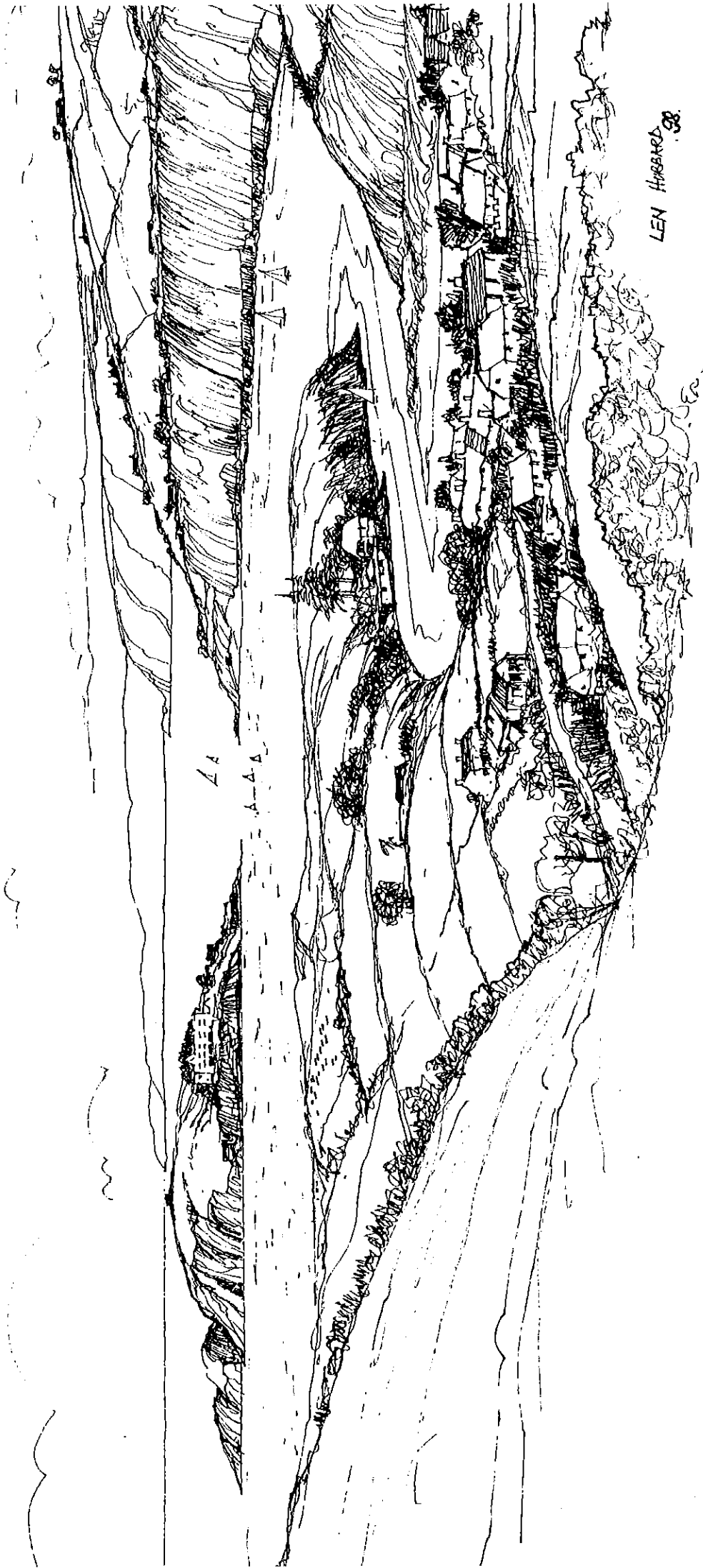


VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1998





NUMBER 89
FEBRUARY - MARCH 1998

Our "Postbag" this month recounts the tale of a recent crisis and its happy conclusion. It illustrates (among other things) how *good* communications can help things along at the local level.

With plenty of important "parish pump" concerns due to be keeping many of our readers occupied in the coming year (the future of the Parish Hall, the preparation of the millennium video, new planning applications and building developments, etc.) is this perhaps a good moment for us all to consider making an "extra" New Year resolution to communicate better with each other in 1998?

Village Voice promises, as a regular medium of communication to, and between, all parish residents that it will make every effort to help the process of keeping you well informed on local matters of great pith and moment - as well as some of the less pithy ones - and urges you to play YOUR part in whatever ways you can.

So why not, for instance, fill in that (overlooked?) Parish Hall questionnaire (previous issue of Village Voice) and send it in to Rowland Cole - to make sure YOUR point of view on this subject is heard and registered?

Perhaps we can all try to make our common New Year resolution **"COMMUNICATE - IN '98"**

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Published Bi-monthly

New Year, New Thurlestone!

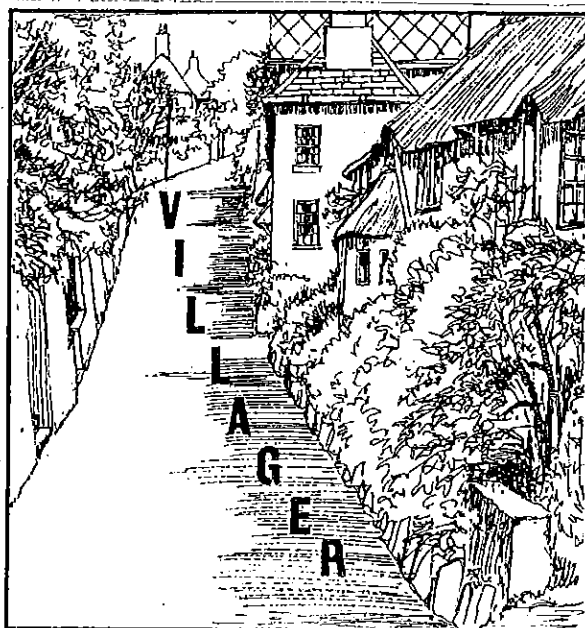
That seems a fair description of the changes that 1998 is bound to bring to our dear old village. For at least two major plans which will change the face of the village, having been put on the back burner by the 1990 recession, are now coming swiftly to the boil.

As you will see from their announcement on a later page, Evans Estates are seeking someone to take over a new village shop at what they call Homefield Farm and most of us call Thurlestone Farm. This new shop will replace Gordon and Frances Bromfield's shop, which most of us call Broads Dairy.

I am told by Jonathan Aylett, of Michelmore Hughes, and Evans Estates' land agent, that I am wrong to describe the new shop and post office as the key which unlocks the other developments. These developments will produce four dwellings in barn conversions together with four new houses behind the Church at the farm itself, and four flats in Homefield and two houses on the land at the back of the house.

However, it seems from what Mr. Aylett says, that if for some reason the shop could not be set up first, the rest of the developments could still go ahead regardless. Whatever happens, the Bromfields' shop will close, though it is hoped that there would only be a tiny time gap between that closure and the opening of the new shop and post office at the farm. Evans Estates' negotiations with Gordon and Frances about leaving the farm are in a very advanced stage, which is why changes will start happening this year.

But let's stick for a moment with the new shop to be created out of most of the barn fronting the road - that same barn in front of which our churchgoers park and also those who spill out



of the hotel car parks during the high season. If only the last named would park with their noses in to the barn wall, not lying side-on along it! Sorry, back to the shop...

What sort of money for the shop are Evans Estates looking for? Well, that depends, they say. They would expect any tenant wanting a decent lease, of say 15 years, to make a substantial contribution to the costs of converting the barn to a shell of a shop with living accommodation over it, and in addition to bear the cost of fitting it all out.

I guess that they are looking at £45,000 to £50,000 for the shell. The additional cost of fitting out would not be small, but would of course depend on the standards set. Despite the fact that they would be the landlords, Evans Estates do not see themselves in the long-term shopping business and might later on be willing to sell the freehold. This might allow the shop to be shut and turned into a house. But of course such a thing would only be possible if in the long term the shop wasn't viable, which in turn would mean that residents had failed to support it. Unlikely, in view of the fact that

more and more village people are realising that there is little to be gained by supermarket shopping compared with the ease of shopping really locally.

I would be surprised if the sums involved put off anyone seriously interested in running a village shop with post office. It is interesting to know that Evans Estates have been in touch with the Post Office and found that they have waiting lists of people who want to run such a set-up, all of whom have been vetted for honesty and suitability. It follows that all those retired criminals in the parish need not apply, but squeaky-clean locals keen to be Thurlestone's newest open-all-hours shop-keepers should not delay their applications.

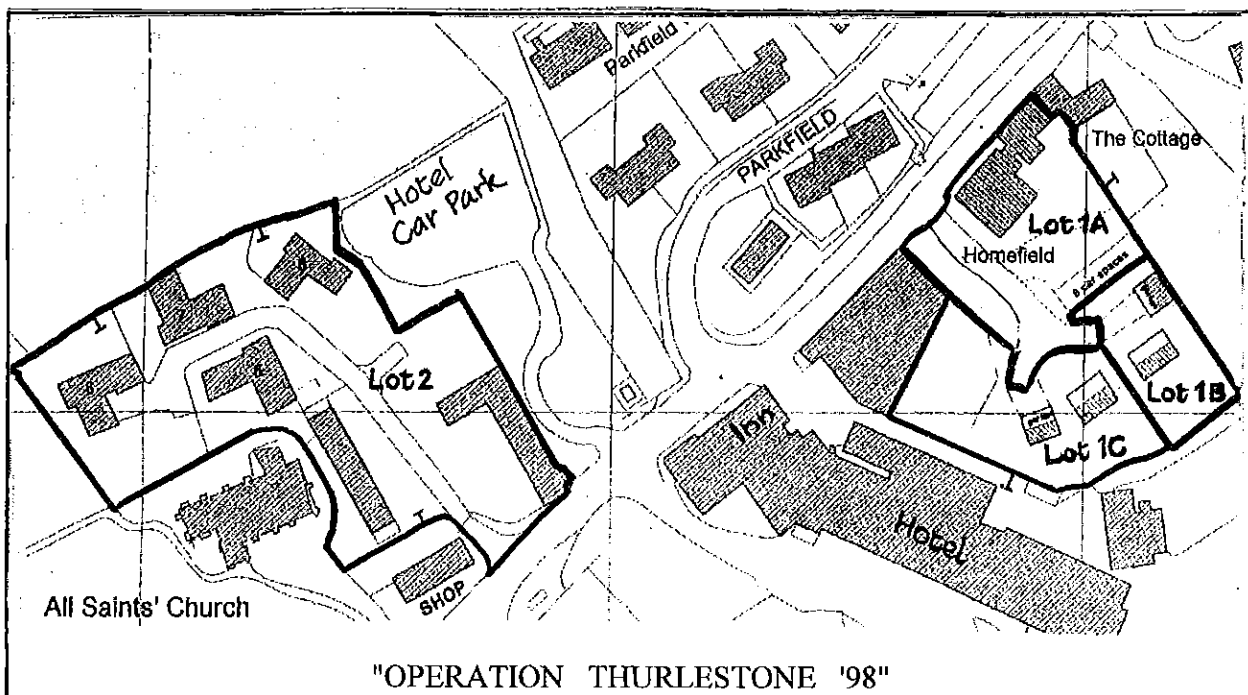
The shop is a separate planning permission to the others and is hoped to be ready within a year. The barn conversions and the land for the four houses behind the Church have planning permission and a different timetable. Just look at my lovely plan **Operation Thurlestone '98** and you'll see that the land and the barns will be sold together as Lot 2. This sale will take place "in the Spring", but when these will be ready for occupation is anyone's guess - it will all depend on the developer's finances and

what kind of houses they are! Evans Estates hope they will be developed by a local firm.

