methods of saving lives at Bantham. Their first club house lagged well behind their expertise. It was a wooden shed on top of a World War Two pillbox, which was sited so that machine guns could sweep the whole beach in the event of a German invasion and could also protect the nearby entrance to the River Avon. It took nine years for that first clubhouse to be replaced with a prefabricated concrete construction which had a garage and which used the old pillbox as a storage area.

New equipment followed swiftly on the reel and line. Rescue boards and rescue skis made their appearance. And then came the club's first boat - an inflatable with outboard motor. Since that first boat there have been four others - each one better than the one before -

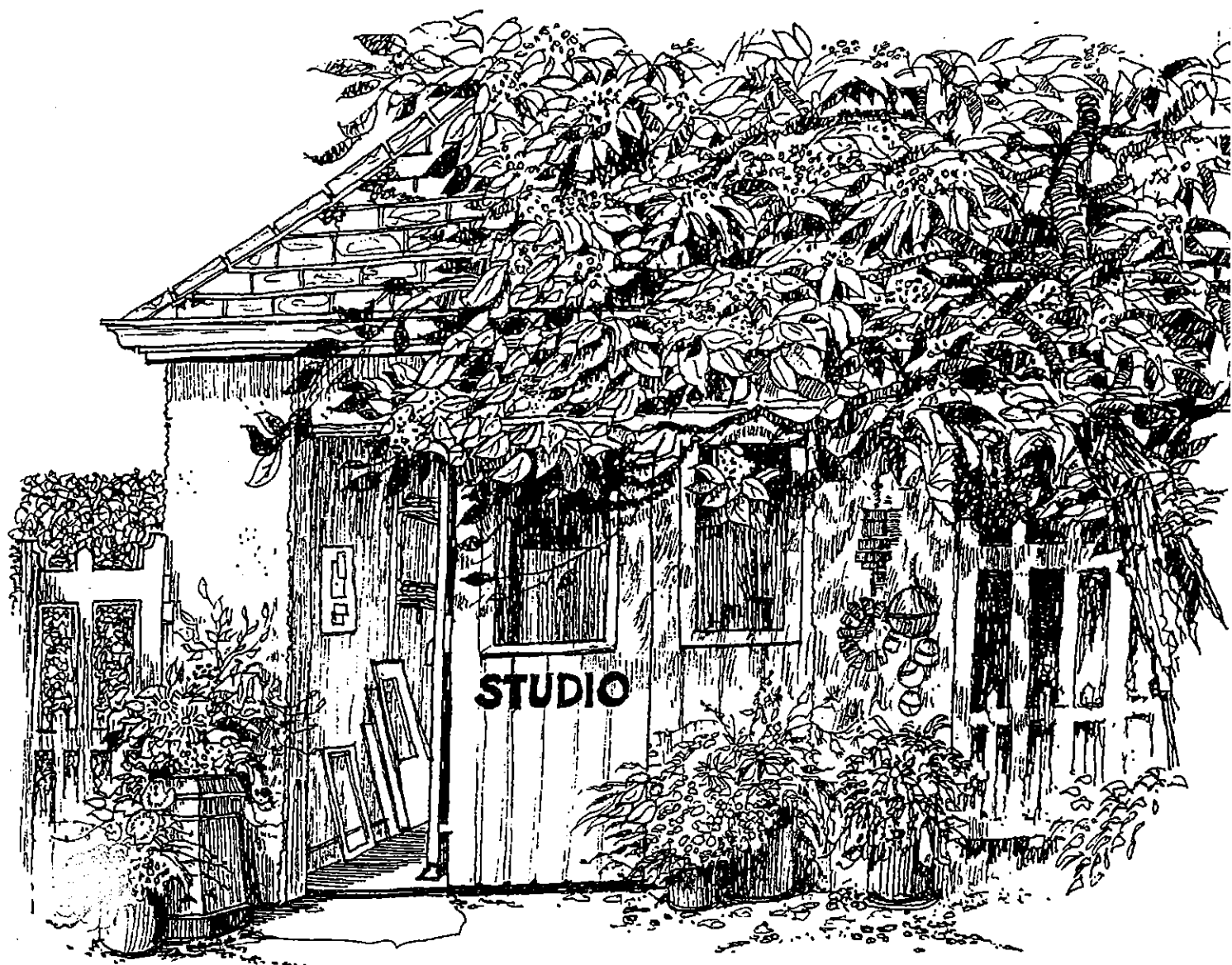
the best of all being a top-quality inflatable surf rescue boat imported specially from New Zealand. It is now a tried and tested and most valuable piece of club equipment. All this equipment would have been useless without the people to use it. Happily, over the past five years membership has doubled to 110 members.

