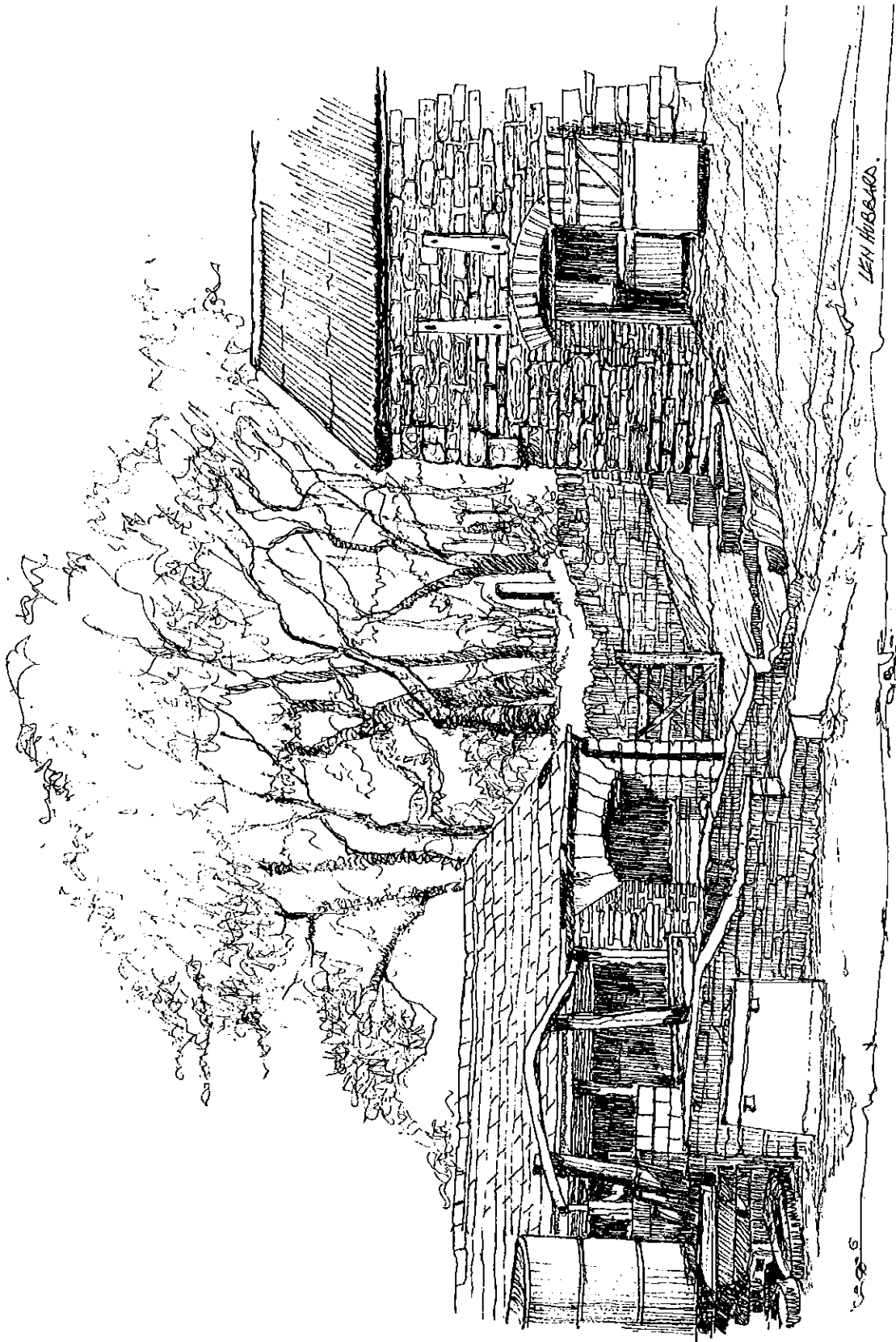


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VILLAGE VOICE

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1999



NUMBER 99
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1999

As memories of a somewhat disappointing eclipse begin to fade, the prospect of the millennium now looms hugely ahead. Among the many events that will mark the occasion, the release and distribution of *Land of the Five Beaches* is one of which everyone in the parish can feel proud. It was quite a daunting undertaking, but has been carried through with great determination, professionalism, and energy by its instigator and project manager David Smeeton, ably supported by the POTS committee members, and many other local helpers. Don't miss out when this video is released - it will be much sought after!

By a curious chance, the millennium will be heralded by the centenary issue of *Village Voice*. Our one hundredth publication (December 1999 - January 2000) will bestride the millennia in good heart. Originator Dudley Drabble is sadly no longer here to witness the event, but he would have no cause to doubt that his brainchild will still be going strong after another hundred issues. *Land of the Five Beaches* is evidence enough of the talent and energy to be tapped within the parish.

Whether the two hundredth issue will still be in this format, however, is another question. The march of the Internet may well lead us towards a Thurlestone parish and/or *Village Voice* website as our prime source of village news. Who knows?

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OLD RECTORIES AND FUR APPLES

Someone told me - or I read it somewhere; you know how these things are - that if you buy an old rectory today you are not allowed, by the conditions of sale laid down by the Church of England property sales director, to call it "The Old Rectory".

The reason for this, that same someone continued to inform me, is that England is covered with "Old Rectories" and the Post Office just can't cope with any more of them.

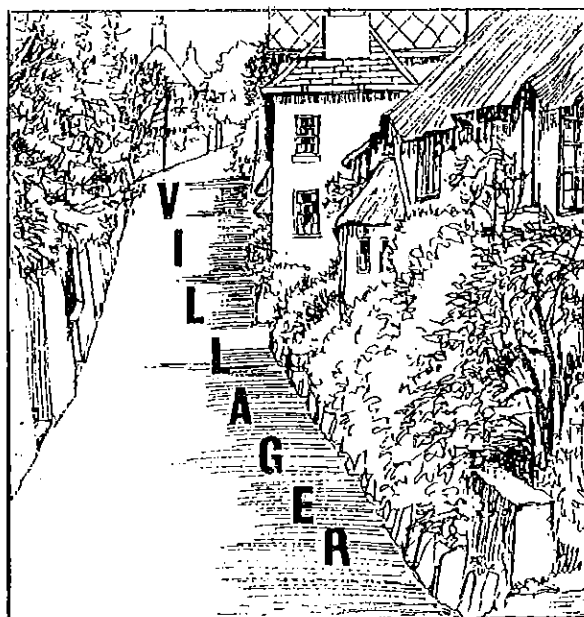
You can see how fascinating this snippet of information was to me. As you all know, we have two Old Rectories in Thurlestone parish at the moment, and seem about to get a third.

The oldest of them, of course, has no one living in it and gets no post because all that is left of it is a couple of walls which shelter the village's famous cream teas on a Thursday in season.

This Rectory was built some time in the 17th century, or even earlier. And it was in such a bad state by 1836, when the Reverend Peregrine Arthur Ilbert knew he would be taking over the living of Thurlestone in three years' time, that he set to work to build a new Rectory, more suitable for his large family and their health. That one is today another Old Rectory, and divided into several homes.

Now to our third Old Rectory - the most modern of them all. That was built in the 1930s as a retirement home for a tea-planter called Macintosh before becoming The Rectory. Will this now be called the Old Rectory? Or would we have to call them Old Rectory One, Old Rectory Two and Old Rectory Three? And what about the Church's ban on any more old rectories?

Being, as you know, of an enquiring mind, I rang Exeter Diocese for a ruling. In an unexpected crisp, decision-making tone, I



was swiftly informed that a Church of England ban on naming Rectories Old was not true, and did not exist, that Rectories and Vicarages were one and the same thing (the correct term for them both was Parsonage), and that what you called the man living in it, a Rector or a Vicar, was a matter of local tradition - but he was in fact a Parson.

However, it seems we have not finished with the Old Rectories saga. Very recently, Thurlestone readers of "The Old Astonisher" (which is what Victorians used to call the Kingsbridge Gazette due to its habit of starting most stories with "Residents of Kingsbridge were astonished to learn yesterday....") were astonished to see their most recent rectory, the Macintosh one, was up for sale by Charles Head & Sons. Offers were invited in the region of £450,000 for "1930s six bedroom former Rectory in grounds of just under one acre, with prime residential redevelopment potential, situated in the heart of this coastal village..."

Residents were genuinely astonished as they had only just put down their Village Voice of August-September which told them not only that Ash Mill Developments had just been

sold the Rectory by Exeter Diocese, but the magazine included plans for the Rectory and the site from Ash Mill Developments which showed the Rectory converted into two dwellings, new building of three properties in a courtyard arrangement and one detached property in the lower garden.

Those plans also showed the development (on the next door Homefield site) of a new property called "The Parsonage", which will be the home for the new Rector or Vicar when we get him. But who will live in Old Rectory Three?

And now for something completely different.

I was delighted and somewhat surprised to read in a local organic vegetable newsletter:

"Pink Fur Apples. Boil them as you would any potato, though some people find it easier to peel them after cooking. You will know the fur apples in your boxes by their exotic shapes; they look more like sweet potatoes. Pink fur apples are very slow to sprout in the spring so you will find more of them in your boxes after February."

How could you! Fancy boiling the little pink furry creatures! And then skinning them! I've a jolly good mind to report you to the RSPCA!

Wilfred Palmer 1937-1999

There was not even standing room inside Thurlestone Church for the funeral of Wilf Palmer of Whitley Farm. The aisles were packed, the pews crowded, the vestry solid, and the overspill reached almost down to the lychgate. The cars which had brought many of those who wished to pay tribute to Wilf lined the village from top to bottom, as the parish hall car-park could handle no more.

It was an impressive farewell, but not a surprising one. Wilf Palmer was the best of South Devon. He had farmed Whitley with his wife, Helen, for more than thirty-three years. He was sixty-two.

Soft-spoken, a true country gentleman, he was known all over the South Hams for his involvement with farming - a keen member of the National Farmers Union, and the South Devon Cattle Breeders Club. He was no mean farmer either. At South Brent market, Wilf often set the best price with his Border Leicester and Longwool ewe hogs, sometimes topping £80 a head.

Wilf was born at Higher Cliston Farm, Blackawton. The youngest of three sons, he went to school at Halwell. During the war the family was evacuated for nine months to Polston Farm, Harbertonford - one of many families moved to make way for the American Army's live-ammunition practices for the Normandy landings.

In 1966 Wilf married Helen. Their daughter Angela was born in 1967 and son Eric in 1968.

With their farming background it is not surprising that country pursuits played a large part in the Palmers' life. Both Wilf and Helen were keen supporters of the Dart Vale and South Pool Harriers, and Wilf was clerk of the course for the hunt's point-to-points, organising the fence-building at Ottery St. Mary meetings. Point-to-points were a passion - and he and Helen often spent their holidays at them, one year attending 13 meetings in Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset.

K.M.

Village News Round-Up

NEW RECTOR IN SIGHT

It has been revealed that from the final short-list of candidates for the living, one has already been chosen to come to Thurlestone. Although details of our rector-to-be cannot yet be disclosed (there are certain formalities to go through, and there can be many a slip "twixt cup and lip") it is hoped that the good news will be released shortly - with a date for his/her commencement probably early next year.

AVON TALK

John Crawford tells us that the **Avon Conservation Association** will be holding a meeting at Aveton Gifford Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Sunday 24th October to hear a talk given by **Dr Peter Beale** entitled "The River Avon, an Overview".

This is part of a campaign by the Association to raise awareness of the problems facing the Avon and will be followed, next year, by other papers on the ecology of the estuary. The talk should be of interest to naturalists and those who enjoy the huge variety of leisure activities with which the Avon estuary provides us.

There will be an admission charge of £1.00 to non-members.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Congratulations to **Joshua Vasby-Burnie** of Langdon, Thurlestone. A former pupil of Kingsbridge School, he gained "A" grades in Physics, Mathematics, and Design Technology in his recent A-level exams, together with an "A*" in Further Pure Mathematics. Of the 5,000 pupils taking this subject, he was in the top five in the country.

He has been accepted for Kings College, Cambridge, where he will be reading Pure Mathematics.

TONY IN THE TROPHIES

Tony Church of Bantham had a very successful day at the Horticultural Show (see separate report) last month, and our picture shows him with his bag of trophies.



MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER?

A couple of weeks ago Bantham Sailing Club held a charity event which raised **£30,000**. Yes, £30,000. This is not a misprint! Half this sum will be given to Bantham Surf Life Saving Club for its new clubhouse fund, with the other half going to MacMillan Cancer Relief. **Hugh Cater**, Commodore of the Sailing Club, said that the sum exceeded their wildest dreams and he is absolutely delighted - as, of course, are both the beneficiaries.

This pre-Millennium party was held in a marquee sited in a field kindly loaned by farmer **Geoffrey Stidston**. *"Peter Kirvan and his team were tremendous and their efforts made this wonderful outcome possible. There were so many generous people, and I thank them all for what they did"* said Hugh. Live music, fireworks, a very large silent auction conducted by **Gary Luddington**, sponsorship of tables at the event, and a well-patronised bar organised by the Surf Life-savers, were enjoyed by the large gathering.

This will provide a tremendous boost to the Surf Life Saving Club's building appeal and it is pleasing to know that the Kingsbridge & Salcombe branch of Cancer Relief will be using their part of the windfall at their unit at Derriford Hospital where local cancer patients receive many benefits.

Isn't this terrific? It must be the largest sum ever raised in the parish for charity by a single event. Please write to Postbag if you know of anything to beat this!

DARREN FOR DAWLISH

Thurlestone assistant professional **Darren Prowse** has been appointed to his first post as a club professional, and will be moving to his new club - Dawlish Warren Golf Club - later this month. Darren has had a thorough grounding in his craft during his nine years at Thurlestone with **Neville Whitley** and **Peter Laugher** and, while his cheerful presence will be missed here, he will enjoy the challenge and the responsibilities of his new role. A presentation on behalf of the members was made to Darren by Thurlestone captain **Rod Moore** on Sunday 19th September. Good luck and best wishes, Darren.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

If you haven't already done so, please complete the Register of Electors form, sent to you at the end of August, and **return it before the 10th October**. This is a

requirement of the law and failure to do so can result in a fine of up to £1000.

