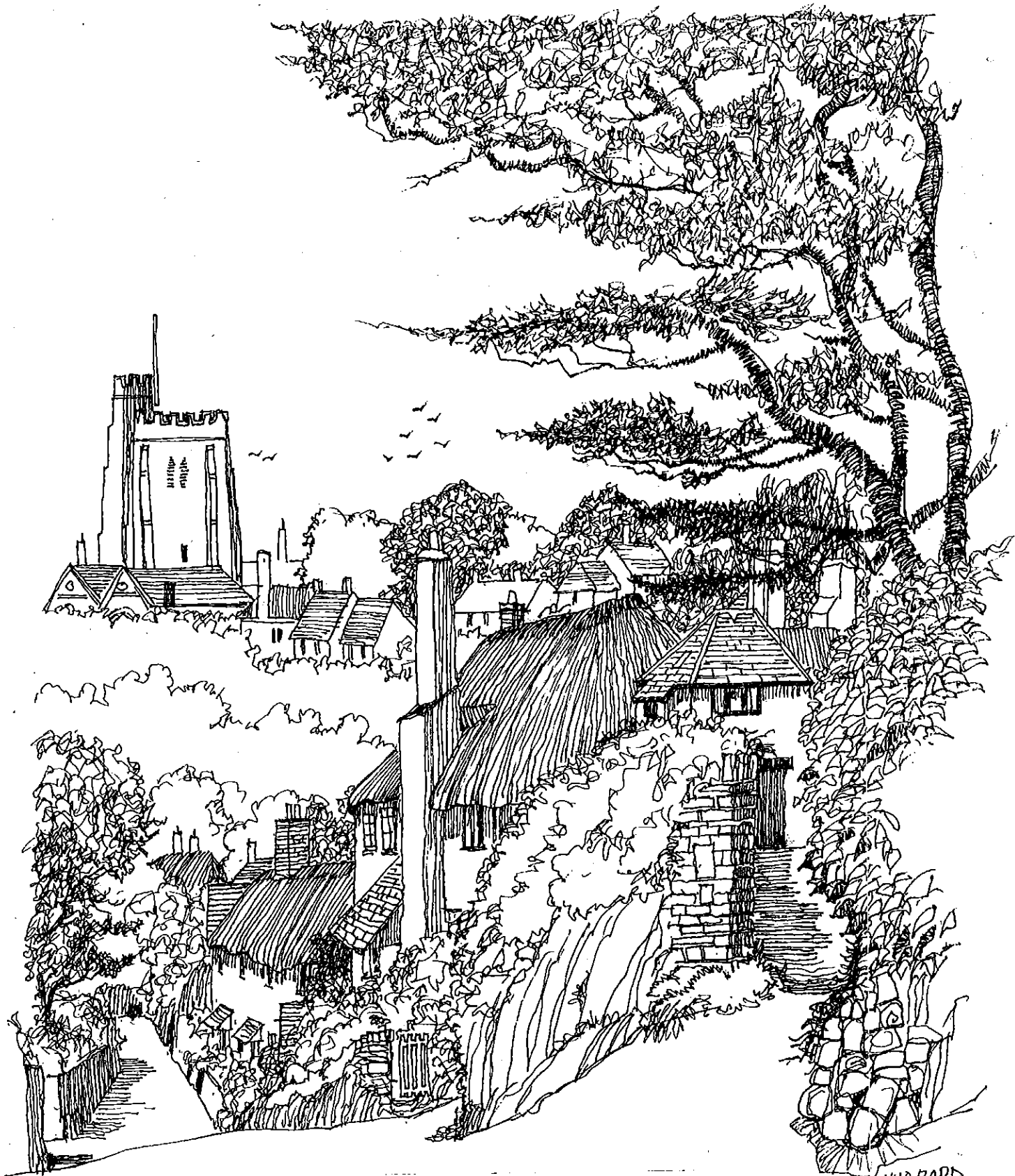


41 HEND DRIVE

VILLAGE VOICE



JUNE - JULY 1999

LEN HYBRARD © 99



NUMBER 97
JUNE - JULY 1999

There are now only seventy shopping days before the eclipse. Opinions vary as to the size of the invasion we may expect. Gridlock? Or over-hype? Official South Hams co-ordinator, Janet Marsden, is cautiously optimistic - but hoping for a fine day. A thick coastal mist on the day, however, could bring real traffic problems with cars seeking out areas of good visibility. The AA's usual advice in extreme conditions - "Stay at home if you can" - has much to commend it for Wednesday 11th August.

Former District Councillor Martyn Grose was succeeded on 6th May by Carolyn Steen, who narrowly out-pointed John Crawford by 412 votes to 399. Both candidates spent many hours on the election trail, house-to-house canvassing, and in consequence the turnout of 50% was the third highest of South Hams wards.

The rector, however, is proving somewhat more difficult to replace, and even *Villager* (normally the most serene and placid of folk) is beginning to grow a little impatient at the delay.

Wouldn't it be nice if there were such competition for the post that candidates were required to follow the district councillors' route to secure the living?

Founder Dudley Drabble

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

Advertising
& Accounts
Manager JO PARKIN
Ardentigh
Court Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3ND
01548-561215

Production
Manager AL PARKER

Production Team

PAM BREWSTER
MARGARET CULLUM
IAN & JANET FRASER
ANNE GROSE
NORMA KENDALL
JOAN LANE
ROSEMARY MacKAY
SHEILA PARKER
JO PARKIN
JUDITH REYNOLDS
JIM & TERRY WOODROW

Mail
Order
Copies SHEILA PARKER
8 Mead Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3PB
01548-560330

Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

"RECTORIES COME AND RECTORIES GO BUT RECTORY BARNS GO ON FOR EVER"

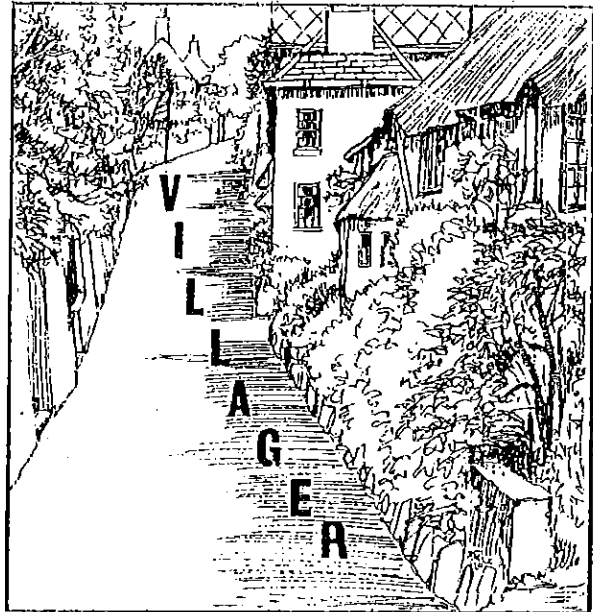
However, in this time of chop and change, it seems even that old Thurlestone saying will fall into disuse when the Barn makes way, as seems likely, for the entrance to more in-filling housing in the parish.

More of that anon, as they used to say in happier times. Even so, this seems an appropriate moment to urge the Bishop of Exeter to start thinking seriously about accelerating his retirement. To the ordinary resident of this parish Exeter's reign over us in the past two years has been nothing but a disaster.

How can it be that we are still waiting for a Rector thirteen months after Peter Stephens retired? How can it be that it takes the church so long to give us a new incumbent?

Many clergy would give their eye-teeth for such a posting. Exeter and his minions will no doubt blame all sorts of up-country departments for the delay, but they have continued not only to take the money from All Saints, but recently actually had the nerve to increase the amount required. In fact, Church of England congregations throughout the country gave £101 million last year for clergy pensions and stipends and there is talk in Church circles that they will have to give more next year. Working expenses for Bishops are reported to have risen to £8.8 million in the latest Church Commissioners' report. **And all we wanted was a Rector!**

The trouble with those who go to church in this parish - and those who don't - is that we have all been too soft; soft enough to go on supporting Church fetes and other events, giving money at services and generally backing the Church - while not getting in return the slightest sign of any haste in the appointment of a Rector.



This is not to blame for one moment our church wardens and all those who have helped out in our Rectorless times, but it is to blame all from Exeter to Canterbury who have dillied and dallied and taken cruel advantage of our goodwill.

If the parish had said at the beginning of what Churchmen are pleased to call an "interregnum" (it actually means you ain't getting a Rector for a year or two) **"No Rector, no money"** then we would have had a Rector of Thurlestone quicker than a swallow can flick into a church porch.

While the parish careers Rectorless into the summer amid debates about whether the present Rectory is comfortable enough for one of the modern soft brand of clergy, and how many bathrooms any new Rectory should contain, I have been reading part of the memoirs of the late Monica Coope, one of the daughters of the Reverend Frank Coope, Rector of Thurlestone from 1897 to 1912. She writes about tougher times in Thurlestone and the Rectory Barn (then

called "Glebe Cottage") like this:

"Before Father rebuilt the Glebe Cottage, there lived in it a very old couple, Dick Moore and his bed-ridden wife, whom I had adopted. I would pester Mother for food to take to them, and in Lent I used to be allowed to stay up late and go and sit with the old lady while Dick went down to Church. Her great iron bedstead nearly filled the tiny living room, and she was not very clean, and I tried to atune my nostrils to the atmosphere and made the best of it.

I read her *"Little Lord Fauntleroy"* with much emotion, the tears streaming down my cheeks, while the old dear smiled peacefully and murmured 'Tis bootiful'.

One Sunday in winter I spent the afternoon up the Shady Walk picking up firewood for my protegees, and arrived at their door with my pinafore loaded to my chin. *'T've brought you some sticks'*, I said. Dick took one look at me and at the sticks then leant forward and

pitched them out into the road. *'Pickin' up sticks of a Lord's Day!'* And he went in and shut the door, while I stood there blankly, the tears stinging my eyelids, and then I went home and told Mother. I thought the better the day the better the deed, but Mother explained that some good folk took the commandment very seriously that we should keep the Sabbath Day holy, and that picking up sticks was frowned upon as breaking that commandment. Then she let me give the baby her bottle, which was a great privilege, so I was comforted and restored."

PS. The more I learn of the past of the Rectory Barn the more I become convinced that after the Rev. Coope's rebuilding in the early 1900s and the destruction by fire of its original thatch roof in the 1970s, the oldest part, indeed the only remains of this original brewhouse of the Rectory of the late 1500s, is the north-western wall on to the road. Which made it pretty difficult to list!

Villager

....AND YET MORE BLOOPERS

Here are some more entertaining "Bloopers" culled by Jane Marston from Richard Lederer's book *"The History of the World According to Student Bloopers"*. This time the subject is the Romans - and a little further on in history.

"History call people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlic in their hair. Julius Caesar extingutshed himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March killed him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harold mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings, Joan of Arc was canonised by George Bernard Shaw, and the victims of the Black Death grew boobs on their necks. Finally the Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offence."

Village News Round-Up

NEW SHOP OPENED

The ceremony of tape cutting duly took place on April 7th and marked the official opening of Thurlestone's new PO/Stores. **Mike Taylor** gave the audience, which had gathered on the village road, a brief run-down on the background to the opening of the new establishment. **Gillian Goddard** of Bantham, a director of Evans Estates, snipped the red ribbon and made an appropriate and enjoyable short speech. It's up to all of us now to support this endeavour by **Adrian Masters**.

"WOT, NO BEER?"

Whilst on the subject of the shop, **Adrian** says *"If you've tried to buy alcohol at the PO Stores you will know that the licence has gone wrong! The story so far - On February 24th I attended 'petty sessions' to apply for an off-licence for the Post Office & Stores, Church Farm, Thurlestone."*

On March 15th the PO Stores opened. Unfortunately on April 28th a Licensing Officer attended the Hope Cove store to tell me I am not licensed at Thurlestone PO & Stores but at 'Thurlestone Village Stores' and should cease selling alcohol at the PO forthwith.

It seems that a court official misinterpreted the nature of the application and on the court paperwork it is shown as for 'Thurlestone Village Stores' but on my paperwork it clearly states 'PO & Stores'.

I think the court has acted very badly since it is quite obvious to everyone that the licence should be at the new premises - and in any case I am already licensed at Hope Cove. If the application was in some way flawed, it should have been rejected by the court and a fresh application invited.

In the end the real losers are the customers and I apologise for what is a silly situation. Unfortunately the next licensing session is not until July 3rd, when I hope to get our off-licence restored."

Meanwhile **Adrian** has attended, at his own expense, a course at Plymouth on licensing - as recommended by Magistrates at an earlier hearing!

KOSOVO CRISIS

At a soup and bread lunch given by **Basil and Jennifer Fox** at Aune Cross House on April 18th, £850 was raised for the refugees from Kosovo. The money has been given to the European Children's Trust, and will be used mainly to provide a small monthly payment to families in Albania who are offering hospitality to refugee families from Kosovo. The Trust already has staff working in Albania, who supervise the operation and make sure that the refugees are not in any way exploited. Donations may be sent to the European Children's Trust, 64 Queen Street, London EC4 1HA

TELEPHONE SCAM

The warning printed under this heading in the last issue is not, after all, to be taken seriously! **Mervyn Cox**, the BT press officer says that BT has had many enquiries about this (which is accompanied by a request that it should be passed on to mailing lists and newsletters of as many organisations as possible) and hastens to tell us that *"It is like a chain letter and is quite mischievous. We believe it started in the US but is now spreading throughout this country. Our advice is to ignore it."* So that's good news.

NSPCC THANKS

The chairman and committee of the local

branch wish to say how grateful they are to all the kind helpers, donors, and people who supported their Jumble Sale in any way on May 1st. As a result they are delighted that the sum of £550 was raised, which will be used for the benefit of South Hams children, and thank everyone who helped to make this possible.

*N.B. An exercise cycle was given to the sale and it was parked in the rear room at the Hall. Will the person who removed it please return it to the hall, or phone **Monica Dickins** on 560518*

ECLIPSE NEWS

A second Eclipse Bulletin, mentioned in our last issue, has now been published. It is anticipated that many people will view the total eclipse from the sea and the Salcombe Harbour Authority has produced a bulletin on safety afloat. Copies of "Sea & Safety" are available from the Tourist Information Centres, libraries, and Follaton House.

DICK'S RETIREMENT DINNER

Some 90 people were present at the Golf Club on the evening of May 1st at the dinner marking Dick Marston's retirement as Secretary/Manager. His successor, John Scott, formerly of Wrexham Golf Club in North Wales, will take over this month.