This means that Bantham and Bigbury beaches are now patrolled from mid-May to the end of September by the club's highly-trained lifeguards. All are fit to carry out surf rescues of all kinds and are resuscitation and first-aid experts, able to use the latest medical revival equipment. The club has carried out many rescues, and is closely linked with H.M. Coastguard.

The recent welcome increase in the number of club members means that they have now well outgrown their present clubhouse. This is why they are currently fund-raising for a new more suitable clubhouse with more storage space for the increasing amounts of modern rescue equipment needed to keep Bantham and Bigbury beaches accident-free in the summers to come.

You will have read in our last issue that Len Hubbard has produced an attractive water colour showing the site of the club (see below) and how the refurbished premises would fit into this. A limited number of colour prints is being reproduced from this for fund-raising purposes, so if you would like to buy one, or if you would like to help in any way, please contact Simon Hurrell on 01548-560521.





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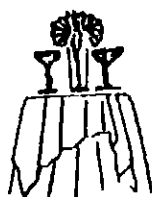
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NEWS FROM THE WI



NEW PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE

The official WI year came to an end with its annual meeting at which Pat Macdonald retired as president to be succeeded by Dorothy Candy. In thanking the committee for their loyal and hard working support over the past year, special tribute was paid to Tricia Millman the Secretary and Dorothy Candy the Treasurer.

The members were also congratulated on their involvement in the local community and for all that they give and do. Mary Johnson, Joan Lane and Norma Kendall were standing down too and their places taken by first-time committee members Joan Phillips, Carolyn Taylor and Sheila Ward. Pam Brewster makes a welcome return as the new Treasurer.

After the formalities of the annual meeting four members - Pat Clarke, Norma Kendall, Joan Phillips and Carolyn Taylor - entertained by demonstrating a spot of line dancing

The annual meeting day was also an occasion to celebrate **Elsie Brewster's 90th birthday**. A member in Thurlestone for almost 50 years, she has been President on three occasions and has also been Secretary. She is still an active member of the drama group. When asked for her recipe for staying active she said her motto was *"Eat, drink, and be merry!"* After presenting Elsie with flowers and champagne and singing "Happy Birthday" glasses of sherry all round allowed members to drink to her continuing health.

Members were given the opportunity for the first time of choosing from the complete list of resolutions which ones they would like to see on the final agenda for the NFWI General Meeting at Brighton in June 1998.

Thurlestone's choices from the list of 80 wide-ranging resolutions submitted from WIs in all corners of England and Wales were those

concerning Genetic Engineering, Parental Responsibility, Single Room Supplements, Ovarian Screening, State Pensions, Car Phones and Mixed Wards.

LATEST ACTIVITIES

A visit to the soft furnishing ideas day at South Brent, the recommencement of line dancing on Monday mornings, a coffee morning in aid of the Area home economics exhibition in 1999, a two-day workshop on the making of fabric boxes, tutored by Sheila Ward, and attendance at the county's Autumn Council Meeting at Plymouth Guildhall have all been enjoyed recently.

1998 PROGRAMME

Monthly speakers would include Rosemary Jones on skin care; Tony Murdoch on the midsummer gardens at Sharpitor; Jean Lee on her visit to the Canadian WI Centennial; Lesley Austin on remote Pakistan; Ian Marshall on Folk Songs; Dr. E. Hamlyn on food allergies; a screening nurse from the Derriford breast care unit.

The November social supper had its date changed to 14th February 1998. Before that there would be **Skittles and Supper** at a pub venue to be arranged. The Sea Coast Group meeting would be at South Milton on 20th April. In May we hope to go walking again with Martin Catt, this time in **Lady's Wood**, South Brent (spring flowers and dormice!) with supper to follow and in late June Tony Murdoch will be conducting us one evening round **Sharpitor** garden after which there would be supper at the **Port Light**.

