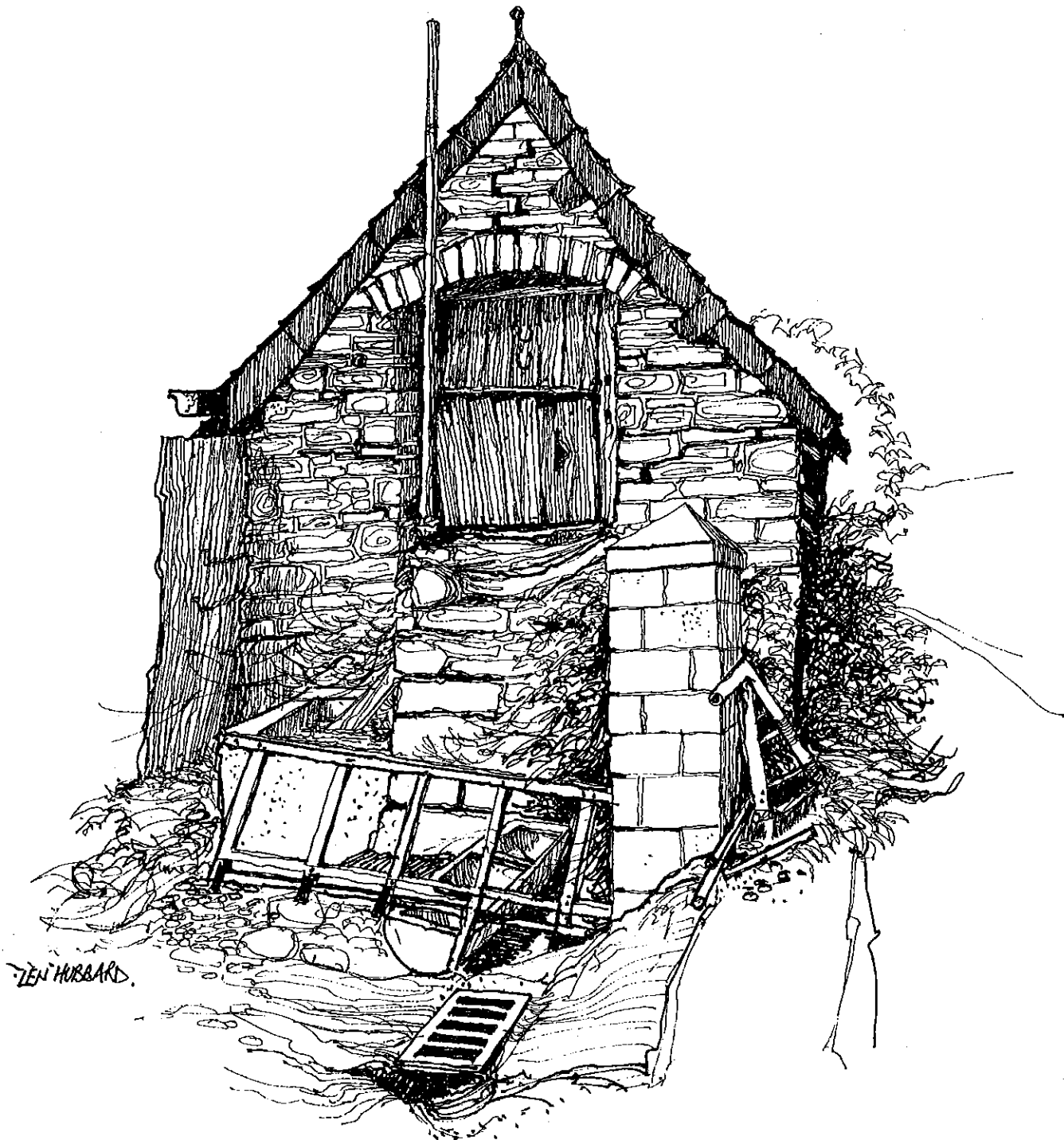


VILLAGE VOICE



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2002



NUMBER 117
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2002

So it's mists-and-mellow-fruitfulness time again, and yet another summer is tucked away with the new holiday snaps and the old garden furniture. The Midsummer Night's Ball and the Bantham Bash are now fading from the memory, though the cash that they raised will continue its work for the causes they espoused. And the proposed church meeting-room moved a step nearer with the submission of revised drawings - included in this issue - while the divided Parish Council sat adroitly astride the fence.

Grockles returned in force to the South-West, delighting all those in the Tourism business, who recovered some of the ground lost in the Foot-and-Mouth period. Farmers were not quite so lucky, however, and have struggled to make ends meet in the aftermath of that crisis. Moreover, the government's intention to ban hunting hangs over the countryside like some enormous wet blanket (or is that the minister dealing with it?)

You will find this October issue of Village Voice unashamedly waving a few flags and sounding a patriotic note or two. When our way of life is under threat on so many fronts it is hardly surprising that voices - and pens - are being raised in protest. Our country, and our countryside, is long-suffering and tolerant in the extreme. But there are limits. And it would seem they are not too far off.

Front Cover: Old Farm building, Bantham

Founder Dudley Drabble

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

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

Production Manager AL PARKER

Production Team

JOHN & MAUREEN BAKER
PAT CRAWFORD
MARGARET CULLUM
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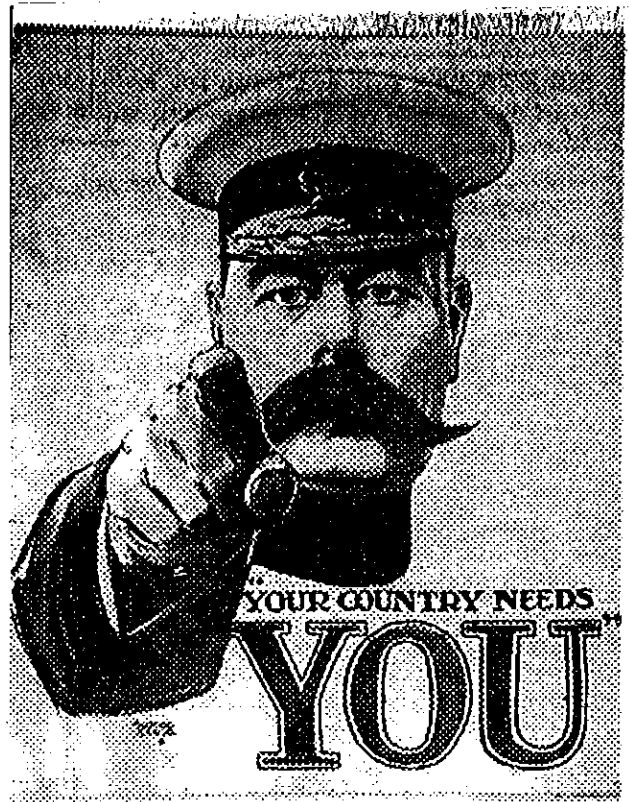
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE!