Only persons whose names appear on the new Register will be entitled to vote in any elections held between 16th February 2000 and 15th February 2001. Failure to appear on the Register might also mean difficulties when opening bank accounts, receiving credit, obtaining mortgages etc. as an increasing number of companies use the Register as a credit reference.

You have been warned!

If you have lost the form, or think you did not receive one, please contact the South Hams District Council Electoral Registration Office (Telephone number : 01803 - 861234, extensions 129 or 244).

AVON LANTERN

The Avon Lantern made another brief re-appearance at Thurlestone on Sunday 19th September, when the Bigbury team brought it with them for the 1999 return match. After the torrential rain of the previous day all the players were relieved to find ideal playing conditions for the Sunday afternoon match - warm sunshine, and only a gentle breeze.

There were plenty of good scores, and close encounters, but eventually the visitors edged home by five games to four with one halved. In consequence, after both teams had enjoyed an excellent meal, the Lantern made the return journey across the Avon once again, back to its (now almost) regular place atop Bigbury Golf Club's trophy cabinet.

MP TO VISIT CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Saturday 27th November there will be a Christmas Bazaar, organised by Thurlestone Conservatives at the Parish Hall, starting at 10.30 am. During the course of the morning our MP, **Mr Anthony Steen**, will be looking in, accompanied by his wife **Carolyn**, our District Councillor.

MUSIC LECTURES

Don't forget that Professor Basil Smallman's weekly lectures on **J.S.Bach (1678-1750) - His Life & Music** will be starting on Tuesday, 5th October, from 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm, at the Dodbrooke Church Hall, Church Road, Kingsbridge. (See the August issue of Village Voice for full details)

TEAM CHANGES

We recently said farewell to two very supportive members of the Village Voice production team, **Ian & Janet Fraser**, who have moved from Thurlestone to live near Bath. It was Ian who first identified the Risograph machine which has so improved our printing operations. We wish them every happiness in their new home, and hope they will come back to visit us from time to time.

PEARSON PRE-SCHOOL EXTENSION

The new £13,000 extension (see previous issue) was opened in September by **Joan Pearson**, the founder of Thurlestone's twenty-six year old pre-school. Funding for the extension was boosted at the eleventh hour by a grant of £5,000 from the first round of Millennium Festival Awards for All, funded by the National Lottery. Supervisor **Mrs Denise Beagley** and staff are delighted with the new premises, which will enable the pre-school to take in more children and to run sessions every morning and afternoon.

Liz Taylor and the pre-school committee are to be congratulated on their enterprise, and in particular for applying for grant aid towards the cost of the extension scheme. They now have a facility of which they can all be very proud. Well done!

PARISH HALL AUTUMN FAIR



At the annual fund-raising Autumn Fair on 11th September the stalls did a brisk trade - cakes by the WI, garden produce from the Horticultural Show, books by the PCC, the main raffle by the Parish Council, a picture raffle and donations by the Bridge Clubs, and bric-a-brac by the parish hall committee, while the "Name the Pub" game was manned by the Bowls Club. The Kitchen Café meanwhile did a good job of refreshing the customers and assistants alike.

An excellent turn-out of people ensured that it was all worth while as £613 was raised. **Rowland Cole**, Chairman of the Parish Hall committee, expressed his pleasure at the result of everyone's hard work and thanked the customers and stall holders for their contributions to the success of the event.

It was also an opportunity to have on display a preliminary plan for improvements to the parish hall, including a scheme for the old Football Room at the rear of the hall. Rowland Cole was able to answer parishioners' questions about the plans, and to listen to their suggestions for the improvement of the hall facilities.

The plans are shown on the adjoining page, with **Diagram "A"** showing the current hall layout and **Diagram "B"** showing the proposed alterations and additions. Any suggestions or comments about the plans should be forwarded to Rowland Cole at Joseph's Garden, West Buckland - and any donations towards the cost of the improvements would also be welcomed.

PARISH HALL PLANS

DIAGRAM "A" - Current Parish Hall Layout

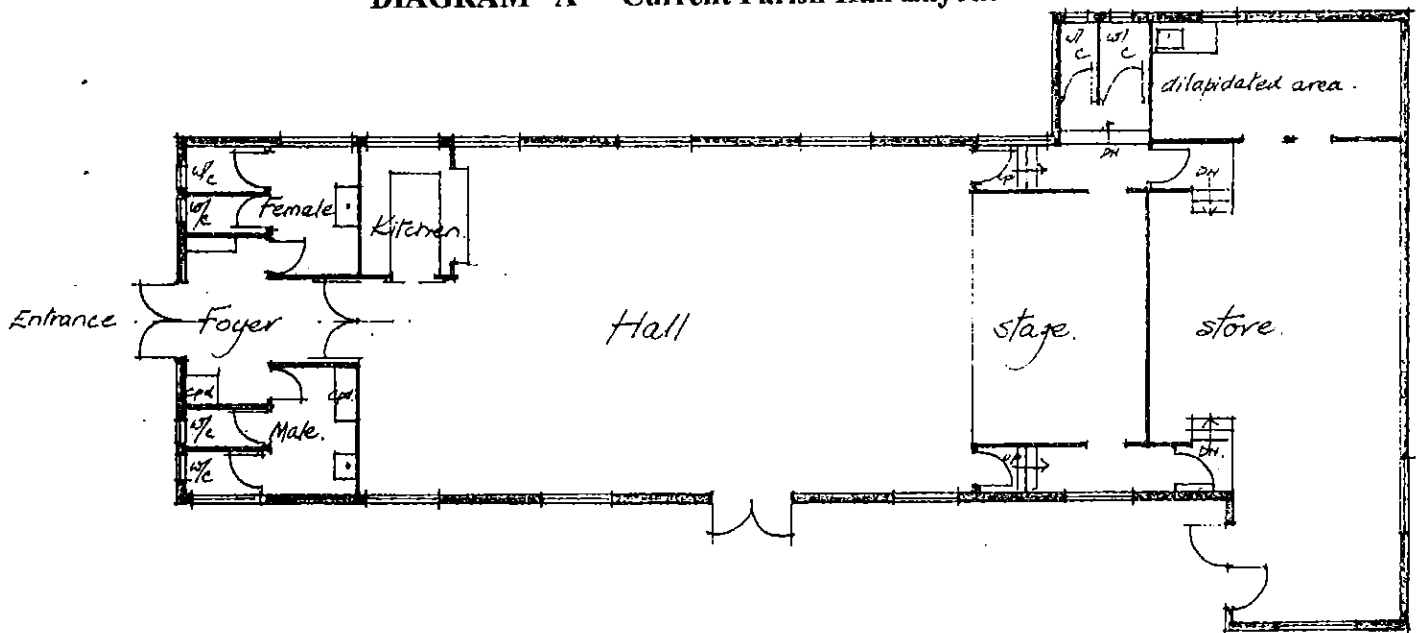
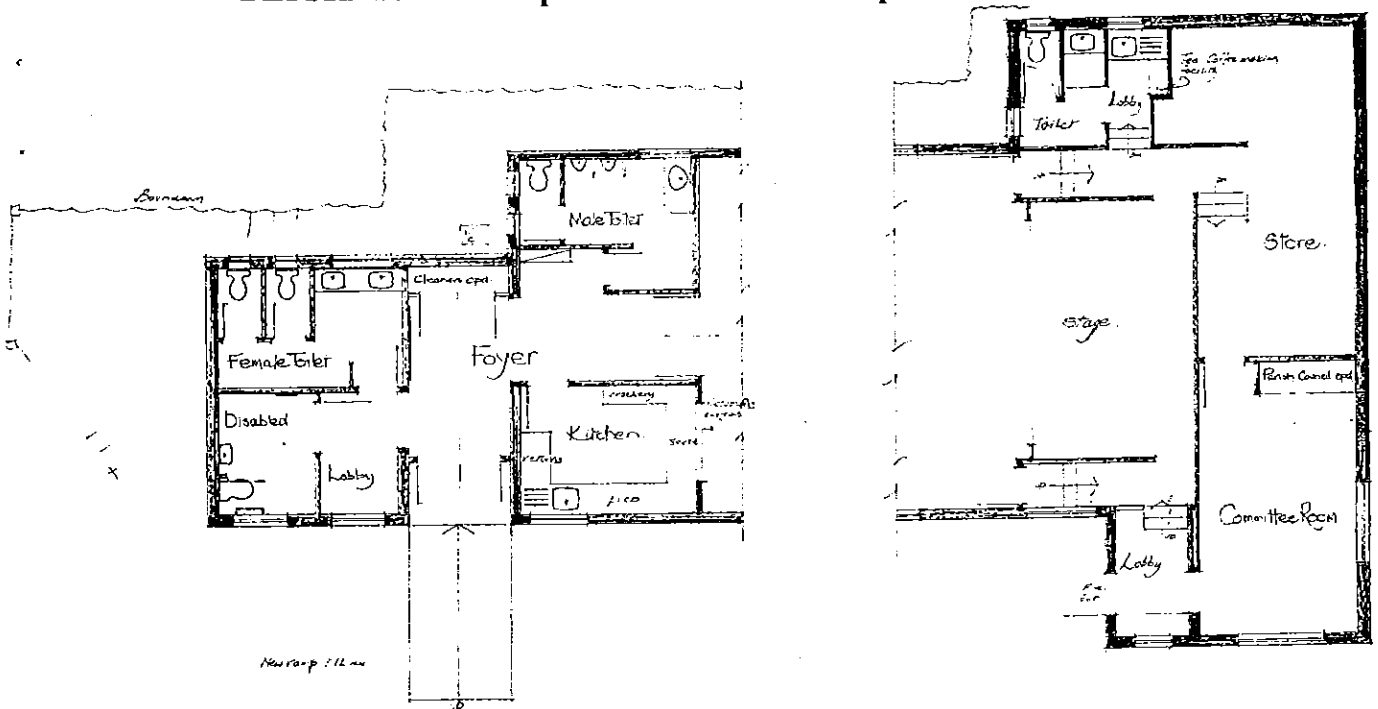


DIAGRAM "B" - Proposals for Parish Hall Improvements



The proposals include (a) an extension with a new entrance facing the car park (b) re-siting the kitchen (c) new male and female toilet facilities (d) moving the stage and proscenium back some ten feet (e) converting the old football room into a storage area, with a separate new committee room having its own entrance and lobby area. The main hall internal usable area will be increased significantly by these changes. The shape of the extension takes account of the boundary line on the north side of the site. A disabled toilet facility, and ramps for access by the disabled, have been included in the plans.

MILLENNIUM VIDEO UP-DATE

Great news! Millennium Festival Awards has given a grant of £2,000 to the project. "Angel" contributions, too, have continued to pour in. The project has now raised enough funds to make a really professional job of the final production.

The two-hour documentary "**Land of the Five Beaches**", covering 3000 years of history and the life and times of the people of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone, *will be completed and available for distribution on the 5th December 1999!*

All "Angels" who have contributed £12 in advance to the project, to guarantee their copy, are invited to come to the Parish Hall on that date between 10 am and 4 pm to collect their video. We expect to be showing extracts from the film on that day and an exhibition of material connected with the making of the video will also be on display. "Angels" who live further afield, or abroad, or who cannot get to the Hall will have their copies posted or hand-delivered.

What's in the video? It begins at the earliest times BC and shows the parish growing in the Roman, Saxon, Norman and Elizabethan eras. It covers the days of wrecking and smuggling, the impact on the parish of the Reverend Peregrine Ilbert, and the great changes at the turn of the century with the arrival of the railway at Kingsbridge, the golf course and the start of

tourism. Former parishioners describe living in the villages in the early years of the century.

In the second half, the film draws on hitherto unseen film of the parish in the thirties, the impact of the Second World War, and more recent developments. It records the saving of the Post Office, and the pressures on farming. It records our environment and countryside, the vitality of village life and our hopes for the future.

The parish has been filmed from the air, from boats up the River Avon, from the top of the church tower - to name but a few of the locations. The film is a 'marker' for future generations, a time capsule of life here down the centuries that we hope will encourage them to conserve and protect all that is best in our parish as we move into the next millennium.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY AN "ANGEL" FILL IN A FORM NOW. THE PRICE IS ONLY £12 FOR TWO HOURS - AND THAT'S A BARGAIN.

ONCE IT IS PRODUCED IN DECEMBER THERE WILL BE A PRICE REVISION - SO SIGN UP NOW!

Order forms are available in the Thurlestone Post Office and the Hotel.

AND STILL MORE BLOOPERS!

Jane Marston's pickings from "The History of the World According to Student Bloopers" (by Richard Lederer) this time deal with famous writers.

"The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. Shakespeare never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived in Windsor with his merry wives, writing tragedies, comedies and errors. In one of Shakespeare's famous plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. In another, Lady Macbeth tries to convince Macbeth to kill the king by attacking his manhood. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couplet. Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miquel Cervantes. He wrote "Donkey Hole". The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote "Paradise Lost". Then his wife dies and he wrote "Paradise Regained".

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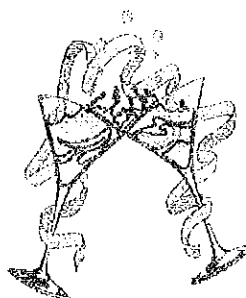
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CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Each number represents a letter. For example 1 = P, 2 = A, and 3 = T. Enter these letters where their numbers are shown in the grid. Then identify the letters for the remaining 23 numbers and enter them in the grid. When completed it should show a normal crossword grid. All 26 letters of the alphabet are used.

	9		16	10	17	5	7	2	6	7	14		1	
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	24		17		1	15	19	5	8		1		3	
21	15	17	26	8	6		5		11	8	1	4	8	21
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REFERENCE GRID

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

Pat Machin's **Duzzle Corner** continued
MINI - CROSSWORDS

Place the letters shown under the grids into the empty squares in the grids to make two - way crosswords (across and down to read the same)

A

G	O	L	F
O			
L			
F			

A A A A L L P R V

B

C			E
E			

A A E E I I
P P P R T X X

C

S			

A A A A D D E E
J M N N R R W

Brown water to continue?