To be sold at about the same time with a different planning permission, this time for conversion into four flats, is Homefield and the part of it used as the existing shop and post office. Those villagers at present getting up-tight about parking in the village will be pleased to note that there are eight car parking spaces behind it! It is all marked as Lot 1A on the plan, but those interested should note that you don't have to convert Homefield to flats, you can keep it as a house, but you will have to shut the shop.

Directly behind Homefield is the land with planning permission for a house and garage (shown as Lot 1B on the plan). And next to it on land that most villagers always thought, wrongly, belonged to the Hotel, is the second house and garage. This is shown as Lot 1C.

So there you are, that's Thurlestone 1998 for you. It will be interesting to see at the end of it all what effect these changes have on the village. *Will they all be holiday homes, do you think? Or will we have a new lot of kindly, sensible, country-wise, house-trained villagers?*



BROADS DAIRY

Mr. Jonathan Aylett, land agent for **Evans Estates**, has provided the following statement:

"In 1990 following discussions with the tenant of Homefield Farm, Mr. G.W.H. Bromfield, and with representatives of the Thurlestone Parish Council, Evans Estates applied for and obtained outline planning permission for the conversion of the farm buildings at Homefield Farm to form four dwellings and a shop, and for the erection of four houses. Last year, the Estate Company applied for and obtained planning permission for the conversion of the barn fronting on to the public highway to the south-east of All Saints Church, to a shop with living unit over in accordance with detailed plans submitted by its architects.

If, as is proposed, Homefield Farmhouse is sold, the adjoining shop together with sub-Post Office and known as Broads Dairy will close. However, by obtaining planning permission for a new shop and living accommodation on the site referred to above, which Evans Estates will retain for the time being, the Estate Company has ensured that the opportunity exists for a similar business to continue to operate in Thurlestone.

Through their agent, Mr. J.S. Aylett, Evans Estates are keen to discuss terms for a lease of the site of the proposed new shop with any interested parties, who should contact Mr. Aylett at Michelmores Hughes, Gate House, Totnes TQ9 5RZ (01803-862002)."

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

The Chairman, Rowland Cole, reports that the Hall's management committee have discussed, and decided to implement, some improvements in the kitchen, e.g. it is planned to instal an extractor fan and to do some redecorating.

The Parish Hall Annual General Meeting will be held on the following date:

Monday, 6th April, at 7.30 pm.

Make a note of the date in your own diary, or be sure you cut out and keep the Village Voice Directory page with village calendar.

And before that date, if you haven't already done so, please return the **questionnaire** on the future of the parish hall. If you have mislaid the form just ring and talk about it.

Rowland Cole's phone number is **561006**.

RED CROSS

Most people have heard about the Red Cross and its essential work during conflict and disaster overseas. Few are aware, however, of the many services the British Red Cross provide closer to home. The primary purpose of the Devon branch is to care for people in crisis in the local community but in order to continue this work they rely on voluntary members.

During 1998 they need to recruit 500 new volunteers in the county to work in the areas of health and social care, medical loan, transport and escort, message and tracing, and first aid duties.

If you think you would like to help, or would like to know more about the kind of work involved, please telephone Jane Locke, the BRC's County Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Her phone number is **01392-273932**.

Village News Round-Up

GOODBYE TO KATE!

It is with much sadness we report **Kate Hubbard's** retirement from writing the "**Kate's Kitchen**" page after more than ten years. That makes a contribution of at least 60 recipes in that time. We'll all miss her lively and imaginative offerings, both the introductory write-up and the always excellent dish to follow which never failed to please. Thank you so very much Kate. We have two contributors who will share this task in future. As they are both reluctant about seeing their names in print, we'll have to make do with initials but their page will still be known as "**Kate's Kitchen**" as a tribute to it's founder!

SLOOP IN THE "RED"

Congratulations to the **Sloop Inn** which has just won a place in Michelin's prestigious "**Red Guide**" for traditional British pubs providing high quality food. And thoroughly well deserved, too!

SINGING SUPPER

John Montague of this parish, who sings with the Stanborough Chorus, will be offering some musical entertainment at a social evening organised by Kingsbridge Liberal Democrats at Aune Cross House, Bantham. It's on Friday 27th February at 7.30 pm. and tickets, to include a light supper, will cost £3.50 and should be obtained in advance. Please ring **561419** or **852664**.

ST.LUKE'S HOSPICE

Terry Woodrow is retiring as chairman of the local Hospice fund-raising committee

and says *"I take this opportunity to thank all the committee members who have given me such splendid support and in particular those who are also retiring this year. I am very happy to say that Jo Parkin and Lindy Price have kindly agreed to take over the task of running the committee"*.

Mrs. Woodrow urges residents and friends to continue their generous giving, as a result of which much money for new building and running costs has been raised for the Hospice over the years. Further developments at the Hospice are being planned as the numbers using their facilities continue to increase. Our local Hospice deserves all the help it can get and relies on us all to enable it to continue offering compassionate care to those who need it. We thank Terry for her sterling work and all she has done for St.Luke's Hospice.

RAMBLERS

Basil Fox of Aune Cross House, Bantham, has been appointed Secretary and Field Officer of the South Hams branch of the Ramblers Association. The group, led by an experienced guide, walks most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Weekday walks generally cover about 8 miles but Sunday walks are shorter.

Visitors are welcome. Ring **Basil** on **561419** (or **Margot Normanton** on **852631**) for details of walks and membership. The Gazette also prints a list of the walks each week. This local branch of Ramblers is making a substantial financial contribution towards the cost of the footbridge across the creek and other improvements to the Avon walk.

SOUTH HAMS HOSPITAL

Veronica White has rejoined the Community Health Council for the specific purpose of looking after the interests of patients using our local hospital. Readers please contact her (560236) if you have any queries - or complaints - about the hospital. (She hastens to say that the heavy "push" doors at the entrance to the new building, rather than the planned sliding ones, came about as a result of a cost-cutting exercise!)

NSPCC

Monica Dickins and her Thurlestone branch committee want to offer their sincere thanks to all who helped, in any way, to make their two recent fund-raising events such a success. The Bridge Evening in November raised £487 and the Bazaar at Christmas a further £853. They are very grateful for such generous and continuing support towards aiding abused and neglected children in the South Hams.

POTS OF MONEY

When **Neil Girling**, **Peter Hurrell** and **Kendall McDonald** got together way back in 1993 to produce the parish book they called *"The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland"*, they decided that proceeds from the book - after deduction of royalties and costs - should go to Thurlestone parish.

Just before Christmas some of the results of that decision, and the book's steady sales, were handed over - in the shape of a cheque for **£400** - to **Len Hubbard**, the Chairman of the Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS), to help the millennium video project.. Our picture below shows the cheque being presented at the Sloop Inn on Thursday 11th December.

This parish book, packed with historic old photographs, is available at all your local stores, so remember the more copies you buy the more money goes to worthwhile projects in the parish!



Kendall McDonald presents the cheque to Len Hubbard

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JAN'S CATERING



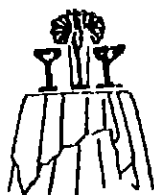
Next time you want to
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on

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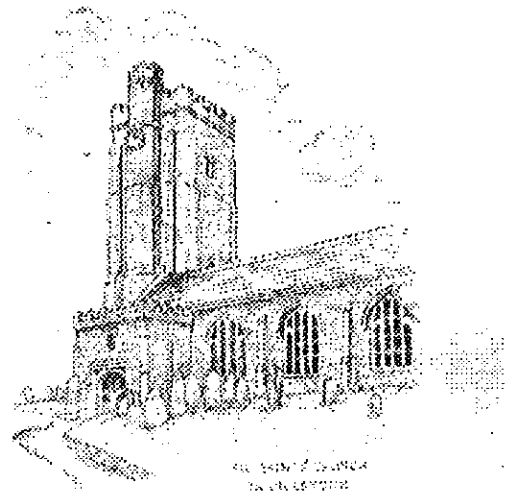
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THURLESTONE

All Saints



Christmas Quiz

The winner of the All Saints Christmas Quiz was Geoff Ladd with 44 correct answers out of 47 and the runners-up were Paddy Wyatt (a regular to Coffee-Time from Paignton), Bill and Pat Ladd, Joyce Stephens and Margaret Grose. Well done to all those and to everyone else who had a go. I am afraid I have a confession to make! I inadvertently omitted Clue 9, which didn't really matter, but also I managed to make Clue 49 impossible by combining Clues 48 and 49. "I am heartily sorry and repent of all my sins" and hope that you will forgive me for all your wasted time in trying to find a "male with a famous fox"! Clue 48 should have been "Male with a heavy weight", answer Manaton, and Clue 49 "Home of a famous fox" which of course was Belstone.

The other answers were (1) Exminster, (2) Topsham, (3) Widecombe, (4) Devonport (although Ashburton was also correct), (5) Cadbury, (6) Honiton, (7) Worthy, (8) Little Ham, (10) South Milton, (11) Ivybridge, (12) Princetown, (13) Coffinswell, (14) Harpford, (15) Kingsbridge, (16) Seaton (from Mary Seaton in an old song), (17) Fairmile, (18) Highweek, (19) Whitestone, (20) Kingswear, (21) Barnstaple, (22) Buckland (the clock in Buckland-in-the-moor has 'My dear mother' on the face instead of numbers), (23) Coldeast, (24) Newton Abbot, (25) Crediton, (26) Woodbury, (27) Slapton sands, (28) Aveton Gifford, (29) Two Bridges, (30) Dartington, (31) Holsworthy, (32) Simonsbath, (33) Marlborough, (34) Tavistock, (35) Starcross, (36) Beer, (37) Bideford, (38) Folly Gate, (39) Torrington, (40) westward Hol, (41) Paignton, (42) Totnes, (43) Lifton, (44) Maypool, (45) Cheriton Fitzpaine, (46) Sheepwash, (47) Langtree, (50) Winswell.



Children in Distress

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to the All Saints Carollers, to everyone who turned up to sing and for the excellent refreshments that were provided each evening. It was good to have such a large "choir" each evening and I am pleased to say that a record £361 has been sent to 'Children in Distress' for Miorica's sponsorship and to help their work in general. A recent report gave the following news:

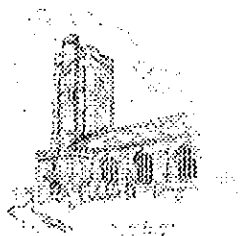
'A new storey is nearly ready in Cernavoda, Romania to house a further 20 children, 10 of whom will possibly be suffering from cancer. At the mini-hospice in Slobozia things have settled down and all is working out well there. In Albania the hospital is now open and already there are children on the wards. In Bulgaria immediate aid has already been delivered and other projects are being investigated'.



Searchlight

There were ten children at the new after-school club, "Searchlight", on January 27th and we all had a most enjoyable though hectic time. The theme for this first meeting was Candlemas and light; we read a story, acted out "The Pesentation of Christ in the Temple", with Simeon's long-awaited meeting with Jesus as a baby, played games and made stained 'glass' candles and lanterns. The session ended with a short act of worship when we were joined by the parents.

"Searchlight" is run by Thurlestone and South Milton Churches and aims to present Christian teaching in a relevant and enjoyable way through various activities, such as story telling, music, drama, craft work, etc. It is open to all children aged five to eleven and is held fortnightly on Tuesdays during term time in All Saints Primary School. If you know children who would be interested or would like further information, please contact Liz Webb (560090).



All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Every Thursday	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
February 1st, & 15th, March 8th & 22nd	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
February 8th & 22nd, March 1st, 15th & 29th	11.10 a.m.	MATINS

Special Services in South Milton Church

FAMILY SERVICE	February 8th & March 1st	9.30 a.m.
ASH WEDNESDAY - HOLY COMMUNION	February 25th	6.00 p.m.
MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE	March 22nd	



Coffee-Time TAKES PLACE WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS

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).