These are just some of things that are planned for 1998. There is also an interesting and varied list of activities and opportunities on offer from the county. *Keep your eyes on the Information Table at meetings!*

TENNIS REPORT

Thurlestone Golf Club tennis section report another enjoyable summer season, in which local junior players competed with success and enthusiasm.

A new event was introduced for the very young (7-10 year olds) and parents and grandparents were amazed to see players so young hitting the ball over the net with some purpose.

The club would like to have more entries in the ladies and gentlemens doubles summer competitions. Non-members are welcome and can enjoy an afternoon of social tennis.

Members played several matches against local clubs this season and any member wishing to

play in next season's matches please contact Trish Grange - 561300.

Over the Christmas school holidays starter tennis coaching sessions will be run at Malborough Village Hall (5-8 year olds).

Round Robin junior tennis events will be organised at Thurlestone, and junior club afternoons continue on Sundays at 2.30 pm during the winter months.

Please contact Lindsey Fletcher - 560157.

THE CLUB WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL PLAYERS A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING THEM NEXT SEASON.

PEARSON PRE-SCHOOL

With help from Village Voice readers who completed the nomination form in the August issue, Pearson Pre-school have been chosen by Somerfields store to receive a donation from its Community Charity!

The school is absolutely delighted and wants to thank readers very much for their support. The amount to be received will be governed by the funds raised by sales of Somerfield community scratch cards between 30th September 1997 and 6th April 1998.

Pearson's existing old "hut", now over twenty-three years old, has served them well but wear and tear is proving costly in terms of repairs. As explained in the August issue, a new

building would help them to keep ahead of national educational standards and at the same time continue to maintain the high quality care and education service they already provide.

So, if readers, their local relatives and/or friends are regular purchasers of scratch cards they would be helping our local pre-school raise the £5000 needed if they bought the Somerfield own-brand cards. There are still four months to go before the closing date, so there are plenty of opportunities to give a boost to funds from this source.

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Kate's Kitchen

It's amazing how many people either hate, or get stressed out about, the Christmas season. They say, *"It's not like it used to be"* - but there will be lots more changes in the future. No more hours and days spent on shopping trips to the towns and cities looking for gift ideas for family and friends. That will be done at home, on the Internet, in leisurely style! And if you feel like opting out of the kitchen this year, there is such a wide range of ready prepared food now available, all presented with such very tempting-looking packaging.

I *love* Christmas and all the aspects of the festive season and I already have a long list of ingredients to buy and recipes to make. I try to choose one or two puddings which can be made in advance, and the recipe below for my **Tipsy Pud (with Brandy Syrup)** can be made either the day before required, or earlier and put into the freezer. You can also cut it into portions before freezing and take out just the amount required. With a few seconds in the microwave to warm through it's quickly ready for serving!

TIPSY PUD (serves 6-8)

Ingredients: 2ozs softened butter; 4ozs light soft brown sugar; 1 well-beaten egg; 4ozs chopped and stoned dates; 2ozs chopped pecans or walnuts; 2ozs chopped glace pineapple; quarter pint boiling water; half a teaspoon bicarbonate of soda; 1oz chopped glace cherries; 4ozs s.r. flour; 2ozs ground almonds; 2 pieces finely chopped stem ginger.

Pre-heat oven to 180° C (350° F), or 170° C if oven is fan-assisted.

Soak dates in the boiling water and set aside to cool. Grease a two-pint size ovenproof dish. Mix glace fruits, nuts and ginger. Cream butter and sugar, add beaten egg and beat again. Add fruit and nuts, then fold in the flour, almonds and date mixture alternately.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared dish and bake at 40-45 minutes if using a shallow dish, or 55 minutes to one hour in a deep dish. Test to see if it's cooked through by inserting a thin knife or skewer.

BRANDY SYRUP

Ingredients: Quarter pint water; 3ozs light soft brown sugar; large knob of butter; 4 tablespoons brandy.

Put brandy syrup ingredients into a saucepan and heat slowly to dissolve the sugar. Bring to the boil and continue boiling for one minute.