JAZZ EVENING AT THE HALL

After the great success of the Barn Dance in February as a fund-raiser for the Parish Hall, the committee has organised a *further* fun event - a **Jazz/Bistro evening** on Saturday 17th July, 7.30 - 11.00 pm, with the Little Big Band. It's OUR Hall, so come along and have a happy time - **and** help the Hall funds.

PLANT SALE

The Parish Hall was a sea of plants on May 15th, as the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show Committee put on its annual Plant Sale to raise funds for running

the show. Chairman **David Coward** was delighted by the support - and by the £200 plus that was netted.

Don't forget, the twenty-first Annual Show is at Thurlestone this year, on 7th August - schedules are available on application to Show Secretary **John Lonsdale** (560742) or at the Thurlestone Post Office.

New this year are special "Garden News" awards for vegetable and flower exhibits, some novel items in the children's section, and attractive anniversary rosettes for winners.

AVON CONSERVATION

The **Avon Conservation Association**, whose membership comprises concerned residents of the parish who seek to preserve the ecology of the Avon estuary, will shortly be undertaking a membership drive. **John Crawford**, who has recently been made Chairman of the Association, says he hopes soon to be out canvassing again - but this time to recruit new members for the **ACA!**

FARMERS' MARKETS

Good news for lovers of good food. We are to have a **Farmers' Market** on Kingsbridge Quay for a three months' trial period. The first will be on Saturday 12th June. Two residents of the parish went to the opening of the Buckfastleigh Market on 6th May and say "*On offer were organic vegetables, real bacon and sausages, fresh-laid eggs, Devon beef and venison, local goats' cheese, and all guaranteed by Farmers Markets rules. Let's hope that Kingsbridge can do even better.*"

Farmers' Markets are already successful in several other towns in Devon, providing new outlets for food and drink producers whilst helping to regenerate business in the towns where they set up. It is an ideal opportunity for local people to buy local produce from a local source, and at the same time help the local farmers and producers.

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 1999

[The Parish Hall was crammed full on 20th April, and extra seating had to be found!]

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Peter Hurrell thanked retiring Councillor John Dayment for his 20 years' service to the community and commended the remaining six members of the Council for their efforts; they had been nominated for the seven vacancies and would be automatically re-elected.

He then took us through the events and issues of the past year :

- # Parking near the School was running smoothly.
- # The first section of the Warren Hill footway had been resurfaced.
- # The contract for grass cutting at the War Memorial site had been awarded to Mr Lee of Malborough. The chairman thanked Messrs R & D Bickle for their efforts over many years.
- # It was still hoped that a start could be made this year on the new starter homes.
- # It had not been possible to find a new site for the bottle bank.
- # The skip service had been dropped due to cost.
- # He gave particular thanks to all those concerned with the Post Office and Village Shop project, including Mike Taylor, John Crawford, Councillor Derrick Yeoman, POTS and the 19 residents who had met all the costs.
- # The renovations to the Parish Hall have been completed.
- # The road sweeper is now spending one week in four in Buckland and Bantham. Pollution tests on the Buckland Stream are now under way.
- # He thanked Councillor Charles Mitchelmore for his work as tree warden.
- # SW Water are installing filters to deal with the problem of brown drinking water.
- # A crime patrol is to operate in summer months along the Avon estuary.
- # The Millennium video project is still on schedule and within budget.
- # No planning information is yet available regarding possible development of the old Rectory site, but the future of the Barn is in doubt.

He thanked *Village Voice* for their coverage of Parish Council issues.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Inspector David Sumner of the Kingsbridge Police reported good progress in dealing with car crime and drugs-related crime. Although burglaries had risen (to 11 in Thurlestone), recent arrests had coincided with the end of the wave of break-ins. The Kingsbridge team spent 68% of their time out with the public - the highest percentage in the region.

Janet Marsden, the newly appointed SHDC Eclipse Co-ordinator gave a spirited survey of what we may expect to happen in the run-up to the Total Solar Eclipse on 11th August. She stressed the importance of using only approved eye protectors, but emphasized that the **only totally safe method was viewing by projection methods**. In spite of the planned three-week halt to road works, widespread congestion could be expected on the roads. Pre-booking of accommodation was essential.

Retiring District Councillor Martyn Grose said that the transfer of our council houses to the new Housing Company would yield significant benefits in future years. The Chairman thanked him for his helpful contributions to our meetings.

WAR MEMORIAL

The offer from Miss Yeo to plant 1000 crocus bulbs was warmly received. In the discussion which followed, a consensus emerged for the minimum of changes to the site apart from a path near the road.

RECREATIONAL AREA

It was hoped to create a football field, and a car park for 14 cars. Joint plans are being formulated with the Parochial Church Council.

CITIZEN

Roger Hind

GENERAL INSURANCE & INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISORS

For that really personal service, it's far easier
to deal with someone you know.

Whatever your insurance needs - private or business,
providing you with the best in the market.

Call now on 852853 for a quotation.

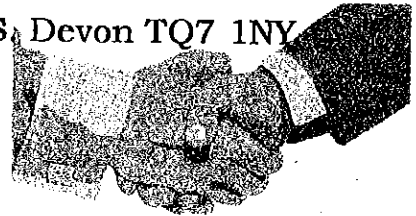
We have an extensive range of products; Put us to the test.

Please contact any one of our team: Miss Yan Byne (motor), Simon
Churchill (household, marine), David Wadey and Roger Hind (business).

Britton House, 8 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, S. Devon TQ7 1NY

TELEPHONE: 01548 852853

FACSIMILE: 01548 852578



R&J

PLASTERING & GENERAL BUILDING

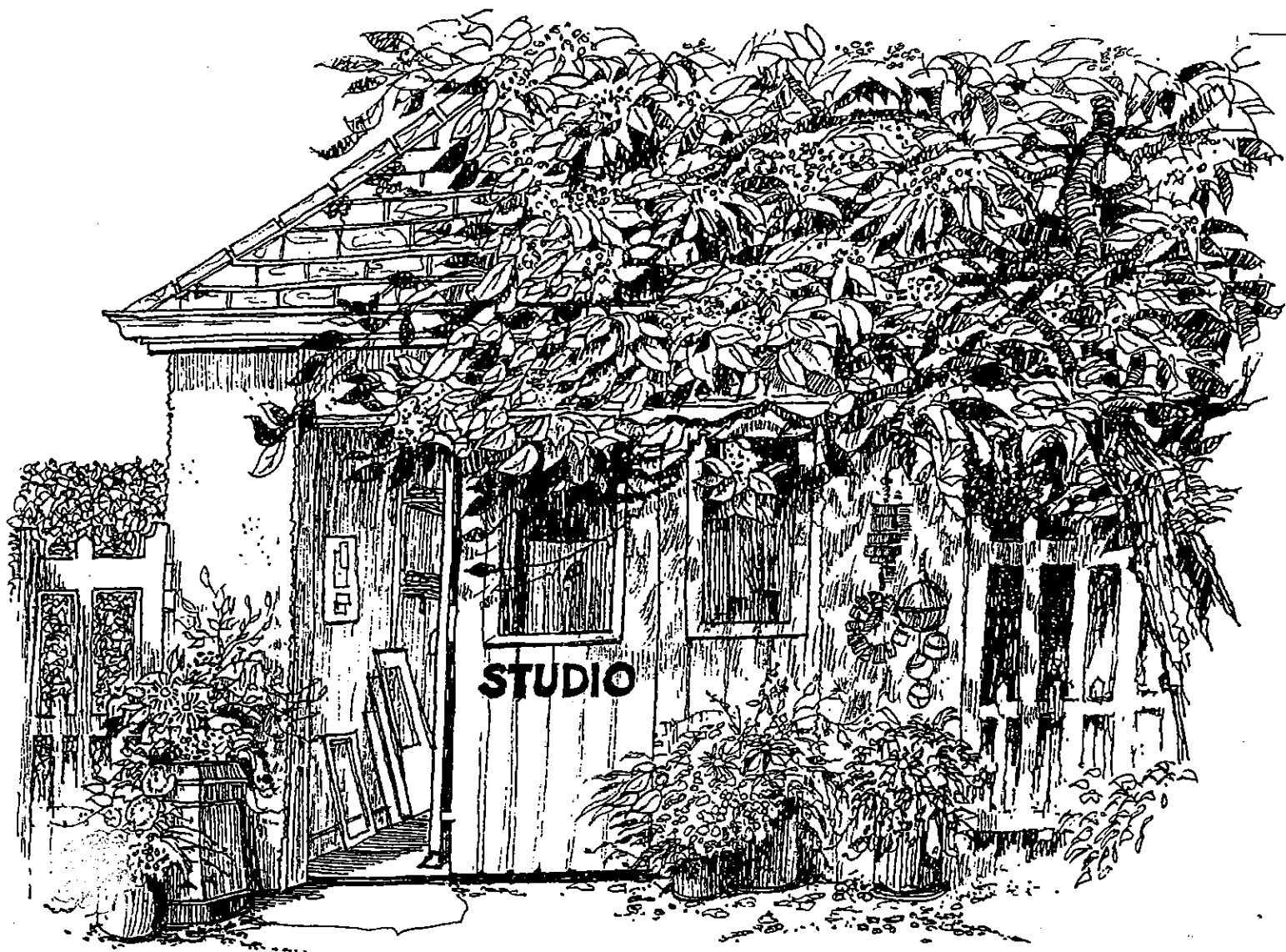
FOR FREE ESTIMATES

Telephone Ron or Jon

01548 560703 / 560778

*- Floor Screeding - Stonework - Patios - Extensions -
Exterior & Interior Finishes*

3 The Watch, Bantham, near Kingsbridge, South Devon TQ7 3AJ



Len and Kate Hubbard

invite you to come and browse at

BURWOOD GALLERY

Thurlestone, Kingsbridge

Leather bags, porcelain, picture framing, pottery and woodturning

WATERCOLOURS by LEN HUBBARD

Telephone: Kingsbridge 560731

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1999

There were eighteen people present, in addition to the members of the Parish Council

ELECTIONS

The formal business at the meeting on Tuesday, 11th May opened with the re-election of **Peter Hurrell** as Chairman of the Parish Council, and **Veronica White** as Vice-Chairman. **Derrick Yeoman** would serve on the Church Building Trust. As it is the turn of South Milton to appoint a School Governor at All Saints School, **Veronica White** would be Thurlestone's representative. She was also appointed to the Village Hall Committee. **Charles Mitchelmore** would continue as Tree Warden.

PARISH HALL

There would be a **Jazz Bistro** Evening on Saturday 17th July, and the **Autumn Fair** in September. There was nothing to report on the proposed purchase of land at the rear of the hall. An application has been made for a Lottery registration.

WARREN HILL FOOTWAY

It has been agreed that Devon County Council will supply materials for the maintenance of the footway, but the Parish Council will have to carry out the work.

BEACH CLEANING

The annual beach-cleaning exercise was reported to have been unexpectedly, and at the last moment, carried out by volunteers from Totnes. There had been

no prior warning to **Rosemary Stocken** and her team.

CHURCH

On the evening of the Eclipse, 11th August, a Masked Ball for 140 would be held at the Thurlestone Hotel, organised by the Friends of Thurlestone Church in aid of the church fabric.

POLICE MATTERS

There has been another burglary, from a holiday home, and a scare at an empty house. Increased vigilance is essential.

OPEN FORUM

◆ Criticism continued over the unauthorised changes effected at Pilchard Cellars, which have now received retrospective approval from the South Hams Planning department.

◆ There was much discussion over the need for emergency planning for the Eclipse. The Parish Council will act as an Emergency Committee to co-ordinate action.

◆ Our Parish Council is registered with the Millennium Festival Awards for All. If parishioners have projects in mind they should contact **Veronica White**.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 15th June at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

CITIZEN

WALKING TO SCHOOL AT THURLESTONE 70 YEARS AGO

*[To pass the time while recovering from recent knee surgery, **Hubert Snowden** decided to write about the roads he used to walk from Bantham to school in Thurlestone during his childhood.]*

It is my purpose, in writing these notes, to record by words and drawings features of the road from Bantham to Thurlestone, which I travelled daily to school. Many of the features were lost when road improvements were made.

In the 1920s children from the Bantham and Buckland area walked to school daily. Roads were not covered in tarmac then, as they are now, to oblige motor traffic. It was a lovely walk in summer and we were lucky to be living without fear of being run down by motor cars. We were able to see the wonderful changes of scenery all around us.

Roads then were much rougher and worn, especially on hills, by the horse traffic of the day. The middle of the road was a track of loose stones thrown up by the iron-shod horses where their hooves dug in when hauling heavy loads. Each side of the track were ruts cut by the iron-tyred waggon and cart wheels. There were gutters one side or the other to carry water away, so in walking one had to pick the clearest path.

Road-mending was not as good as now. On the hills heavy rains washed out gutters, left mud and heaps of stone, even bare rocks in places. In winter, after storms, it was difficult to find a clear path.

Our walk from Buckland and Bantham to school in Thurlestone was by steep Brook Hill and Thurlestone Hill. We children would merge on to West Buckland corner, then descend Brook Hill. The very steep top bend was hazardous always - rough, step-like slippery rocks and loose stones that slid

under foot. When the first motor cars came along they often could not get up Brook Hill when wet and slippery. This was so until the hill was covered by tarmac in the 1950s.

At the bottom of Brook Hill was the valley stream, crossed by three brook stones and a ford for vehicles. Wayward boys tested their nail boots by walking through the water. Small vehicles could cross by the stones, but sometimes tipped over the side. Posts were put up later to stop this happening.

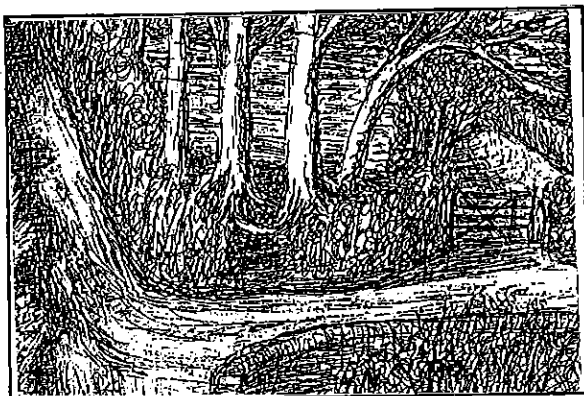


1. Stepping Stones

In the days before the stream was closed over it was used to wash many things such as vehicles, sacks, and pigs' bellies before making hog's pudding. One Buckland villager with fourteen children is reputed to have sent them all down to the stream to drink, after a meal of salt pilchards, as there were no water taps indoors in those days. Except for pumped water from a few wells, water had to be brought by bucket from the stream.