I don't know, 'cos I was doing a slow march up in the Smoke at the time, but they tell me that our parish was a quiet old place a couple of Sundays ago.

I'm not surprised about that. Judging by the faces I glimpsed in the crowds, most of Thurlestone parish, not to mention the rest of the country, were in London Town taking part in the Liberty & Livelihood March to show those ghastly politicians that those who live in the countryside won't be pushed around by Islington Urbanites.

But I'm not surprised either by the strong support from our villages. Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland have always had a strong independent streak, supporting the rights of countrymen and women to live their lives the way they want to, not the way that other up-country Urbans think they ought.

Hunting is only part of it. Though, mind you, we have always been a keen hunting lot down here. Kingsbridge had one of the first real packs of hounds way back in 1729. And since then our combes have been covered countless times by paws galore and hooves of various local hunts. Looking down from Bantham or out from near Clanacombe down into yet another



combe often gives foot-followers a good view of Charlie padding across a field and slipping through a hedgerow before getting clean away from the pack. Sometimes you could even see him sit down and wait for the hounds to catch up.

So it's no wonder that the hunt secretary once lived in Thurlestone's Post Office Lane. And wasn't the hunt treasurer a local farmer's wife? Don't folk from Bantham ride to hounds today? And don't the beagles still have a strong contingent from Thurlestone at their meets?

Mind you, not all the local hunting was always that orthodox. Or kind either. There used to be, maybe there still is, a photograph in the Church House Inn at Churchstow of a group of shot-gun hunters displaying the riddled bodies of half a dozen local foxes. And no one here today could fail to put a name to the grinning face of one of today's parish worthies in the foreground.

But the March was about more than hunting. It's about how we get about. It's about cars and petrol. It's about farming and the lousy way that farmers are being treated. It's about rotten roads and terrible trains. About dumping houses on us where some up-country oik thinks they should go. About the enforcement of petty regulations, and form-filling, and trying to destroy our local government. About 'Cool Britannia' versus 'Land of Hope and Glory'. And it's about all the rest of the raw deal the countryside always gets from the Chief Urb in Downing Street and his peculiar cronies.

It's all about our freedom and everything that makes up country life.

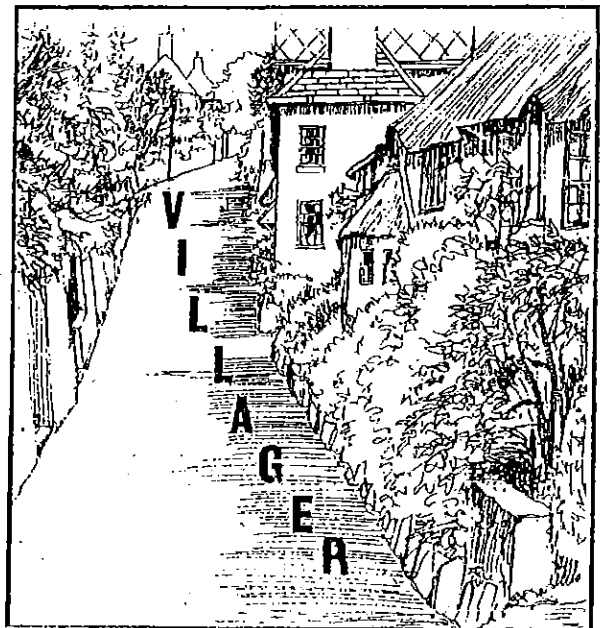
That is why if I didn't see you on the March, I hope I just missed spotting you. Because now you've decided to live in the countryside you really should have been there. You're countrymen and countrywomen now.

They used to say that even after you'd lived down here for twenty years you were still regarded as a 'foreigner'. But that's all changed. You live here, you're country folk.

In times when even visitors regard themselves as old Thurlestonians or Banthamians or Bucklandians after just a few trips down to see us, not everyone takes kindly to the summer invasion of our roads and beaches.

For example, a holiday home owner was heard to exclaim in fury "Something's got to be done about these visitors!" Which caused an ancient very local local to reply "Yes, shooting's too good for 'em".

He was, of course, only joking. See you on the next Countryside March.



Parish Council Meeting

9th September 2002

News and Views by Citizen

It is a long time since the last Parish Council meeting - or it seems like it with all our visitors coming and going! During the summer break it was necessary for our Parish Councillors to meet with members of the Parochial Church Council to discuss the new recreation field behind the church and the costs involved in creating the proposed car parking area and approach road (including a demand for yet more money from the solicitors acting for Evans Estates to cover the cost of drawing up both the lease for the field and a licence to cover the car park).

In my July report I mentioned that two vacancies had occurred as a result of the new Code of Conduct requirements and, as a result of an advertisement in the last issue of Village Voice, two names have now been put forward for nomination - both well-known local figures - **Neil Girling** from Bantham and **Andrew Rhymes** from Thurlestone.

PARISH HALL

The application for Lottery money to assist in the development of the new Hall was not accepted as no monies are available for village halls at present. This is unfortunate as it will involve a lot of extra work in applying to a number of sources other than just the Lottery. This will take much more time but let us hope the end result will be the same. It is up to all of us as parishioners to support the fund-raising as much as we possibly can. The efforts of the Bantham Bash team were well rewarded and half the profit, amounting to around £12,000, will be donated to the new Parish Hall fund.