Residents of East Buckland and some parts of Thurlestone will probably have to put up with brown water flowing from their taps until around the year 2015. This gloomy news for those affected is contained in a letter from **Robert J. Baty**, Chief Executive of South West Water, in response to a letter on the subject from our local MP, **Anthony Steen**. The problem is caused by rusted iron pipes as, during the many years in the public sector, it was not possible to allocate sufficient funds to their replacement.

Although 1,500 kilometres of unsatisfactory water main has been refurbished since 1989, there are still 7,000 to go. Efforts by SWW have met with rebuff on the grounds that customers could not afford a programme which tackled the problem more quickly than the mammoth coastal clean-up being undertaken. But they have hopes that

the Director General of Water Services, when announcing the final determination of price limits and capital investment in November, will attach greater importance to water mains refurbishment, thus allowing work to be completed by 2010 instead of 2015.

Meanwhile Mr Baty reassures us that "...iron is a requirement of the body to enable it to function properly" but concedes that "...most customers will reject discoloured water as being fit for drinking even though iron levels will not cause any harm". He adds that "...discoloured water does not pose any threat to health". He also says that "As far as compensation is concerned, we will consider abating charges depending on the frequency and severity of the problem. It is important therefore for customers to let us know when they have problems by calling our Service Helpline on 0345-77-66-77".

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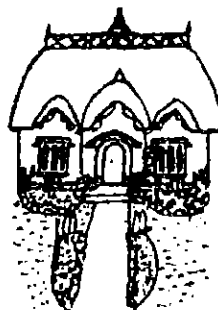
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PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 1999

Fifteen members of the public attended. Six Parish Councillors were present. Councillors **D. Grose** and **C. Mitchelmore** and District Councillor **Mrs C. Steen** sent apologies for absence. **Mr Nigel Mortimer** the Marine Conservation Officer for the South Hams District Council was also present.

AVON ESTUARY

Mr Nigel Mortimer is undertaking an environmental management plan for the Avon estuary, similar to that for the Salcombe estuary. He is listening to the issues and concerns that parishioners may have about the estuary, and dovetailing the work he is undertaking with the local environmental agency's plans and the plans the SHDC's Coast and Countryside service have for this area of outstanding natural beauty. He will also investigate, and hopes to slow down, the problem of increasing siltation in the estuary. Wildlife, people's livelihoods, and leisure pursuits will be considered, with the aim of investigating issues and mitigating problems wherever they are found. He would also like to resurrect 'mariculture' (e.g., oyster farming) on the estuary. Chairman of the Aune Conservation Association, **Mr John Crawford**, said they welcomed the good news of this initiative and looked forward to working with him.

Mr Mortimer is a marine ecologist, and his salary is funded by the South Hams District Council, the Salcombe Harbour Authority, MAFF, and English Nature. He would welcome people contacting him at the Salcombe Harbour office (phone 843791 or fax 842033) His mobile phone number is 07971-544010. Letters by E-mail to: harbour@salcombe.force9.co.uk

PARISH HALL

Preliminary plans for improvements to the parish hall are available at the hall. *[See plans elsewhere in this issue].*

ROADS

The County Council have been asked to set in motion procedures to have the rough piece of road running between the War Memorial and the church dedicated to the Parish Council. It is understood that the residents of the Yarmer estate have expressed an interest in adopting that piece of road with a view to moving the estate gate.

SCHOOL

There are now 96 pupils at the school. Walking the children down the village to church services twice a term had now been abandoned and took place only twice in the academic year due to exceptionally dangerous road traffic conditions.

WAR MEMORIAL

Work must be done to remove tree stumps from the green before planting the gift of crocus bulbs from **Miss Yeo** could commence in October. Councillor **Derrick Yeoman** will contact **Rodney Stidston** to expedite the work. **Mr Stidston** has said he will, at the same time, complete work on the footpath. The Parish Clerk is looking for volunteer bulb planters. Litter and dog fouling continue to be a problem. It was noted that if two people observe a dog fouling they can report as co-witnesses to the Dog Warden - who can bring a prosecution of the dog's owner. The new dog fouling notices are to be put up on the green.

RECREATION AREA

A meeting had been held with Evans Estates to request a little more land behind the church to accommodate a football pitch. The outcome is awaited.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mrs Steen's report was read by the Clerk.
(1) A 'buy-out' by staff of the Council owned Dartmouth ferry has been turned down.
(2) **Mr Paul West**, Acting Chief Executive

of the SHDC, will not be seeking the post of Chief Executive and will retire in March.

(3) Mrs Steen looks forward to the year 2000 at the SHDC, where she hopes they will continue to monitor and control expenditure and address the problem of the projected development of 11,500 new houses in the area. She will do her utmost to prevent unnecessary development and to reduce the rate at which the countryside is disappearing.

CONVENIENCES

The overgrown state of the land outside the public toilets by the golf club and the poor sign-posting to be drawn to the attention of the SHDC yet again.

TRAFFIC

Speeding vehicles and poor parking on the village road was raised. A sub-committee would prepare a discussion paper with ideas for mitigating the problems.

RUSTY WATER

Note was taken of the publicity surrounding the parish's rusty water problem. Suggested that Ofwat be contacted for their comments, as South West Water was in eighth place for good customer service on their list of the nine water suppliers in the country.

HELICOPTERS

A permanent resident of the Merchants Gardens apartments was very concerned about the frequent landing and taking-off of a helicopter immediately alongside his home. The noise produced was excessive and the

smell of the aviation fuel obnoxious. It was believed that this activity could proceed if it did not exceed 28 days in any one year. Parish Clerk to contact the District Council about this.

EVENTS/RAVE UPS

Thurlestone Parish Council are supporting East Allington Parish Council to express concern to the Minister for the Environment that 'events' involving large numbers of people do not require planning permission as they also come under the '28-day rule'. This prevents local people's concerns being addressed because there need be no prior consultation or warning.

TREES

A review of existing Tree Preservation Orders in our parish is taking place. Mr Stewart Killick will be visiting sites and issuing new TPOs where required. Funding is still available through the SHDC to help provide trees - or a single tree - and/or to look after a parish's prime trees.

NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council's next meeting is on Tuesday 19th October 1999, 7.30 pm at Thurlestone Parish Hall.

NB. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and can take part in the Open Forum.

CITIZEN

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1999 CHRISTMAS FAIR

WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER

THURLESTONE HOTEL 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

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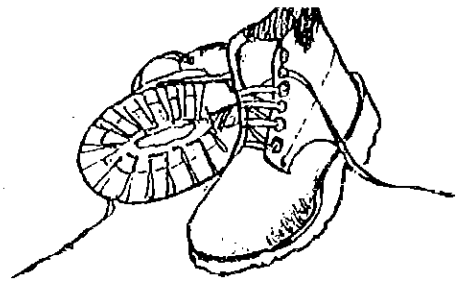
Live music and use of the Hotel facilities £2.50 entrance fee.

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Help to raise much-needed funds to run our local hospice

Phone Mrs Julia Mutton on 01752 - 401172

TRAMP



1 On that now far-distant day of our first walk in July there should have been twelve of us but even in the Parish Hall car park one person became the victim of a hostile knee and had to retire. Thus it was that eleven and two dogs set off from New Bridge in the direction our leaders had planned.

Although determined to take careful note of the route, your correspondent has only confused but pleasant memories of a woodland path, an open grassy place and the only slightly hazardous path beside the Webburn River. There were, of course, ups and downs - inevitably more ups than downs. It was beyond Spitchwick, after we had walked through the attractive cluster of cottages that is Lower Town, and at the top of one of the steeper ups, that we arrived at Leusdon church, which, it was suggested, we might like to visit.

Some of us took the advice. It is a surprisingly spacious building, dating even more surprisingly from the 1860s only, lofty and light, with a timbered roof in the nave and a barrel-type in the chancel. A window dedicated to Sir Galahad (who epitomizes all that is good and valiant in a knight) is in fact a memorial to a young man who, having survived Ypres, perished in the next battle.

Just beyond Ponsworthy we took to the banks of the West Webburn and then it was moor until we reached West Shallowford where, on a convenient grassy verge, beside an unfrequented road, we were allowed to have our lunch. Though we had a few drops of rain earlier on, it was dry now but dull. Moorland walking after that as far as Bel Tor corner. Nearing the end of the walk we followed a short stretch of the Two Moors Way, and then the easy going of Dr. Blackall's Drive. We decided against plunging down through the bracken and heather to reach the lower path, since there was a perfectly respectable track not far away which served the same purpose. Back in the car park a number of our group seemed to think that an ice cream would make a fitting end to a most satisfying walk, although it did not really need an embellishment.

2 When we met at Sampford Spiney at the start of our second walk in July quite a chilly wind was blowing but soon the sun came out and it became surprisingly hot. This turned out to be a truly delightful walk, unfamiliar in some respects to a number of us. We were soon out on the moor and following the path which leads past the Bullseye Stone and across to the Grimstone and Sortridge Leat.

We came down to Merrivale where there is a convenient pub which most of us gratefully patronised. One of our self-sacrificing leaders went to bag our picnic spot while the rest of us sat in the sun enjoying our drinks. The chosen spot was a gently sloping river bank down by the bridge, providing dappled shade or sun. The fish were jumping and, presumably, the cotton was high, though we had no means of knowing. It was almost with reluctance that we set off again.

Bearing in mind the desirability of some cultural element in the walk, our leaders took us to look at the remains of a Bronze Age settlement. We pondered the purpose of a large, circular stone with a slightly curved top: a grindstone, most of us thought, but someone suggested it might have been used for sacrifices....human ones! Did Bronze Age people indulge in such things? We moved swiftly on to admire the stone row.

It was a fairly steep climb up to the disused railway track, but there the walking was easy and the views wonderful albeit slightly hazy. As we came down again from the moor we met two youths with their bikes and bare lobster-coloured backs and snowy chests who wanted to get up to the railway track. They politely refused our offers of sun screen and we left them hardly liking to imagine the state they'd be in by the evening. The road down to Sampford Spiney was steep: better to go down it than climb up. We left it to go along the path round the impressive-looking house called Stoneycroft with its simultaneously barking and tail-wagging security guards. Which end should one believe? Then we were back at the church and the cars.

3 A memorable walk this, the only one in August on account of the eclipse a fortnight before. First, of course, it was in itself a most enjoyable, varied, interesting walk.

Starting at Caseytown it led almost to Merrivale, crossing the leat with which we had become acquainted on the last walk, then down to Pew Tor, round to Moortown and back to our starting point; over moor, along lanes, through fields and woods - a lovely variety.

Considering the recent monsoon it was not very muddy underfoot and we were lucky, too, for after a couple of short showers (only just worthy of waterproofs) the clouds thinned and finally the sun came out. Picnics were consumed on or at the foot of Pew Tor, depending on how intrepid or foolhardy you were. The view from the top was undeniably memorable. It was as we came down, towards the road, that a suddenly painful hip forced two of the walkers to retire.

So now there were nine of us - and three spaniels. Not long after, walking through fields, we came to some hedgerows that bore the most abundant crop of highly memorable blackberries; firm yet ripe, juicy, delicious. We found ourselves compelled to consume a considerable quantity there being no time for organised picking. A few fields later while the dogs were introducing themselves to a small herd of Aberdeen Angus who appeared interested in our arrival, we had a reasonably memorable conversation with the farmer. Coincidentally, one of our group also came from Aberdeen or Angus.

The end of the walk proved very memorable for those most closely concerned. It was the sad tale of a car key which, having magically opened the car, equally magically disappeared, totally. The ensuing search was intensive but unavailing. The only possibility seemed to be that the key had become entangled with a dog's lead as it was returned to its car which by now had sped off towards Thurlestone. This, in fact, was what had happened, we found out later. But it didn't help now.

Luckily the third car was still waiting and was able to undertake the first stage of the lengthy operation needed to rescue the stranded car and its two remaining passengers. Notwithstanding, it was a good walk!

4 An unusual feature of this first walk in September was that boots were, if anything, less muddy at the end than at the beginning (in the case, that is, of one more slovenly

member of the group). This does not mean that it was not a challenging expedition. On the contrary the going was quite tough at times because many of the paths were stony and often steep.

An ominous sign at the outset was that, having left the cars at the Trendlebere car park near where, if you are lucky, you might spot a very rare butterfly, the high brown fritillary (which apparently has a particular liking for violets) we almost immediately took a track which went quite determinedly downhill for some distance. This is a sure sign that sooner or later the path will go uphill again even more steeply and for longer.

First, though, we plunged deep into the woods of Lustleigh Cleave and over the ancient packhorse bridge at the bottom where you can still see the old stone gatepost with grooves instead of hinges. Then we started on the long uphill climb. Fortunately our leader, with our education in mind, drew our attention to several points of interest; the cave where a certain villager, spending the summer in the woods used to stable his donkey; the remains of a hut circle. This gave us a good excuse to pause in the uphill climb. Finally we reached the ridge and the view which despite the grey weather was still amazingly beautiful. A short stretch of easy moorland walking took us to Hunger's Tor which provided shelter for our picnic.

From now on, we were promised, there would not be much more climbing. However, to prevent us from becoming too idle, our leader, once we were again in the woods on the other side of Foxworthy scorning conventional bridges, led us across the river, scrambling and slithering over the tumble of rocks of Horsham Steps.

The path along the river seemed easy after that and even the final climb back up the first track of the morning did not seem too strenuous, some possibly stirred on by the prospect of tea and cakes at Bovey. The twelve of us (no dogs this time), arrived back at the cars in good time at the end of yet another different and enjoyable walk.

Pam Brewster

H.R.ADAMS

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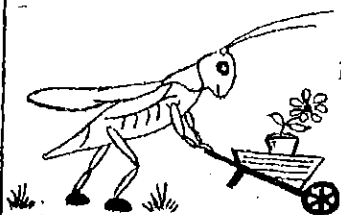
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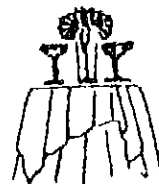


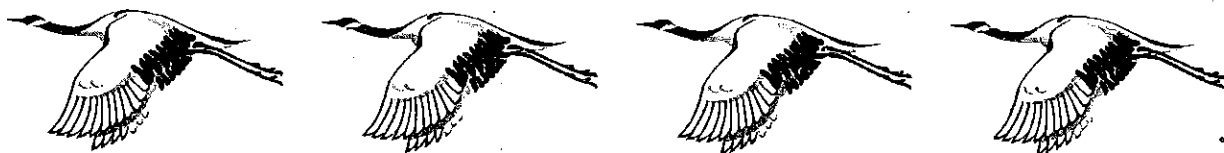
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JUMBLE SALE

**Saturday 23th October
Thurlestone Parish Hall - 2.30 pm**

Enquiries to: 01548 - 560436 and 01548 - 560607

Saving life at sea is what the charity National Coastwatch Institution is all about.