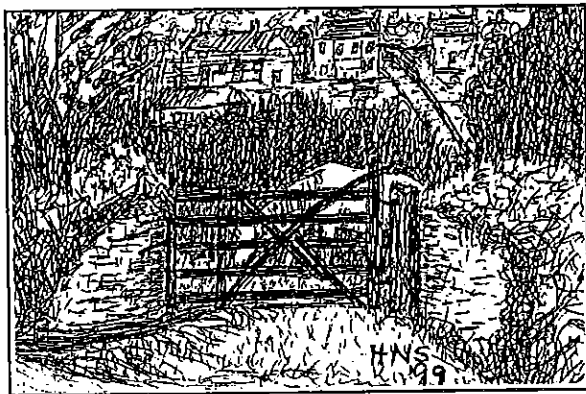
The road sloped up from the brook to Mill Corner, and then it branched - left along the valley to the old mill and right up the long, steep, hill to Thurlestone. On the hedge at Mill Corner was a clump of large elm trees. Below and beside the elms was a gate into pleasant narrow meadows which followed the stream all the way to Bantham Beach. It was an attractive spot where children dallied at times. A gap up the hedge led to a path

through the elms, which was more attractive to walk than the road. Across the road was another gap into a willow grove, more used in autumn because on the dry bank inside the hedge old apple and pear trees grew.



2. Elms at Mill Corner

A short way up the hill from Mill Corner, and just around the first bend, was "Tommy" Ingram's gate, which was the entrance to the field where he grazed, "Tommy" being the unbroken pony of our very good blacksmith Mr John Ingram. He lived in a Buckland cottage with his forge close by and drove a pony and trap about his business. "Tommy" galloped like the wind and children scattered on hearing the approach of his clattering hooves.



3. "Tommy" Ingram's Gate

The next gateway half way up the hill on the right was known as Orchard Gate. There were very few apple trees left in our day, but from that gate was as beautiful a view as one could wish to see, especially in spring at apple-blossom time. The view followed the valley meadows right down to the sea and beyond to Burgh Island.

It was an artist's delight, and as a schoolboy I watched local artist Mr Frank Hewett work from here. He also painted many other views - crooks and crannies that he fancied throughout the parish. I wonder what happened to all his paintings? I believe he sent many to London.



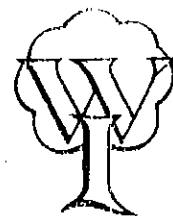
4. Orchard in Spring

At Daddy's Pipe Corner there were ancient pollarded ash trees which graced the grass verge. It used to be common practice to allow trees to grow in odd places for later "pollarding". These trees were cut off at a height above which cattle could not reach to eat the shoots. The shoots were allowed to grown into a useful pole-size. Then they were cut off, allowed to grow again, and the exercise repeated.

One of the trees here, by the size of its bole, must have been ancient and cut many times. In fact it was large enough to hide two or three children and often did. The hidden children would make funny noises in an attempt to frighten the other children who were passing by. Sadly, the trees were all demolished to make a passing place for motor cars. The vehicles couldn't get up the hill when it was wet and slippery.

And so the last steep pinch of the hill from Daddy's Pipe Corner brought us into Thurlestone and soon to school. Our hills may have been rougher then, but our countryside was richer by far in flora and fauna, a regrettable loss. But that would take another article to describe. *[In the next issue Hubert writes about the road-menders. Ed.]*

NEWS FROM THE WI



ELSIE BREWSTER

Jerusalem was sung specially in memory of **Elsie Brewster**, a member for the past 50 years, who had died recently, after a short illness, at the great age of 91. She loved the tune and was sad when Thurlestone WI gave up singing it at the start of meetings.

Val Brown paid a moving tribute, remembering her as a stalwart, supremely supportive and much-loved member, former President and Secretary of Thurlestone WI. She was an excellent and enthusiastic drama group member who had an enormous sense of fun and the ridiculous. She will be so very much missed. A cup is being presented in Elsie's memory and members were asked how they would like to see it awarded.

APRIL SPEAKER

Hilary Firminger brought along some beautiful stained glass items which she had made and showed members how she sets about her commissions, from windows to small boxes.

GROUP MEETING

This was at Salcombe on April 12th. The guest speaker, **Neville Oldham**, was particularly enjoyable and talked on nautical archaeology.

COLETON FISHACRE

This visit has been put back until September 16th. All are welcome to join us.

MILLENNIUM WALL HANGING

Plans for the wall hanging are advancing, and will involve patchwork, quilting, embroidery and applique.

Anyone interested in helping should contact **Val Brown** as soon as possible.

PRIMROSE APPEAL

At 5 pm on June 21st members will be undertaking a local 3-mile walk to raise funds for the Primrose Appeal, our charity for 1999. Supper will follow at the Village Inn.

GARDEN LUNCH

Again **Rosemary MacKay** has turned up trumps and offered to be our hostess at this always enjoyable annual occasion. This year it will be on July 1st.

RESOLUTIONS

May meetings in WIs are traditionally taken up with discussion of the Resolutions. All 8000+ WIs in the country (304 in Devon alone) debate and vote on the final list of resolutions that have been sent to the National Federation from all over the country. Each WI's delegate votes at the big General Meeting which this year will be at the Albert Hall in June.

The resolutions are concerned with

1. Women's Human Rights,
2. Ovarian Cancer Screening,
3. Support for the Agricultural Industry,
4. Genetically Modified food.

If these become mandates at the June meeting, the national part of the WI acts upon them, exercising the collective voice of the members in its representations to government departments and agencies, and other authorities. Thurlestone voted in favour of numbers 1, 3, & 4, but not number 2 (on a technical point).

Caps

Watch straps

Wallets

SURF WISE
Salcombe
clothes beyond the limit

Key rings

Bags

Stickers

53a Fore Street, Salcombe
South Devon TQ8 8JE
Telephone: 01548 844485
Fax: 01548 844135

Clothes and Accessories from

BILLABONG	HEADHUNTER
MAMBO	GVL WATCHES
GODDESS	BAD BOY
GAS CLOTHING	RUSTY
VICI DOMINI	BOLLÉ
SALT ROCK	
and much more!	

FINE SHINE

"A Total Floor Care Service"

Specialising in Cleaning & Maintenance of all types of Flooring:

- CARPETS • UPHOLSTERY • ORIENTAL RUGS

Licenced Applicator For
"STAINSHIELD"
Carpet & Upholstery Protector

WOODEN FLOORING
❖
MARBLE
❖
TILES
❖
VINYL

WE OFFER A FREE CONSULTATIVE
QUOTATION ON ALL WORK

Tel: 01548 550889

LOOKING FOR QUALITY PLANTS AND SERVICE TO MATCH?

YOUR ANSWER LIES AT
AVON MILL GARDEN CENTRE
IN THE PEACEFUL AVON VALLEY.

EXCELLENT COFFEE SHOP.
CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND.
TRANQUIL RIVERSIDE SETTING.



AVON MILL

GARDEN CENTRE

TEL 01548 550338

WOODLEIGH ROAD LODDISWELL KINGSBRIDGE DEVON


FUNERAL DIRECTORS

To the South Hams
For over 100 Years

J & G PERROT

(D.O.I. Boulden)

Independent Family Owned



PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST

DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE

15 Duncombe Street, Kingsbridge
Tel: 852302

KORNILOFF

Residential Care Home / Hotel for the Retired

The Home with the Heart
lies here by the Sea,
if your tired or infirm, then
here you should be,
it is time for a rest, it is
long over due,
Come here and relax we
will all care for you.



A Luxury Retirement Home / Hotel with a Caring Family
Atmosphere. 24 Hour Professional Care, Excellent Facilities, Stair
Lifts, Jacuzzi, Visiting Hairdressers, Manicurists, Extensive Menus
Special Diets Catered For. Stunning Views overlooking Burgh Island
and the Surrounding Coast Lines.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REGISTERED

Residential Care Home / Hotel for the Retired
Warren Road, Bigbury-on-Sea, South Devon, TQ7 4AZ

Tel. Fax 01548 810222

Proprietor Mrs. J M Drinkwater

WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

January was the wettest month in both 1998 and 1999 (8.43mm in 1998 and 30.65mm this year) and February the driest. The saying "**February fill dyke**" does not mean lots of rain - it served to remind farmers of old to see that the dykes around their fields were filled from other sources in order that the water could be used when the time came for irrigating their crops. This could be a stream diverted or a pond drained to see them, if necessary, through a dry April.

This year, January was warmer by 0.3° C with three days achieving 12.4° C - two at the beginning of the month and one at the end. Both February and March were cooler by approximately 1° C and the average for the month was slightly down on 1998. Wind direction seems a return to more normal westerlies, with an increase on last year by six days over the three months.

We've not had such strong winds, either. Last year 88mph was the top gust, this year 65mph, both occurring in January. We have experienced much more in the way of anti-cyclonic gloom this year. The total sunshine for these months was 37 hours down on 1998.

The shutters have not gone up at our front windows so often this year, but the combined effects of salt and water on some of the screws used in their construction have caused one shutter to collapse. However hard we try, requests to builders to use stainless steel screws and fittings seem to fall on deaf ears. **Try harder next time, Turners** - be assertive, like the weather. The weather *always* knows what it is doing even if we don't and is able to surprise even the most ardent of weather-watchers. The latest tornado to hit the USA is a terrifying reminder of this fact.

WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 1999

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	QUARTER
RAINFALL (mm)				
Monthly Total	78.84	30.65	60.95	170.44
Days of Rain (ie < 0.2mm)	22	10	15	47
Wettest Day	15/16th=16.2mm	8/9th=10.3mm	12/13th=22.6mm	
TEMPERATURE (°C)				
Monthly Average	8.2	7.6	8.5	8.1
Highest Temperature	12.4	11.5	15.0	15
Lowest Temperature	-0.5	-0.8	0.4	-0.8
WIND DIRECTION				
West	20	19	13	52
East	7	7	17	31
North	0	1	0	1
South	4	1	1	6
WIND SPEED (mph)				
Strongest Gust	68	54	64	68
Days below 5mph	2	1	2	5
SUNNIEST DAY				
Number of hours	8.31	9.12	10.98	10.98
Date	22 nd	10 th	26 th	26 th Mar
Month Total	61.15	55.8	134.0	250.95

Last week-end's weather was simply beautiful (May Day Bank Holiday). All too often these week-ends are marred by unpleasant, even unseasonable weather conditions, but this year all was well for the tourists. Our beach was full of families with children all thoroughly enjoying the sunshine. The bay seemed full of divers - either offshore or in inflatables. Most seemed to be members of clubs who were well-organised and aware of safety at sea. I suppose that the sheer variety of our weather leads to our apparent pre-occupation with the subject. In Australia, if you mention the weather as an item of normal conversation you are considered to be a boring person. The weather there is so predictable, for the most part, and is of no importance until something goes adrift! Many of you will be thinking of going to such a place (i.e., where the weather is predictable and there will be lots of sunshine), so I thought I might dwell a little on world weather types that are different from ours.

The **MEDITERRANEAN TYPE** is the one I will write about this time. There are certain parts of the world where weather conforms to a pattern in a more reliable way than ours. This type is found on the western margins of continents between Latitudes 30 and 40. In summertime they are in the grip of sub-tropical highs, but in the winter they lie in the path of the disturbed westerlies.

So in the summer the weather is rather like a desert type with sun, heat and drought, while the winter weather is more like the British type - wet and windy. These areas lie in the path of a battle front between cold air from the polar regions and warm air from the tropics. The winter rains areas are confined to small coastal fringes backed by a high mountain range. These are California, Chile, Australia around Perth, and around Cape Town in South Africa.

The area nearest to us is the Mediterranean Basin, from which it gets its name. However, this area is far more complex than any of the others, so we will not attempt to go into that

type here. Enough to say that the type of weather conditions that dominate the "Mediterranean Type" are, and have been for a long time, very popular with travellers looking for congenial weather conditions as a change from the British type!

During summer, temperatures rise to and stay above 25° C for most of the time. The heat is usually dry and pleasant and the evenings are the loveliest - balmy, calm and quiet times weatherwise. Away from the coast it may be a great deal hotter during daytime, but as a tourist you don't have to go there. Winters are wetter and more like our late spring weather with temperatures around 12°-15° C with moderate rainfall. There are always exceptions to rules, as those of you who have had "rain in Spain", when there shouldn't have been any, are well aware.

There are some unpleasant winds in certain areas of the Mediterranean, e.g., the Mistral (magistral, or masterful wind). This is a powerful cold blast of air originating in the Polar or Arctic air which is funnelled down the Rhone Valley towards an air mass known as the Genoa Low. Remember that air moves from high to low pressure. Arctic or Polar air is high, so the movement is from north to south. Others move in like fashion all over the area, rushing through mountain gaps, around peninsulas and across large areas of water, e.g., lakes. All these produce their own little weather types. Occasionally we experience one of the winds that blow off the Sahara, the Sirocco, with its ability to produce a fine layer of red dust over everything. Usually it only gets as far as the south of France, Italy or Spain, but there's always the chance of the odd blip in any of these weather "thingies"!

Overall, I think we do quite well hereabouts but maybe, when everything is working as it should, the Med. has the edge. But here's to a good summer. I still think there is a good one in the offing. *It had better be on August 11th (Eclipse Day) or I'll not be able to show my face in the locality will I?*

KINGSBRIDGE PINE WORKSHOP



- Tables
- Chairs
- Mirrors
- Dressers
- Beds
- Bookcases
- Wardrobes
- Chest of Drawers



Large range of
hand finished
Reproduction
Pine Furniture



Many other items available

Open: 9.30-5.30 Monday - Friday, Saturday: 9.30-12.30
Mastercard ~ Visa ~ Switch ~ Delta

East Charleton, Nr. Kingsbridge

Tel: 01548 531533

D & J BICKLE Landscaping and Garden Maintenance

Tel/ Fax 01548-
511557
Mobile 0370- 578575



25 Higher Park
East Prawle
Kingsbridge
Devon
TQ7 2DB



- MARSH DAWES - A CRAFTSMAN IN WOOD

The skills of a craftsman in wood are on your doorstep. Whatever your needs, Marsh Dawes can meet them - from joinery, turning, carving, cabinet making and carpentry, to repair and restoration work.

If it's made from wood, it can be made by Marsh, to standards exacting enough to satisfy restorers of Grade 1 listed buildings across the County.

The high quality of restoration work at St Dunstons and Kidley for example bear testimony to his talents. For the cost of a phone call, you could find the solution to your problems.

NUMBER 6, BANTHAM, KINGSBRIDGE,
DEVON.