PLANNING

The application which aroused the greatest interest was that being made for a Church Hall. This was a renewed application as the first one was withdrawn. The new plan was not displayed at the meeting but I understand that it varied little as regards positioning - which was the main concern of those who objected last time. The Parish Councillors were split 50/ 50 but at the meeting a point was made that one of the Councillors voting for the development should

have declared an interest. Whether this was a valid point was to be discussed after the close of the meeting and included in the minutes.

A further point raised by the Parish Council with the District Council was that parking for and access into the Hall was dependent upon the car park in the proposed recreation field, and as this was currently covered by a licence under negotiation, and could be terminated at any time, access to the Church Hall could be difficult.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A written report was received from Mrs Steen, who was unable to be present. Very briefly, she mentioned that the Seaview development should start on time at the end of September and also that, in future, two members of the public would be allowed to attend Planning meetings, provided one was in favour and one was against a particular application.

YELLOW LINES

According to the bus company, it was reported that these had been a success, as none of their services had been delayed due to inconsiderate parking in the areas covered.

RECYCLING

A container for bottles has been situated in the car park at the back of the Hotel. This should be very useful for those without their own transport who enjoy the odd glass or two on special occasions!

NAME SIGNS

Finally, a discussion took place regarding the village name-sign at Buckland. At present the whole area is known as West Buckland according to the signs, and some of the residents of East Buckland object to this. The Councillors are to discuss the matter but it was felt that a resigning as **Buckland** might be more acceptable.

NEXT MEETING

This will be on Monday 7th October, 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall. Members of the public are encouraged to attend as observers.

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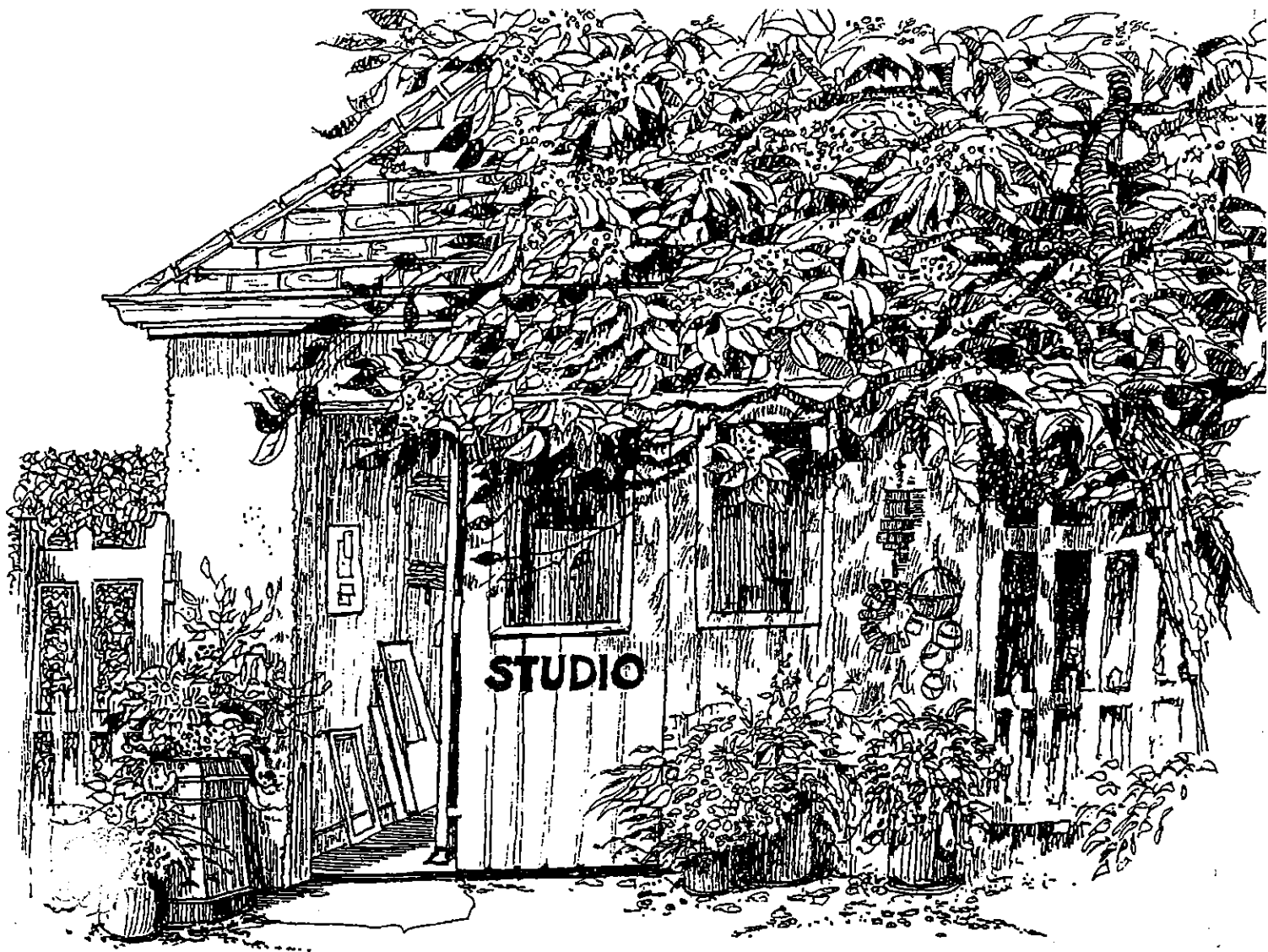
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Village News Round-Up

New Clubhouse Opens

The Bantham Surf Life-Saving Club celebrated the opening of its new premises on Sunday, 1st September, when Chairman **David Grose** unveiled the new name sign. The new clubhouse incorporates a dedicated lifeguard observation post and a purpose-built first aid area. In addition to a quarter million pound grant from Sport England, extra money for the £300,000 clubhouse was raised by the District Council, and further donations included a substantial contribution from Bantham Sailing Club.

Kingsbridge Show Successes

It was a good day for a number of those Thurlestone residents who were brave enough to enter the annual Kingsbridge Show held on Saturday, 7th September. **Tony Church** of Bantham won a cup in the Cut Flowers & Pot Plants section and a further two cups for Roses. Thurlestone's **Sue Durant** and family won lots of "Firsts". Young **Lewis** did particularly well, winning the Cup for "Most humorous animal made out of a vegetable", whilst **Tilly** took home no fewer than seven rosettes.