Our local NCI station is at Prawle Point. Run solely by trained volunteers and manned throughout the year, the station keeps a watch on one of the most dangerous stretches of coast in the south west. In 1994 the Prawle station, until then manned by HM Coastguards, was closed.

By 1997 the NCI had been formed by seafarers anxious to reinstate this valuable watch service and Prawle was re-opened. It exists to help protect not only fishermen, yachtsmen, divers, small craft and other users of the sea but also cliff-path walkers, by re-establishing a visual watch. In other words, they are looking out for you, your family and friends.

In addition, the NCI also monitor VHF Channel 16 and emergency channels, keeps radar watch, works with HM

Coastguard, reports on local weather conditions to the Met. Office, and is also able to report on visible pollution and marine wildlife.

NCI has to rely on voluntary contributions to keep up this important maritime safety work, so a Jumble Sale has been arranged to raise some funds to help improve the basic equipment at the station and maintain the building.

Please, Thurlestonians, help by contributing good clean jumble, unwanted goods, raffle prizes and offers of help on the day. Contact numbers are shown above.

And of course, your presence at the sale would be much appreciated!

NCI welcome visitors to the lookout at Prawle Point, so if you are out walking you are welcome to drop in on them - if only to get out of the wind and rain they say - to learn more about them and what they do.

APPLE ORCHARDS OF OLD THURLESTONE

Thurlestone parish is reputed to have had some of the finest cider orchards in the country. West Buckland valley was full of them until World War 2. The Buckland fire photo of 1883 shows them. As a boy, much of my play was spent in the Langman's Farm orchards. Now, in age, I enjoy remembering the good times there, and even attempt poetry. I enjoy the economy of words and finding the rhyme. Old-fashioned, perhaps, but I hope these verses will reveal something of a life now gone - like the apple trees.

Apple Picking

A ladder, a basket, a head for a height
A record hundredweight's home by tonight.
The weather prediction is gales the next day
But for apples blown down there is no pay.

So quickly and safely, use rounded hands,
Bruising from fingers the boss cannot stand.
The best fruit grows high and far from the ground
Pray come down you picker with basket full sound.

A ladder, a basket, a head for a height,
'Tis pleasurable when the weather is bright.
In seasons when summer just ceases to end,
Why, even the boss seems your very best friend.

There's time for a pause, a savour, a munch..
But watch for the worm in the choice of the bunch!

Hubert Snowdon

[Hubert also recalls the wonderful names of the old apple varieties - Lord Derby, Spreaders, Chadders, and Butchers - to say nothing of the Bramleys, Cox's Orange Pippins and Russets which have stood the test of time and remain favourites today. His own drawings of the apple store and the cider cellar at Langman's Farm are reproduced below. *Editor.*]



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News of the new "Rector"

It is hoped to start Coffee-Time again soon if we can find a suitable venue. We are looking for somewhere warm and easily accessible for the disabled with kitchen facilities and enough room to seat up to about 15 people. We will provide the coffee, milk and biscuits and also be responsible for serving the coffee. If you know of somewhere or could offer a room in your house from 10.15 - 11.45 a.m. one morning a week (it does not have to be Thursday), please let Liz know (560090).



All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

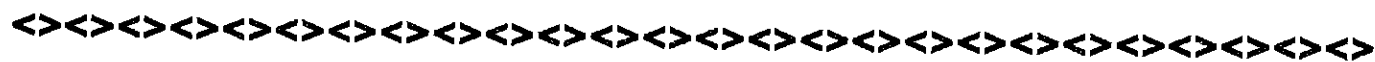
Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Thursday October 21 st , November 11 th	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
October 3 rd & 17 th , November 7 th & 21 st	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
October 10 th & 24 th , November 14 th	11.10 a.m.	MATINS
Family Services		
October 3 rd Harvest Eucharist with Children's Gifts	9.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
October 31 st Joint Parishes All Saints' Family Eucharist	10.30 a.m.	THURLESTONE
Advent Sunday		
November 28 th Joint Parishes Eucharist	10.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON



St Crispin's Fair

MONDAY OCTOBER 25TH AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE PARISH HALL

The annual St Crispin's Fair actually takes place on St Crispin's day itself this year. This is an opportunity to buy your Christmas cards and decorations, the usual sumptuous cakes and a bargain on the bookstall, order your Christmas puddings, cakes and mincepies and to win fantastic prizes on the raffle and tombola. For the first time this year there will be children's side-shows on the stage, so what better way to entertain the children on the first day of half-term than to bring them to St Crispin's Fair. Entry is only 50p (children under 14 free) including a cup of coffee with a Crispin - if you don't know what that is, come and find out!

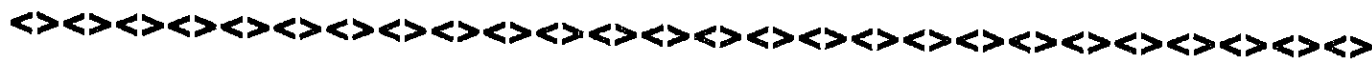


Fellowship

THURSDAY OCTOBER 21ST AT 2.30 P.M.

A visit to the newly refurbished Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge.

If anyone would like to go, please contact Liz Webb (560090) or Rosemary Chipman (562013)
The next meeting will be on Thursday November 25th at 2.30 p.m. in South Milton Village Hall.
For more details please see church notice board nearer the time.



Advance Dates for your Diary:

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS - Sunday December 19th at 11.10 a.m. in Thurlestone Church
CRIB SERVICES Thursday December 23rd 3pm South Milton 4pm Thurlestone

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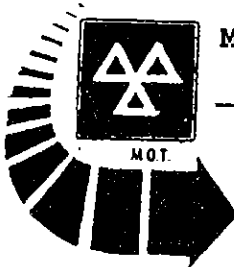
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WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

After all the hype and warnings and worries and traumas and traffic jams and empty camp sites and failed festivals, the last eclipse of the century came with a shadow and a hush and went to a roar of approval from the thousands ranged on every vantage point around Bigbury Bay. Overcast it may have been, and the spectacle not quite as we had expected, but the whole event, in my book, was quite special and never-to-be-forgotten.

In the previous few months there had been warnings galore about the dangers of viewing the sun as it began to disappear behind the moon. As **Patrick Moore** said, it was an eerie, weird and even spiritual experience for him, as it was for many people I believe. Just writing about it makes the hair on my arms and the back of my neck stand up! As one family said, when being interviewed on the television, "... *at least we did not have to worry about the children's eyes*". I read that only a handful of people had reported to hospital with problems. The video I made captured some of the atmosphere and I hope that my family in the future will look back and marvel at it. They'll also probably say "*Of course the old dear was a nutcase, you know*" (!)

This summer has turned into a very good one. Better late than never. Today, which is the 5th September, is absolutely fabulous. I have misjudged my time again and am inside writing. In fact it is too hot for me to sit out - but I may go in for a swim later. *[I did!]* I've been looking through some writings about '*Vintage Summers*'. Maybe it's my age but I find it increasingly difficult to remember what the weather was like in certain years. It takes something special to keep the facts in my mind but I feel somewhat comforted, in looking at the books, by one which begins: "*Those of us who enjoyed the 1989 and 1990 summers may be wondering how they compared with*

previous vintage summers. Many of us remember 1976 but there was also 1983, which might be labelled the forgotten summer".

Others to note were 1975, 1959 and 1947. Officially, summer consists of June, July and August, and statistics for this period can make interesting reading. We would tend to think that the hottest time should be in June, when the sun is at its highest elevation. In fact, the hottest time could come (and be recorded) in any of these three months. I remember some very hot times in June, when the students at school were doing their external exams. They were subjected to great heat, with the humidity building up even in a well-ventilated room. Boxes of tissues were gone through as hay-fever struck at the most inconvenient time! So, as always, what is good for the tourists and farmers ain't so good for the students.

I particularly remember 1976 as it was the year Dad and Mum retired from active farming at Shute Farm. The grass disappeared after a reasonably good hay harvest and a good corn harvest. The cattle and sheep sadly did not fare so well. In fact, because Dad could not see his animals starve (as they almost did) he carted almost half his hay crop for the winter out to them to keep them in good heart. At the farm sale at Michaelmas there was far less hay for sale, but the animals were well. Every other farmer was in the same boat, so the cattle did not sell well and it was sad to see his work so treated by a whim of the weather. But that's life in the farming world. Now it seems to be the whim of Brussels!

Looking at the month of August over the last five years, 1995 had the most sunshine - 247 hours, temperature 18° C and 18mm of rain - a good year, very comfortable. 1996 and 1998 were similar. But in 1997 August was

a dreadful month - 177 hours of sunshine, 18.6° C and with rainfall at 144mm, humidity was above 95% almost all the time. In 1999 the figures show 161 hours of sunshine, temperature 18.2° C and 115mm of rain with humidity about 90% on average. There were only 12 days of the 31 when the rainfall was below 0.2mm. Six of the days had no measurable rain. Pretty rotten, really, but we are now making up for it. Today is a wonderful 26.5° C and not a cloud in the sky. The sea is gorgeous.....so I am told.

I will try to explain about heatwaves and human comfort. When we sweat, either profusely or just in a slow process known as "insensible perspiration", we are attempting to cool ourselves by evaporating moisture from our skin into the air. This evaporation will be much slower on humid days, so humidity is an important factor in human comfort but it is meaningless if considered on its own without the temperature. A relative humidity of 95% is not uncomfortable on an autumn morning with a 10.5° C temperature, while a humidity of 50% is very sticky and unpleasant if the temperature is 30° C.

Many comfort indices have been proposed but all incorporate both temperature and humidity in some form. Wind speed is also a factor for the stationary human being, but is often ignored in these formulae, as is sunshine. In tropical rain forests and monsoon regions we experience an energy-sapping combination of high temperatures and high humidity. The Arabian Gulf around Bahrain is also a notable candidate for discomfort in the months of July and August

when temperatures of 38° C (100° F) and 50% relative humidity are not uncommon. Death Valley, California, is another unpleasant spot, though here high temperatures predominate over moisture.

In some weather programmes I have heard "THI value" mentioned but didn't know what it meant. Now I do. Albeit somewhat complex on first sight, it is a reasonable way to measure 'human discomfort' levels. In the USA the **Temperature Humidity Index** equals two-fifths of the sum of the dry-bulb and wet-bulb thermometer readings (in Fahrenheit) plus 15. Death Valley holds the record of THI with 98.2 - which has been reached twice; with 119° F (48° C) and 31% relative humidity on 27th July 1996, and then 117° F (47° C) and 37% relative humidity on 12th August 1970.

Our British THI values come nowhere near these levels, but the 1948 Olympics in Britain were held under very humid conditions. Most summers include at least one day of 'clammy' Tropical Maritime air, perhaps approaching 27° C (81° F) and 50% relative humidity. I think there were several days in 1997 where the THI value must have been approaching the 90% level - particularly as we toured the Lake District and ended up in Lytham St Annes where I was quite sure Ken was going to melt. Even I felt uncomfortable - and that takes quite a bit of doing.

The "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is before us , so I end my piece by saying "Here 's to a lovely Autumn!"

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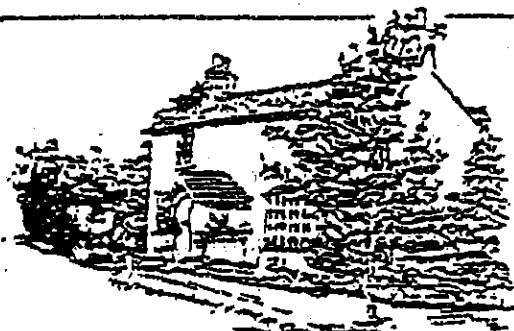
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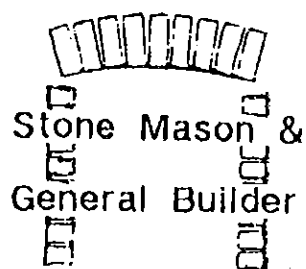
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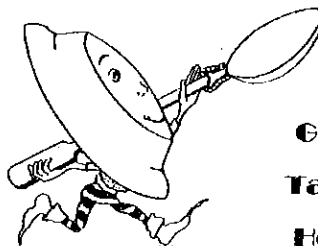
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NEWS FROM THE WI



NEW SEASON

The autumn and winter programme of activities got off to a flying start for Thurlestone members when their cake stall at the parish hall fund-raising fair took over £70. The profit of £47 from their summer garden lunch had also been donated to hall funds. A letter had been received from the hall committee thanking the WI for its continuing support.

COLETON FISHACRE



The visit on 16th September had been eagerly awaited. 32 members and friends thoroughly enjoyed looking round the former D'Oyly Carte home and its wonderful grounds.

AUTUMN COUNCIL MEETING

This is to be held at the Princess Theatre, Torquay, on Wednesday 20th October, when eight of our members will go for the day.

NSPCC BEDSPREAD

The lovely patchwork and quilted bedspread made by the local NSPCC committee, to be raffled, was on display at the last meeting. Contact any member of that committee for raffle tickets. The quilt is well worth winning!

COUNTY & NATIONAL WI ACTIVITIES

The NFWI has arranged a special visit for members to the Natural History Museum in London on 8th November. A list for the DFWI outing to Cribbs Causeway, Bristol, for Christmas shopping on 24th November was popular. [There is a branch of the John Lewis Partnership there!] They are also arranging a visit to Paris next May.

BANANAS

The guest speakers in September were **Captain Chris Trinick** and his wife, **Jo**, who gave us lots of information about the fruit and its journeys with a talk entitled "Banana Boats". They also pointed out, using some bananas purchased at Somerfields, how to recognise the small blemishes caused by the incursions of fruit bats at the plantation!