All Saints Fellowship

AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN

"Is now and ever shall be" - THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH AT 2.30 P.M.

Churches in Woodleigh Deanery - Penny McDonald

"Coasting Along" - THURSDAY MARCH 19TH

Wildlife on the coast - Gordon Waterhouse & Brian Ashby

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



Searchlight

MEETS FOR 5-11 YEAR OLDS

IN THE RESOURCES ROOM AT ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAYS

February 10th

February 24th

March 10th

March 24th

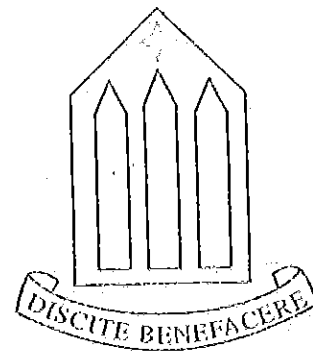
March 31st

STORIES ~ MUSIC ~ DRAMA ~ CRAFT WORK

For more information contact Liz Webb (560090)

ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

SHOWING INITIATIVE



So Queen Victoria will be formally re-instated and unveiled on Monday, 9 February, one hundred and one years after her diamond jubilee and just three months after being "discovered" during the building work which has now been completed.

There will be an opportunity for anyone from the area to visit the school during the morning of February 9th, when they will be escorted by two of our older pupils. In the afternoon, there will be a party in the school when Queen Victoria will be revealed in her new niche. There is to be a buffet supper in the evening when the new classroom will be officially opened. Tickets for the supper will be on sale soon from the school office. We hope that this day will receive wide support.

Whenever a government minister proposes an "initiative" there is often a sharp intake of breath on the part of the professional body concerned and a general clamour for the nearest bottle of single malt. Some initiatives are of such moment that we may be invited along to a gathering of fellow professionals and offered canapes and Perrier water. This process is often referred to as "death by vol-au-vent" and is a well-known psychological torture!

Here at All Saints School, however, we believe that we have much to celebrate and

to be positive about. The new room which has been created sympathetically and with considerable imagination has enabled us, for the first time, to cater effectively for the needs of children who are just beginning their education. Thanks to the dedication of the Diocesan Education Office, our School Governors, and the foresight of the staff concerned, we now have a purpose-built and beautifully appointed new classroom of which we can all feel very proud. This is **not** so that numbers of children can continue to climb, but in order that the needs of those who are at this school already can be the more effectively met. This, we believe, was initiative worthy of the name; it needed no palliatives and was truly worth the effort and vision that was involved.

It is worth noting that we have also obtained within the last year a mobile classroom (adjacent to the swimming pool) which is developing as an exciting music room and resources area. We count ourselves extremely fortunate to have been able to enhance our school so effectively and within such a comparatively short space of time.

I wish to record my very sincere thanks to all who have supported and worked for these improvements to our school.

Alun Williams (Headmaster)

COFFEE MORNING RAISES £450 FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

The organisers would like to send their grateful thanks to all the kind people who gave donations and supported the recent Coffee Morning at South Milton which resulted in the marvellous sum of £450 being raised for the *Blue Peter* Breathe-Easy Appeal for Cystic Fibrosis Sufferers. Many thanks to all from Jean Yeoman, Karen Yeoman, and Jaqui Smart.

PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish Council meetings were held
on 9th December 1997 and 13th January 1998.

PARISH HALL

When the results of the Survey of parishioner and user-group views on the future of the Parish Hall become available, they will be presented in Village Voice (have you responded yet to the questionnaire?). The topic occupied much of the Open Forum where it was closely linked with the growing problems of car parking at both the Hall and School.

HOMEFIELD FARM DEVELOPMENT

Full details of the project will be needed by the District Council before the move of the Post Office and Shop can go ahead, but the Land Agent for Evans Estates is already looking for a suitable tenant to lease the new shop. His note "*Broads Dairy, Thurlestone*" - is included elsewhere in this issue, along with a fuller account, by *Villager*, of how the project is likely to develop.

It is understood that possible village interests in a new playing field, or in additional land for the church, would have to be the subject of separate approaches in the future.

POLICE MATTERS

In his last appearance as our Village Bobby - before handing over to WPC Jan Utting - PC Steve Mutton revealed that last year's burglar had been released from prison. Local Neighbourhood Watchers please take note! At a recent Police Liaison Meeting, it was said that many Neighbourhood Watch systems in the area were failing to work because of inefficient communications.

USE IT OR LOOS IT

As highlighted in a recent Village News Round-up, SHDC policy is to close the loos near the golf club - at least in winter - because of lack of use. However, although the signpost for the loos can be seen clearly from the road, it was suggested that walkers on the footpath might miss the sign, especially if they were at their last gasp, so to speak. The saga continues ...

COUNCIL HOUSING

District Councillor, Martyn Grose, was asked to explain the reasons for the lack of progress on this item of great concern. When it first became possible for council houses to be passed on to a Housing Association - which would have the power to borrow money and to manage the housing stock more flexibly - SHDC was reluctant to go ahead because they would no longer have control.

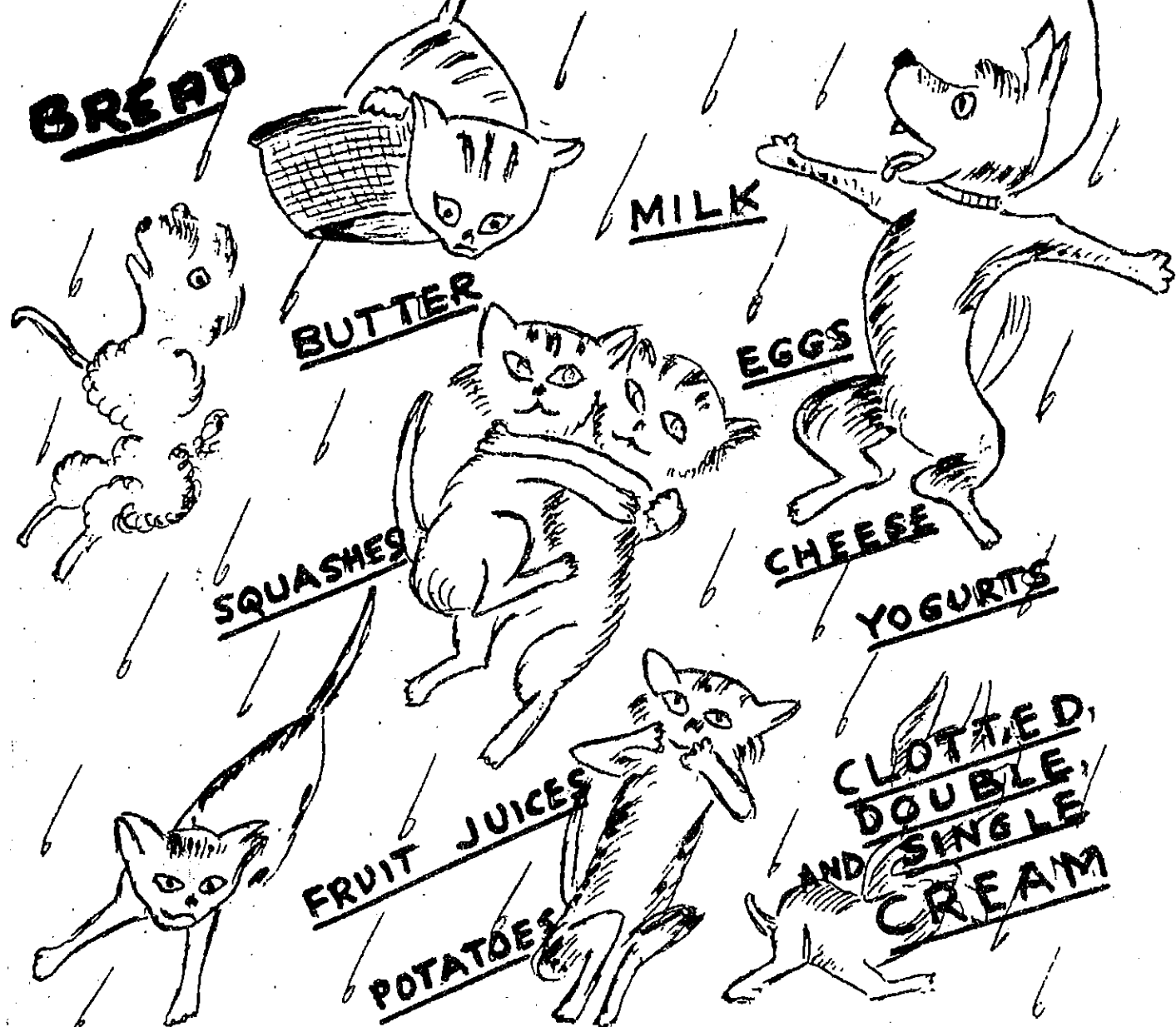
In the latest scheme, the Housing Corporation can now establish Local Housing Companies. Because these would be managed by three equal groups comprising tenants, appointees and council representatives, the question of democratic control would no longer be a problem. After the long period of stalemate, it is to be hoped that the present log-jam is beginning to weaken.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be at The Sloop, Bantham on 10th February, 1998.

Citizen

WHATEVER THE WEATHER



• PETER BROMFIELD •

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

We were interested to read in the last Village Voice about Albert Henry Foote. He used to walk from 3 Seaview Terrace, where Gran Foote lived, to our house and back again the next night to get exercise. He was no chicken then.

We also remember the bust of Queen Victoria and also have a photograph of Mrs. Toms, the teacher, and her pupils at Thurlestone School many moons ago (it is in the Cookworthy Museum now).

Our parents were married in Thurlestone Church on July 8th, 1920. Father came from Rose Cottage, South Milton, and mother from Whitley Farm cottage. Later her parents went to live at 3 Seaview Terrace, Thurlestone.

All the children from the village school came to their wedding and brought posies of flowers. They had told their teacher that there was a football match on that day (father's name was Ball, mother's Foote), so the teacher joined in the joke!

Dad was in the Navy and mother was a cook at Aune Cross House. Later they moved to Coax Cottage, Churchstow, and father had a blacksmith's shop in the village.

When Daphne was 18 months old dad bought No.3 Butt Park Terrace, Churchstow, where we had the Post Office. The front room was the P.O. by day and our living room at night. We got our water from the pump. After four years we moved to the end cottage, where there was more room for the P.O. The public telephone was part of the counter.

Mother used to sell cigarettes, sweets, biscuits and a little fruit. Father had a fruit round to Bantham, Thurlestone and Salcombe - by donkey cart. I used to go sometimes and slept in a banana box on the way home as it used to take all day. Those were the days!

Gran Foote was left a widow and used to wash dishes at Thurlestone Hotel at sixpence an

hour for the late Norah Grose. Later Daphne used to look after Mrs. Grose. She was a lovely lady and remembered our gran who she said was a good worker.

We could go on for ages.....how times have changed!

**Daphne Scott & Hilda Harvey
1 Woodlands
Churchstow**

Dear Editor

Last weekend, during the big storms, I awoke to find water pouring into my bedroom in many places. It was 4 am. It was cold and dark - there was no electricity.

I used all my saucepans to try and collect the water but as I can only walk with the aid of a stick I just could not cope.

I needed help, and thought of Village Voice! I dialled 560521 and a recorded message informed me that someone "would get back to me". Only ten minutes later the phone rang and a voice said "We'll be with you in ten minutes". True to his word, Mr. Peter Hurrell, accompanied by his son, arrived ten minutes later.