Tel: 01548 560721/562056



CAMEO

Mobile Nail and Beauty Therapy

PRICE LIST

Nail Extensions full set£32.50

Maintenance inc. 2 free nails.....£15.00

Per nail£2.00

Manicure£8.50

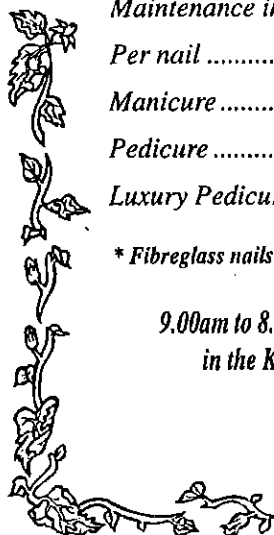
Pedicure£10.50

Luxury Pedicure with foot spa£12.50

* Fibreglass nails available from September 1998 *

9.00am to 8.30pm. 7 days a week
in the Kingsbridge area

call Sally on
07971 232196



The GardenShop

(Kingsbridge) Ltd.,

59 Fore Street

Kingsbridge



Fresh Flowers
and Plants
Delivered Daily

Gardens:-Designed
Landscaped and
Maintained

British Association of
Landscape Industries



Phone James and Tina Tregelles
01548-852541/853888

BOOKSHELF

The Travelling Hornplayer
by Barbara Trapido
(Penguin £6.99)

Those of you who are Trapido fans may already have read this book, but as it is now out in paperback I thought I would bring it to your notice as I regard it as her best yet. In fact it is so good and unusual that I find it difficult to choose adequate adjectives to describe it. I will content myself with fascinating, entertaining, gripping, shocking, sexy, salacious, irreverent and hilarious!

It is a tragi-comedy and, with skilful interweaving of characters, runs through the whole gamut of human emotions. The story is told in the first person by three characters - Ellen, Jonathan and Stella. They describe the incidents which so drastically alter their lives and their reactions and those of their families to the, at times, bizarre events. The transition of mad, bad, Stella from a hopeless dyslexic to a talented cellist and singer is tenderly and movingly portrayed.

It's a wonderful book, but don't take my word for it - just read it again and again.

G.S.W.

Earthly Joys
by Phillipa Gregory
(Harper Collins £6.99)

I have just finished reading this novel which is based on the life of John Tradescant, a famous gardener in the 1600s. I had not realised that he actually existed in real life until I happened to glance at the anniversaries section of The Times (22.4.99), which read "Deaths - John Tradescant, traveller and gardener, London 1662".

He was gardener to Sir Robert Cecil and later to the Duke of Buckingham and became the confidant and close companion of both. Because of this he had a first-hand knowledge of the corruption, intrigue and debauchery which took place amongst royalty and nobility at that time. Apart from these revelations the gardening topics are also

entertaining and educational and it's interesting that Tradescant was almost ruined financially when, having speculated heavily in Dutch tulip bulbs, the market for these crashed.

G.S.W.

Between Silk and Cyanide
by Leo Marks

This book is the autobiography of Leo Marks who, at the tender age of 23, became the head of the coding department of the wartime organisation Special Operations Executive (SOE). A cryptographer of unbelievable genius, he revolutionised the concept of agents' codes by devising a completely new system of coding, which was printed on silk. There are some astonishing revelations, particularly regarding the 'code war' between the SOE and the Germans in Holland, where several agents were captured.

He was a close friend of Yeo Thomas "The White Rabbit" and Violette Szabo. He wrote the famous poem "The life that I have is all that I have, and the life that I have is yours", and gave it to her to use as her code poem. It is a fascinating and engrossing book which took him eight years to write and is a very detailed account of his amazing activities. One can only marvel at his incredible intellect and ingenuity.

G.S.W.

Eucalyptus
by Murray Bail

This is a gentle tale, set in Australia, of a widower and his daughter. As his daughter grows up, the widower plants as many different species of Eucalyptus as he can find. When she is grown up, he decides that the man who will marry her will be the one who can name correctly all the species of Eucalyptus he has planted. There are no 'thrills and spills' in this book. There is not even much action. Neither is it 'soppy' - as this brief synopsis might imply. It is a beautifully-written, unusual story, so *sit back and enjoy!*

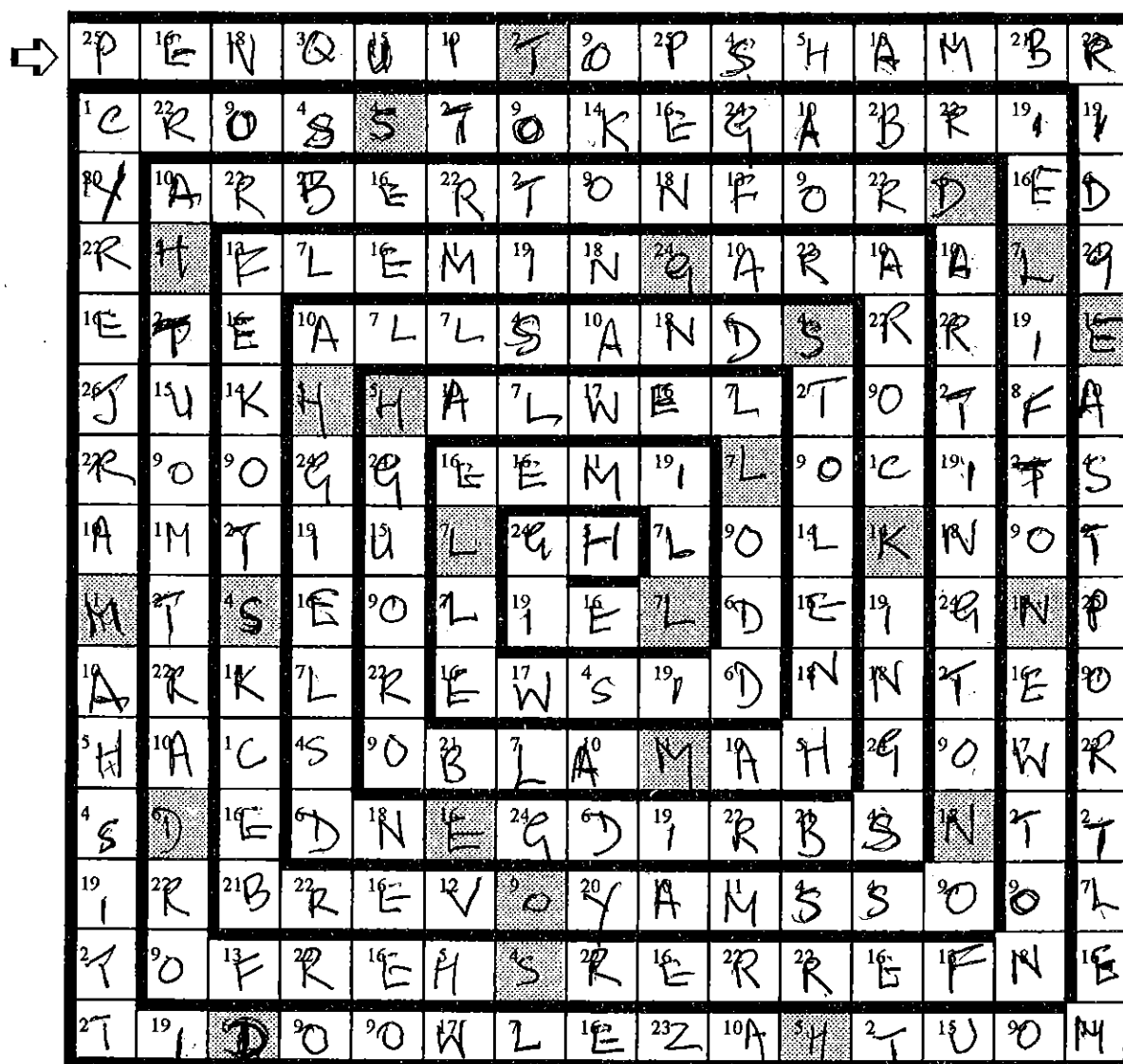
C.T.

Pat Machin's

Puzzle Corner

SOUTH HAMS CLUELESS ROUNDWORD

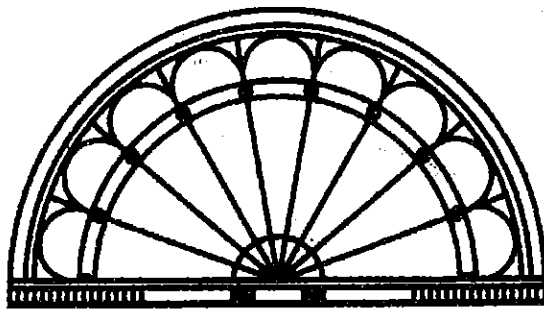
This puzzle is in the form of a spiral, starting at the top left-hand corner, and finishing in the middle. Each number represents a letter (eg. 2 = T, 6 = D, and 10 = A). The **last** letter of each word is the **starting** letter of the next word, and is to be found in the shaded squares. Find the other letters and, when the whole **roundword** is finished, each word obtained will be a place or spot in the South Hams.



REFERENCE GRID

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

J N
X Z



FLEAR HOUSE

DESIGN & DECORATION FOR YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

We are a team of designers and decorators who provide a unique mix of expertise under one roof. Our interior designers, decorators, architects and seamstresses work closely with clients to bring their ideas to life. We help our clients visualise their ideas through sketch schemes, interior perspectives, colour boards and fabric swatches. Our wide selection of in-house fabrics, including Mulberry, Abbot & Boyd and Romo enable our customers to see exactly how their choice of fabric will combine with their chosen colours and interior finishes without making an expensive mistake!

Our workshop is located in the lovely country surroundings of Fleat Farm. If you would like to visit us, please telephone us on the number below. We would love to help make your ideas become reality.

OUR SERVICES IN BRIEF

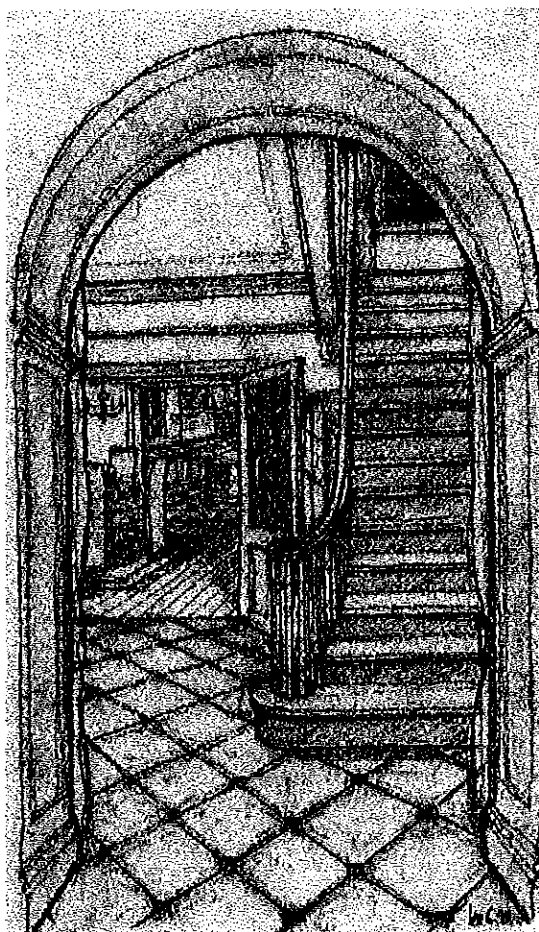
*Design for one room
or an entire house*

*Sketch schemes
and colour boards*

*Individually designed
& made kitchens*

*Full decorating service
including special
paint finishes*

*Extensive range of
in-house fabrics
including GP & J.
Baker, Romo, Mulberry
and Abbot & Boyd. We
can offer these lines at
very competitive prices.*



*Curtain design, making
& fitting*

*Upholstery design
and fitting.*

*Planning &
Building Control
approvals for extensions
and conversions*

*Listed Building
Consents*

*We have the expertise to
design and organise
everything for your
home or office, from
building to hanging the
last curtain!*

TEL: 01548 521 636 FAX: 01548 521 600

THE WORKSHOP, FLEAT HOUSE, EAST ALLINGTON, NR. TOTNES, DEVON. TQ9 7RF



**SOUTH HAMS HOSPITAL
LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**



**FAYRE on the SQUARE
KINGSBRIDGE
SATURDAY 26 th JUNE**

10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Stalls: Cakes, Books, Plants, Gifts

Bathroom, Bric Brac, Bottles

Raffles, Tombola

Children's Corner

Refreshments

Display by Kingsbridge GYM CLUB

**Jeanne Barton 560864 & Eileen Perraton
560407 of Thurlestone are running the
Bathroom Stall and would be grateful for
contributions — Bath Salts, Soaps etc.**



HORSWELL DIARY

Anyone who has ever felt homesick will know the feeling when the very mention of the word 'home', like the clapper touching the sides of an enormous bell, resonates deeply through one's body. Gradually, the vibrations become a diminishing echo, receding to a ghostly whisper calling you back. Whatever reason one had for leaving, whatever problems one may have left behind, are blurred in a golden haze of nostalgic euphoria. Home suddenly feels like the only place to be.

Returning to Horswell is like all those imagined homecomings rolled into one. The excitement of anticipation. Driving a little too fast along narrow lanes. Loosening one's seat-belt ready to jump out of the car the moment it stops. Lowering the window to talk to the dogs as they gambol beside us, escorting us up the drive. The peacocks yahoo-ing their greeting from the treetops and Ducky waddling at speed across the lawn to beat us to the front door. The garden, more green and overgrown than when we left. Cherry trees, magnolia, camellias and rhododendrons laden with blooms. Family and friends waiting to greet us and a tray ready with cups of tea and home-made cakes.

Later there will be post to sort, calls to answer and duties to assume but for now there is just the glorious 'oneness' of being home, a wandering spirit settling back into its material body. But whilst we sip tea in the English sunshine, Nato aircraft drop yet another payload of bombs on Serbia as thousands of displaced Albanians continue to flee the traumas of Kosovo.

These are people who look like us, dress like us, think, feel, bleed and cry like us and yet, because of racism and the brutality that it begets, are people for whom the word 'home' currently has no meaning. Our Prime Minister boldly stated that these refugees will be able to return to their homes. But will they exist? What will they find? Without papers, what proof of ownership will they have? Can the scene of rape and murder of one's family be termed 'home' ever again? Will a beloved pet come up to them and lick their hand? Will a lost child appear from the rubble? Or a husband, once

feared dead, enfold them in the comfort of his arms? The anguish is too great to imagine.

The world is like our garden - in some parts beautiful, in others a mess, never all perfect at the same time and, without constant care, prone always to chaos. In some areas the occupants are content to stand alone or entwine together in happy symbiosis, the strong supporting the weak. In others, usually where there is the best soil and the most precious plants, invasive weeds with relentless persistence prey on all that is beautiful and good. They stifle their very existence without any conscience whatsoever, greedily taking over their territory and the sustenance that it provides. Somehow, whatever the conditions, weeds seem always to thrive.