HOSPICE EVENT

A letter has been received from St. Luke's saying they are coming to the Thurlestone Hotel on Wednesday 13th October to hold an all-day fund-raising event (see notice).

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 9th December is the date we will be having Christmas lunch out and details will be available soon.

PUB LUNCHES BEGIN

The pub lunch outings are due to re-start on 28th October and several suggestions were put forward for future venues.

AREA HE EVENTS

Thursday 7th October. A bring/buy coffee morning at Charleton (run by Silverhill WI)

Monday 11th October. Day school on "rubber stamping" at Charleton. Tutor: **Jean Orford** of South Milton. Learn how to make attractive Christmas cards and tags!

Monday 18th October. **Teresa Purser** will tutor a day school on "artificial porcelain" (or doughcraft) flowers at Charleton.

Note: Day Schools to be booked in advance.

Friday 12th November. **Betty Goodman's** Christmas cookery demonstration "With Christmas in mind" at Charleton village hall at 2.15 pm. No booking required. Her demos are always first rate and fun!

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

Quiet please!

Will the summer resident of Thurlestone who each year, for a couple of months, drives up and down the Kingsbridge lane blasting the horn at every twist, turn, and bend in the road please desist before he or she is reported for excessive use, or causes an outbreak of rural rage?

If this nervous person cannot travel slowly enough for safety, or see or hear the oncoming traffic, may I suggest that he or she takes the bus?

J.R.Taylor
Crosspark

Dear Editor

RAF Hope Cove

I have enjoyed many delightful holidays in Thurlestone and also enjoyed reading the magazine from time to time. Thus, when I read a reference to the Hope Cove area in an obscure 'old comrades' magazine I thought I would pass it on to you as of local interest.

"It was in July 1943 that, at the age of 19 years and 3 months, I was posted to an Auxiliary Airforce Night Squadron, many of whose pilots numbered survivors of the Battle of Britain amongst them. I was directed to a detached unit at a South Devon airstrip, RAF Hope Cove, situated on the top of a 400 foot cliff between Bolt Head and Bolt Tail. There were three radar stations and two airstrips in this small area.

The runways were of metal grid which linked to dispersal areas by use of bar and rod tracking, an ingenious device. At first I saw only Spitfires and Typhoons but was soon made aware that Beaufighters and a Mosquito were also in residence. In a hangar were two German aircraft still in their Luftwaffe markings, although I never did get a look at them.

Some pilots, though not myself, were picked to fly clandestine operations. They would be called late at night or early in the morning, still rubbing the sleep from their eyes as they were briefed and made ready to fly within half an hour. I assume that special

navigators were brought in, because not one of our boys was used....."

This reference to the temporary airfield is the only piece of local value in a rather long item!

Alan Barker
15 Mountbatten Avenue
Kenilworth CV8 2PY

Dear Editor

Missing Photographs

As Project Co-ordinator for the Parish of Thurlestone Society's millennium video project, may I express my sincere apologies to Ann Jenkins over the disappearance of the family photographs that she loaned to the project.

Regrettably, after we had copied them for inclusion in the film, they were unaccountably mislaid. Several searches of the production office and the project files, and checks with other people who had loaned pictures to make sure the Jenkins photos had not been returned with theirs, failed to find them.

We were able to provide Ann Jenkins with copies of the 'lost' photos, but I fully appreciate that is not the same as having the originals back. I hope that as the project concludes they will turn up among our papers.

In the meantime, I wish to offer my sincere and unreserved apologies to Ann Jenkins for this unforgivable lapse in co-ordinating research material.

David Smeeton
41 Mead Drive

Dear Editor

Little Guests

Now that we have eaten up all the remaining chicken nuggets, Coco-pops and fish fingers, and stopped tripping over discarded toys, can life return to normal?

Grandma
(name and address secret)

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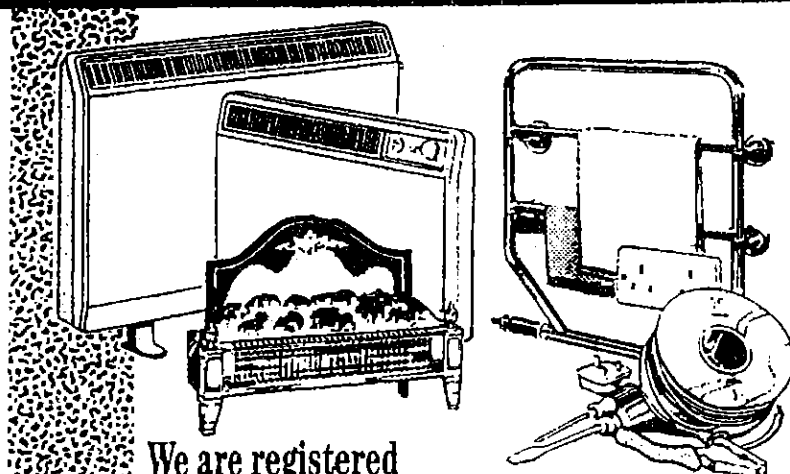
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HORSWELL DIARY

For me the words "Indian summer" conjure up a mirage of heat and dust, of golden light and sultry opulence. I see a slow procession of dusky figures draped in silks of saffron, amber, garnet and rust, borne on stately elephants and gaudy palanquins. Gently swaying in cushioned howdahs, Maharajas twirl ornately tiered and tasselled parasols. Turbaned attendants waft peacock fans to stir the drowsy air and dark-eyed beauties draw sequined veils across their faces, revealing golden bangles on slender wrists. There is no sound as they pass by and disappear save the tinkle of elephants' feet.

A scene too colourful, perhaps, to describe our English September, and yet it shares the languor and the dusty glamour of these golden autumn days: the richness of plump berries on the briar; the sated wasp drowning in the sweetness of an overripe plum; the lingering rose, heavy with perfume. The orchard trees are burdened with fruit and on larder shelves jars of home-made jam glow like lambent jewels.

Skins of noisy geese in tight formation flap through the air as if on uncoiled hinges and magpies cackle and squabble in the hawthorn tree. Dragonflies hover in the still air and squirrels skip scatterbrained across the lawns. Leaves of sycamore and chestnut start to crisp and fall, and in the woods exotic toadstools suddenly appear.

Crane flies are coming indoors to dance their final frenzied jig and fading butterflies with folded wings prepare for winter's rest. As in the mirage, there's a sense of distance travelled and journeys yet to come.

The dogs and I are still swimming at the beach although the air is often chill and strands of weed slither snake-like around us in the water. Bertie the briard is nervous of swimming out of his depth and pleads with our poor old arthritic labrador to retrieve his stick if it floats out too far. Abo is happy to oblige, proudly showing his superior skills to the younger dog, but suffers dreadfully from aching joints once back on dry land. Flossie, the sheepdog, has to be bribed from the

water with the promise of food before I turn blue waiting for her.

Jemima's three pea-babies have grown fit and strong and now reside at Woodlands. I'm sure they will find living alongside ostriches and llamas far more exotic than with three dogs, two humans and a duck. With mating and moulting finished, the remaining peafowl are strangely quiet but eating voraciously to build up strength for the cold months to come. Campanulas are their particular favourite. Under attack from alarming numbers of rabbits and now peafowl, the wire around our garden is increasingly resembling the perimeter fence at Colditz.

There is comfort in the rhythms of the seasons, a familiarity that marks our passage through time and space. But autumn is a mystery, an act of faith embodied in the fragrant incense of garden bonfires. It asks us to believe that after the dormancy of winter, life will be renewed in the spring. I wonder, does the hibernating bat or the pupating butterfly know for sure that it will wake up or be transformed? Does the dormant daffodil ever doubt that it will appear next spring? Is the squirrel really storing nuts for the following season or is he, like the ancient Egyptians, making provision for his journey to an after-life?

In autumn we pledge our faith in the future through the ritual preparations for the coming season; raking and burning fallen leaves, stacking logs, trimming and pruning and putting our gardens to bed for their long winter sleep. When the new shoots appear we will be at the start of a whole new millennium.

Meanwhile, let us enjoy our Indian summer. Let us linger in the sunshine, savouring it's richness and beauty, committing every glorious detail to memory before the days shorten and the light dims on the last autumn of the 20th century. *Let us reflect on the distance we have travelled, and look forward to the journeys yet to come.*

Prunella Dart

HARRY HUGGINS SIGNS FOR THE NEW YORK RED-TAILS

It was in Kingsbridge Library: a modest paperback called *"Red-tails in love - a wildlife drama in Central Park"*. Oh, I thought, one of those sentimental slush books like the ones about the dear bunnies or boxfuls of fox cubs by the Aga. I brought it home as good for a half-hour's reading at bedtime. How wrong can you be!

The author is a lady of whom I had never heard, called **Marie Winn**. She has written a dozen or so books (about what I do not recall, even if the blurb said), but I suspect not natural history. She does a column about birds and wildlife in the Wall Street Gazette. And, brothers and sisters, can she write! It is simple, informative and gripping. Seldom do I finish a book. I tell myself they tail off towards the end, even the lives of Sir Peter Scott (my boyhood hero) and Gerald Durrell. Maybe my attention span is limited. But *"Red-tails"* I read from cover to cover, then June read it - and then I read most of it again.

The scene, and in a way the hero of the book, is Central Park, New York - 843 acres of grass, roads, trees, woods, lakes and muggers (none of those mentioned). One writer classes the park among the fourteen great birding places of America, a list which includes Yosemite and the Everglades.

When she wrote, which was quite recently, they had recorded nearly 300 species in the park. That figure includes vagrants and other occasional visitors. Using it regularly to breed or to winter, or on passage, was a list of almost 200. To us, many of the names sound strange. There are species we do not have in Europe. There are others which we call by different names: their Common Loon is our Great Northern Diver - if you are lucky you will see one in winter swimming off Leasfoot Beach, a great bird as big as a

goose with a dagger-like bill and a bump on its forehead. Their Kinglets are our Goldcrests. Their Chickadees are very like our Marsh Tits. We have only two sorts of Sparrow - Tree, now rare, and House, getting rare. They are finches related to African Weaver Finches. They have over thirty kinds of sparrow but these are much more like what we call buntings....though they have some of those too!

I was very baffled when she wrote that a Saw-whet Owl is the size of a Robin, and later she ascribed a similar size to a Killdeer which is very like our Ringed Plover. (They found a Killdeer at Aveton Gifford last spring but it scarpered). Then I remembered that an American Robin is a Thrush, the size of our Blackbird. Why Robin? Well, the palefaces who went to America were not birders. When they found a bird with a red breast hopping around what was more natural to homesick settlers than to call it Robin?

Butterflies are different too. In Britain we don't see many American sorts. The occasional Monarch arrives - in 1995 we had one in our garden. They have what they call the Mourning Cloak. Our name for the same thing is Camberwell Beauty - so called because the first to be named was caught at Camberwell in the 1750s. People seem to have been into butterflies before they were into birds: maybe because they were easier to catch and didn't have all those odd coloured females and juveniles to baffle.

Don't be put off by unfamiliar names and species. One of my favourite bedside books is *"A Moth-Hunter's Gossip"* by **P.B.M. Allan**. It rambles whimsically about many aspects of collecting moths, and about people who did so in the past. Now very seldom

does a proper entomologist, which Mr Allan was, use an English name. He employs the scientific one. I don't know about now, I have no present entomological friends, but in the 1930s, when the book was written, they seldom used the full scientific name. Every living thing which has been found and described (plenty, beetles mostly, have not) has a scientific name in two words, as invented by the great Swede **Carl von Linne** (Linnaeus, if you prefer).

The first word denotes the genus, the second the species. So you, gentle reader, and I are *Homo sapiens*. There have in the past been other members of the genus *Homo*, but all except *sapiens* are extinct and every human being now, of whatever race or colour, is *Homo sapiens*. In casual talk, and much of their writing, the entomologists used only the species name - the Christian name as it were.

So, as he waffles gently on, Mr Allan uses mostly only the species name and, because he does not give the full scientific name, I cannot look up what he is writing about in another book which has a suitable index. But, oddly enough, it doesn't stop my enjoying what he writes. And I think you will find the same in reading about the unfamiliar birds to which Marie Winn refers.

Besides a large cast of birds and other wildlife she talks of quite a big cast of watchers, ranging in age from the elderly to a babe in a backpack. When you are wandering around looking at birds you get to meet other people doing the same. In one of the cafes in the park they keep a log book in which sightings are recorded and that helps them know one another. Of course the main theme of the book is the seeing of Red-tailed Hawks. We don't have them in Britain, unless there are some in captivity like you find American Harris's Hawks and

Ferruginous Hawks at Falconry centres. If we did we would call them Buzzards.

Those early settlers called all birds of prey hawks. We used to when I was a child. A hawk was a hook-billed bird which hunted by day (except eagles). It included falcons, harriers, buzzards and hawks proper (which in Britain are only Sparrowhawks and Goshawks). We did not talk about raptors or birds of prey (strictly that can include owls and herons, and you could stretch it to Blue Tits which prey upon caterpillars).

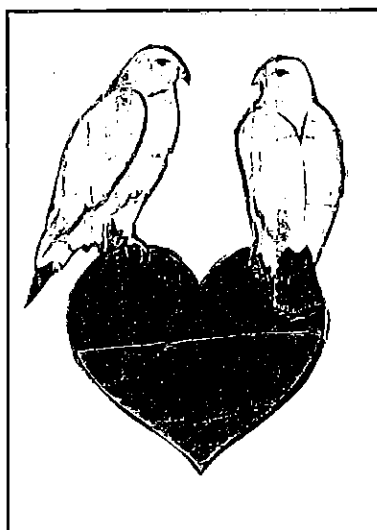
So the non-ornithological early Yanks classed Red-tails as "hawks". They couldn't call them Buzzards because for them the big Turkey and Black Vultures are buzzards. My book of *Birds of the World* says the term is still in common use.