They were just wonderful. They managed to stem the flow of water and brought in a gas cylinder from the garage for my heater. They did not leave until I was quite reassured, and even rang back a little later to tell me the power was back on again and to ask if I was all right.

I should like to thank Village Voice and, through your columns, these two very kind gentlemen for coming to my rescue in the early hours of the morning.

Thank you both very much indeed!

**Dorothy Ainsworth
Court Park**

Dear Editor

"Play up, Delson!"

The exciting news that the model bust of Queen Victoria has been discovered intact and is to be re-instated at the school sounds good and prompts me to write. It was *in situ* when I left the school in 1929, and for some time after. I never understood how or why it disappeared and felt it perhaps better not to enquire, because attitudes change, brushing away the old for new ideas.

Queen Victoria certainly made her mark and Victorianism remained much in evidence after her death - in Thurlestone right up to the last war, when Hitler's evil changed attitudes. Now again, the death of one person - Diana, Princess of Wales - has caused a major world change in attitudes.

Also regarding the school, there was above the Queen's bust on the point of the roof the Christian symbol PX in iron letters about 2 feet high and painted dull red. I have heard no mention of this. It was probably significant on a church school, but now not so relevant in a society more tolerant of other religions.

Another anniversary no longer celebrated today is our old Empire Day. Now a nation practically without empire, and with a changed attitude to colonialism, we have dropped it. My diary records April 23rd as St. George's Day. As a saint's day, does the church still fly the Union Jack? It certainly did in our young days when the older boys and young men excitedly and proudly incited us to wave the flag in recognition of Great Britain, Queen or King, and Empire. Their fathers and relatives had boldly sailed the seas serving an Empire coloured pink on the maps and covering one-third of the earth's surface. Alas, no more!

Having lived away from Thurlestone now for several years I feel no right in commenting too much on affairs there today, but the past, present, and future are somehow intricately linked, with Thurlestone today an enlarged and much more

sophisticated village settlement than in days of old. But there is one point on which I am perturbed. Because a field in Thurlestone was once named "Pearce's Farthing", the idea started circulating that Tom Pearce's grey mare may have commenced from here on its famous but ill-fated journey to the Widecombe Fair of legend in song.

Please, Thurlestone, drop it! There is unique fame and legend enough in the parish to boost tourism proudly without usurping another's.....what with our reputation of coast and land exploits, wrecks and smuggling.

There are many Pearces farming in Devon. How many places did Queen Elizabeth I sleep at, King Arthur visit, Adams build fireplaces for, or Capability Brown design gardens?

I feel the old Thurlestone guard would not have jumped on a second-hand bandwagon, and I hope the new Thurlestone guard will not include Tom Pearce's tale in their Millennium video project - if only out of respect for parish tradition and nostalgia. I have been asked to contribute to the project and will be honoured to do so, hoping my comment will be understood.

Devon dialect is occasionally heard now but when I was young it was in general use and spoken by about 80% - 90% of people in the village. 'Aitches' weren't generally pronounced, except in the wrong places. The letters "u" and "th" they had difficulty with. "Huge" became "ooge" and my own name, Hubert, became "Oobert". The name "Thurlestone", containing both a "u" and a "th", may have been the reason for Thurlestone's nickname of "Delson" which was used familiarly like "*Us b'aint gwain to 'ave that een Delson*", or if the local team was losing at football up would go the cry "*Play up Delson!*"

Without your doubting my name - I shall sign off as

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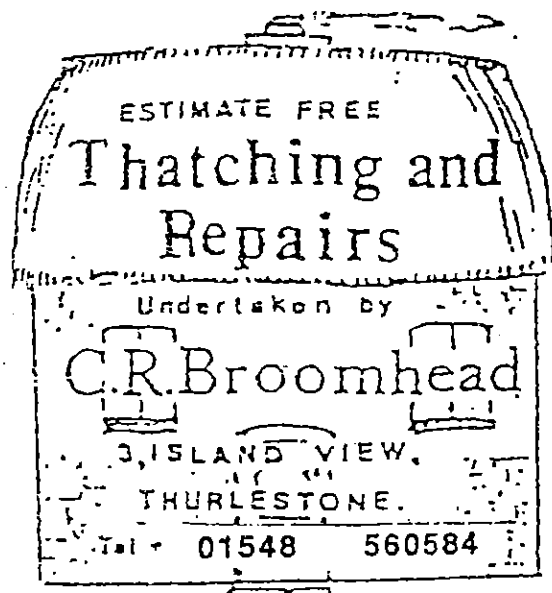
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WHO ARE "DEVONIANS"?

Ask that question to a group of them and all are likely to reply "*People who were born in Devon*". Thus a seemingly fortuitous incident confers a title for life, moreover one that can never be conferred on anybody who was born elsewhere.

It is a definition that has an air of finality about it and has, maybe, the advantage that births can be checked in cases of doubt in the archives of the Registrar General at Somerset House. Such a matter-of-fact approach may be distasteful to some Devonians who do not regard themselves as belonging to an exclusive sect and are aware of the difficulties such a forthright approach poses.

For example, it takes no account of families in which husbands and wives, sons and daughters may be haphazardly divided between those who can and those who cannot call themselves Devonians. The situation may be further confused if grandparents with strong views are brought into the discussion; they might include one who was born in Cornwall and who, Trelawny or no Trelawny, will insist on retaining his birthright. Yet, despite reservations, limiting Devonians to the native born is the most practical solution and the one which accords best with the thoughts and ideas of those to whom it applies.

Ask a Devonian what it means to be able to call himself a Devonian and he will immediately say it means much, even if he has difficulty in explaining why. In essence it is a mixture of emotion and affection, with neither carried to excess, and a proper awareness of the county's past achievements. It is a frame of mind devoid of pride. Maybe Devonians treasure most tramping across the fields of which they feel they are a part, in a way that strangers can never do. They may not be as excitable as the Cornish; they are certainly not placid. As one remarked to me recently "*Get them riled and*

you will feel the full force"....said with a vehemence that recalled the exploits of the Devonshire Regiment in the Peninsular War of 1809-1814 when it won seven battle honours and earned the title of "The Bloody Eleventh".

Accepting that real Devonians are native born, anybody contemplating the county's history faces a vexing question at the outset. Is he to limit himself to the lives and works of the native born or should he mention others who have contributed to the county's history? If he chooses the former he will present a distorted view. To take an extreme example, **John Foulston** (1772-1842) is Devon's best-known architect, but he was not native-born. He came to Plymouth as a young man and remained there for the rest of his life, leaving a remarkable imprint on the architecture of the city. This difficulty faced Professor W.G.Hoskins whose book "Devon" is the best-known history of the county. A dedicated Devonian, he accepted the native born definition and then went to considerable lengths in noting which of the people he was describing were and which were not native born, thereby emphasising the importance he attached to birthplace.

Few problems arise with the county's celebrated sea captains of the past with **Drake, Hawkins** and others firmly included in the native born. Difficulties occur in trying to assess the place in the county's history of the many distinguished men and women who have served the county well but whose birthplace is in doubt or who achieved their distinction elsewhere, often in London. These imponderables are illustrated by considering Devon's contribution to the arts, an aspect of learning with which some of us are only vaguely familiar. Its contributions have been singularly uneven.

Whilst very few counties outside London have produced more great men than Devon, an unusually large proportion of them chose to be

lawyers or painters. The lawyers by sheer weight of numbers back to the 1200s must have had many native born in their ranks, including those who achieved high office in the realm, among them **Sir Courtenay Ilbert**, son of a Rector of Thurlestone, who became Clerk to the House of Commons. How many, one wonders, of the 350 Devonians who were admitted to the Inner Temple in London in the years 1547-1668 found time to extol the virtues of their native county? Probably the majority, for the list included the names of most of the landed gentry in the county, whose custom it was to send their sons to the Inns of Court in London to learn at least the rudiments of law whilst sampling the dangers and delights of the Great Wen before returning to their family estates or undertaking useful responsibilities in local government.

The Devon school of painters, which thrived in the years 1600-1865, was based in and around Plymouth. It was dominated by **Sir Joshua Reynolds**, born in Plympton in 1723 and the first President of the Royal Academy. It rivalled Norfolk as the leading provincial school of art and continued until 1865 when **Charles Eastlake**, a Devonian, died after having been President of the Royal Academy for fifteen years. Many of the artists, about half of whom were native born, acquired national and international repute, especially in the lucrative field of portraiture in London.

Looking further afield, the philosopher and theologian **Richard Hooker** still gazes at passers-by from his statue in the cathedral precinct at Exeter. Ottery St. Mary still honours **Coleridge** the poet. Yet one looks in vain for a great figure in science, literature or music.

COMMENT

Devonians born and bred must surely be grateful for having been given a beautiful

county with clearly defined boundaries and its own history and traditions with which they can identify. Although in the nature of things about one half of them will leave at some stage to set up home elsewhere, enough will remain to sustain the Devonian way of thinking that has existed for centuries. Yet they must not forget the masses of English men and women who are hardly acquainted with their county of origin which in a big city may even have lost its identity. This is seen in an extreme form in London which occupies parts of several counties. Any attempt to designate Londoners on the evidence of their birth certificates would be meaningless. Other methods of identification have to be tried. A romanticist many years ago defined a cockney as one who was *born within earshot of Bow Bells*, a workmanlike compromise no doubt at first sight, but one which was so dependent on the direction and force of the wind that it is now honoured more as a facet of social history than as a practical solution.



SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS. The most famous of English portrait painters, he achieved his brilliancy of colour by unorthodox mixtures, and as a consequence many of his works are badly cracked. The "Self-portrait," above, is in the National Gallery.

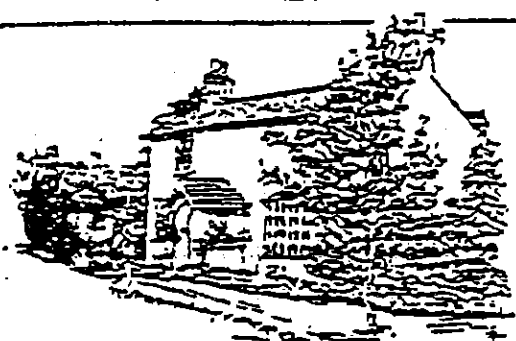
In recent times, anybody who spends his working life in London regards himself as a Londoner, at least in part, without delving too far into whether he is one or not. In other words, there might be a half-way house for the benefit of those people who would not presume to seek so much as a root but would cherish perhaps a small anchor in the county of their choice.

Such a solution would be welcomed by some of those in Devon who feel frustrated by the native-born rule.

Maybe we should go abroad to find out how others manage their definitions - perhaps to Brazil, to the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro where they seem to have got it about right. You do not have to be born in Rio to be a *carioca*, but it helps if you were.

Neville Oswald

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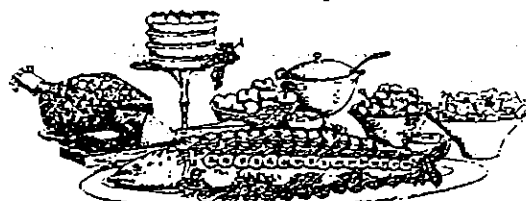
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WORD-SEARCH ONE

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. A colour
2. A M.East river
3. An English port
4. A girl's name
5. Band of players
6. Soft metal (K)
7. A painful complaint
8. A pretender
9. A month
10. An author
11. A European
12. A volcanic island
13. A hiker's bag
14. A racecourse
15. A looker-on
16. A sort of biscuit
17. An opener
18. A county
19. A strip of land
20. ? ? ?