That, I suppose, is why man has to dream up dreadful deterrents like 'Round Up' and gramoxone, cruise missiles and smart bombs.

Whatever happened to tolerance, acceptance, mutuality? Does it really not exist? It seems that life is devolving into smaller and smaller factions with cultural and ethnic groups banding together for protection from persecution. Whether it's nail bombs in London or Milosevic in Kosovo, the real catalysts for destruction are zealotism and bigotry, narrow-mindedness and greed.

If we are to prevent increasing factionalism in our own country through cultural intolerance, with Scotland and to a lesser extent Wales breaking away from England, the time has surely come for us to recognise our own multicultural society and weld it firmly into a cohesive, if colourful, Englishness, of which we can all be proud.

If we can get three dogs, seven peafowl and a duck to live happily together - and I see a black and gold hen has just appeared in their midst, presumably escaped from next door - surely multiculturalism can work?

What the world needs is a little Horswell magic!

Prunella Dart



***Enjoy a Jazz/Bistro Evening
at Thurlestone Parish Hall***

THE LITTLE BIG BAND

Saturday 17 July

7.30 - 11.00 pm

**Bring your own food
We will provide a pay Bar
and a raffle!**

All proceeds in aid of Parish Hall

**Tickets £5.00 each
Available from
01548 560157 or 560214**



PAPERS ! PAPERS !

Tony and Bron Zaffiro
are now delivering:

**DAILY PAPERS
SUNDAY PAPERS
MAGAZINES**

Tel 560 020 after 4 pm

Appledore, Island View
Thurlestone

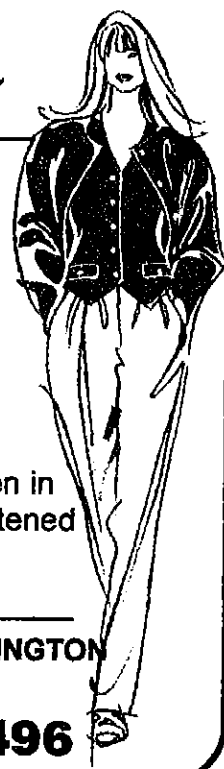
LINDA OGGELSBY

**ALTERATIONS &
ADJUSTMENTS
FOR ALL THE
FAMILY'S
CLOTHES**

- * Waistband Adjustment
- * Skirts, trousers, shorts
& dresses let out or taken in
- * Clothes let down or shortened
- * Zips replaced
- * Sleeves adjusted

21 BARNFIELD EAST ALLINGTON
Nr. KINGSBRIDGE

 **01548 521496**



TERRY REEVES PRINTING

20 Townsend Close
West Alvington
TQ7 3QA

****QUALITY
**SPEED
**SERVICE
**COMPETITIVE
PRICES**

Telephone
01 548 853517

ODD JOB SERVICE

No Job Too Small!!!



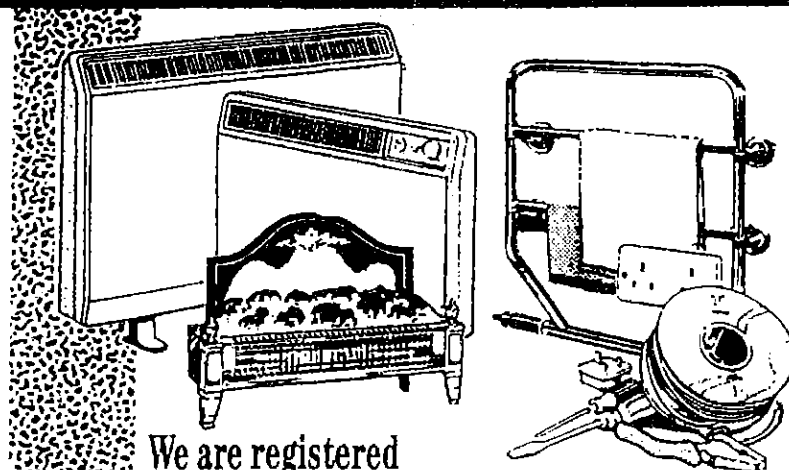
For All Types of
CLEANING

Light Gardening
Grass Cutting

Holiday Homes
Security Check

Tel: IVY 560 551

HOUSE REWIRING? EXTRA SOCKET? DIMPLEX HEATING!



We are registered
installers of all Dimplex heating appliances

Installation of....

- Electric Showers
- Smoke Detection
- Intruder Lighting
- Cookers
- Refrigerators
- Ventilation

The electricity at work regulations 1989 is now in force, this applies to all work places, farms, shops, hotels, schools etc.
We have the most up to date test equipment and qualified staff to carry out your test of installations and portable appliances.

David Frost Electrics Ltd.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

UNIT No. 2, ORCHARD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, UNION ROAD
KINGSBRIDGE, SOUTH DEVON TQ7 1EF

Telephone: KINGSBRIDGE 857222

Emergencies evenings/weekends

KINGSBRIDGE 560374



FROM THE BIRD ON THE ROOF

Home thoughts from abroad

Many years ago, visitors to France liked to scoff at the sorry state of public conveniences throughout that country. Not only were they sometimes hard to find, they were scarcely models of hygiene when one did succeed.

Clochemerle is notoriously featured in French literature and well-known even to UK residents who have never ventured further afield than the low water mark on our beaches during spring tides.

What a change has come about in France over twenty years. Even parking and picnicking areas on the motorways are provided with copious water supplies - hot and cold - paper and piped music! These motorway services are usually found at frequent intervals and their choice of food is good - well-presented and cooked. We particularly liked "*jambon braisee avec epinard*" which is regularly found in the *L'Arche* chain of restaurants....but I digress.

What do we offer to our visitors? This thought came to mind when I visited the Whitestrand public convenience in Salcombe just before we left for France. Apart from a lick of paint, nothing appears to have been done to improve the facilities there in the past 30+ years. In Kingsbridge the Quay facilities, since refurbishment, are good but the same cannot be said of the upper Fore Street car park loos. How do we fare by comparison in the parish - Thurlestone Sands, Leasfoot, Bantham sands? Methinks a visit could be of interest on my return home.

Footnote: A press release from the South Hams District Council, dated 7.5.99 quotes their chief contract services officer, Tony Eden, as saying "Totnes is one of the first locations to benefit from the refurbishment of the district's fifty-nine public conveniences over the next few years".

Poop Scoops again

We now hear that a silent *photographer* is compiling an interesting dossier of the parish's dog owners who don't appear to carry the necessary bags around when exercising their canine companions.

Rumour has it that a strong body of opinion supports the idea of having a "rogues gallery" of photographs of offending owners on display during a well-publicised event in the Parish Hall. Watch this space.....

It might be better for the guilty owners to be "caught in the act" in this way rather than by having to face an embarrassing appearance in the Magistrates' Court with its attendant publicity.

On hearing a first cuckoo in spring '99

The cuckoo has returned. I heard it calling in the valley over towards South Milton on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd May, though I understand that others living in the parish had heard it several weeks earlier. With this, and the sighting of the first swallows, has summer nearly come? All we need now is to see those other early-flyers, Orange-Tip butterflies, to confirm that it has!

Ode to the Wall

This is the tale of the Ilbert Road Wall
Approved by the Planners though 8 feet tall.
The cement now so bright
Not yet covered from sight.
The west side still bare
No plants growing there.
May the future be green
Plants and flowers to be seen.
And this is the hope for the Ilbert Road Wall
That good sense and good taste will win
overall!

Anon. (name and address supplied)

"DEAR THURLESTONE"

by Neville Oswald

A few years ago I wrote an article in *Village Voice* entitled 'Old Men Forget'.

At least I think I did - but I'm not sure.

Now I am more forgetful than ever, but still remember the good old days of twenty or more years ago when life was simpler. Our family arrived in early August for the summer holidays year after year, and enjoyed the cut and thrust of easy conversation with people like Maurice, Derrick, Kendall, and others who are now among the most important people in the parish.

They all had, and still have, an eye for a good story which, if suitably embellished at times, lost little in the telling. Yet writing for a local journal such as *Village Voice*, whose readers know so much about what is going on anyway, a real effort must always be made to obtain reliable information, even when it derives from hearsay evidence or questionable sources.

I ran across an instance of the latter recently when a man completed an application form for a job. He had no difficulty in writing his name, age and marital status. The next question, number of children by sex, stumped him. After deliberation he entered "*Three - two by sex and one by adoption*". What kind of an answer was that?

I remember an occasion, many years ago, when a resident of Thurlestone died. Her husband called to tell me his wife wanted her ashes to be cast into the river at Bantham and asked me to help him. He had in mind my reading a few lines of poetry to mark the occasion. From my limited knowledge of poetry, I searched high and low among familiar sources and eventually selected one of eight lines, which I submitted to him. He was delighted but I, for the life of me, cannot remember what it was.

The day came when he, with the casket containing the ashes, and I, with the poem, went over to Bantham. The wind howled and a spring tide was rushing in. There were quite a lot of people about, those who knew us giving us a rather non-

committal look. We thought at first of scattering the ashes near the broken-down jetty, but it was rather public and the fierce waves were unsettling. I suggested that we go upstream a bit, which we did and eventually found a fairly quiet solid place where we stood respectfully with water up to our ankles. He produced the casket and I started on the poetry. After I had read the first two lines he shouted "*That's enough*", chucked the ashes into the water and we packed up and went home. I wish I could remember his name.

Much of my working life was taken up with outpatient clinics where my memory and those of the patients lost their sharpness at times. Two of them came to see me within a few weeks of each other; both complained of breathlessness following a severe chest injury with several broken ribs some years before. By coincidence, each had sustained his injury when falling down a manhole. Some months later, a labourer and his formidable wife came along. He also had had a serious chest injury with broken ribs. "*You must have fallen down a manhole?*" I suggested. Whilst he was vehemently denying this his wife interrupted him saying "*How do you know you have never fallen down a manhole. Look at the state you come home in on Saturday nights. You could easily have fallen down one without remembering anything about it*".

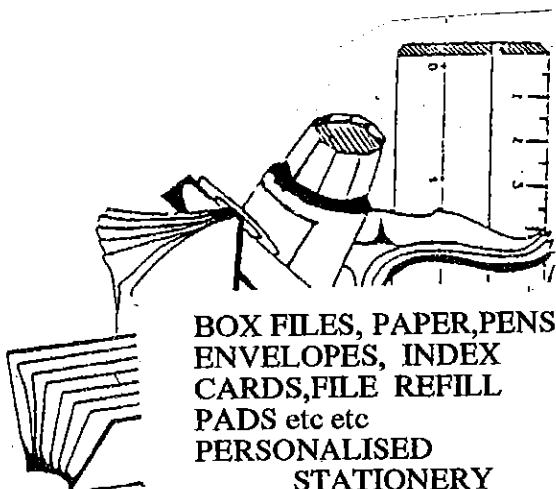
Forgetfulness and unreliable testimony, at least in Thurlestone, may take various forms. Wandering round the Old Rectory garden a while ago, I bumped into a resident acquaintance of some years' standing. Knowing that his four adult children were rarely at home or indeed in England, I enquired of their whereabouts. "*One of them*" he said "*is in the United States, another in Australia or thereabouts and another in Honolulu*". Then - after a long pause he added - "*I cannot remember who the fourth one is*".

In my view forgetfulness is not all that bad. It is not a crime and, come to think of it, many things are best forgotten anyway!

Kingsbridge Stationers

95 Fore St
Kingsbridge

Tel: 856778



BOX FILES, PAPER, PENS,
ENVELOPES, INDEX
CARDS, FILE REFILL
PADS etc etc
PERSONALISED
STATIONERY
RUBBER STAMPS

Don't forget our photocopying --
and
FAX Service !!
Call in and see us today

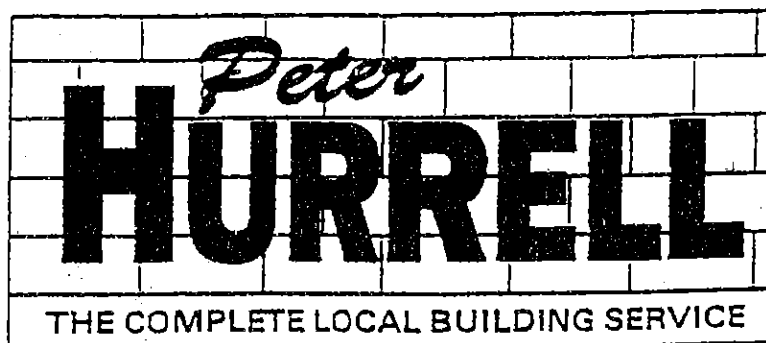


Abraham House

Fine quality Fitted Kitchens

• CHOICE • QUALITY
• SERVICE • VALUE

FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE
CALL DAVID FENTON-JONES
01548 561623



Extensions • Renovations • Conversions • Alterations

PLUMBING HEATING ROOFING
PATIOS DECORATIONS GARAGES
UPVC WINDOWS DOORS AND FASCIAS

Why not let us give you an estimate?

WOODLANDS • WEST BUCKLAND • KINGSBRIDGE
TEL KINGSBRIDGE (01548) 560496 or 560521



THE VILLAGE INN
THURLESTONE, KINGSBRIDGE



GOOD BEER, GOOD FOOD, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.....

Enjoy a wide variety of home-made dishes using fresh local produce, in comfortable surroundings. Fresh fish daily, seafood platters, pasta dishes, delicious steaks.

Complemented by a superb selection of Real Ales including Bass, Palmers, Wadworth 6x and Marstons Pedigree.

A fine choice of wines from around the world.

Families welcome in our family area and outside.

Opening times: Monday - Saturday 11.30 - 3pm
6 - 11pm
Sunday 12 - 3pm
7 - 10.30pm

(Open all day during summer holidays).

Food served: Monday - Saturday 12 noon - 2pm
6.30 - 9.30pm
Sunday 12 noon - 2pm

Takeaway meals available

HAPPY HOUR 6-7PM Mon, Tues, Wed.....£1.25 a pint

TELEPHONE - 01548 560382

Your host: Sarah Blackburn.

TRAMP

1 *Things started badly for the first April walk.* First, we had to cancel the planned walk as large areas were under water.

Then, on the morning of the revised walk, reports came through from Newton Ferrers that they had just experienced a very heavy snow storm. However, I was able to ring a friend in Cornwall, who walks with us, and she confirmed that, yes, it had snowed, but the sun was now shining!

Throwing caution to the wind - and to the disappointment of some of the walkers who had already planned a more suitable way of spending the day - we decided to go.