In Britain we have just three sorts of buzzard. Common, which in our part of the world really is common - you seldom drive into Kingsbridge without seeing one on an electricity pole. (We have a friend who says "*See a buzzard on a post, be a better day than most*"!). Then there are Rough-legged Buzzards which nest in Scandinavia and

places north and come to Britain in winter - we used to see one or two when we lived in East Anglia. And, as summer visitors, we have Honey Buzzards. Very rare. A few nest in woods in Britain; they tell me the ones in Haldon Forest have given up, shortage of females they put it down to.

As opposed to our three, my American field guide lists thirteen kinds of hawk which we would call Buzzards. About twenty-five years ago we went with

a birding party to the Isles of Scilly. It included four very charming Americans. One of them had just given up being head of the



Part of the cover design of
"Red-Tails in Love"

Audubon Society, the equivalent over there of the RSPB. His wife was one of those people who can continue to talk while breathing in. They told us they usually called the buzzards Buteos - Buteo being the scientific generic name - and the Red-tailed Hawk is Buteo jamaicensis. The field guide says it is quite common in North America, nests in woodlands and feeds in open country.

Maybe I didn't read the lady's book carefully enough, but I found it difficult to pin her down to dates and years. But I think it was in the early '90s that a pair of Red-tailed Hawks came to Central Park and made a nest in a tree. It failed. When they tried again they built on a ledge on one of the apartment blocks overlooking Central Park. Those must be among the most expensive bits of residential real estate in the world. I don't think the birds brought off young the first time round. But later they did and over the years at least two broods fledged.

The ornithological establishment refused to believe what was happening. Red-tailed Hawks nest in trees, not on buildings, so these were not Hawks - must be Peregrines or Kestrels. "No", said the watchers. "We know them and where they nest, and if you

please these are Red-tailed Hawks". With their binoculars and telescopes they sat on a bench in the park and kept watch. One wonders what the people who lived in the adjacent apartments thought. I don't think the watchers ever knew who they were (it is easier by far to get into the Kremlin than into those buildings). Nearby, they could see Woody Allen playing his clarinet; eventually they made contact with one Mary Tyler Moore (of whom I ought to have heard but haven't), who turned out to be very interested and helpful.

It was a good place to nest. For food the birds had plenty of pigeons around. In the park there were lots of rats which lived on food put out by the people for birds, and there were always other birds to catch. Of course there were tragedies - there always are with birds. Hawks got injured and one female was poisoned by eating a pigeon which had picked up poison put out to reduce numbers.

It is an interesting story. I suppose it is still going on. But you would find Marie Winn's book is well worth the reading.

Harry Huggins

Pat Machin's **Duzzle Corner** Answers

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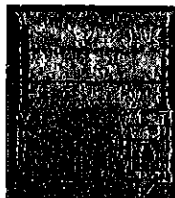
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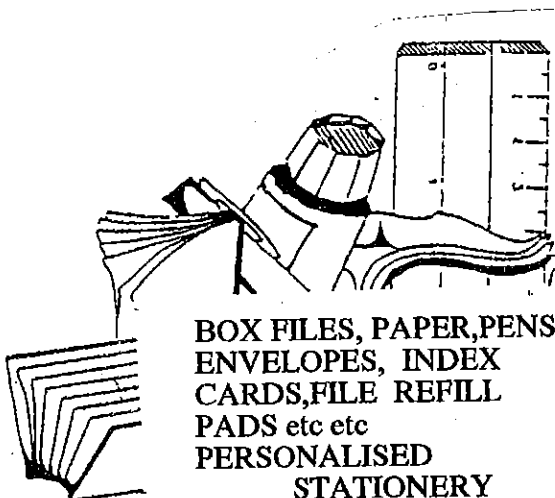
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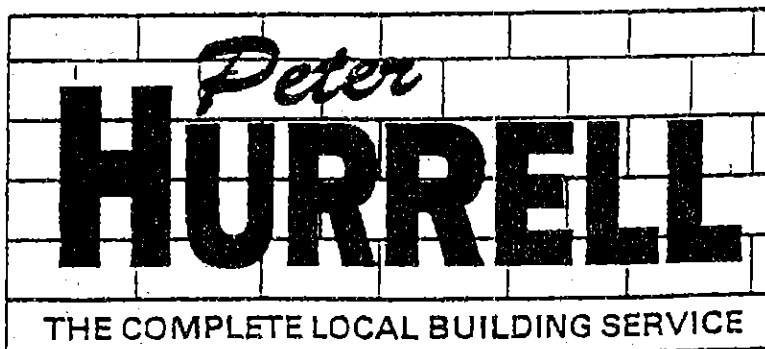


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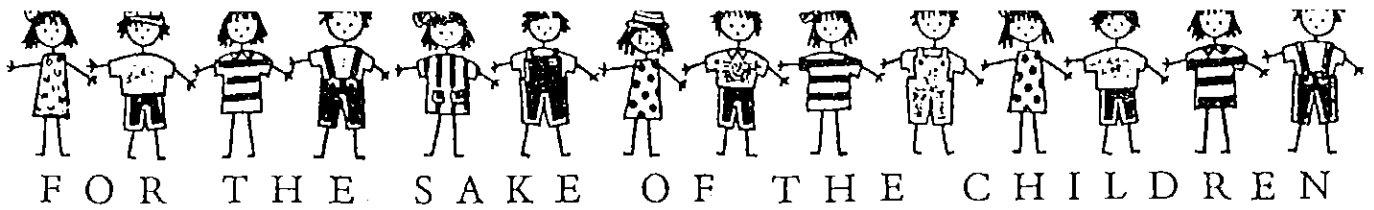


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THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

Why not come and do some of your Christmas shopping with us
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We are raising funds so that the
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN
can continue with its vital work to aid an increasing number of small children
who are being neglected and abused.

The people of Thurlestone parish
have always given us wonderful support over the years,
which we are relying on you to continue!

Goods for the stalls
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Pat Clarke
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Joan Lane
560158



National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

SAILING NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE IN NORWEGIAN WATERS

[Many readers will know that Bob Morley celebrated his retirement from the Village Store by sailing his boat to the Baltic and beyond, joined by Kay and their sons Alistair and Gregor for some of the time. For the other weeks he invited interested local sailors to share his dream voyage. Derek Yeoman crewed from Copenhagen to Stockholm; Patrick Holloway and his son Nicholas from Kristiansund to Bergen; Ron Parkin from Trondheim to Bodo; and Paul Housego from Bodo to Tromsø - the northernmost point of the voyage. The last we heard, as we went to press, was that Bob and Kay were now in Tobermory on Mull, having cruised extensively in the Western Isles. Here is Ron Parkin's diary for his week. Editor]

From Trondheim (63° 26' N - 10° 22' S) to Bodo (67° 17' N - 14° 23'E)
on board "LEOPARD" between 26 June 1999 and 4 July 1999.

Skipper : Bob Morley
Crew : Jody Chapman, Ron Parkin
Passage Distance : 393 nautical miles.

What a memorable week! Sailing certainly takes you to places that no other way of travel can reach. And so many surprises. I had innocently thought that the fjords gave out on to the ocean. No, they were rather like the lochs of the west coast of Scotland but hugely extended over hundreds of miles. I learnt that glaciers are not white, nor is the melt-water transparent.

They were placid seas for comfortable sailing between towering rugged mountain ranges and off-shore islands - some only off-shore by less than one hundred yards. The freedom to drop the anchor in the evening by an island, with the sun still well up, miles from any human habitation, was just magical.

What do I remember of the week's happenings? Well, here are just a few of the things that come to mind.

On Sunday, at Oslo airport, the moment of truth when trying out the Cellnet mobile which had always registered "call barred" when I had attempted to use it while sailing in Brittany only two weeks earlier. No joy in raising Bob's mobile until Jody pointed out that BT would never miss a chance to charge twice so why not route the call back to the UK and then out again? It worked!

Bob was glad to hear we had arrived, said we should wait to eat on board, but didn't sound quite

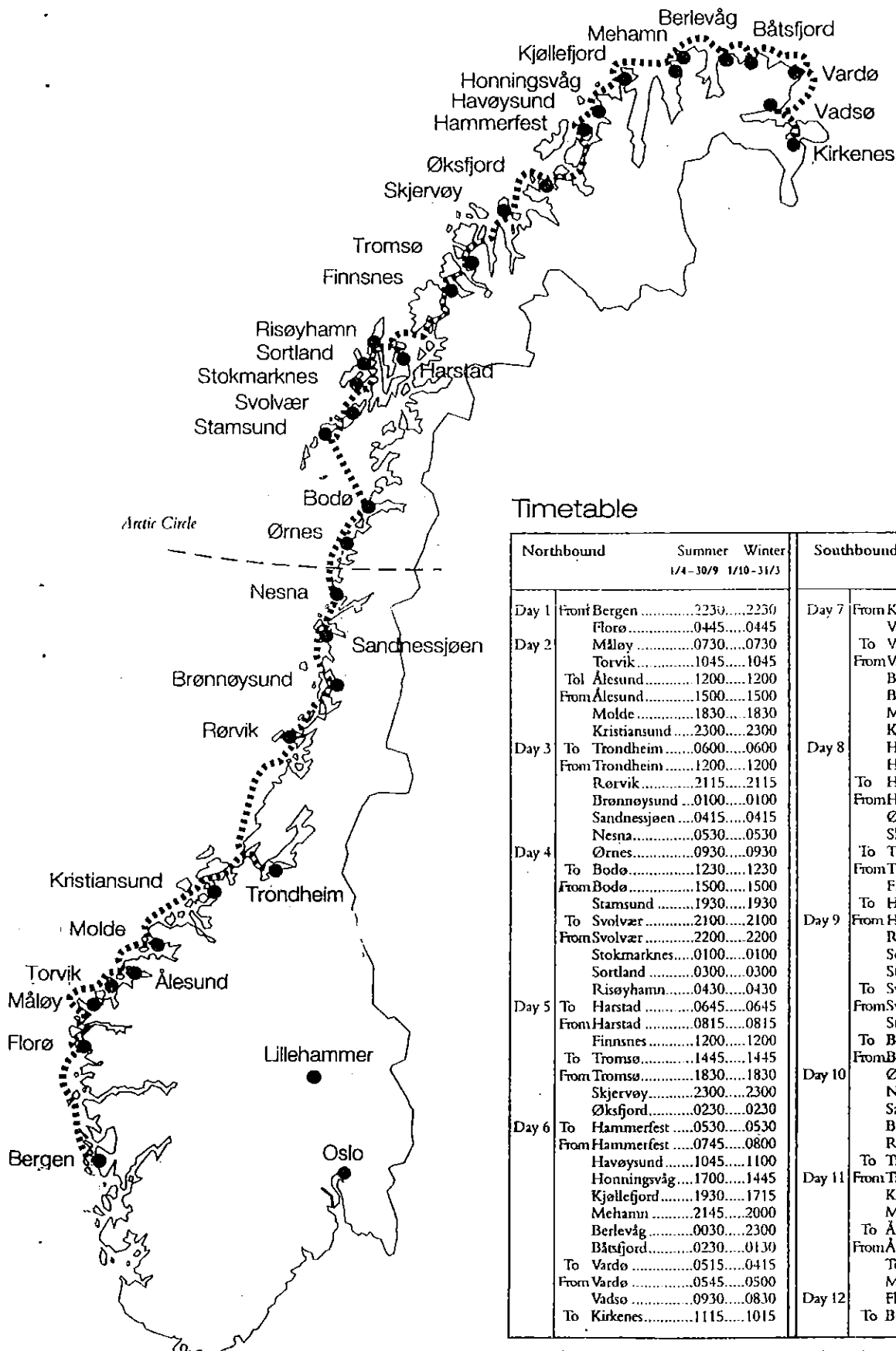
his normal bright and breezy self - for reasons which became obvious when we met Bob and Gregor, a couple of hours or so later, striding along the quayside by Trondheim railway station towards the showers.

They had had to motor overnight to get there in time, and my call had disturbed the skipper's catch-up sleep. "Leopard" was rafted alongside a commercial steel vessel. We stowed our gear, booze and food, tucked into a good meat-and-two-veg meal and settled in for our first night aboard to the sounds of a mild Saturday evening rave somewhere on the opposite bank.

Another welcome surprise came next morning. There was no rush to get up to catch the tides as in this part of the world the rise and fall is only two metres at most. So a leisurely breakfast, shower and motor sail 25 miles down the enormous Trondheim inland sea rather than fjord - where the "Tirpitz" waited before being caught by the Brits in WW2 - to the small harbour of Brekstad near the mouth.