There were also plenty of familiar faces working away behind the scenes at the Show - **Tony and Sylvia Church, Derrick and Jean Yeoman, Pat Macdonald, and Veronica White**, to name but a few.

School Computer Suite

Thanks to substantial fund-raising by the Friends of Thurlestone School, the project to install a networked computer suite is now well under way. Building work was carried out during the summer holiday, and is now virtually complete. Purchase and installation

of equipment is expected to be completed by the year end, with the facility becoming fully operational in the New Year.

Teamakers

After a summer recess, meetings for Teamakers (*Thurlestone Enthusiasts at Mouse and Keyboard Exercises for Recreational Satisfaction*) will resume on Wednesday, 16th October, at 25 Mead Lane. The first meeting will start at 3.00 pm. and will include a talk on "*Family History Research and the Computer*". The second meeting will be a fortnight later, on Wednesday 30th October, when **Chris White** will give a talk on "*An Introduction to Spreadsheets*". Further details will be advised to existing members by e-mail. New members will be welcomed - please contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436 or by e-mail at <Teamakersclub@aol.com>

On the March

A last-minute item received from **John Crawford** drew our attention to a placard - seen on the Countryside March - which offers a challenging new concept for our friends across *La Manche*.

**British Beef
is
Safer than Sex**

Bravo Bantham

Marilyn Cater has kindly provided the following commentary on "The Bash".

"The use of Coopers Field was very generously allowed by **Geoffrey Stidston** for

this, the Sailing Club's second "Bash", and we were once again blessed with good weather so that everyone was able to enjoy the superb views over Bantham and Burgh Island.

The bar was manned by members of the Hall committee, for which many thanks, and there was a great raffle and charity auction which included a helicopter ride over Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone, and many other wonderful prizes - all of which were kindly donated.

Following the picnic, guests assembled outside the marquee, where the Commodore, **Hugh Cater**, proposed the loyal toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. This was immediately followed by a hearty rendition of "Land of Hope and Glory" with a fantastic firework display, after which the six hundred or so revellers danced the night away to a great local band called *Honest John*.

The organisers worked very hard to make this occasion such a great success, and special thanks must go to **Peter Kirvan**, **Maggie Smith**, **David Lynch**, and **Neil Girling**, whose sterling work resulted in everyone enjoying a fantastic fun evening with the splendid bonus that St Luke's Hospice and the new Parish Hall Building Fund will share approximately £25,000 between them.

Not bad, eh?"

[Quite an understatement, Marilyn.... and of course no mention of the input provided to the organisation of this event by Hugh and Marilyn Cater themselves. **Ed.**]

Avon Lantern

The annual away match at Bigbury - to determine who would have possession of the coveted Avon Lantern trophy over the winter - was held on Sunday, 15th September, in flawless sunshine. A keenly contested event ended in a narrow victory for the home side

by six matches to four, and was followed by a splendidly convivial meal in the clubhouse.

Results (Thurlestone players in italics):

Carter & Laugher bt Hollingsworth & Lloyd
Kingwell & Lowry bt *Marston & Scott*
C. Moore & Saunders bt *Burner & Wadey*
Favis & Parsons bt T. Moore & Taylor
Bunn & Pailthorpe bt Johnson & Passant
George & Pearn bt *Chapman & R. Moore*
Lucas & Macdonald bt *Brown & Tregelles*
Aldgate & Bunch bt *Law & Mitchell*
I. Jones & Pearce bt J. Jones & West
Hunter & Monson bt *Bancroft & Drummond*

Fishy Talk

The Aune Conservation Association invite you to a talk on 'Fish of the Avon Estuary' at the Aveton Gifford Memorial Hall, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm on Friday 18th October 2002. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served beforehand. There will be Speakers from the Environment Agency (salmon), DEFRA (bass) and Devon Sea Fisheries (shellfish). **Mick Loates** will show slides of these and other fish and hang some of his paintings in the hall.

Electoral Roll

Forms were sent out at the end of August and are required by law to be completed for each household, with a qualifying date of 15th October. Have you completed yours yet? Persons who do not complete the form may be liable for a fine of up to £1000. If you have not received a form you should contact South Hams District Council Electoral Registration Office on:

01803 - 861234 Ext 1129 or 1244

Winter Bus Timetables

Free copies of the new winter timetable are now available from local libraries, Post Offices, and the Tourist Information Centre.

PARISH HALL NEWS



The last month or so has been pretty eventful for the Parish Hall.

First, the good news. The Bantham Sailing Club's 'Jubilee Bash' for charity, in which we were a 50% beneficiary, raised over £25,000 in total with the final figures currently being calculated. This was a tremendous event, incredibly well-organised, and altogether a great success. Many members of the Parish Hall's regular user groups became expert part-time bar-tenders on the evening under the guidance of **Neil Girling** from the Sloop Inn, Bantham, who master-minded and arranged the bar. We can only be **exceedingly** grateful to the Bantham Sailing Club and its committee for making the evening so successful.

Secondly, the bad news. The hall has been broken into again: the method of entry as before with similar damage consistent with looking for any money on the premises. However, with many thanks to **Ray Tavender**, our caretaker, the damage has been repaired and we are taking steps to improve hall security.

We received an estimate for the cost of building the new hall from our Quantity Surveyor which, although considerably higher than we had anticipated, will be a constituent element of our application for a grant to the National Lottery.

Martyn Grose, who is managing our application to the Community Fund of the National Lottery, is in direct contact

with the Fund's South West Regional Office in Bristol and reports that a critical factor, which will affect the award of a grant, is the extent to which we can meet certain criteria, which the Community Fund have listed as priorities, when reaching their decisions. With this firmly in mind, we are now concentrating on formulating a business plan, which will form part of our application, and will, as far as practical, address those priorities.

Because of the ever-increasing demands for Lottery funds, applications are assessed in relation to pre-determined priorities. We do not anticipate an easy task, and it will probably take longer than we originally thought to process our application.

However, we are not restricting our request for grant aid to the National Lottery alone. There are several other organisations and agencies who may also have funds available for grant application. These will probably be more restricted in terms of the amount available and, possibly also directed towards specific facilities, but all these potential sources of funds are being investigated.