TRA	MAR	INS	ALD	ING	ION
RIC	CHA	HRA	TIS	SEP	OMB
IBA	VER	TOR	BUL	POT	KSH
OOL	COR	IUM	ULA	REW	ART
KET	IAN	ORC	HAV	ERP	CTA
ERS	BER	HEM	GAR	EUP	ACK
WAY	ASS	OLI	HRI	IAN	GAR
TES	TEM	SPE	MIL	RLA	GER
KSC	INE	PAT	NEW	LDI	PEN
STR	TAN	LIV	IRE	BER	HES

WORD-SEARCH TWO

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

BIRDS

Find the birds, listed below, in the grid on the left. Their names can appear either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Once all the birds have been found, the remaining letters reading left to right and down will give the name of another bird.

AVOCET, BARN OWL,
BULLFINCH, CRANE, EAGLE,
EMU, ERNE, FALCON, FOWL,
GREBE, GULL, HAWK, HEN,
HERON, KESTREL, LARK,
LOON, ORTOLAN, PARROT,
PEACOCK, RAVEN, ROBIN,
ROLLER, RUFF, SWALLOW,
TEAL, TERN, TIT, WEAVER,
WREN.

NEWS FROM THE WI

CHRISTMAS

"A wonderful Christmas meal and an enjoyable time" was how the December outing to lunch was summed up.

JANUARY

An excellent turn-out to support new President **Dorothy Candy** and Deputy Secretary **Margaret Cullum** got the new WI year off to a good start.

New members - **Pat Crawford, Pat Scarfe, Diana Smeeton** and **Mary Tregelles** - were warmly welcomed. It was with regret that members said farewell to **Solange Hodge**, who is moving to Okehampton, where she will live for one half of the year, then she and her husband will return to their home in France for the other half. Solange says she will come down and visit from Okehampton from time to time, and looks forward also to welcoming any of her fellow-members at her home near Orleans.

A demonstration and talk on skin care were given by **Rosemary Jones** of East Allington and the willing victim for a "make-up" was **Alice Foster**. **Mary Tregelles** was the lucky winner of a raffle prize of a beauty treatment in her own home on a date of her choosing.

ACTIVITIES

Line dancing has recommenced on Monday mornings, 10 - 11 am. but please check dates and times with **Pat Clarke** beforehand as sometimes, due to the popularity of the hall, we have to be flexible!

A skittles evening and supper at the California Inn on 12th January was enjoyed by 38 members and husbands. **Judith Reynolds** won the ladies prize, and **Derek Brown** the men's prize. The pairs prize went to **Wendy and Klaus Neukirchen**.

On 15th January several members supported the **coffee morning** for the Home Economics Area at Charleton.



Dorothy Candy

Cooks were rounded up for the **supper and entertainment** on Saturday 14th February which will have the theme "School Days are the Happiest" and encouragement to wear school uniforms was given.

The newly formed "**Lunch Out**" group chose 26th

February at the Sloop for their first visit. Thereafter outings to be held every two months with a different venue each time (contact Pat Clarke).

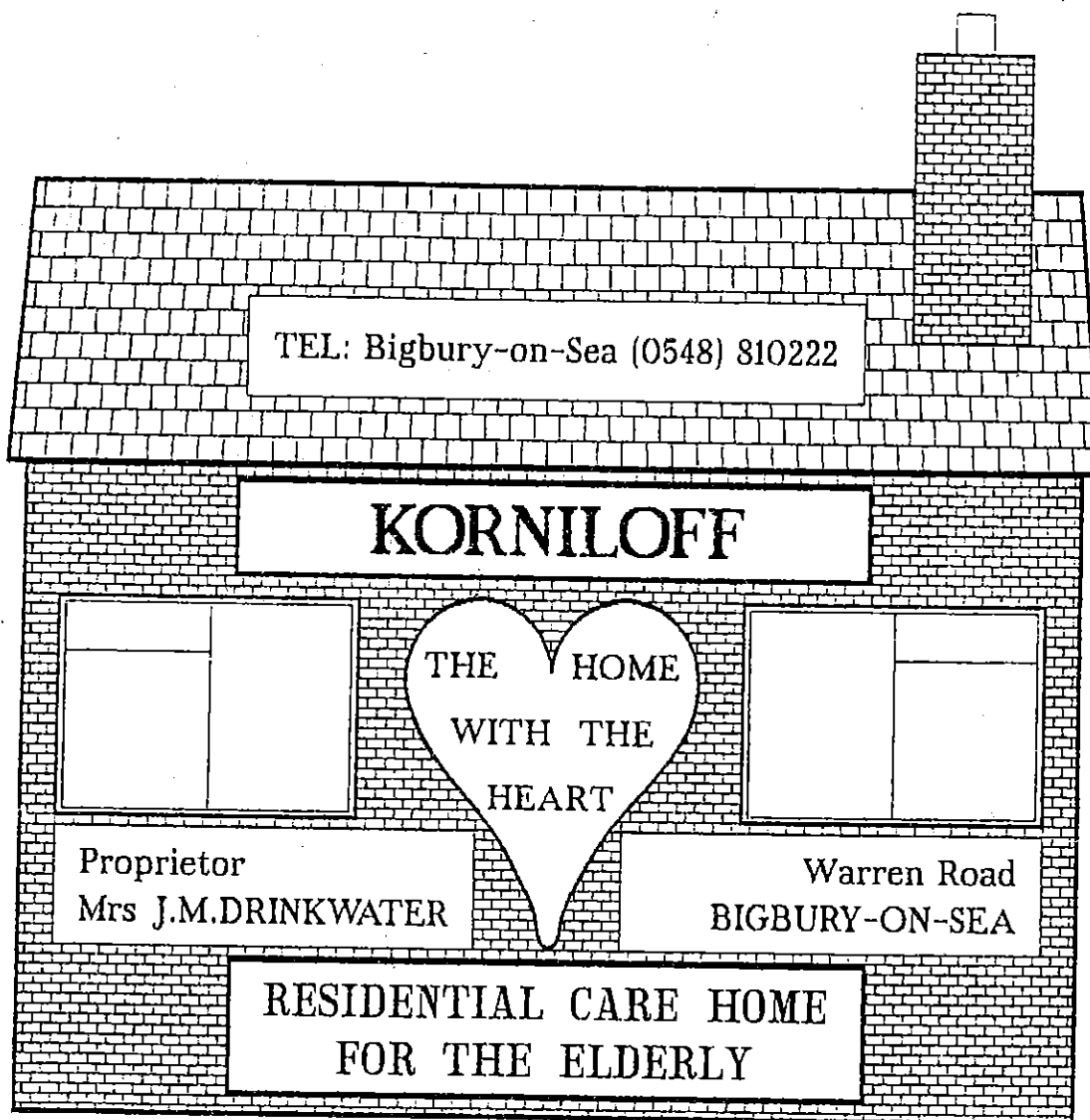
Patchwork stars was the subject for a **one-day workshop** on 26th January enjoyed by members. **Sheila Ward** encouraged members to enter the Devon County Show in May, when it was likely that Thurstlestone would go in for the two co-operative classes.

LOCAL HOSPITAL

Veronica White has recently rejoined the Community Health Council with the specific remit of looking after the interests of patients using the Kingsbridge Hospital.

CHARITIES

Members voted on which Devon charity they would like us to support this year. The result will be available at the February meeting.



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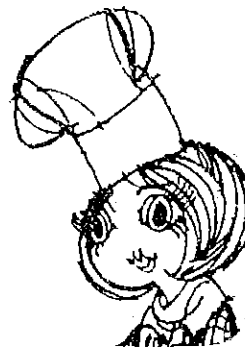
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KATE'S KITCHEN



How can I hope to follow on after Kate's decade of scrumptious recipes? But here goes with an old special favourite of mine!

The joy of this recipe is that it can be placed in the fridge for 2 or 3 days, then finished off with the cream and cheese and baked. It's amazing how the deflated little soufflés rise up again on their second baking! It also freezes well.

SOUFFLÉ SUISSESE (for 6)

Ingredients

Half a pint of milk, boiling
1 oz butter
2 ozs Cheddar cheese
3 egg yolks

One and a half ozs PLAIN flour
Salt, pepper and a grating of nutmeg
3 egg whites, stiffly beaten
Quarter pint single cream

Method

Put flour, butter and seasoning into a liquidiser. Pour boiling milk on and liquidise. This should cook the flour, but if you are not quick enough, return to pan and stir until flour is cooked. Add cheese and egg yolks and liquidise again (or beat well if you have no liquidiser). Fold in egg whites and then three-quarters fill six well-oiled ramekins.

Put into a bain-marie for 15-20 minutes at 170° C (or 160° C if using a fan oven). They should be well risen.

To serve

Turn each soufflé out and place on a serving dish. Sprinkle with a little grated cheese and pour the cream around, to about half way up. They then need 10 minutes in a moderate oven.

If you are serving them as a starter, ten minutes before you think your guests will finish their drinks, slip out and pop them in the oven and *hey presto!* in ten minutes they are all risen up and ready to serve.

As a change from cheese, a few flakes of salmon or small pieces of smoked salmon can be used to flavour. I usually double up the recipe and so make 12 at a time as my liquidiser and oven tray can just about cope with that amount.

R.M.

MILLENNIUM VIDEO REPORT

£5,350 RAISED SO FAR - CONGRATULATIONS TO THURLESTONE, BANTHAM AND WEST BUCKLAND!

FUND-RAISING PROGRESS

Fund raising has gone very well in the past few months. In October £130 was raised at a coffee morning in Buckland. In December two exhibitions were held in the Sloop Inn, and the Parish Hall. Len Hubbard, POTS chairman, with the help of the local school children, created a colourful and dramatic visual display of what the project is all about - the History, Life and Times of the people of the Parish.

At the Bantham exhibition Kendall McDonald, local historian, and Neil Girling, the landlord of the Sloop Inn, who between them wrote and produced the History of Thurlestone, presented the Project with a cheque for £400, out of the profits the book has made. Around 150 people attended the two exhibitions and individual donations brought in another £200.

Meanwhile the efforts of the Project's Fund-Raisers have borne fruit. The Rural Projects Fund for Villages in Action has given the project a grant of £500, and in the past week we have received a further donation of £1,000, from Rural Action for the Environment, a fund backed by the Countryside Commission, English Heritage and the Rural Development Commission.

Add that to the £3,120 grant from the Arts Council and we are on our way to raising the £10,000 plus that we need. But we cannot rest on our fund-raising laurels. Watch this space! Shortly there will be a new fund-raising initiative to encourage everyone in the Parish to get involved.

SO HOW IS THE PROJECT PROGRESSING?

The filming of interviews with older residents is underway. Their memories of life in the parish in earlier years are a vital part of our heritage and sense of place. With their permission we shall be donating their

full length interviews to the Regional Film Archive, in Plymouth, so they are preserved for future generations. We shall start filming in earnest from March onwards when the weather improves.

No! We did not miss the hurricane! Two Project cameramen were out on the cliff tops filming the storm. Try and hold a camera steady in 90 to 100 mph winds! Yes, we got the shots we will need.

We have film of Queen Victoria's "head" being discovered in the school, and we shall be filming when she is put back in the new niche. There will be an unveiling ceremony on February 9th.

From now on the project team should be told instantly if anything unusual or dramatic happens in the parish. The cameras need to be there at once. Don't wait a few days before telling us. Ring David Smeeton, the Project Co-ordinator, straight away on **01548-562041**. You can leave a message on his answer phone if he is out.

The Project needs practical help too. As filming goes ahead the footage will need to be rough edited. The Project needs a secure room somewhere in the parish where film and editing equipment can be stored, and where the team can have regular access for viewing and editing, before the final production stages. The room is needed from Spring onwards until late 1999. Does anyone have any bright ideas? Can you help the project with this vital facility?