Bob negotiated for a room in the large, empty hotel-cum-ferry terminal, so we could shower for £6 each in the morning. On the folding bicycle that Bob kept on board I explored the small and very quiet town - single-storey houses, window boxes, grass, but few flower beds or bushes yet there were flowers on every grave around the

Map and timetable



Timetable

Northbound		Summer 1/4 - 30/9	Winter 1/10 - 31/3	Southbound		Summer 1/4 - 30/9	Winter 1/10 - 31/3
Day 1	From Bergen	2230	2230	Day 7	From Kirkenes	1545	1145
	Flørø	0445	0445		Vadsø	/	/
Day 2	Måløy	0730	0730		To Vardø	1700	1530
	Torvik	1045	1045		From Vardø	1800	1630
	To Ålesund	1200	1200		Båtsfjord	2115	2000
	From Ålesund	1500	1500		Berlevåg	2315	2200
	Molde	1830	1830		Mehamn	0200	0115
	Kristiansund	2300	2300		Kjøllefjord	0415	0330
Day 3	To Trondheim	0600	0600	Day 8	Honningsvåg	0645	0645
	From Trondheim	1200	1200		Havøysund	0915	0915
	Rørvik	2115	2115		To Hammerfest	1145	1145
	Brønnøysund	0100	0100		From Hammerfest	1315	1315
	Sandnessjøen	0415	0415		Øksfjord	1615	1615
	Nesna	0530	0530		Skjervøy	2000	2000
Day 4	Ørnes	0930	0930		To Tromsø	2345	2345
	To Bodø	1230	1230		From Tromsø	0130	0130
	From Bodø	1500	1500		Finnsnes	0445	0445
	Stamsund	1930	1930		To Harstad	0800	0800
	To Svolvær	2100	2100	Day 9	From Harstad	0845	0845
	From Svolvær	2200	2200		Risøyhamn	1115	1115
	Stokmarknes	0100	0100		Sortland	1315	1315
	Sortland	0300	0300		Stokmarknes	1530	1530
	Risøyhamn	0430	0430		To Svolvær	1830	1830
Day 5	To Harstad	0645	0645		From Svolvær	1930	1930
	From Harstad	0815	0815		Stamsund	2130	2130
	Finnsnes	1200	1200		To Bodø	0100	0100
	To Tromsø	1445	1445		From Bodø	0400	0400
	From Tromsø	1830	1830	Day 10	Ørnes	0715	0715
	Skjervøy	2300	2300		Nesna	1100	1100
	Øksfjord	0230	0230		Sandnessjøen	1330	1330
Day 6	To Hammerfest	0530	0530		Brønnøysund	1700	1700
	From Hammerfest	0745	0800		Rørvik	2130	2130
	Havøysund	1045	1100		To Trondheim	0630	0630
	Honningsvåg	1700	1445	Day 11	From Trondheim	1000	1000
	Kjøllefjord	1930	1715		Kristiansund	1700	1700
	Mehamn	2145	2000		Molde	2115	2115
	Berlevåg	0030	2300		To Ålesund	2345	2345
	Båtsfjord	0230	0130		From Ålesund	0045	0045
	To Vardø	0515	0415		Torvik	0200	0200
	From Vardø	0545	0500		Måløy	0530	0530
	Vadsø	0930	0830	Day 12	Flørø	0800	0800
	To Kirkenes	1115	1015		To Bergen	1430	1430

The different colour codes (beige and white) show the number of days taken for the different stretches of the journey. We reserve the right to any possible changes.

small church at the high point of the town. The black tombstones were clean and polished and gave the names of several generations of each family. A good fry-up for supper preceded a walk, then a drink at the hotel which was served by a young Dutchman brought to Norway by love and marriage.

Monday, 28th June, 1999, will live long in the memory - superb sailing, the best day ever, certainly for me, covering eighty-seven miles in ten hours. It was warm and sunny. Running in a Force 3 - 4 between the islands, requiring constant navigation and course changes, keeping a look-out for the vardes, beacons and perches, and, on one occasion, seeming to head straight for the cliffs only to turn at the last moment into a narrow channel - we just had to hope there wasn't a cruise ship coming!

We headed for the tiny harbour of Vingstad for the night and had to raft alongside "Wir" from Bremen, which had moored behind us the previous night. There was no one around and the houses seemed empty. At half-past eleven in the evening the sun still shone on a walk up the hillside to a loch.

There was activity in the small fish-processing plant next morning; there were also excellent showers on the wooden quay and a most helpful lady in the shop. When we asked, "Would you like us to pay for the mooring?" she replied "Yes, if you like". "How much?" "Well how much do you normally pay?" So Bob settled for Kr50.

But weather-wise what a contrast. Low clouds were rolling in. We hesitated before setting off and soon the low clouds became thick fog. By masterful navigation Jody brought us safely into the next port, just two miles or so away. Again, not a sound to be heard nor a soul to be seen. We walked, talked to the cows, and waited. The afternoon brought rain but the day was redeemed by the splendid sirloin steaks cooked to a turn by Jody at the marina in Rorvik, forty miles away, a more prosperous port thriving on the cruise ships.

Three magical nights at anchor then followed. On the Wednesday I had woken at 4.00 am, conscious that the wind had swung round toward the north - where it stayed - but we tacked and sailed through the islands for forty-two miles, finished Jo's very popular fruit cake for tea, and

swung to anchor between two of the Lyngoya islands, discarding the line so painstakingly and securely put ashore by Jody in the dinghy. We walked on the island and lay down on the thick springy turf, more comfortable than any sprung mattress, to watch the sun setting over scores of small islands scattered across a stunning seascape.

Next morning, out past Torgharten the thousand metre-plus mountain with the hole in it. Winds perverse, fair bit of motoring but beautiful islands again, dramatic mountainous cliff faces and isolated farms so small they must be subsidised. Anchored in the very sheltered Hjarto bay, where the water was so clear the idea of a swim was tempting.

We crossed the Arctic Circle the next day at 66 33'N, marked by two lattice globes made of stainless steel ribs, saw sea eagles and plenty of puffins, then explored to the head of the Nordfjord Holmen to view the Svartisen glacier towering over us, brilliantly lit by the evening sun. The sense of pent-up power within it was, as they say, awesome. The glacier itself was an icy blue, while the melt-water that came from it was milky from the suspended solids. Having tried unsuccessfully to anchor alongside the fjord cliff face, we came back to the neat little charted anchorage for our third night of freedom and independence. Seventy miles that day, but still a long way to Bodo.

Too far, in fact, for our last full day. It was grey and rainy, with a cold northerly wind - making it a day for thermals, double sweaters, fleeces and 'oilies'. We made sixty miles to Indyr - a place too small to boast a restaurant for a last night supper, so we bought cooked chickens for a feast on board. Having been woken at 4.00 am by returning revellers in their dinghy, we slipped at six in order to make sure we did the remaining twenty-two miles to Bodo in plenty of time to find our way to the airport.

As one crew flies out, another flies in ... what a feat of organisation the whole trip is - 3,343 miles since Salcombe and still going north. The experience of a lifetime for the skipper and certainly for the crew - not least because Bob runs such a relaxed and confident regime aboard "Leopard".

Ron Parkin

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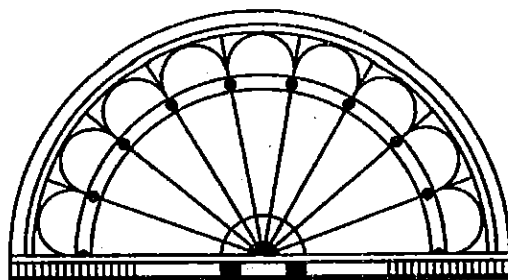
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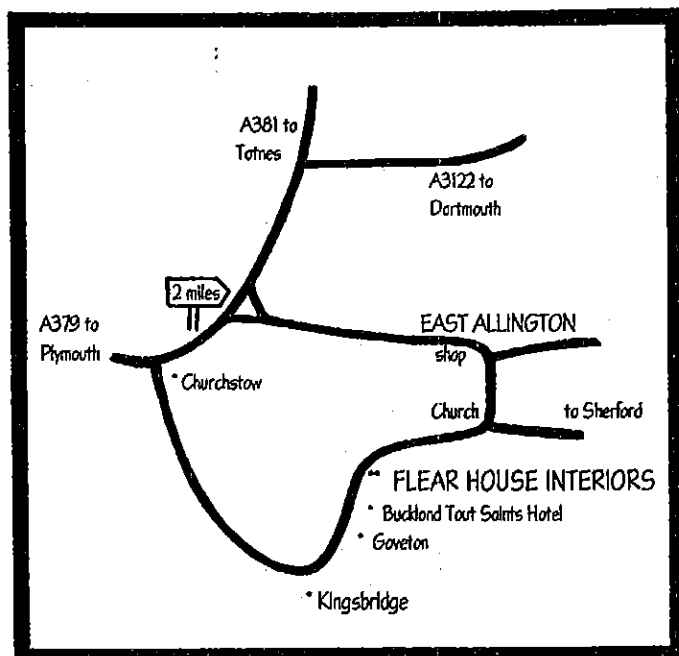
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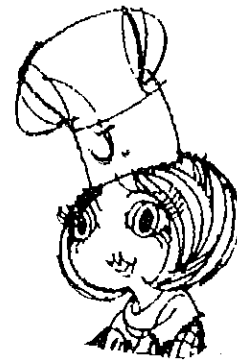
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KATE'S KITCHEN

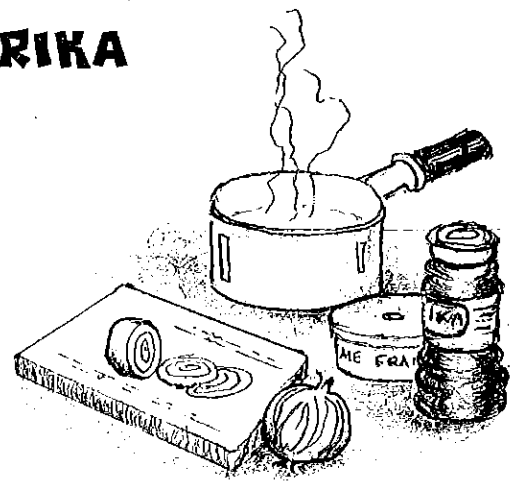


Years ago, in the far-off early 60s, while the rest of us were swinging, Len Deighton, who later found fame with his thrillers about the Cold War, was writing a regular illustrated cookstrip in the *Observer*. All of his recipes were foolproof and many were winners. This chicken stew is one such. Choose hot or mild paprika according to your preference. Purists may go for the sour cream of his original recipe but *creme fraiche* works well and the half-fat variety is fine.

CHICKEN PAPRIKA

Ingredients

12 ounces chopped onion
2 ounces butter
12 chicken thighs, skinned
One and a half tablespoons paprika
1 tablespoon flour
Half a pint of *creme fraiche*
Salt and pepper



Method

1. Simmer chopped onion in the butter and, when it is golden, add the chicken pieces.
2. Sprinkle the paprika over them, season with salt and pepper
3. Cover the pan with a closely fitting lid and continue to simmer for about half an hour until the chicken is cooked.
4. Mix the flour into the *creme fraiche*, making sure there are no lumps, and stir it carefully into the chicken gravy until it thickens.
Do not boil, as it may curdle.
5. Sprinkle some decorative parsley over the top and serve it with plain boiled rice and a green vegetable or salad.

What could be simpler?

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON 21st ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The 21st show proved to be a huge success, with the judges declaring that it was one of the best shows they had seen this year. It was Thurlestone's turn to host the event and so on Saturday 7th August the parish hall was a riot of colour, with row upon row of excellent garden produce, handicrafts, and cookery delicacies. **David Coward**, the chairman of the show, was able to report that despite the peculiarities of the weather leading up to the show, entries were the same as last year and he thanked all the exhibitors, the judges, stewards and other helpers for making the 7th August a great afternoon for everyone.

Cups were presented by **Mr Ben Horn**, Show President, and went to:

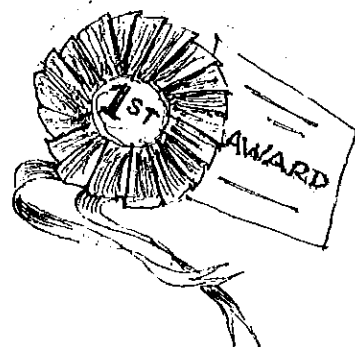
Winners

T. Church
T. Church
C. Atkin
Ross Harrison, Alice Henderson
& Thomas Tregelles
Katie Harrison & Kate Pope
L.Gunning
C.McKillop
T.Church
J.Turner
J.Beven
D.Coward
T.Church & C.Atkin
T.Church
M.Tregelles
J.Lane
Ross Harrison
Kate Harrison
L.Gunning
L.Gunning

Class

Amateur fruit and vegetables
Open fruit and vegetables
Cut flowers and plants
Senior children

Junior children
Cookery
Handicrafts
Thurlestone resident with most points
South Milton resident with most points
Best Amateur vegetable
Best Open vegetable
Overall rose
Single rose
Fuchsia
Flower arrangement
Senior child
Junior child
Set recipe
Sewing



Certificates of Merit for individual items went to:

J.Beven (amateur fruit and vegetables); D.Coward (open vegetables and fruit);
C.Atkin (cut flowers and pot plants); Kate Harrison (children 5-8);
Ross Harrison (children 9-15); L.Gunning (cookery); P.Leare (cookery);
L.Gunning (preserves); L.Gunning (sewing); K.Turner (art);
J.Yeo (photography); J.Lane (flower arranging).

The Horticultural Show was pleased to support the Autumn Fair in aid of the parish hall, and to report that the sum of £49 was raised on the produce stall. Thanks to all contributors.

Our AGM will be at the parish hall on Monday 18th October.
Everyone is most welcome to come and a warm invitation is extended.

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FROM THE BIRD ON THE ROOF

Traffic Problems

I had occasion to look down - this time from a roof in Kingsbridge - on a file of traffic as individual cars tried to circumnavigate the town immediately after the recent solar eclipse. It was a fascinating experience and made me ponder on projected traffic growth over the next 30 years and to think about local problems such as:

- # The West Alvington bottleneck, where owners are encouraged to leave parked cars in the narrow village street, irrespective of frequent wing mirror damage and constant traffic obstruction.
- # The short-cut from the Kingsbridge - Salcombe main road to the Salcombe - Plymouth main road just outside West Alvington is desperately in need of widening.
- # The alarming tendency of some visitors to import their bad driving manners no doubt learned in city crushes - and smashes!
- # The holiday-makers who purchase a 4 x 4 vehicle primarily to mount pavements, but who don't appreciate the width of the vehicle in narrow country lanes.
- # The 'school mums' (and some 'school dads') who do the morning and afternoon journey to and from school during term time. Some are models of driving discretion but others are less cautious.

Recently when driving to Plymouth we observed a five-axle articulated monster, from the top of Aveton Gifford hill to the roundabout at Elburton, which was travelling ahead of us. Several times it rounded a corner way over the middle of the road,

sometimes its speed approaching 60 mph. We kept back prudently, fearful that a similar juggernaut coming from the opposite direction should meet it.

Should such large vehicles have access to country roads which were never designed to accommodate them?

What traffic adviser was responsible for the 40 mph restricted zone which now extends over the greater part of Aveton Gifford hill and which applies to both ascending and descending vehicles? I wager a speed camera installed on the uphill stretch, where two lanes are rightly assigned to motorists, would net a huge haul in fines in any week!

All these things have consequences for local "year round" residents. Just after writing the above, I was delighted recently to hear on television and read in the press on the same day that both the Government and the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) have come out with proposals to reduce rural traffic and resulting pollution. The sooner the better.