Rowland Cole

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

For the enjoyment of the late Basil Smallman's many friends in the parish, Ann Smallman and I would like Village Voice to carry the obituary prepared for New College by his colleague at Liverpool, Professor Robert Orledge.

Those of us who sat enthralled on a draughty chair in the Dodbrooke Church Hall as Basil made the classic composers come alive with his recordings and particularly his virtuoso accompaniments on a village hall piano, will never forget the experience. His mastery of his subject and the delightful style of his presentation enchanted us and, for me personally, he enriched my appreciation of good music for my retirement years.

God bless you, Basil, you were an inspiration!

JOHN CRAWFORD
Baidland, Thurlestone

[Professor Orledge's tribute appears on another page in this issue. Ed.]

Dear Editor

The Bantham Sailing Club, and in particular its committee who master-minded and organised the Jubilee Bash on 24th August, is to be both congratulated and sincerely thanked.

The event, which was a tremendous success as an excellent party in its own right, was even more successful when one considers the very generous sum of money raised for St Luke's Hospice and, of course, for our own proposed new Parish Hall.

On behalf of all the Parish Hall committee, may I make use of your columns to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Bantham Sailing Club.

ROWLAND COLE
Joseph's Garden
West Buckland

Dear Editor

On behalf of the committee of the Thurlestone Parish Hall I would like to thank the Village Voice team for their most generous donation of £250.00 received recently.

We are really most grateful for your support.

ROWLAND COLE
Joseph's Garden
West Buckland

Dear Editor

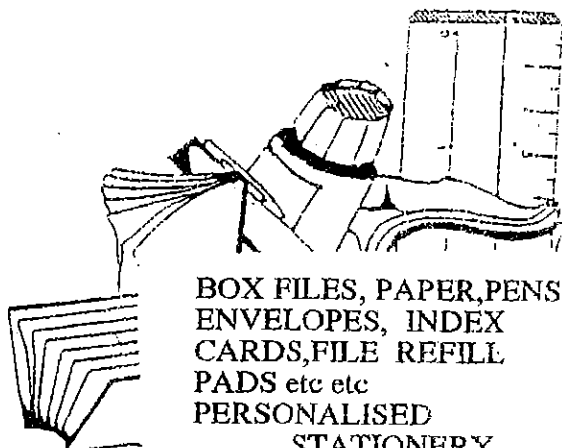
A very grateful thank you to all who contributed to the 'International Change for Children' campaign. Hope & Homes were delighted with the £16,150 raised by the appeal. The 'Penny Farthing' campaign run by the Children's Hospice South West, who were initially collecting pre-decimal and old decimal coinage, but who were also given a large quantity of foreign coins, raised in excess of £30,000. Those of your readers who took the trouble to search out those unwanted coins have contributed a lot of happiness to many children.

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BASIL SMALLMAN

Frederick Basil Rowley Smallman was a distinguished scholar and musician who studied composition with Herbert Howells and Gordon Jacob at the Royal College of Music before winning the Margaret Bridges scholarship to study at New College in 1940.

His studies were interrupted by the war, much of which he spent in India with the RAF, and he returned to complete his Oxford Music degree in 1946-7. After a period lecturing at Nottingham University, where he distinguished himself as an accompanist with the BBC and in the Lieder recitals he gave with Elisabeth Schwartzkopf, he was appointed to the Alsop Chair of Music at Liverpool University in 1965, in succession to Gerald Abraham.

There he developed a new degree course, established and conducted the University Orchestra, Choral Society, and Opera Group, and developed his research interests in the German Baroque Passion (and especially Heinrich Schutz), on which he published several well-received books and articles. During his twenty-year Professorship, he was elected Dean of Arts (1969-72), Public Orator (1973-75), and Pro Vice-Chancellor (1975-79).

He naturally became an Emeritus Professor of the University on his retirement in 1985, after which he broadened his musicological horizons still further, publishing invaluable and innovative studies of the Piano Trio, Quartet and Quintet with Oxford University Press in the 1990s.

Basil was respected and loved by all who knew him. Ever-genial, kind, and generous with his time, he was also a modest, diplomatic, and highly-cultured man who achieved great things without fuss, whilst simultaneously being an inspirational leader to his colleagues and a true gentleman. He was an all-round musician too, as excellent as a pianist and accompanist as he was a conductor and composer. His *Centennial Ode* for chorus and orchestra, which he conducted as part of the University celebrations in the presence of Princess Alexandra in 1981, was a particular highpoint in his career.

Basil died on 8th December 2001 at the age of 80, and is survived by his devoted wife, Ann, whom he married in 1949, and his three children: Anthony, Rosamund and Christopher.

Robert Orledge

Ann Smallman has sent us this list of her late husband's major publications which include:

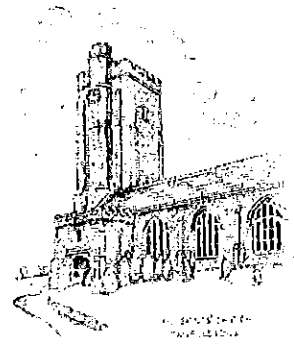
THE PIANO TRIO : Its history, technique and repertoire
THE BACKGROUND OF PASSION MUSIC : J S Bach and his Predecessors
THE PIANO QUARTET & QUINTET : Style, Structure and Scoring
THE MUSIC OF HEINRICH SCHUTZ

Basil also provided entries for THE NEW GROVES DICTIONARY on Church Music and THE NEW OXFORD COMPANION TO MUSIC 1983, and more recently sixty entries to the OXFORD COMPANION TO MUSIC.

His very amusing ORATIONS have been published, including those for people on whom Honorary Degrees were being conferred, viz. John Betjeman, Colin Davies, Isaiah Berlin, Roger Bannister, Verónica Wedgwood, Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire.

The Oxford University Press have been in touch with Ann to say they are now able, because of new printing technology, to produce older titles that have gone out of print or are currently out of stock, or in danger of going out of stock. Basil's *The Piano Trio* is one such publication to be included in their programme. Ann also invites any readers, if they wish to use Basil's library, tapes, and so on, to telephone her on 01548-560701.