Finally, do you know of anyone who may have 8 mm or 16 mm film of events in the Parish in older days. We have traced some, but there may be more such footage out there. Please tell me if you know, or learn, of any.

David Smeeton
Project Co-ordinator

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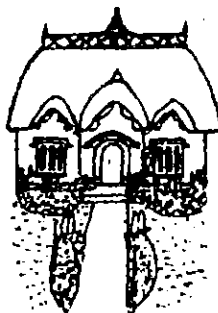
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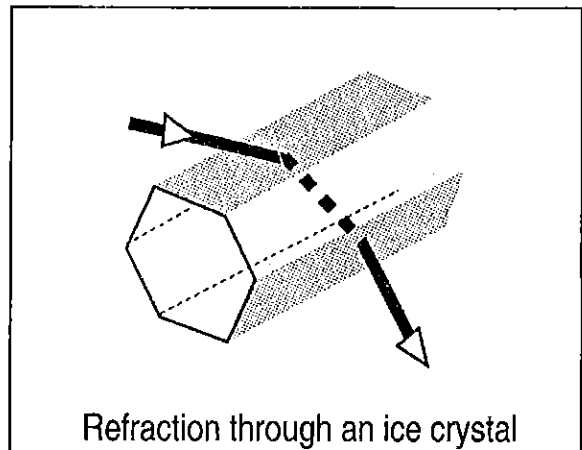
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WEATHER WAG SEES SIGHTS AND SIGNS IN THE SKY

On Friday 12th December 1997 I was at South Milton Village Hall. It was the night of the annual Christmas Dance and Grand Draw. The hall was full of happy folk enjoying letting their hair down and having a jolly good time. Outside the night was calm, clear and very cold. One or two folk slipped outside for a moment or two.....to cool off, to have a quick smoke, or perhaps just to have a moment of quiet. (I didn't ask why!) Anyway, as is our wont, someone looked up at the sky, and there the stars were brilliant and twinkling away, and there was also an almost full moon. The craters were clearly visible, making a vague pattern of a face, the legendary Old Man in the Moon. As we watched, an area of very dark space appeared to encircle the moon, and around that a Halo formed. The word got around inside the hall and almost everyone came out to have a look. It lasted several hours though changing in formation as time went on. It is no wonder that our ancestors regarded such a sign as either a portent of some disaster to come or a sign that all was well with the Moon God. I have to say that it was the best example of a Halo that I have ever seen.

"What does it mean?" and "Why is it there?" were the questions fired at me that night. The **meaning** is usually (well, almost always, really) **BAD WEATHER TO COME** and maybe sooner rather than later. The timing depends on the situation prevailing at the time. Now to the **cause**. The chief reason, on this fine clear night, was the presence of some very fine and high (say 20,000 feet) cirrostratus cloud. This type of cloud usually precedes a warm front associated with a typical Depression, as we well know. Sometimes the cloud is thicker than it was on 12th December. Then the Halo appears smaller and does not last long, and therefore the weather is likely to change more quickly - with rain in summer and perhaps snow in winter. The actual

situation at this time was: Pressure was high over much of the country, and an air stream of Siberian origin stretched across Russia westwards over much of Europe and was well established. (In weather terms this means "*I'm here, and I'm going to stay!*") The high cirrostratus cloud is made up of tiny hexagonal ice crystals. The reflected light of the moon is



bent (refracted) twice as it passes through the crystals. The halo looks whitish in colour, but on this night everything was so clear that gradually the colours of the rainbow appeared with Red on the inside. It really was a spectacle to behold! Later in the night the Halo was much smaller as the amount and character of the cloud changed.

As I said, it usually portends bad weather. Most mariners will agree that this can be used as a rule of thumb, and is generally reliable. A fellow observer from Hope Cove echoed my prediction. Well, it took a little time for the battle - low pressure in the south west against the very strong "high" sitting over us - to commence. But commence it did, with the worst of the weather associated with the warm front waiting until Tuesday to push away the high, and enter the western counties. Because the air it was meeting was so cold, the moisture

in it actually turned to snow, and with winds in the east the result was CHAOS. And we received a fair dollop of the stuff! I find snow very exciting although it is disrupting to our Devonshire way of life. Two inches, and a force 5 - 6 wind, brings the county to a standstill!! I was in Andover with our family enjoying a lovely sunny day. Went shopping with no coats - and wearing sandals (though we did have other clothes on!).

On Wednesday morning there was a covering of snow and we set off for home with the radio stating that the A38 was closed between Plymouth and Exeter. By the time we reached Exeter most of it had melted and the chief problem was water. However, the South Hams did have far more snow than the other areas we passed through. Some patches of drifted snow were still there more than a week later despite high temperatures. There must have been quite a bit. Isn't it interesting that we don't get much snow on average but, by golly, when it comes it does so in grand style.

This weekend it is gales and horrific squalls of rain. My anemometer is working hard. 76mph

so far today Saturday, 3rd January, and worse expected tomorrow. (Must stop now and watch *Raging Planets* on TV - all about Blizzards! Our 2 inches or so pales into insignificance when compared with 29 inches in Boston USA.) Anyway, our shutters are up against impending 80 - 100 mph gales out of the South West tomorrow. We are retreating to the leeward side of the house where the noise of the wind is not so loud, and hope to get a decent night's sleep.

I hope the summary of the year's figures proves interesting. It is in line with the national summary with August the hottest and wettest for the year. If any of you would like a set of figures please do not hesitate to ask. The wind strength can be useful if you experience any damage and have to make an insurance claim!

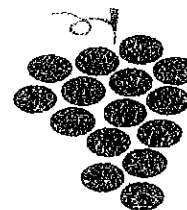
A Happy New Year to everyone! And here's to a weather-packed year which, in this corner of the world, we can be assured of getting. By the way, last year at this time the air was cold, calm and quite superb. The 10th January saw -7°C in many places, but only -4.4°C here. *I know which I would rather have!*

Jan Turner

YEARLY COMPARISON OF WEATHER STATISTICS				
	1994	1995	1996	1997
RAINFALL mm				
Total	1113.46	858.87	679	783.89
Wettest Month	Feb. 154.9	Jan. 137	Nov. 109	Aug. 144
Highest Daily Rainfall	Jan. 4/5 24.44	Sept. 11/12 38.12	May. 18/19 29.63	June 2/3 28.73
Driest Month	June 22.82	June 10.6	June 9.12	April 20.68
WIND				
Westerly	213days=58.4%	168days=46.02%	127days=34.79%	152days=41.64%
Easterly	124days=33.9%	173days=47.39%	209days=57.26%	177days=48.5%
Northerly	N/A	12days=3.28%	6days=1.64%	8days=2.19%
Southerly	N/A	11days=3.00%	3days=0.82%	27days=7.4%
Highest Gust mph	Jan. 27th 86	Jan. 22nd 80	Oct. 29th 84	Dec. 25th 78
TEMPERATURE C.				
Hottest Month	Aug. 18.96	Aug. 20.07	July 17.46	Aug. 18.6
Highest Daily Average	N/A	Aug. 3rd 25.6	July 29th 20.05	Aug. 23/24 21.5
Highest Max.	N/A	Aug. 1st 32	July 20th 26.8	July 9th 28.1
Lowest Daily Average	N/A	Dec. 6th 0.5	Jan. 27th -1.3	Jan. 4th -1.7
Lowest Min.	N/A	Dec. 26th -3.8	Jan. 27th -3.5	Jan. 4th -4.4
Average for the Year	N/A	13.06	10.11	14.02
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HORSWELL DIARY

I've been waiting for my usual New Year optimism to inspire my pen, but it's no good. I've got a bad bout of Millennium Blues.

Of course, it could be just the aftermath of a hectic and over-indulgent Christmas. That low, exhausted feeling when the decorations are packed away in boxes for another year, all the guests have gone home and the house looks empty and bare.

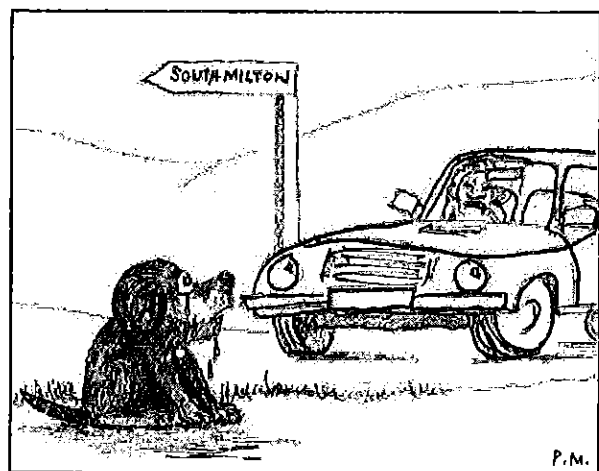
But memories of fun and laughter linger on, like the look of boyish delight when my husband discovered a train set amongst his presents. Carriages and track were quickly assembled and soon the Calgary Express was choo-choo-chooing its way round the dining room table, complete with American sound-effects, realistic chuffing noises and smoke trailing from a gleaming smokestack. It delayed lunch so long we did think of adapting it to carry the vegetable dishes but thought the repetitive "Whoo-whoo", "Clang-Clang" and "All Aboard" might prove a little too distracting.

Eventually it was shunted off into a siding, enabling us to eat lunch - which had now become dinner - watched by two attentive peafowl huddled on the outside windowsill. Fortunately by this stage the turkey was so over-cooked that it no longer sufficiently resembled a bird to give them any cause for alarm.

Maybe it's the weather that's making me anxious? The sight of our poor tormented trees thrashing helplessly in the gales. The whine and roar of the storm as it screams through the woods, uprooting oak trees and tearing branches limb by limb from mighty pines. The thud as it slams against the house, rattling shutters and scattering slates. The lawns strewn with twigs and debris, the gardens bleak and saturated. The incessant wind that snatches at clothes and tangles hair. Thunder cracks and lightning flashes. Surely one could be forgiven for wondering if the end of the world is indeed almost nigh?

But whilst I fret and feel like joining Bertie under the tablecloth, Flossie the sheepdog runs for joy, energised by the storm and loving the feel of the wind in her fur.

Meanwhile Abo, our labrador and a natural opportunist, sneaks off in search of dustbins bowled over by the wind, or maybe a bitch whose scent has been blown his way. Although he can disappear at the speed of light, his arthritis eventually slows him up and his homeward journey is a pathetic sight



- which he plays to full effect in the hope of attracting a lift. Despite his vile smell and muddy undercarriage his success rate is quite high and we are immensely grateful to the many people who have brought him home as, surprisingly really, we do adore him!

At first it was a kindly neighbour who used to stop for him. He was so relieved to see her that he promptly fell asleep, snoring, on the back seat of her car and had to be woken on arrival. Then it was a girlfriend in a smart red Porsche who fell for his charms, despite his agricultural odour. But the pinnacle of his success was being chauffeured home in an immaculate powder-blue Mercedes. He arrived triumphantly perched, nose in air, on the front passenger seat whilst the owner's elegant wife and her more pleasantly perfumed pooch were relegated to the back.

Since then his forays have become less frequent and we're doing our utmost to get him to quit whilst he's ahead.



So it's an ill wind that blows no good. The ducks are enjoying the muddy puddles where the pond has overflowed, the wild birds swing in the wind like metronomes as they cling to the peanut feeders, and even the peacocks have put thoughts of Spring on hold, enabling them to share the same territory and huddle together for shelter.

Even a mink seen stealing away from the trout pond escaped reprisals, the wind making him too quick (or too politically correct!) to become a fur collar.