Thirteen paraded at the start and the walk took us through West Alvington Woods, where the bluebells were in full bloom, back into Kingsbridge for a walk along Rope Walk. We then headed across the fields in sunshine to Easton, Auton, Youngcombe, Woolston and Cholwells before crossing the Kingsbridge to Malborough road and, taking to the fields once more, heading towards Sutton.

On this stretch we found a sheltered spot and a sunny interval for lunch - which turned out to be a rather hurried affair as storm clouds appeared to be gathering. However, we were being kindly smiled upon and passing Sutton we joined the South Milton road for a while before taking to the fields again and heading towards Preston and our cars.

It turned out to be much better than expected, and all were glad that we had made the effort!

Derek Yeoman

2 Your correspondent nearly missed TRAMP'S second April walk, having foolishly mistaken the departure time from the

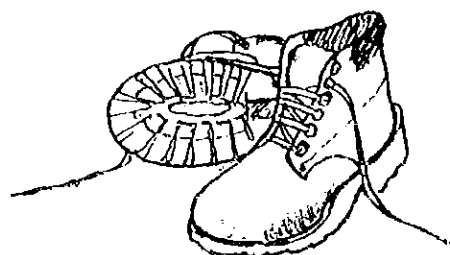
Parish Hall, arriving in Kingston just as the other 13 walkers with their three dogs were disappearing up the hill out of the village.

We soon left the road for the path along the estuary, past Wonwell Beach, and then out on to the cliffs. Here there was no longer any shelter from the really wild wind; but the sun was shining warmly. Despite the switchback nature of the coastal path, good progress was made - although a lobster-pot float, masquerading as a seal, provided a good excuse to stop for a moment to scan the sea.

A few ups and downs later we decided that a short pause would be advisable if we did not want to reach our lunch spot before some people had finished breakfast. On the beach where we had our picnic it was warm, almost hot; nevertheless, only one dog was brave enough to bathe. It is always a good idea to record something that makes a walk particularly memorable. This time it was a cow in labour. She had found a sheltered place a little way from the rest of the herd; we hoped all went well.

Round about Aylmer Cove we left the cliffs and took the path inland towards Ringmore, which our leader skilfully contrived to enter avoiding the less picturesque outskirts of the village. Once we were through Ringmore, mainly field paths and tracks took us back, almost mud-free, to Kingston.

Pam Brewster



THE RIGHT TO ROAM

by Basil Fox

In March of this year, after many months of controversy, the Government announced plans to establish a right to roam across mountain, moor, heath, down and common land, subject to common-sense restrictions.

How is this going to affect us in the South Hams? Should we welcome it? Or are we going to find that people are walking through our gardens, roaming at will through farmland and damaging our wildlife? Perhaps we ought to take a good hard look at the proposals and find out whether they are as alarming as some people would have us believe.

Mountain, moor, heath and down

Firstly, of course, people aren't going to be allowed to walk through our gardens or roam through farmland.

The new statutory right of access will apply to mountain, moor, heath and down, subject to mapping by a new Countryside Agency, and to registered common land. The right might be extended to other types of open country, such as some woodland. It will apply only to access on foot for open-air recreation.

It is difficult to think of anywhere in the South Hams which will be affected by the proposed legislation, and certainly it will **not** apply to our gardens and farms.

Wildlife

What are the arguments about damage to wildlife? The great majority of walkers respect the countryside. Many are members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Trusts, National Trust and the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England). Moreover, many rambler groups organise working parties to clear, survey and waymark paths. Some make donations to special path projects and improvements.

The South Hams group of the Ramblers' Association, for instance, has during the last two months given £1000 towards the improvement of the Avon Estuary Walk; nearly £600 for the improvement of paths in the Bigbury area; and

£500 to the appeal by the Woodland Trust for funds to create Watkins Wood. Walkers, perhaps more than anyone else, wish to protect the countryside.

Limitations on right to roam

The statutory right to roam is going to be subject to proper and reasonable limitations and there will be codes of practice. The new Countryside Agency and the National Park Authorities will be able to authorise closures or restrictions to protect wildlife or sites of historic interest if the landowner can demonstrate that such restrictions are necessary. In addition, land managers will be able to close land for other reasons without prior consent subject to an annual limit of 28 days.

Some people may think that these proposed restrictions to the right to roam will seriously undermine the freedom to enjoy the wild countryside of Britain but the Ramblers' Association which, since it was founded, has campaigned for the right to roam, has welcomed the proposals. The Association has always recognised that a statutory right would need to be subject to restrictions and it feels that the government's proposals will meet its campaign objectives.

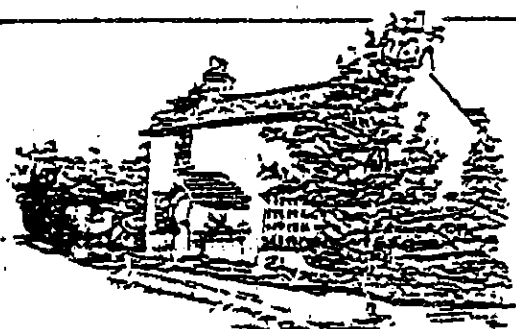
Failure of a voluntary approach

Michael Meacher said, in Parliament, that over the past fifty years a voluntary approach had achieved very little and there was still little prospect of much new access being provided voluntarily in future. It is perhaps unfortunate that a voluntary approach has failed, but the offers made by landowners were often contingent upon the abolition of ancient rights of way across their land, and invariably failed to provide any guarantee of access in the future. The approach too often consisted of vague proposals, with little substance, dressed up to make them appear a good alternative to statutory provision.

At last, we are going to have a statutory right to roam across mountain, moor, heath, down and common land - and in ten years' time we shall no doubt be wondering what all the fuss was about.

Basil Fox

ASK FOR AN ESTIMATE



Renovations
Alterations
Decorations

EXTENSIONS · GARAGES
GENERAL BUILDING
CONTRACTORS

RAYMOND WEEKS

MOUNTVIEW, EAST ALLINGTON
KINGSBRIDGE

Tel: 01548 521319

THE SALON

**Hairdressing for
men and women**

**Cindy and The Salon team
welcome clients
old and new**

**... we are always
pleased to see you!**

**43 Fore Street
Kingsbridge 01548-852128**



**THE BRITISH CHIROPODY
ASSOCIATION**

Visiting chiropody service
for the South Hams

Douglas V. Smith

M.S.S.Ch., M.B.Ch.A.

CHIROPODIST

For a comprehensive chiropody
service in the comfort of your
own home

For enquiries and appointments,
please telephone

(01548) 561304 anytime
(answerphone when out on call)

Shop at the
NEW !! NEW !!

**THURLESTONE
POST OFFICE &
STORES**

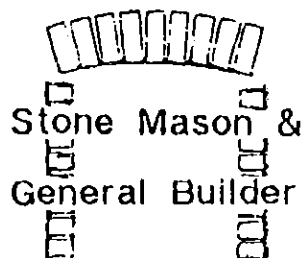
Newspapers, Groceries,
Vegetables, Stationery,
Gifts, Tobacco,
Off-Licence

Mon, Tues,	8.30- 5.30
Thurs, Fri	
Wed, Sat	8.30-1 pm
Sun	8.30-12.0

Alison & Adrian
Masters
Tel: 561 917



**SHAWN
PUTT**



Stonework, Building,
Plastering and Renovations

01548 853769

SAYER'S

'Catering for all Occasions'

A freelance professional
catering service

WEDDING RECEPTIONS
DINNER PARTIES
BUFFETS BANQUETS
COCKTAIL PARTIES
BUSINESS FUNCTIONS

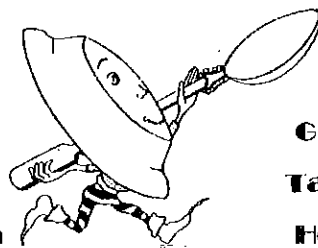
*Anything from dinner for two
to the full organisation
of a large occasion*

Telephone (01548) 856714

(Philippa Sayer, Cordon Bleu trained)

Cater Hire

China
Cutlery
Table
Linen



Glassware
Tableware
Heating

**Lighting, Catering,
Marquees**

A Complete

Professional Service

The Coach House, Elston, Churchstow

Tel: 01 548 856714

HARRY HUGGINS IS OUT FOR THE COUNT

Birdwatchers count birds. I don't know exactly how many do. The proportion of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds million members must be small.

Members of the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society (**DBWPS**) might be expected to be reasonably keen, and about a fifth of them send in things for the annual county report. One counts for one's own interest. And one is asked for records by other people. They usually call it "surveying", a term I do not like because it makes me think of someone coming to the door to try to sell something.

The RSPB seldom asks. In past winters we have done an annual beached bird survey for them, tottering along the foreshore looking for corpses, usually Gannets and Auks which have been caught in nets. We don't do that any more. South Milton Sands, Leasfoot Beach and Yarmer Beach would be all right, but I don't think I can get down to Broadsand any more - and if I did I would never get back up again; and we never did get into Butter Cove. Usually, though, if the RSPB wants a study made it employs someone - unlike the other organisations it has plenty of money. Never enough - who has? - but plenty.

Sometimes the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (**WWT**), the late Peter Scott's lot, wants to know something about swans and geese and ducks. Mostly the outfit which wants us to count is the British Trust for Ornithology (**BTO**), whose place in the sun is for studying birds in the place where they live and coming up with information when someone wants to do something; as it might be building a power-station on Bantham Sands. (No, I have not heard that has been suggested; but equally outrageous things are proposed, and done).

So we do most of our counting for the BTO. We are not paid and we are not reimbursed, but we get to some interesting places, and, well, if you are going to birdwatch you have got to do it somewhere.

Soon after we came to live here there was a note in the DBWPS magazine asking for folks to count birds on estuaries. It is now called the Wetland Bird Survey (**WeBS**). The lady who did the Erme wanted to give up. She lived at Flete House, the mighty pile you see across the fields just before you turn off the A379 to go to Ermington. No longer the pad (sorry, I should call it seat) of the Mildmay family, it is a rather grand retirement home. She could still walk, quite well in fact, but not very far and so latterly she did her counting from an electric wheelchair.

That restricted her a bit. She could get along the estate road to where the river Erme opens out into an estuary proper, just below Holbeton. There is a wider basin, with saltings and mudflats at low tide. Then it narrows again and the road runs through the woods a little way inland. At that point she turned back, otherwise she did not have enough juice to get home. As far as the counting was concerned it made little difference that she went no further because the estuary becomes shingly, very disturbed by walkers and dogs (and car thieves at Wonwell Beach); any birds come upstream to the wider part.

The dear soul (she has been dead now for years) said she would come with us to start with, to show us where to go. So we got permission from Mr Mildmay White and each Sunday, once a month, on the appointed day (the WeBS people chose a day each month when the counts all over Britain are to be done), we collected her in the car at 10 am (she didn't have breakfast until nine,

so it couldn't be any earlier); we all drove down through Holbeton village to the estuary, where we marched along the west bank together.

Meticulous is what she was. This counting is not an exact science. Gordon Waterhouse, who masterminds the counts on the Kingsbridge estuary, told us that one year the wildfowlers said they had shot more Teals than he and his team had counted. And once the team took a photograph of a flock of Golden Plovers (I think they have deserted the estuary now). They blew it up big, and counted more Plovers on it than ever they had counted in the flesh (or feather). Our lady insisted that we count separately, and then agree our figures afterwards. Eventually she gave up - some time in the early or mid-80s and we have been trotting along the estate road on the west bank ever since, still doing only the quite small area which she had done.

In winter there are a few Mute Swans, maybe up to 200 Widgeons, nearly as many Mallards, some Curlews, about 30 Oystercatchers, and varying numbers of Gulls. In summer there is not very much. But we still go once a month, never on a Sunday now (we don't worry about the officially appointed day any more) and soon after 8 am if possible; there are many holiday cottages occupied. If we are early they are not out of bed, but leave it a bit later and there is too much disturbance for us to count - one dog in the river can send every bird away.

We do this WeBS count from the west bank. Then, once a month, from March to July, we go to the east bank to count the Grey Herons' nests at Orcheton, in Oldaport Wood. Oldaport equals old port - there is a dock with berths for three or four quite big barges, now cut off from the estuary by an estate road. It was all dug out by hand, ages ago, along with a canal running quite a way inland. A quiet place now, but it must have been busy once.

The Herons nest high in trees and each nest

is about the size of an armchair. Ah, easy to count we thought when we started. But it is not. In March, before the larches have come into leaf, you can see what you think are nests. But what is a this-year's nest, and what is one of last year's not in use, or a large clump of foliage, is difficult to tell. It is all right if you see a bird come in - all neck and legs - but if the incubating bird is crouched down low you cannot see her. Of course it is easy enough when the young are big and standing on the nests but the nesting season is spread out and if some are doing that there are others still quite small and not visible.

From April onwards the trees are in leaf so we go around the outside of the wood trying to make up our minds how many nests there are. Why not go underneath the trees and look up? We can't get into the wood. We wouldn't see anything if we could and we would also risk disturbing the birds - there is always a Crow ready to dash in and seize an unguarded egg. We usually manage to make it five or six nests and we need to be accurate here. If you are counting Ducks whether there are 151 or 153 does not much matter, but if there are only a few nests, the difference between five and six is material.

These estuary and Heron counts go on year after year. But sometimes there are one-offs. With some you don't find anything and you know before you *start* that you are not going to find anything. In April 1998 the BTO wanted Lapwings counted. When we were kids you could march about on the barren Devon fields and find their nests. Not any more, the land is much more farmed and their numbers have plunged.

The BTO chooses bits of land (I think they use a computer but they could just as well use a map and a pin). These are picked at random and we opted for the nearest, a tetrad (two kilometres by two kilometres), which included Ugborough Beacon. So up the Beacon we went; it was quite dry underfoot, but bitterly cold. We found no Lapwings - we could have told them that without going - but there *were* plenty of

Meadow Pipits and Skylarks (which was something as they are getting scarce). There was also a flock of around thirty Golden Plovers, resting as they migrated north, and all in summer plumage - speckly golden tops with black throats and tummies.

Numbers of some birds seem adequate, or more than adequate (Herring Gulls and Wood Pigeons). But many quite common birds like Starlings and House Sparrows are in decline. There has been much talk of falling numbers of Skylarks, and in the summer of 1997 the BTO asked us to count breeding ones. When we were children you could wander about the grassy fields and find their nests in tussocks. Unless they got trodden on by a cow they were safe, the farmers weren't bustling about fertilising and spraying or cutting silage every five minutes; they might cut some hay here and there but that was it. And, incidentally, there was no talk of a "right to roam". You didn't walk in a cornfield of course, but otherwise if you ambled about and didn't do any damage no one seemed to mind.