All Saints



Rector: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219
Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

ANDREW GIRLING WRITES:

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

On Sunday October 27th at 6.00p.m. we shall be holding a service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the lives of our departed loved ones. Can I invite you to come and take part. All of us have parents, spouses or family and friends who have been particularly important to us and whose memories we treasure. We hope that the service will enable us both to remember them and to give thanks for all that they gave us and shared with us.

During the service there will be an opportunity for those who wish to light a candle of remembrance. We shall also read aloud the names of the loved ones whose families would like us to do so.

Simple symbolism and ceremony can be very powerful and express thoughts and feelings we find hard to put into words. In the past I have found similar services to be greatly appreciated and I hope this may help some of you on the difficult journey through bereavement and allow others to give thanks not only for their loved ones lives but also for the Christian hope of eternal life and the communion of saints.

Every one will be most welcome.

If you would like a loved one remembered by name please fill in the proforma below.

The Ten Commandments

Most of contemporary society regard the Ten Commandments as out dated and outmoded. I have recently read a book by Revd. J.John, who, in a powerful and very accessible way, shows how relevant they are to today. It addresses many of the problems we are trying to deal with in our country and community as well as issues in our private lives. He has recently been on a tour of England giving lectures which have drawn very large crowds and has now made video recordings of those talks.

We plan to show the first five videos on consecutive Monday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in the Cuthbert Suite at Thurstone Hotel beginning on October 28th. I have to say that I do not agree with everything that he says but I am sure the videos will stimulate much thought and discussion. Do come and join in.

Andrew

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving Request

I/we hope to attend the Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. Would you please read aloud the following name(s):

.....

Signed:
Please return this form to Revd. Andrew Girling, The Rectory, Homefield, Thurstone, TQ7 3LF or leave it in the folder at the back of church.



Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

You would be welcome at any of these services

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP)

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8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP)

11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All Ages (CW)

CW = Common Worship

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 3RD &
NOVEMBER 7TH**

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) in the Studio, White Horses, Bantham followed by coffee

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)

OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 28

8.00 a.m. Informal Prayer

Please note that the church has a loop system & a wheelchair is available

[illegible]

Coffee-Time

MONDAYS OCTOBER 7TH & NOVEMBER 4TH

OTHER MONDAYS (NOT OCT 21)

NOON - 1.30 P.M.

10.30-11.30 A.M.

in the Parish Hall

in aid of World Vision Lanka (October) & Bible Reading Fellowship (November)

Everyone is welcome ~ Ring Rosemary Chipman (562013) if you need a lift

[illegible]

St Crispin's fair

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Entrance 50p including coffee & a Crispin!

CHURCH MEETING-ROOM...

A further update from the Parochial Church Council on the Proposed Meeting-Room and Re-use of the Churchyard

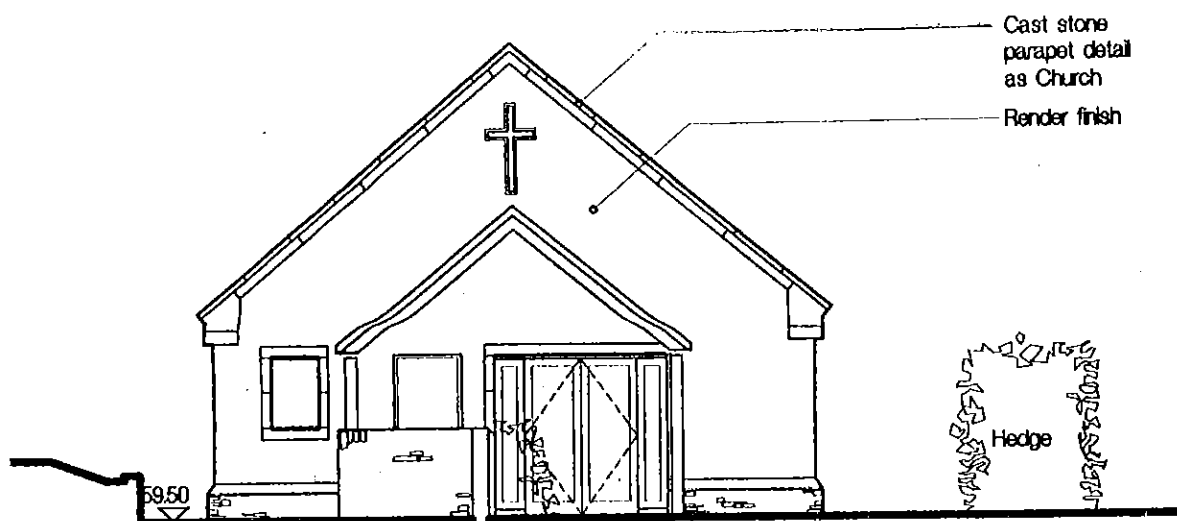
Following the article in the August/September issue of Village Voice and the update in the September issue of The Rock, plans for the proposed Meeting Room have been re-submitted to South Hams Planning Department and are currently under consideration. The Architect has given a great deal of thought to comments by local people, the SHDC Planning Officers, and the Diocesan Architectural Adviser.

The amendments made include a lower-pitched roof, reducing the height by 2.3 feet, the front porch centralised, and the frontage simplified. Building materials have been selected to reflect Church detailing and the western boundary wall moved to allow seventeen more grave spaces.

As mentioned in The Rock, the plan is on display at the back of the Church.