If it's not the weather, perhaps it's the Millennium Dome that's adding to my apocalyptic malaise. Apparently it's going to be divided into eleven zones, each 'showcasing' different aspects of man's life

on earth today and in relation to the universe - e.g. Body, Mind, Soul, Work, Rest, Play and so on. A monument to the achievements, technology, lifestyle and spirituality of society today.

A few thousand years ago a king called Cheops built the Great Pyramid in Egypt, exemplifying the most advanced technology of its age. Recently, historians and mathematicians have discovered that its whole construction, with its labyrinth of passages and chambers, is rich with information about the universe, that every dimension is relevant, containing the key to pure mathematics - "It represents an archive of hidden knowledge that if read correctly speaks intelligibly, intellectually and religiously to all people" and is a testimony to the wisdom and technology of a lost civilization.

With my current *fin de siècle* fatalism, I'm wondering if Mr Mandelson is going to be the Cheops of the 21st century, and if the Millennium Dome is also a testimony to a lost civilisation. A wonder of the world to be unearthed by future generations.

I'm sure that when the wind stops and the sun comes out my usual happy mood will return. *But in the meantime if you see me lashing fallen branches together to form a raft, and forming our livestock into rows two-by-two, don't be surprised.*

PRUNELLA DART

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| 13. HAVERSACK | 14. NEWMARKET | 15. SPECTATOR | 16. GARIBALDI |
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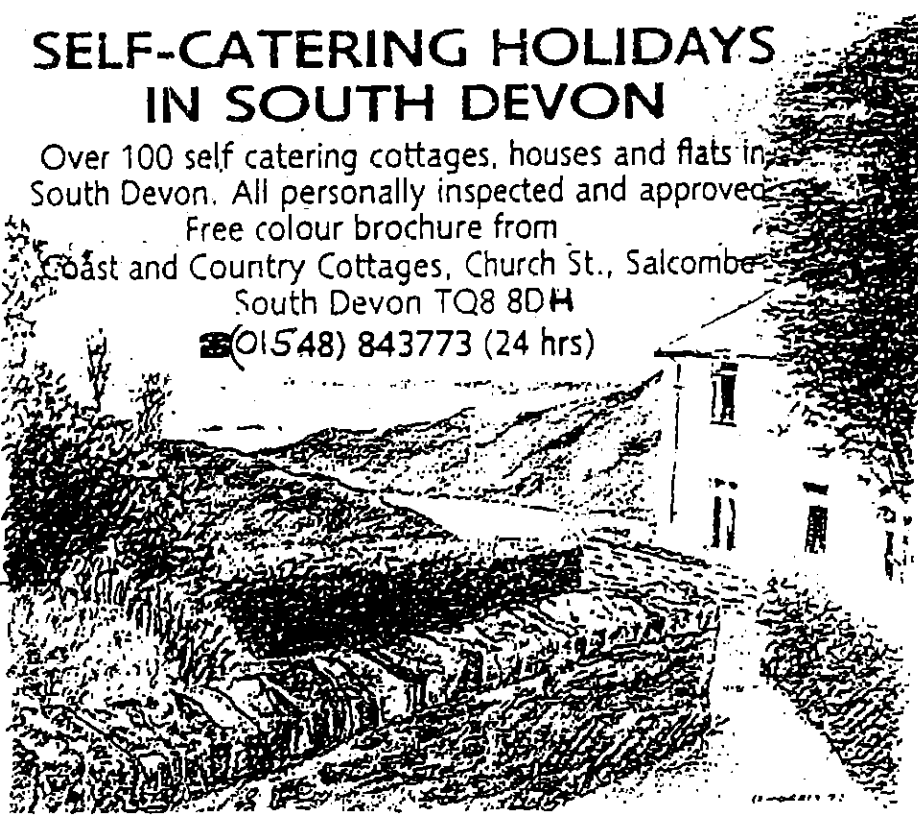
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Before awarding approval, inspectors visited several sites completed by the firm's landscape department over the past two years.

"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 enquiries 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.

TRAMP



1 On 10th December the day broke to very blustery winds and showers - which was a change from the heavy rain and gales of the preceding two days. Our hardy group of walkers met at the Parish Hall and by the time we reached The Royal Oak at Bigbury our party numbered 22 (plus 5 dogs).

We walked through a quiet road in Bigbury village, then crossed a field on to the main road for about 300 yards before reaching the footpath to Lincombe. Here we met a shooting party of 6 men plus dogs and, on exchanging notes about our respective routes, found that we would probably be 'shadowing' each other all day. Our leader dropped a mitten at this point but did not discover her loss until we were about 400 yards along the track. She retraced her steps at high speed - and was returned, plus mitten, to our group in a Land Rover driven by a member of the shooting party!

Our walk continued via Villa Crusoe and Hexdown on to Bigbury golf course. At Cockleridge it was apparent that, due to the high winds and rain of previous days, we would not be able to walk around Sharpland Point without paddling, so we proceeded to Mount Folly and thence to the original route, lopping about a mile off the distance.

Mincepies and sherry were enjoyed in a quiet valley, and the leader's rucksack became a lot lighter. We all returned to The Royal Oak where our previously ordered lunch was ready, following which we walked to Foxhole and then down to the Avon, where the tide was so high we had to climb over a fence to

avoid wading to the official steps. From then on the walk back to Bigbury was uneventful.

The whole walk was carried out in fine blustery sunshine with no rain at all; all the clouds went over without dropping their loads. Shots were heard periodically all day! The Christmas Walk ended another successful year of TRAMP.

All of us would like to thank Frances Bromfield and Kay Morley for displaying in their respective shops the notices about our walks throughout 1997.

Susan Dwyer

2 Amazingly, the weather looked favourably upon the baker's dozen trampers, and two dogs, as we set off from Beeson for the first walk of 1998. After

one or two warning shots across our bows the rain, realising that we were undeterred, retreated until we were safely back home.

Having regard to the probable muddiness of most tracks after so much rain, we followed the lanes through Kellaton and on to South Allington. Here, however, since we had made such good time, rather than taking the shorter planned route and arriving at our destination unnecessarily early, by unanimous decision we threw caution to the winds and took to the fields making our way by a somewhat devious route to Higher Borough and then to Lanacombe Green. It was on this stretch that we passed the Priory, home to the Community of the Holy Cross, which caused a certain

amount of speculation on the possible advantages of the monastic life.

Despite the undulations it did not take us long to reach Bickerton and then Hallsands beach. The sea with the sun on it and the blue sky beyond looked almost inviting but fortunately there was no time to remove boots and socks to have a paddle.

We pressed on along the cliff path to Beesands and the Cricket Inn, where most of us lunched on delectable bacon and lentil soup served in individual tureens and accompanied by a generous-

sized individual cottage loaf of a roll and a pot of real butter. We could have taken the sluggard's way straight back up the road to Beeson but (if for no other reason than to work off our copious meal) we decided, again unanimously, to walk to the far end of the beach, crossing the fields to return to the cars that way. In any case the sun was still shining and it was not far. So, by now two walkers and two dogs fewer (they had rushed home before our gastronomic indulgences), we rapidly accomplished the final lap of yet another memorable walk.

Pam Brewster

3 TRAMP'S PROGRAMME FOR 1998

Date	Planned Area	Leader
11 February	Bowcombe, Frogmore	Bob Nicholls
4 March	Dittisham, Capton	Derek Yeoman
18 March	Plym Trail to Clearbrook	Sue Dwyer
1 April	Lydford Gorge	Derek Yeoman
15 April	Swincombe	Stuart Reynolds
6 May	New Waste, Cornwood, R.Yealm	Roy Travis
20 May	Slapton country walk	Ian Fraser
3 June	Kingswear, Coletton Fishacre NT	Bob Nicholls
17 June	Down Thomas, Wembury	John & Christine Wilson
1 July	Cremyll, Rame Head	John & Christine Wilson
15 July	Holbeton, Mothecombe (swim)	R.MacKay & J.Parkin
5 August	Tavy Cleave	Stuart Reynolds
19 August	Holne, O Brook	Sue Dwyer
2 September	Haytor, Lustleigh	Tony & Sheila Ward
16 September	Didworthy, Shipley	Roy Travis
14 October	Dartington, Staverton	Ian Fraser
11 November	Harberton	Ron Parkin
9 December	Ashprington, Christmas Walk	Ron Parkin

The ground rules remain the same, viz:

Meet Thurlestone parish hall car park

January, February, October to December - Second Wednesday

March to September - First and Third Wednesdays

Notices to be taken to both village shops by the leader one week before each walk

All walkers take part at their own risk - First Aid kit to be carried on all walks



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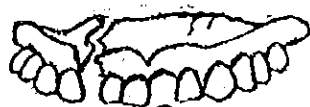
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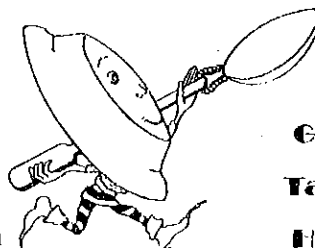
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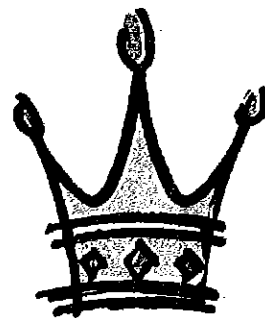
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Frantic Frolics in the Frothy Foam

My recent article on THE WHITEHOUSE WETLANDS at Thurlestone Sands was in serious vein and attempted to show my efficient side. My purpose here is to reveal that I can also suffer the occasional setback.

When I am not catching up with the backlog of work involved in maintaining the wetland, I try to make time for holiday activities. Being by the sea and liking fishing, I have a small boat which gets taken out each year and gives much pleasure, most of the time.

However, every year there has been some sort of disaster and this August was no exception. As it ended with me looking very odd in the presence of a puzzled audience (a few of whom may see this article), this is an attempt to explain what was going on.

My boat is too big to lug about by hand and has to be brought in at high tide to avoid hauling it up the beach as the tide comes in. This year I thought I had it sorted. I assembled a large concrete mooring block and long mooring rope, complete with marker buoy and catching hooks. At low tide I took the block, weighing over 1 cwt, down to the water's edge in a wheelbarrow across 100 yds of soft sand. At the next high tide, I put the boat in the water, rowed out to the new mooring, attached the boat and swam back to the shore. Problem solved!

The setting for the fiasco I am about to describe is the bay between Thurlestone Rock and the wreck. Locals know it as Goozey Pool.

At every stage of the tide, the little boat (aptly named Obelix) was bobbing gently in the sea. All you had to do was swim out to it and clamber up over the gunwales (trying not to do yourself a mischief) into the boat. All the previous problems of drifting anchors and endless dragging up and down

the beach were a thing of the past.

For about a week all was well. Then a real southwester blew up, force 8 to 9, in the middle of the night. At first light, I rushed down to the beach to check that Obelix was still afloat. The sea was enormous, the tide high and seaweed everywhere. Obelix was there alright, but 100 yds further out. Every time a huge wave lifted the boat up, the insufficiently heavy mooring was also lifted, allowing the rig to move a yard or so further into deeper water.

It would not be long before the mooring no longer touched bottom; then, the boat would either tip and fill with water or it would carry on drifting slowly out to sea. I looked with some trepidation at the huge sea but, remembering Grace Darling, decided to attempt to row the boat back to safety. I plunged through the mountainous surf and swam out to the boat. After a struggle, I rowed back to shore where, single-handed, I faced a further battle to beach the boat. Anyway, the boat was back but the mooring, rope and marker buoy were stranded out to sea. Could these be rescued, or should they be abandoned?