Prick the Tipsy pud all over with a skewer and slowly pour the syrup over the top of it. Cover with foil and leave to go cold.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

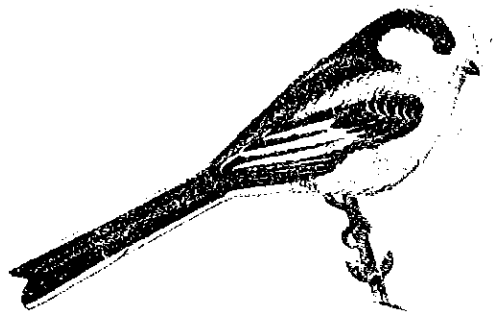
Collecting for the Birds

Wendy Oak writes about her September house-to-house collection in Bantham and Buckland, accompanied by Pat Wigg, on behalf of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

It all began one evening when the telephone rang. It was a lady from the RSPB asking if I would be willing to collect for Bird Week in Bantham. I impulsively agreed, and even suggested including West Buckland as well! Afterwards, reflecting that I had never done a door-to-door collection before, I decided to visit my dear neighbour, Pat.

"I'll help you" she said at once - as she would. **"Just let me know when you are going".**

The day we chose was glorious, blue and sunny, when we set off with our little blue envelopes and collector's identity. I felt so glad of Pat's local knowledge, company and enthusiasm.



We started our quest in Bantham and by lunchtime had opened many garden gates, knocked on lots of doors, and admired many a house and garden. We enjoyed sudden glimpses of views across the estuary, perfect in the September sun, and I felt grateful to live in such a beautiful place.

By now our tummies were rumbling so we popped into the Sloop Inn for a heaped plate of fresh crab sandwiches, a drink and, kindly, a donation. Our bag felt quite weighty with the envelopes of coins we had collected and we were cheered by our efforts and people's willingness to give and the deep appreciation expressed for the birds. Many were concerned

about the lack of blackbirds and blue tits in their gardens this year.....



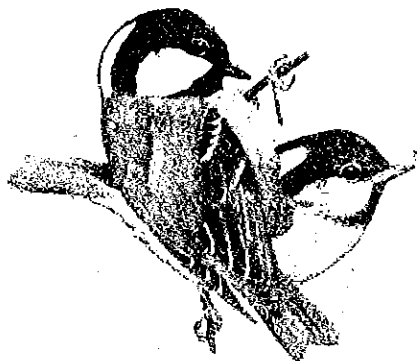
Refreshed and refuelled we set off again, this time to West Buckland. It was lucky that Pat was with me as I would never have found the kaleidoscope of houses and cottages, with enchanting names, tucked away there. Up and down steps....in and out of little lanes....we made our intrepid way, pausing often to enjoy the tranquility of this lush green, secret village, and the warm sun on our faces.

By teatime our little blue envelopes were all gone and with our bag by now a lot heavier we made our way home to Aune Cross. While Pat made us a much-needed cup of tea I counted all the donations, which came to an amazing £45!

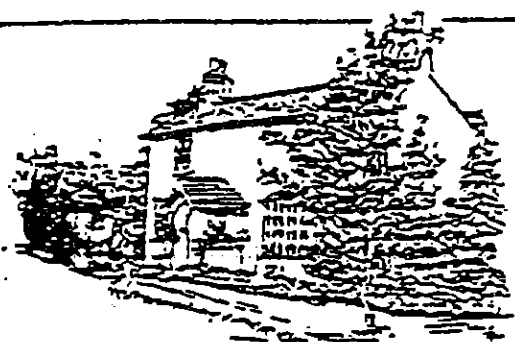
Later, with the pinky gold sunset sky, I returned to Bantham to collect the envelopes left that morning. At the end of the day, we had raised a total of £55 for the RSPB.

That night I lay in bed thinking of (1) how kind, friendly and giving most people had been and (2) how marvellous Pat is for her age.

As I closed my eyes I prayed with fervour that I'd be like her and have her enthusiasm, energy and generosity of spirit when I am aged 79.