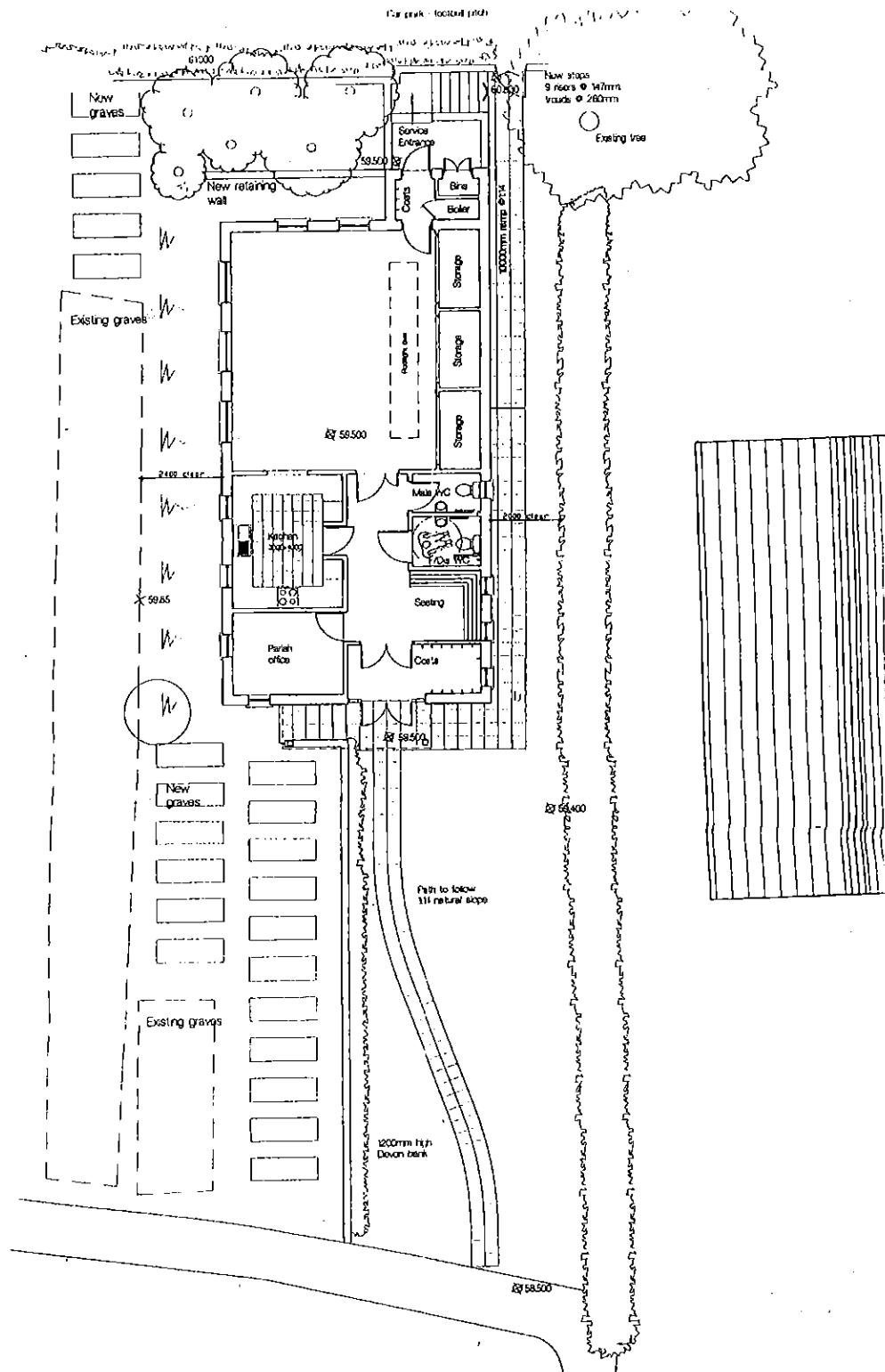
The PCC has been advised that the Chancellor for the Exeter Diocese after due consideration has agreed that two defined areas of the churchyard can be re-used, subject to no grave being disturbed if the family have so requested. This was always the understanding of the PCC. Together with the additional spaces mentioned above, there should be sufficient room for burials for forty to fifty years at the current rate of burials.

Graham Worrall



SOUTH ELEVATION

...AND CHURCHYARD



FLOOR PLAN

With Remembrance Day Services to be held on Sunday, 10th November, we are again reminded of the sacrifices made by our armed services in two world wars, and at other times as well. To mark the occasion, Douglas Scott, of Meadfoot, has sent in the following anonymous tribute to the common soldier.

“JUST A COMMON SOLDIER”

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion
Telling stories of the past,
Of a war that he had fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies
They were heroes, every one.

Tho' sometimes, to his neighbours,
His tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened,
For they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer,
For a soldier died today.

He'll not be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary,
Quiet and uneventful life,
Held a job and raised a family,
Quietly going his own way,
The world won't note his passing,
Though a soldier died today.

But when politicians leave this earth
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great,
Papers tell their lifetime stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises
And cons his fellow men?
Or the ordinary fellow who,
In times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

A politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate
To the service that he gives,
While the ordinary soldier
Who offers up his all
Is paid off with a medal,
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it was some time ago
That the "Old Bills" of our country
Went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians,
With their promises and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger
With your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician
With his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier
Who has sworn that he'll defend
His home, his kin, his country
And would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again,
For when countries are in conflict
Then we find the soldiers' part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days,
Maybe just a simple headline
In a paper that would say:
"Our country is in mourning
For a soldier died today"

Anon.

KATE'S KITCHEN



AUTUMN PUDDING (serves 4 - 6)

This is a variation on the great British summer pudding, which originated in the 18th century. It was designed for nursing-home patients not allowed the rich pastry puddings of the time! This one is made in a loaf tin and cut into slices to serve. If you prefer to make one in a pudding basin, that's fine. If the autumn sunshine continues, you can enjoy blackberrying to collect one of the ingredients. The recipe could also use up windfall apples. The choice of fruits is your own, and as well as the stewed fruits you could include any of the summer fruits now available in supermarkets throughout the year, or any you have frozen during the summer.

Ingredients

You will need a total of one-and-a-half pounds of mixed fruits to include apples, plums and blackberries and half a small white loaf, thinly sliced. Drier bread will absorb the juices better than very fresh bread. 3 ounces caster sugar. 2 ounces icing sugar.

Preparation

- Lightly butter a one-and-a-half pound loaf tin. If your tin is smaller, then the leftover fruit could be served alongside the pudding. **Make a puree** with half-a-pound of blackberries and 1-2 ounces icing sugar. Blitz together and then sieve. **Make a sugar syrup** with a quarter pint of water and 3 ounces caster sugar boiled together for a few minutes.
- Peel and cut apples into small chunks; wash and stone the plums and cut into quarters; stew apple and plums in a little water; wash remainder of fruit.
- Mix half the blackberry puree with the sugar syrup and bring to a simmer. Add all the fruits and remove from heat. When cool, pour some of the syrup into a separate bowl.
- Remove crusts from bread and cut into slices to fit loaf tin. Dip the slices in the reserved blackberry syrup and line the base of the tin, overlapping slightly. Layer the tin with alternate dipped bread and fruit layers, finishing with bread and a little of the sauce. Cling-film the top and place tin on a plate. Press down on top of the pudding with a weight (a 1kg bag of sugar wrapped inside a poly-bag works well). Leave in the fridge for a few hours or overnight.
- When ready to serve, mix remaining blackberry sauce with remaining pudding juice. Turn out the pudding on to a plate and spoon the blackberry sauce over the top. Serve with remaining fruit mix, sauce, and cream or creme fraiche.