What a Hoot

Since late spring we have found owl pellets on our balcony! We had been aware of activity on our roof after nightfall but the owls' "too-whit-too-whoo" was singularly lacking. This week a prize specimen was on display - about the size of a small walnut - which we have preserved for the benefit of "doubting Thomases". Careful dissection of other offerings left during the summer showed their diet comprised beetles, insects and the occasional skeletal remains of tiny rodents. **Have you seen any owls this year?** Until a couple of years ago they and their young were commonly seen in the trees bordering the Hotel golf course - but they have not been so visible, or audible, of late.

BOOKSHELF

MUSIC TO MOVE THE STARS - A LIFE WITH STEPHEN

by Jane Hawking

Good old Kingsbridge Library. I heard about the book on radio and put in a request before the publishing date and, lo and behold, I was the first to get it! With no renewal allowed, I have enjoyed reading it in the middle of the day with no pricks from my Calvinistic conscience. What a good read it is. She brings to life, so sympathetically, her many years of being the reason her brilliant husband was able to achieve so much in spite of his bodily disability. She managed, despite this, to continue her own studies, in a totally different sphere of academic life.

RM

ALL IN THE MIND - A FAREWELL TO GOD

by Ludovic Kennedy

I am not even sure I should write the word "God" with a capital letter. This book is a very well-researched and reasoned argument about what the title suggests. Reading it before Jane Hawking's book (black holes etc.) was a good preliminary exercise. Lots of food for thought and heated discussions if you are wanting to prolong a dinner party...but make sure the wine will mellow your fellow guests enough!

RM

LOSING NELSON

by Barry Unsworth
(Penguin £15.99)

I had been looking forward to this book as Barry Unsworth is an excellent author and I enjoyed his previous novels. Regrettably, it did not come up to my expectations, particularly as it was a Booker Prize winner.

It is the story of a man who was obsessed with Horatio Nelson and thought him a great national hero, above reproach, who could never knowingly commit a dishonourable act. But once, apparently, in Naples, Nelson was accused of betraying certain insurrectionists, to whom he had given a promise of safe conduct if they surrendered. Instead they were very badly treated and their leader executed. The narrator, a Mr Cleasby, was so troubled by this accusation that he felt compelled to go to Naples to find the truth and clear Nelson's name. This trip had disastrous results.

As an account of Nelson's life and loves, and his naval career, it is most interesting and particularly so for me as I was billeted for some time during WW2 in the Castel dell'Oro in Naples - which is mentioned several times in the book. But I found the constant thread of obsession a little tedious, and I was completely mystified by the ending, which was presumably intended to be allegoric or symbolic, or something like that, but a bit beyond me! Perhaps someone will kindly enlighten me.

GW

CHARLOTTE GRAY

by Sebastian Faulks

This is part of the trilogy (Birdsong and The Girl at the Lion d'Or are the other two) which the author has written about France. The Scots heroine of the title is parachuted into Vichy France during WW2 on what is, on the face of it, a short Resistance errand. Before undertaking this mission she hears that her RAF fiancé has been shot down and gone into hiding in France, so she now has two reasons for going there. A wonderful story, powerfully told.

PMM

Roger Hind

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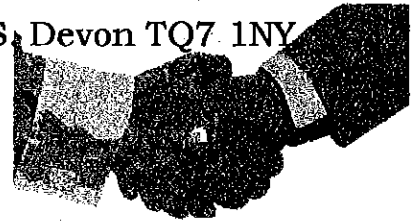
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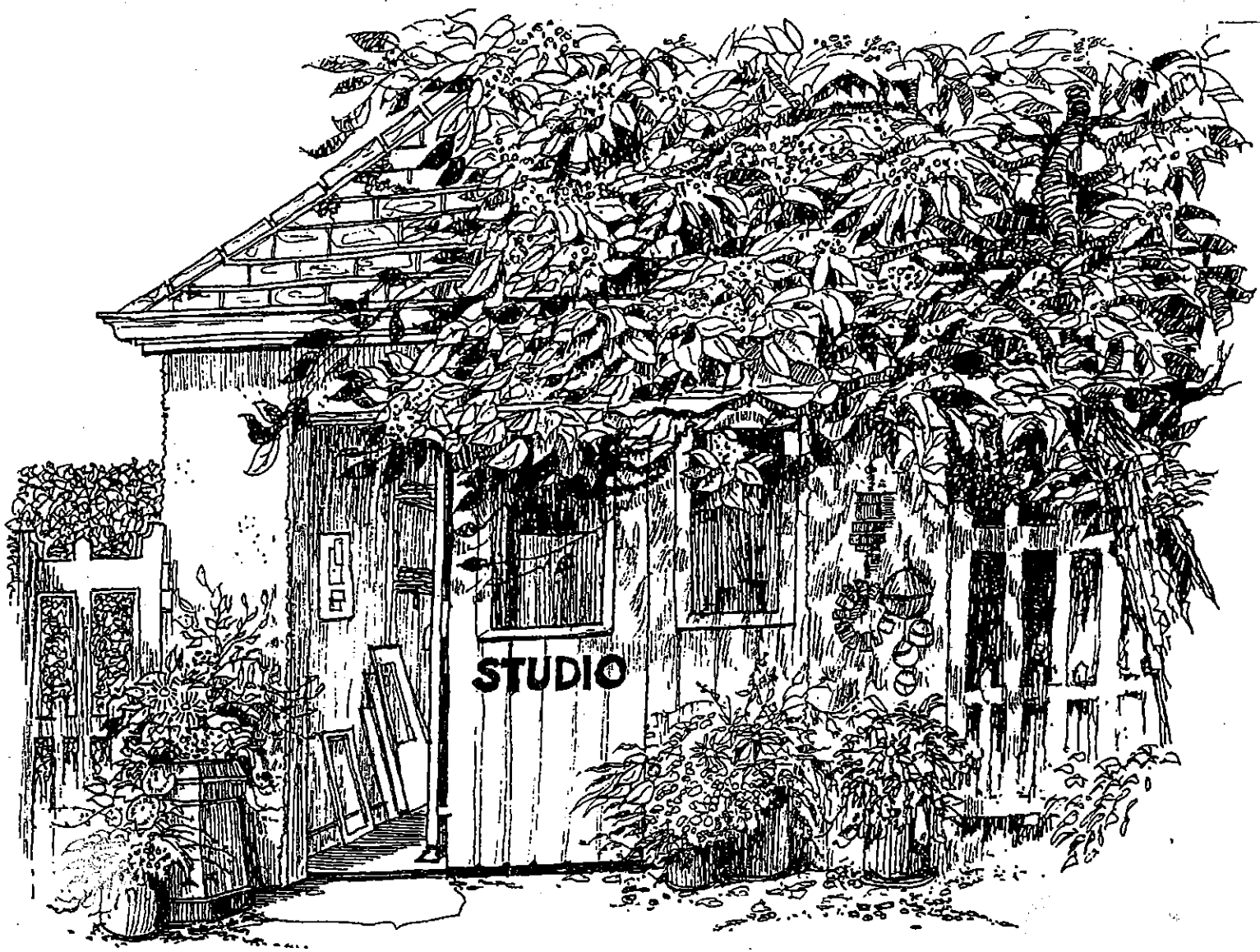
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DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Sat 2nd Pearson pre-school Jumble Sale, Parish Hall, 10.30 am
 Tues 5th Basil Smallman Music lecture, Dodbrooke Hall, 2.30 pm
 Wed 13th TRAMP - Capton, Cornworthy
 Wed 13th St. Luke's Hospice all-day event, Thurlestone Hotel
 Thur 14th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Langage Farm Dairy)
 Tues 19th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Sat 23rd NCI Jumble Sale, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Sun 24th Avon Conservation Talk, Aveton Gifford Hall, 7.00 pm

NOVEMBER

Wed 10th TRAMP, S.Milton, S. Huish, and Hope Cove
 Thur 11th WI Annual Meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Sat 13th NSPCC Bridge, Parish Hall (Phone 560578 for details)
 Sat 27th Conservatives Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 10.30 am

DECEMBER

Sat 4th NSPCC Christmas Bazaar (details inside)
 Sun 5th VIDEO Collection, Parish Hall, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
 Wed 8th TRAMP, local walk and Christmas Lunch
 Thur 9th WI Christmas Lunch
 Tues 14th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

Village Voice is delivered in Thurlestone by MIKE TAYLOR and a team of volunteer helpers. It is delivered by MRS JEAN HURRELL in Bantham and Buckland.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 6th NOVEMBER 1999

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

PARISH

BANTHAM SURE LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse	560447
BOWLS CLUB (Indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayment	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 Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560405 560157
TENNIS SECTION	Contact Brenda Murch	560487
KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	Contact John Lonsdale	560742
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact Philip Candy	560857
PROBUS	Contact Pam Brewster	560345
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Carolyn Taylor	562033
W. L Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall.	to be announced	
RECTOR	Peter Hurrell Veronica White John Lonsdale Carolyn Steen Simon Day David Grose Charles Mitchelmore Geoffrey Shildon Derrick Yeoman Kit Marshall	560496 560236 560742 01752 - 691212 560375 560602 560695 560607 560214
PARISH COUNCIL Chairman Vice - Chairman Parish Clerk District Councillor County Councillor Members	(Tree Warden)	

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

DIRECTORY

HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge Salcombe	833551 842884
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckner & Son	01803- 832801
VILLAGE SHOPS	Thurlestone Village Shop Bantham Village Shop	M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm W, Sat, 8.00 am - 2.00 pm Sun, 8.30 am - 2.00 pm (See Post Office)
PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Joan Lane	561006 560158
POST OFFICES Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday 10.30 am Saturday, 11 am Sunday	Thurlestone 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 Force Enquiry Centre 0990-700-400	Central Switchboard Confidential information	0990-777-444 0800-555-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION	Thursday (But Friday in Bank Holiday - Monday weeks) Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays starting 22 April 1999	
BUSES (Western National) New Winter timetable available from TTC Kingsbridge in October		
	No. 161 Wed only Mon - Sat	No. 161 Wed only Mon - Sat No. 162 Mon - Fri
Bantham	10.30 14.20 - - -	Kingsbridge 10.10 13.50 12.15 17.00
Buckland	10.33 14.17 - - -	South Milton 10.50 14.00 12.40 17.25
Thurlestone	10.41 14.09 09.45 13.28	Thurlestone 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 Thurlestone 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 Thurlestone.		
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight	560220
LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays)	11.10 - 11.30am Bantham 11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 12.20 - 12.35pm Thurlestone Church	Kingsbridge 832315
MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN (alternate Wednesdays from 13 Oct)	12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sands 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm outside school	

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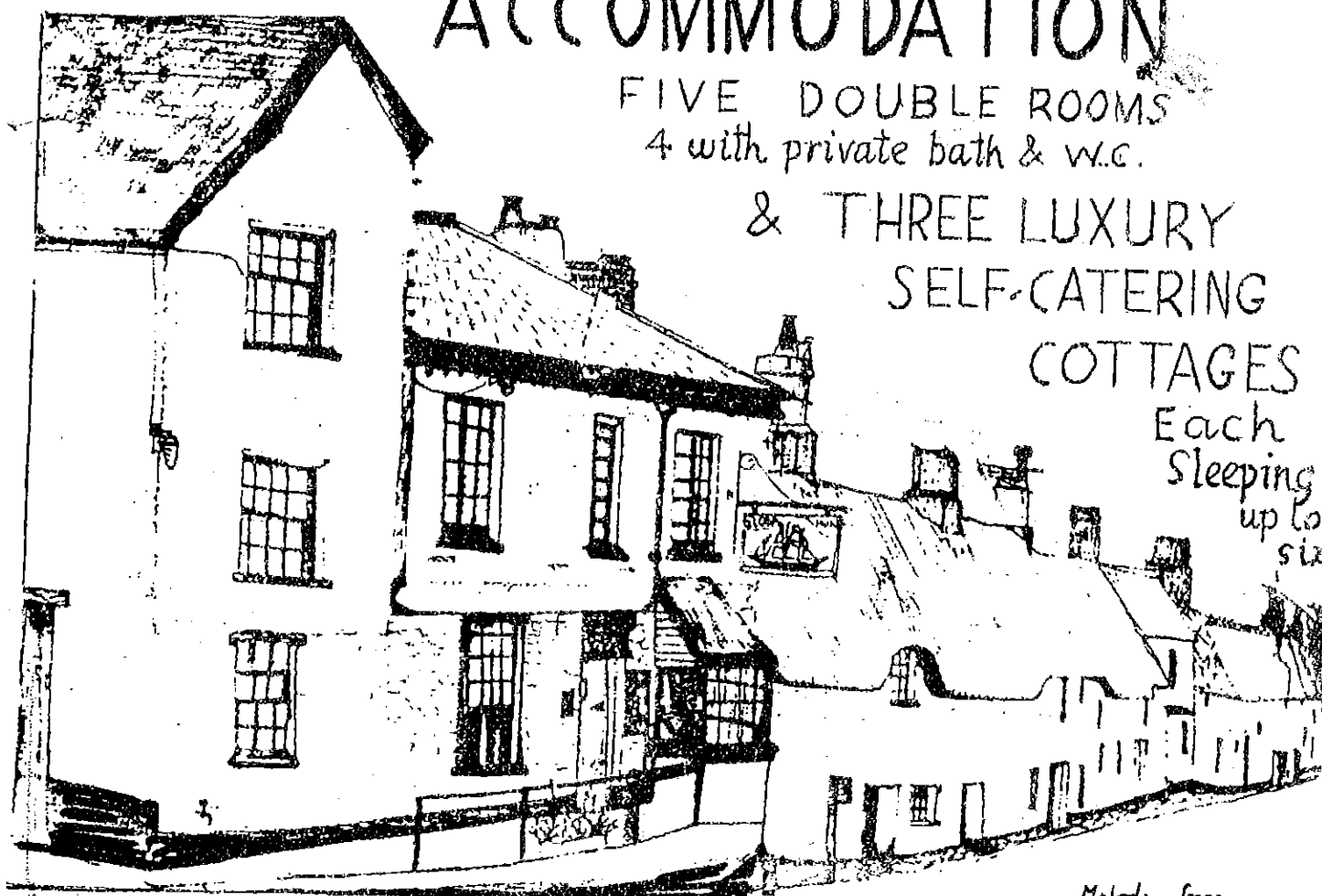
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