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£130 or £140 p.w. includes
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ROY AND JENNY LITTLEJOHNS
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Call in and see us at

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852327

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

Sat. 6th NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Tue. 9th Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 10th Mobile Library calls (see inside for times)
TRAMP - Christmas Walk
Thur.11th WI Christmas Lunch (contact Pat Clarke 561982)
Millennium Video Evening, The Sloop, 7.30 pm
Sat. 13th Millennium Video Evening, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 24th Mobile Library calls

JANUARY

Wed 7th Mobile Library calls
Thur. 8th WI - Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Mon 12th WI - Skittles & Supper (TBA)
Wed 14th TRAMP (TBA)
Tues 20th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm.
Wed 21st Mobile Library calls

Please notify Village Voice of any corrections, changes, additions, or forthcoming events by the deadline for the next issue.

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

Village Voice is distributed free to permanent residents of the villages in the parish.

There is also a subscription service, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost of £7.00. Please apply to:

Sheila Parker, 8 Mead Lane, Thurlestone (01548-560330)

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship. This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

Your copy is delivered to you by our volunteer distributors - dairyman PETER BROMFIELD in Thurlestone and MRS JEAN HURRELL in Bantham and Buckland.

The deadline for the next issue is 5th January 1998.

Please drop any contributions marked "Village Voice" through the letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date (or e-mail to 106052,3170 @ compuserve.com)

PARISH

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse	560447
BOWLS CLUB (indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayment	560490
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	842467 560708
COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	Contact Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kendall McDonald	560239
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary, Dick Warston	560405
TENNIS SECTION	Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560157
KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	Contact Brenda Murch	560487
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact John Lonsdale	560742
LINE DANCING Mondays, 10 - 11 am Parish Hall	Contact Pat Clarke	561982
PROBUS	Contact Dennis Thorpe	561519
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Ron Parkin	561215
WOMENS INSTITUTE Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall.	Contact Tricia Millman	560788
RECTOR	Prebendary Peter S. Stephens	560232
PARISH COUNCIL. Chairman Vice-Chairman Parish Clerk: District Councillor: County Councillor Members	Peter Hurrell Derrick Yeoman John Lonsdale Martyn Grose Simon Day John Dayment David Grose Charles Wichebourne Geoffrey Stidston Veronica White	560496 560607 560742 560396 01752 - 691212 560295 560375 560802 560695 560236

DIRECTORY

HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge Salcombe	853551 842284
MILK DELIVERY	Peter Bromfield	856494
NEWSPAPERS	Thurlestone Village Store Open weekdays 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Sunday 9.00 am - 10.00 am	560211
PARISH HALL. Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Joan Lane	561006 560158
POST OFFICES Open daily 9 am - 1pm and 2 - 5 pm Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday-Friday 10.30 am Saturday, 11 am Sunday	Thurlestone Bantam	560624 560645
Postal collections 9.30 am and 4.10 pm Monday-Friday 9.30 am Saturday, 11 am Sunday		
POLICE Emergency (life threatened, persons injured, offenders nearby etc.) Central Switchboard (admin. matters or service, department or police station) Force Enquiry Centre (non-urgent - 24 hours a day) (reporting a crime or other incident, asking for information or advice) Confidential information		999 0990-7 77-444 0990-7 00-400 0800-5 55-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION	Thursday (Friday in Bank Hol Monday weeks)	
BUSES (Western National) Wednesdays and Fridays	Thurlestone Church to Kingsbridge Quay leaves 9.53 am - returning 12.15 pm. Return from Plymouth (bus station) at 4.30 pm arriving Thurlestone 5.56 pm	
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight	560220
LIBRARY Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays	Kingsbridge 11.10 - 11.30am Bantam 11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall 12.20 - 12.35pm Thurlestone Church 12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sands	852315

Free for All?

Do you know of any permanent resident of Thurlestone who doesn't get a FREE copy of Village Voice?

If you get your milk from Peter Bromfield you will get Village Voice delivered free with your milk. If you get missed out, please ask for your copy at Burwood Gallery.

If you are a permanent resident - but don't get your milk from Peter Bromfield - you can still get a free copy of Village Voice. But you have to supply your name to Village Voice, and then you can collect your free copy of each issue from Burwood Gallery (opposite the school).

If you know someone who qualifies - tell any member of the production team (names on front page).

They'll arrange it - for free!

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RONAY
PUB GUIDE

Tel. Kingsbridge
560489/560215

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up to
six