Larks are suffering from intensive farming. The BTO wanted to try and find out if they were breeding and in what crops. We were offered a one kilometre square near Churchstow. It had the advantages that it was not too far from home, there was somewhere to leave the car (there is not always when you do these things) and as it could all be studied from roads and footpaths we didn't have to ask anyone's permission. We didn't have to look for nests - just to find singing males and to record what crops they seemed to be favouring. The BTO gave us a crib sheet showing what the crops looked like (although it seemed they had never heard of making silage).

We were told to ask the farmer if in any doubt about crops but faced the difficulty that we had no idea to which farms the fields belonged. We thought probably there were at least four involved; you couldn't go and pester four farmers, to say nothing of the risk of getting bitten by four farm dogs as you went in. We went four times, trotting along

little lanes and footpaths, and found nine singing males, considered by people doing the same thing in other squares to be good.

But of course the tail had a sting in it. The BTO said now we want to know what skylarks are wintering. So three times we went again - November, January and February. As long as there were stubbles left we found birds, well over 100 on one visit. When the stubbles were ploughed all went, whither we do not know.

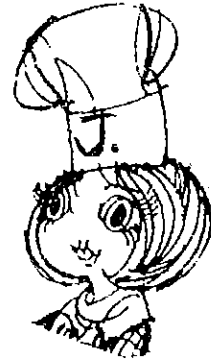
On occasion the BTO has frustrated us. In the early 1980s we were asked to do Buzzards. It was based on ten kilometre squares. If you look on the Ordnance Survey map you find them marked by blue lines, not very thick, but thicker than the ones which mark one kilometre squares. We were allocated two. One stretched from Holbeton to South Brent. The other was to the south of that one, from South Milton in the east to the Erme in the west. It included a good big chunk of sea, always useful because it cuts down the area you have to cover - birds don't nest at sea.

In the spring Buzzards hold a good big chunk of territory and fly up to do battle if any others appear. So you wander about looking for Buzzards soaring over their patch, or roaring up to see off other Buzzards - which are of course interested in the bit next door. We did this on six days in March and April, too late really; that is when we were told to do it, but in Devon they are usually on eggs by then. I expect whoever wrote the instructions was thinking of birds in Wales and the Lake District which do their thing later. Anyway, we did our survey faithfully, drove around a lot of little lanes we never knew existed (and have never been to again) and recorded quite a lot of Buzzards. We sent in our information for the BTO and heard no more. Never.

Years later we enquired what had happened. "Oh," we were told, "the man who asked for that survey left for employment elsewhere..... and no one else was interested"!!

Harry Huggins

KATE'S KITCHEN



SUMMER GREENS

Those who grow their own vegetables know how impossible it is to grow the right amount. Sometimes there is a glut or, unhappily for all but the slugs, there is none. For those whose kitchen gardens have escaped every pestilence this year, and for others who know of a supplier of good, fresh, young vegetables, it is useful to produce dishes that do not keep us in the kitchen for too long on sunny days!

The following can be prepared quite quickly. Each could be served separately as a light lunch, with perhaps a tomato and olive salad and a loaf of French bread; or you could offer all three together for a more substantial meal, presenting them attractively in their varying shades of green.

PEAS COOKED IN THE FRENCH WAY

1 small lettuce; 6 chopped spring onions; 1 tablespoon chopped parsley; 2 ounces butter; 4 tablespoons hot water; 1 lb peas.

Make a bed of lettuce in the bottom of an oven-to-table pan. Put in everything else on top of the lettuce. Simmer gently for about 20 minutes, until most of the liquid is absorbed. Give a gentle stir before you serve.

SPINACH TART

1lb cooked, drained spinach; 3 beaten eggs; 6 tablespoons double cream; half a pound of cottage cheese; 2 ounces grated Parmesan cheese; nutmeg to taste

Bake a pastry case until it is golden. Chop spinach and mix it with all the other ingredients. Pour the mixture into the pastry case and bake it at 180° C (375° F, Gas 4)

LEMON SAUCE

Courgettes, carrots, new potatoes, sprouting broccoli - more or less any young summer vegetables - can be lightly cooked and served warm with the following sauce:

4 fl. ounces of good olive oil; juice of a large lemon; tablespoon chopped chives; a crushed clove of garlic; half a teaspoon each of dried oregano and dried mint.

Mix all ingredients together thoroughly and pour them over the warm vegetables. You can, of course, serve them cold but this does not seem to bring the flavour out as well.

And after all that, what better to finish with than a bowl of raspberries and plenty of cream?

Coast & Country



COTTAGES

SELF CATERING HOLIDAYS IN SOUTH DEVON

Over 150 Cottages,
Houses and Flats

All personally inspected
and approved

Additional Quality
Properties required
now for 1999 Full
Colour Brochure

Coast & Country Cottages
Church St Salcombe TQ8 8DH
Tel 01 548 843773
Fax 01 548 843330
E Mail: HolsDevon@aol.com

YOUR LOCAL GARAGE AND M.O.T. TESTING STATION

BLIGHT ENGINEERING

BANTHAM GARAGE, THURLESTONE
(Tel: Kingsbridge 560220)

BRITANNIA RESCUE SERVICE

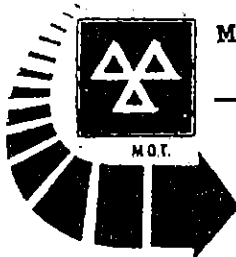
SERVICING & MECHANICAL REPAIRS OF ALL MAKES

Engine Reconditioning and Transmission Overhauls

WHEEL BALANCING ON CAR

24 Hour vehicle RECOVERY and COLLECTION SERVICE

MOWERS & CULTIVATORS SERVICED



ACCIDENT REPAIRS

(carried out by our associated company)

J. F. AUTOBODIES

Approved repairers for all leading insurance companies

● Low Bake Oven ● Chassis Jigs ● Sunshine Roofs

PETROL
TYRES
OIL

WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE

Frank Wallis

Windows cleaned at
competitive prices

Tel. Thurlestone
01 548 561 788 or
07 970 712 994 (Mobile)

Claire's Kitchen

'Cuisine with a flair'



PRIVATE FUNCTIONS:

Buffet, Dinner or Cocktail Parties
Weddings, Anniversaries, Christenings
and Funerals

PREPARED DISHES:

For you to heat and serve
(Special Diets respected)

All hireage, flowers, staff can be provided
MENUS AND QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE

CLAIRE J. WALLACE

Winkfield Place Cordon Bleu Diploma
Woolston Court, West Alvington,
Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3BH
Tel: 01 548 560191



**ADRIAN
MUNDY**

**Independent Monumental
Masons**

Memorials: Renovations:

Lettering: Name Plates

A Local Qualified

Craftsman

Competitive Prices

Tel/Fax: 01 548 856 340 or

Mobile/Shop 0421 666524

Unit 10, Garden Mill, Kingsbridge

**We like
nothing better
than to get under
your feet !**



For all your
Carpet requirements,
call in at:



16 Fore Street. Kingsbridge.

Tel: (01 548) 852168

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

The South Hams Mediation Service has recently announced that it is starting work in the area. It has been set up to assist people in resolving disputes, typically between neighbours, in the family, in schools or in the workplace.

Mediation Services in other parts of the country have reported a high degree of success in helping people to reach agreement and settle their differences amicably. All mediators have undergone training and the service is free.

Anyone wishing to know more about mediation may contact Maurice Oldfield, the Acting Co-ordinator (01548 - 561012) or me, Jennifer Fox (01548 - 561419). I live at Aune Cross and I am both a mediator and a member of the South Hams Mediation Committee.

**Jennifer Fox
Aune Cross**

Dear Editor

Mr Taylor's letter in the April-May edition has my support as the subject is of great importance.

Will you please consider a compromise, which I hope will meet your concern? Ask Mr Taylor to make a precis of his article and then publish with an editor's note that a similar length article expressing other opinions would be welcome.

You could then determine your editorial policy on an informed basis

**Harry H Begent
Warren Road**

Dear Editor

As a result of Mike Taylor's letter in the April/May issue of Village Voice, I obtained a copy of the article in question, so that I could form my own judgement regarding publication.

Although I would agree with much of the content of his article, there is no doubt at all that it is of a political nature, and therefore unsuitable for publication in a magazine such as Village Voice. It is vital that our community magazine should never be permitted to become the forum for political debate and propaganda.

I congratulate the Editor on her assessment of the situation.

**Geoff Wilkinson
Mead Lane**

[Editor's note:

Mr Begent appears to have missed the editorial point. It is not simply the length of Mr Taylor's article, but the nature of its content, that makes it unacceptable. Whilst an occasional, and even irreverent, political aside in contributions can be happily accommodated, Village Voice is not a vehicle for mainstream political debate of any kind.

However, if any other reader wishes to put his or her political opinions on paper and offer them to anyone in the parish who may be interested, we will certainly publish their name, address, and phone number in our columns so that interested parties may contact them directly to obtain a copy.

If, in consequence, any third parties find themselves in neighbourly dispute, perhaps they could then get in touch with the South Hams Mediation Service at one of the phone numbers appearing on this page.]

Dear Editor

Further to your recent publication of a letter from Fred and Gladys, somewhere north of Exeter, we feel compelled, as residents of **The Estate**, to reply.

Ever since the relaxation of our European boundaries, and the decreasing need for passports, the intrusion of grockles is the continuing price we have to pay. For those unfamiliar with this term, it is a word used to describe the folk from the Midlands who migrate to the South West for their holidays. It seems a perfectly apt title for these travellers, as both the term and the people to whom it is applied are of uncertain origin.

Of course, one fully appreciates that individuals such as Fred and Gladys are perpetually trying to "forge" links with the local community. However, the term "forge" also means "a fraudulent imitation" - which may relate to their attempts to participate as locals for two weeks every year.

Whilst it is refreshing to hear that they now have motor cars in the North (but can't yet quite afford a whole one with a roof), it is still disappointing that these "grockles" keep coming. Their visiting Devon is not itself a problem, but it is their intrusion on to **The Estate** that must be halted. It is precisely for this reason that we have erected gates at the end of our roads. We are sure you can imagine our *utter* dismay at having "grockles" impede our views of our golf course, our beaches, and of course our Rock - not to mention the impact of their loud voices with strange accents as we sip our evening Pimms. It is so inconvenient that they always seem to leave our beaches at six o'clock.

Perhaps they are after their "grog" - which is strange, since "grockle" comes immediately before "grog" in the Oxford Dictionary.

**Peregrine & Georgina
Thponthonby-Thmythe**
(name and address withheld)

Pat Machin's
Buzzle Corner

**SOUTH HAMS
CLUELESS ROUNDWORD
ANSWERS (IN ORDER)**

PENQUIT, TOPSHAM BRIDGE,
EAST PORTLEMOUTH,
HAZELWOOD, DITTISHAM,
MARJERY CROSS, STOKE GABRIEL,
LIXTON, NEWTON FERRERS,
SHERFORD, DARTMOUTH,
HARBERTONFORD,
DARTINGTON, NOSS MAYO,
OVERBECKS, STOKE FLEMING,
GARA ROCK, KINGSBRIDGE,
ENDSLEIGH, HALLSANDS,
STOKENHAM, MALBOROUGH,
HALWELL, LODDISWELL,
LEE MILL, LEIGH

OR

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

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL
HORTICULTURAL SHOW

**Saturday 7th August
2.30 pm**

Thurlestone Parish Hall

Artists of the Two Parishes - Unite!

THERE ARE THREE CLASSES IN THE SHOW
SPECIALLY FOR YOU!

- * A PAINTING IN OILS
- * A PAINTING IN WATER COLOURS
- * A PICTURE
(using any drawing or painting technique, and any medium)

Please support the Show by entering your work

Schedules at Thurlestone PO
or from
John Lonsdale (560742)

ENTRIES MUST BE IN BEFORE
TUESDAY 27th JULY 1999

SAFFRON PRIVATE HIRE

(Proprietor: J.Peacock)

Travel over any Distance

**Shopping, Airports, Stations
Air conditioned vehicle**

**Personal Service
Safe, Comfortable & Convenient**

**Assistance given to
elderly & disabled by
mature experienced Driver**

**Retired Emergency
Ambulance Man**

**Fully Licensed
& Insured**

01 548 853 900



An independent family business

SAVILL

FUNERAL SERVICES

**A CARING AND SYMPATHETIC SERVICE
DAY AND NIGHT**

Kingsbridge 01548 857701

THE MOORLAND
UNION ROAD
KINGSBRIDGE
S. DEVON; TQ7 1EF

IF YOU LIVE ROUND HERE... YOU NEED JUST TWO BOOKS...

**THE STORY OF
THURLESTONE,
BANTHAM AND
WEST BUCKLAND**

**with 100 Old Photographs
telling the tale.**

£8.95.

**SHIPWRECKS
OF THE
SOUTH HAMS.**

**Over 70 very local
shipwrecks in full
detail and pictures.**

£9.95

**FROM ALL YOUR LOCAL SHOPS. DON'T WALK
ABOUT WITHOUT THEM!**

**Abbeyfield House, Saffron Park
Kingsbridge**

Bed-Sitting Rooms with Shower-Rooms
ensuite - Waiting List Applications
now accepted.

Abbeyfield House, Kingsbridge
where residents can live independent
lives but with support and
companionship.

£136 or £146 p.w. includes Central
heating and Full Board provided by a
Resident Housekeeper/Cook.

Please apply to:-
Hon. Sec. Mrs E.J.Mills
01548 856976

A home, support and Companionship
for Elderly People.

Tel (01548) 561947

Car Park

ALSTON NURSERY
The Garden Plant Centre
Malborough

ROY AND JENNY LITTLEJOHNS
offer a wide selection of

**Bedding, container and
rockery plants,
shrubs, hanging baskets,
fuchsias ...etc**

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday to Sunday (incl)
and Tuesdays at the
Kingsbridge Market

MOYSEY'S
CLEANING

**CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING**

**WE WORK ON
RECOMMENDATION
PROVIDING A SINCERE,
PROFESSIONAL LOCAL
CLEANING SERVICE**

**PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE
ESTIMATE, BECAUSE NO JOB
IS TOO SMALL**

**Kingsbridge
01 548 852168**

***THE CARD
SHOP***

For a wide selection of
Greetings Cards,
Gifts, Party Ware,
Cake Decorations,
Printed Wedding, Business and
Personal Stationery
Call in and see us at

24 FORE STREET
KINGSBRIDGE
Telephone
(01548)
852327



ON SAFARI IN PEARLS

by Rosemary MacKay



Greatly daring, since being widowed, I booked a safari holiday in **Zimbabwe** and, being on my own, chose the safari lodges as being the most suitable. However, as soon as she heard of my plans my husband's cousin, Gwen, said she would like to join me, so we met up at Gatwick.