When the sea subsided after a few days, I spotted the marker buoy at low tide, some 100 yds out to sea. Hardly anyone was about when I swam out and grabbed the buoy. I dived and followed the rope down to the mooring block. When I stood on the seabed, the sea surface was about 2 ft above my head. As I come up for air, I note there are a few people watching from the shore.

Recalling that concrete is lighter in water than on land, I dive down again to the mooring, brace my legs on the sea floor and "bounce" the block back about 1 ft. Reaching the surface out of breath, I see that the audience on the beach has grown and appears to be pointing at my antics.

The seaweed brought in by the storm is still there in huge quantities. As I inch the block in to shallower waters, I encounter more and more of the weed. Still out of my depth (in more ways than one!), I become increasingly covered in weed with every return to the surface to breathe.

To the watchers on shore, it must have been a bizarre sight; a head, repeatedly disappearing under water then reappearing a few feet nearer the shore, looking increasingly like the Medusa. The crowd which had gathered to watch was quite large by now, but just stood in silent amazement.

Eventually, I could stand on the seabed with my head above the surface; it was only 20 yds from the shore. I disconnect the mooring rope and marker buoy and drag them through tangled seaweed to the shore. I head back for the block, but can't locate it! I search backwards and forwards with my head just above the surface, there being too much weed for diving. Feeling a complete idiot, I eventually find the mooring by stubbing my toe on it. I start the final stage

of bouncing the block to the shore, gathering large clumps of laminaria with fronds several hundred yards long! This made the process even more tiring for me, but more entertaining for the crowd who now gathered round to see what it was which had been worthy of so much effort. Explanation seemed pointless and I left them and went off to get the wheelbarrow.

The onlookers fell silent and watched, without lifting a hand, as I struggled to get the concrete block into the barrow. Exhausted, and minus much of the skin from the insides of my legs, I set off pulling the barrow, inch by excruciating inch, up the soft sand to the road 100 yds away.

Behind me, the people who had watched my efforts for what seemed a lifetime were still staring as I staggered slowly away. Well, there's nowt so queer as folks.

The mooring is back in the boat shed.

I wonder what will happen next year?

Peter Stafford

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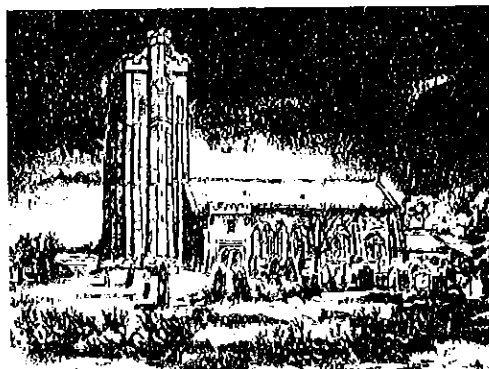
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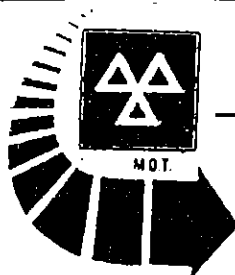
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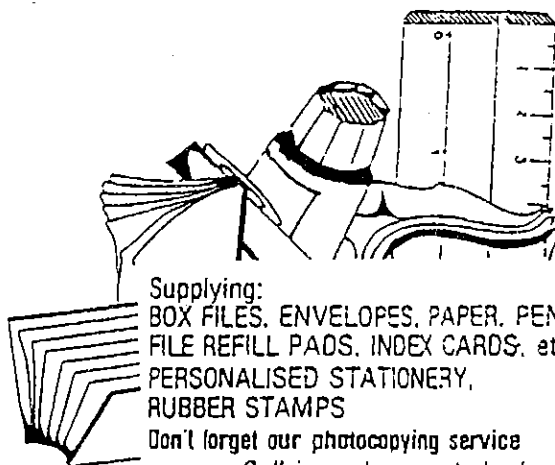
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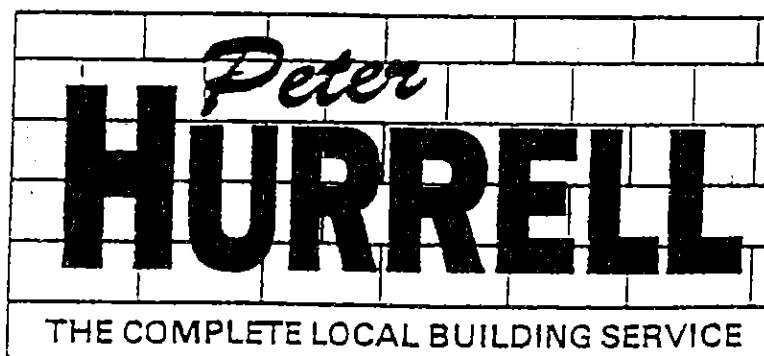
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Charles Mitchelmore	560602
Geoffrey Stidston	560695
Veronica White	560236
Parish Clerk	
John Lonsdale	560742
District Councillor	
Martyn Grose	560396
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Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Parish Emergencies	560607



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Thurlestone Hotel
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6.30 pm
Enquiries to
Dorothy Stone 560708
Kitty Cooke 560264

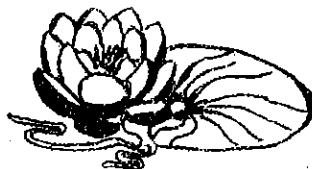
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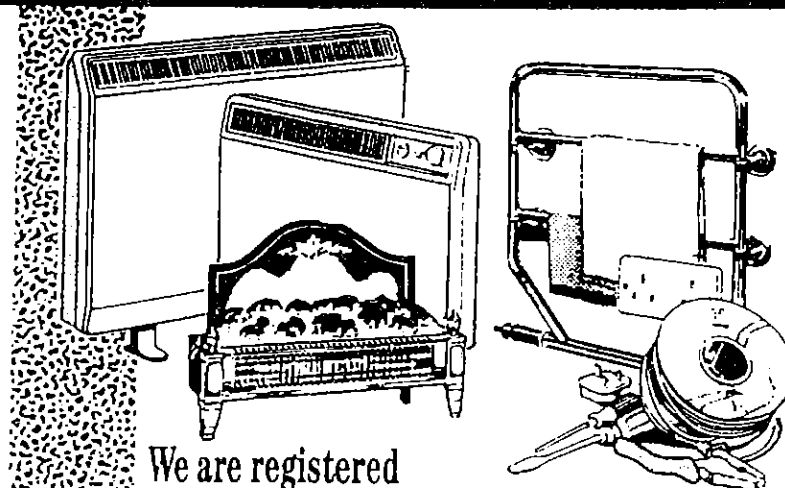
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BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	842467 560708
COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	Contact Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kendall McDonald	560239
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION	Secretary, Dick Marston Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560405 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 Mitchelmore Geoffrey Stidston Veronica White	560496 560607 560742 560396 01752 - 691212 560295 560375 560802 560695 560236

The Parish Council meetings take place on Tuesdays. See dates on Diary page overleaf.

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DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

Mon 9th School Open morning (see inside)
 Tues 10th Parish Council meeting, Sloop Inn, 7.30 pm
 Wed. 11th Tramp to Bowcombe, Frognore
 Thur. 12th W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Sharpitor Garden)
 Sat. 14th W1, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (Social Supper)
 Sat. 21st Jumble Sale (POTS), Parish Hall, 2.30 pm

MARCH

Wed. 4th Tramp to Dittisham, Capton
 Thur. 5th Cookworthy Bridge, S.Milton (see inside)
 Thur. 12th W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Canadian Centennial)
 Tues. 17th Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm, Parish Hall
 Wed. 18th Tramp, Plym trail to Clearbrook
 Thur. 19th NSPCC Bridge, Thurlestone Hotel (see inside)

APRIL

Wed. 1st Tramp, Lydford Gorge
 Thur. 9th W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Remote Pakistan)
 Wed. 15th Tramp, Swincombe
 Tues 21st Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm.

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

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PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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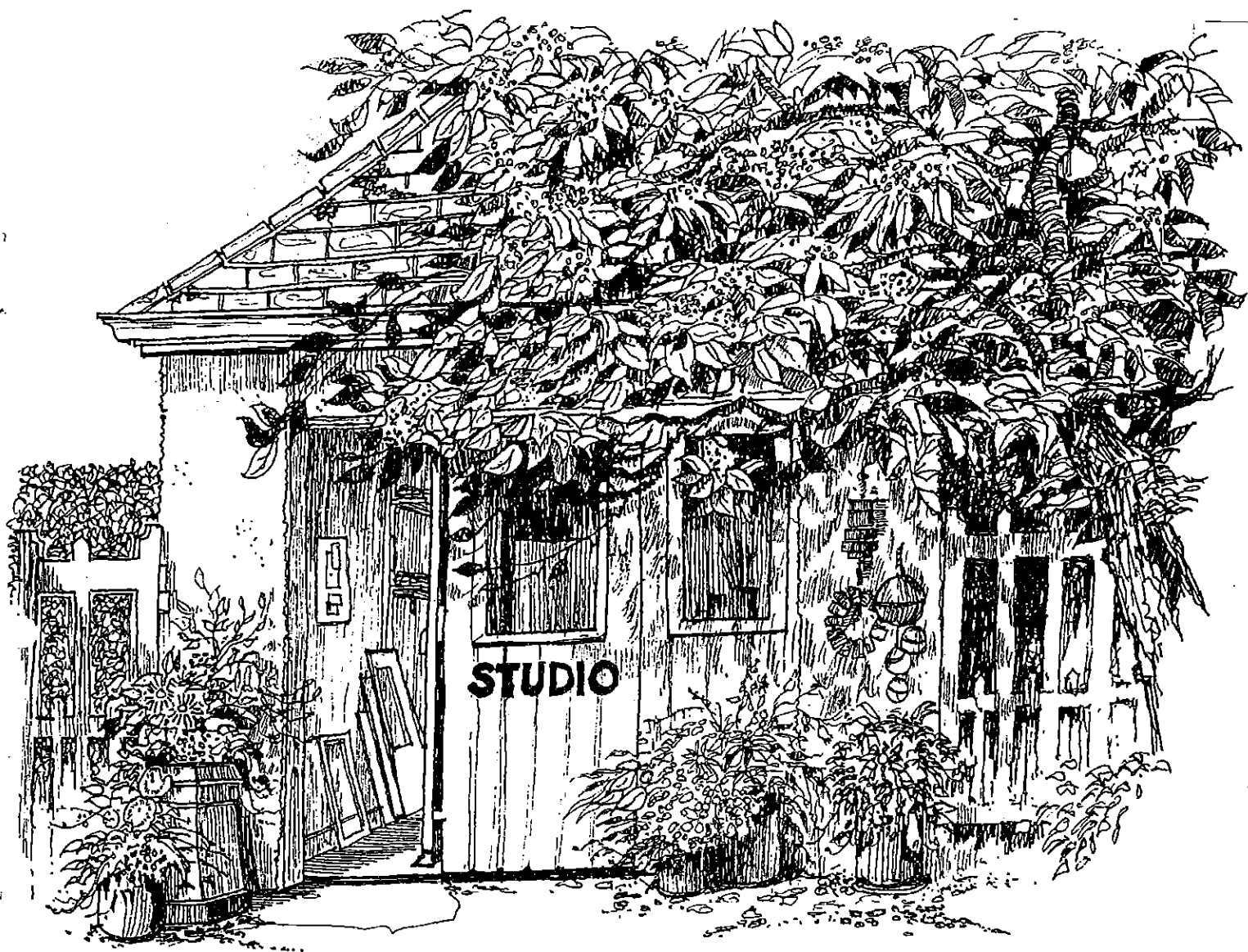
Sheila Parker, 8 Mead Lane, Thurlestone (01548-560330)

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