She was the one with the pearls.

Staying with my cousin in **Harare**, the first surprise was to be awakened at 6.30 am by the smiling black face of a house servant bearing my morning tea. Imagine yourself back in pre-war days - you ring the bell to have the table cleared! As I sat in my cousin's garden I felt there was hardly any need to go on safari for it was alive with so many varieties of birds. None was familiar to me, except the swallows which were preparing to "go away" - i.e., come to Britain.

Our safari trip consisted of three different locations and the first was on **Lake Kariba**. If the dam breaks it is said that Mozambique would be wiped out and that the ensuing tidal wave would reach Australia! I was out canoeing at 6 am and, with expert knowledge from the game warden, we were able to spot over fifty varieties of birds (Harry Huggins you were in my thoughts). We kept a pod of hippos at a discreet distance.

We had three activities a day, each lasting about three hours. Every kind of drink was free but, believe me, we were far too tired each night to do much drinking. We had all *mod.cons.* - with frogs in the showers, snakes on the roof and hippos on the prowl at night.

Hwange Game Park and the **Victoria Falls** were the other two destinations, and then on to the **Chobe River** in Botswana. We were

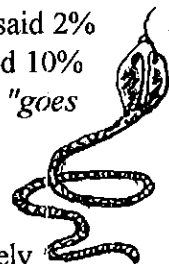
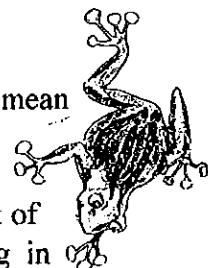
lucky to see nearly every variety of animal, including four lionesses who stalked, killed and ate an impala. The second safari was to the **Eastern Highlands** and the **Low Veldt** with my cousin (who was also complete with pearls). I was in Thurlestone Tramps gear, which is not notable for its sartorial elegance.

Driving (instead of flying) the hundreds of kilometres to the **Low Veldt** one saw very many people on the roads at this time of year. They were taking their mealies (maize) to be ground, then had to carry them back home, the huge sacks either being carried on their heads or pushed in wheelbarrows.

Harare has some beautiful - and I mean that - modern architecture and a conference centre put up by the government which would put most of ours to shame. Tourism is bringing in much-needed foreign money and provides plenty of jobs for people. Yet deep in the countryside there is such great poverty, little education, poor health facilities and masses suffering from AIDS. There are also a lot of very 'fat cats' and money going to the wrong places. Inflation is at an annual rate of over 60% with wage demands or 40% and more.

On the final day we went to the famous tobacco auctions. 1,700,000 kilograms are sold per day and the auctions, the largest in the world, go on for five months. The black Zimbabwean who showed us round said 2% of the money goes to the growers and 10% to the government. He added that it "*goes in the pocket and is not spent on hospitals, schools etc.*"

What a wonderful country, what lovely people, both black and white, who were so friendly and helpful to two elderly battleaxes from Britain!



ECLIPSE

DANCE

THEMED MASKED BALL



at the

Thurlestone Hotel

on

Wednesday 11th August

9.00pm – 1.00am



Crazy Rhythms
with

"Good Time Jazz"



**Jazz up Your
Shades**

TOMBOLA

GREAT PRIZES

DANCE AWAY ECLIPSE DAY!

Tickets £18.00

Available from the Thurlestone Hotel
or Friends of Thurlestone Church
on 01548 561215/560214

Canape Snacks

Welcome Glass of Fizz

In aid of Friends of Thurlestone Church

H.R.ADAMS

Garden Services

HOLIDAY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Tree and Shrub Care

Grass Cutting

Hedge Trimming

Strimming

Pruning

Chainsaw Work

7 Parkfield
Thurlestone
Kingsbridge
Devon TQ7 3NW

Telephone
Kingsbridge
(01548)
560664

Personal service

NIGEL FROST

B.Sc.(Hons.)

F.B.C.O.

OPTOMETRIST

**CHENE COURT,
POUNDWELL STREET**

(next to car park)

MODBURY

(01548) 830944

and

**KINGSBRIDGE EYE CARE
27, FORE STREET, KINGSBRIDGE**

(01548) 856854

OPEN SATURDAY MORNING

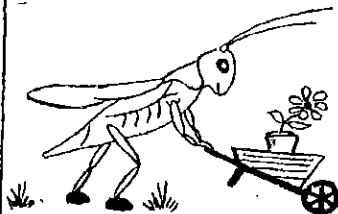
Contact Lenses, Spectacles, Accessories,
Complete Eye Examinations

GRASSHOPPER GARDEN SERVICES

FOR ALL YOUR
GARDEN MAINTENANCE.
GRASS CUTTING, PRUNING, FENCING,
HEDGE CUTTING, CLEARING.

GARDEN DESIGN.
CREATIVE COLOURFUL PLANTING
OF FLOWER BEDS, PATIO POTS,
AND HANGING BASKETS.

A high standard of work guaranteed with a
personal, friendly, reliable, tidy and
knowledgeable service.



15 Years Horticultural
Experience

Contact : Elaine or Jeremy
01548 810235

JAN'S CATERING

Next time you want to
throw a Dinner Party -
relax, put your feet up -
ring **Jan**

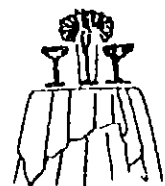


She will prepare it, cook
it and bring it to your
house ready for the table

Cold Buffets,
Boardroom Lunches,
Dinner Parties etc

For further information
ring **JAN**
on

01 548 560894





R. Bruckner & Sons

(Our own flying Dairymen)

MILK Delivered at home regularly

Cream.....

Eggs.....

Potatoes.....

Fruit juices.....

Pop.....

Even mineral water..... & Bread.....

** All at competitive prices **

Dartmouth Dairy, Unit 7, Nelson Road Ind. Est. Dartmouth. TQ6 9LA
Tel: 01803 832801

The Eclipse of the Sun

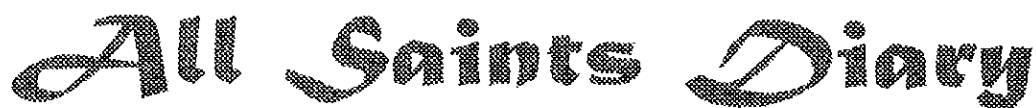
IN THE PARISH HALL

Meetings on June 15th & 22nd after School in the Resources Room

◀ ▶ 🔍 📄 📁 📂 📅 📆 📇 📈 📉 📊 📋 📌 📍 📎 📏 📐 📑 📒 📓 📔 📕 📖 📗 📘 📙 📚 📛 📜 📝 📞 📟 📠 📡 📢 📣 📤 📥 📦 📧 📨 📩 📪 📫 📬 📭 📮 📯 📰 📱 📲 📳 📴 📵 📶 📷 📸 📹 📺 📻 📼 📽 📾 📿 📠 📡 📢 📣 📤 📥 📦 📧 📨 📩 📪 📫 📬 📭 📮 📯 📰 📱 📲 📳 📴 📵 📶 📷 📸 📹 📺 📻 📼 📽 📾 📿

for only £2.25

Please contact Rosemary Chipman (562013)



Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Thursday June 10 th & July 8 th	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
June 6 th & 20 th , July 4 th & 18 th	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
June 13 th , July 11 th	11.10 a.m.	MATINS
June 27 th	11.10 a.m.	FAMILY SERVICE
July 25 th (South Milton)	9.30 a.m.	FAMILY SERVICE



Everyone is very welcome if lifts can be arranged, please contact Liz or Rosemary.



St Crispin's Fair - MONDAY OCTOBER 25TH AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE PARISH HALL

THURLESTONE HOTEL

HAIR SALON **Fudge Hair** **Products**

Mon Tues Thur 9-3
Wed Fri 9-5

CUTTING
SHAMPOO SET
BLOW DRY
TINTING
PERMING
GENTS CUT
....and more



BEAUTY SALON **Decleor Stockists**

Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30
Sat 10 - 6

REFLEXOLOGY
MANICURE
PEDICURE
MASSAGE
FACIALS
ELECTROLYSIS
WAXING
WEDDING SPECIALS
.....and more

**Staffed by fully qualified Hair Stylists
and Beauty Therapists**

Tel 01 548 560382 Hair: Ext 404 Beauty Ext: 400

HOME FROM HOME

ELEGANT ACCOMMODATION FOR CAREFREE LIVING, AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR REST, RELAXATION AND COMFORT OFFERING THE HIGHEST STANDARD IN 24 HOUR CARE. BEDROOMS ARE EXTENSIVELY EQUIPPED INCLUDING COLOUR T.V., CALL SYSTEM, WITH ENSUITE FACILITIES AVAILABLE .

NOW APPROVED FOR HIGH DEPENDENCY CARE.
RESPITE AND DAY CARE, SHORT BREAKS AND HOLIDAYS AVAILABLE.

VISITING HAIRDRESSER, CHIROPODIST AND LIBRARY.
WONDERFUL HOME COOKED FOOD, EXCURSIONS, ENTERTAINMENT.

BROCHURE AND MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM RESIDENT PROPRIETORS:-

ROS AND BRODIE McINTYRE or JEAN WHITE BSc(Hons) Manager

HYNE TOWN HOUSE
STRETE DARTMOUTH

RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR THE RETIRED.

TELEPHONE: 01803 770011/770307.

GREIG MIDDLETON



We offer a comprehensive range of services:

- Independent Investment Advice
- Discretionary Management
- Personal Equity Plans
- Probate Valuations
- Portfolio Valuation Review
- Financial Planning
- Corporate Finance

For further information please contact:

Gavin Price St. Catherine's House 5 Notte Street Plymouth PL1 2TW
Tel: 01 752 264000

22 Offices Nationwide

Member of the London Stock Exchange

Registered by the Securities and Futures Authority



Worldwide Airfares & Independent Travel Specialists

Airfares for Leisure & Business Travel
Special Student & "Under 26" Fares
Budget Hotels & Youth Hostels
Low Cost Travel Insurance
Rail, Air & Coach Passes
Adventure Travel

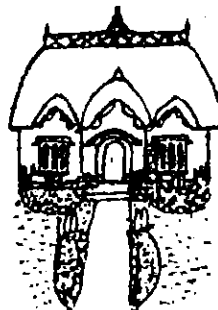
01548 821665
RESERVATIONS & ENQUIRIES

1st Western Air Travel
The Independent Travel Specialist

.....Most Major Credit & Debit Cards Accepted.....

1st Western Air Travel, Bickham, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 7NJ

M.G.M. NURSERIES



All types of Plants
Shrubs, Conifers,
Heathers, Trees,
Alpine and
Herbaceous

Specialists in
Garden Design

Shrub borders, Feature Trees, Hedges
Rockeries, Conifer and Heather beds

Free estimates and qualified advice

On Loddiswell to California Cross Road

Tel: 01 548 550754

PARISH

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse	560447
BOWLS CLUB (indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayman	560295
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	842467 560708
CHURCHWARDENS	Michael Chipman Liz Webb	562013 560090
COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	Contact Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kit Marshall	560214
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary/Manager, John Scott	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
PROBUS	Contact Philip Candy	560857
TRAMP (Thurstone Ramblers)	Contact Ian Fraser	560892
W. I. Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall.	Contact Carolyn Taylor	562033
RECTOR	to be announced	
PARISH COUNCIL		
Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Vice - Chairman	Veronica White	560236
Parish Clerk	John Lonsdale	560742
District Councillor	Carolyn Stean	
County Councillor	Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	David Grose	560375
	Charles Mitchellmore	560602
	Geoffrey Shotton	560695
	Derrick Yeoman	560607
	(Tree Warden)	

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

DIRECTORY

HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge Salcombe	853551 842284
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckner & Son	01803- 832801
VILLAGE SHOPS	Thurstone Village Shop Bantham Village Shop	Open M, T, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm W, S, S, 8.00 am - 2.00 pm (See Post Office)
PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Joan Lane	561006 560158
POST OFFICES	Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday 10.30 am Saturday; 11 am Sunday	Thurstone P.O. Wed, Sat. 9.00 am - 1.00 pm 561917
Open daily 9 am - 1 pm and 2 - 5.30 pm (Summer - exc. Wed pm) OPEN 9 am - 12.30 pm (Winter) Postal collections 9.30 am and 4.10 pm Monday-Friday 9.30 am Saturday; 11 am Sunday	Bantham P.O. (and Shop) SUNDAYS	560645
POLICE Emergency (life threatened, persons injured, offenders nearby, etc.) Central Switchboard (admin. matters, 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 0990-777-444 0990-700-400 0800-555-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION	Thursday Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays starting 22 April 1999 NOTE - Summer timetables could bring changes to the times shown here	(But Friday in Bank Holiday - Monday weeks)
BUSES (Western National)	162	No. 161 No. 162 No.
	<u>Wed only</u> <u>Mon - Sat</u>	<u>No. 161</u> <u>No. 162</u>
Bantham	10.30 14.20	Kingsbridge 10.10 13.50 12.15 Mon-Fri 17.00
Buckland	10.33 14.17	South Milton 10.50 14.00 12.40 17.25
Thurstone	10.41 14.09 09.45 13.28	Thurstone 10.41 14.09 12.31 17.16
South Milton	10.50 14.00 09.36 13.19	Buckland 10.33 14.17
Kingsbridge	11.00 14.40 10.02 13.45	Bantham 10.30 14.20
The 9.45 am from Thurstone to Kingsbridge connects with the 10.05 (92) and 11.05 (93) to Plymouth. Return from Plymouth (Bus Station) at 15.45 arriving Kingsbridge 16.54 for the 17.00 to Thurstone.		
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	11.10 - 11.30am	Maurice Blight 560220
LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays)		Kingsbridge 852315
11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel	11.50 - 12.15pm Thurstone Parish Hall	
12.20 - 12.35pm Thurstone Church	12.40 - 12.50pm Thurstone Sands	

THE SLOOP INN

BANTHAM

EGON
RONAY
PUB GUIDE

Tel. Kingsbridge
560489/560215

'WHICH'
GOOD PUB
GUIDE

The warm and welcoming 'Inn' Place

A Fine Free House range of Draught Beer,
— Ciders, Wines and Spirits. —

FOOD • Choose from the Chef's Fresh Local Seafoods
Prime Devon meats, Speciality Salads and a variety of Home
Prepared Dishes

ACCOMMODATION

FIVE DOUBLE ROOMS
4 with private bath & W.C.

& THREE LUXURY
SELF-CATERING
COTTAGES

Each
Sleeping
up to
six