NOTE: This pudding may also be frozen, omitting the final touches and freezing any left-over sauce and fruit mix in separate containers, to be de-frosted with the pudding and used as above.

ATLAS UNCOVERED!

(Inspired by the entry about The Cottage on the new Thurlestone trail map, Jean Hide tells the full story of the strange lump on the front wall of her Thurlestone home)

We always knew there was something under the plaster which covered a bump on the front wall. But it wasn't until Gordon Jeffery was painting The Cottage for us - one of the first, if not the first, professional job he undertook after he set up on his own in the 1960s - that we dared to find out what it was. As he cleared away the plaster, at first he reported that it was a copper plate bearing the outline of a woman. But as more emerged he changed his opinion. *"It's a man. And a very well-developed one too!"*

Well, it was a man, or a god in the shape of a man, for it depicts Atlas holding the world on his back. It is in fact one of the "firemarks" issued by the Atlas Insurance Company in 1808 to show that the premises were insured by them against fire.

On the excellent new Thurlestone walk map it says that our cottage was built in 1630 and that if you stand on the raised pathway - opposite our big iron gate - you can see the pink and yellow firemark high on the wall and just below the thatch of the roof.

Well, so you can, but when we uncovered it, Bob and I wanted to know more about it. So I wrote to the company and they were very enthusiastic about our discovery and sent me a little booklet which had been published in London in 1908 to mark the 100 years of the company. It contained all sorts of facts about firemarks and insurance in the early days when the company issued their first fire insurance policy on Midsummer Day 1808. Britain was then at war with Napoleon, but a soldier could still get his life insurance policy extended to cover battles against Boney's troops for an extra premium of five guineas!

Six weeks after issuing their first fire policy Atlas had their first loss and paid out in full.

Their business spread and it would be nice to think that they had a keen salesman covering the Thurlestone area, for there is another example of an Atlas firemark on the wall of "Little Thatch" in South Milton.



1808 Atlas

Atlas had its own Fire Brigade and each member had a silver arm badge, which also protected him from being taken by the Press Gangs. Whether there was a special Atlas fire team in our area isn't mentioned but there must have been some arrangement. After a while the word got round that the firemark had special powers and property bearing the mark simply would not burn. (Sounds like good publicity spinners at work!)

Policies were never issued without the copper-plate firemark and they were always fixed to the insured property by an Atlas official. There was a fee for the mark as well as a premium. It was good value - for in the early days it is said that if one of the private fire brigades was called out, but on reaching the fire found that the building bore the mark of another company, well they just went home and let it burn!

They were tough times. The Atlas company issued firemarks between 1808 and 1838, and notices were posted in public places warning that if any servant was convicted of having caused a fire through negligence, he or she would be fined £100 or get 18 months hard labour. For anyone found guilty of arson the penalty was death, and the gallows were set up at the site of the crime and the criminal swung amid the blackened ruins of his handiwork. *Fortunately, that obviously never happened at The Cottage.*



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HARRY HUGGINS IS RATHER CHUFFED

There has been great excitement. Choughs have bred in Cornwall for the first time for fifty years! Jubilation even, because Chough, Cornish Chough they used to call it before it went extinct there, is the national bird of Cornwall.

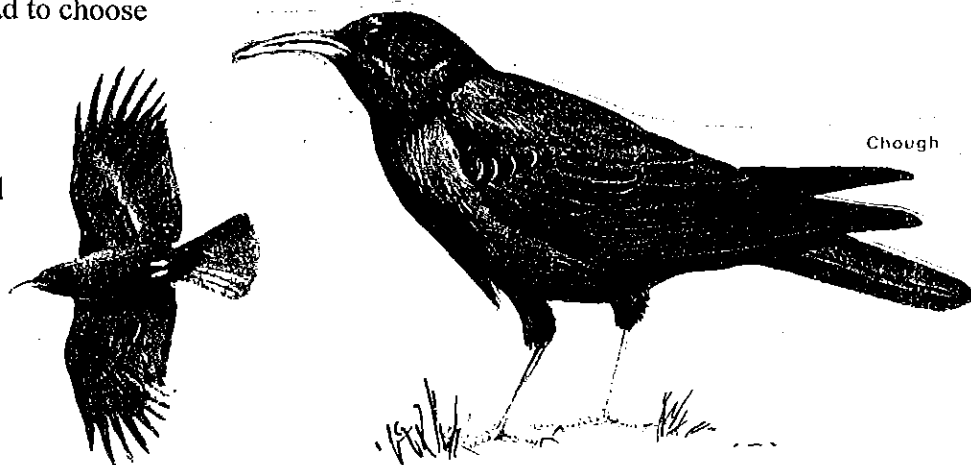
National birds are apt to become extinct: you don't choose any old thing for the purpose, and whatever it is can often be very rare or, maybe like double-headed eagle, it does not exist at all. It must be something for which you feel affection or respect, or both. For example, here in Thurlestone just now you would not pick Herring Gull, handsome though it is. It is common, noisy, dirty and aggressive. So you choose something which is unusual - imposing, like an eagle or, like Chough, rare, striking and found preferably nowhere else.

Chough is in fact widely spread over much of Europe and Asia, but there are very few in Britain. Nearer home, the emblem of Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society is Montagu's Harrier (though I think they had Buzzard before that). This Harrier nested in the county years ago but in 2000, the latest year for which I have the county bird report, there were just five sightings of birds on passage - and that was reckoned to be a good year. Of course the Society had to choose Montagu's Harrier for George Montagu lived in Kingsbridge (with someone else's wife.... not much changes). He called it the Ash-coloured Falcon and later they named it after him - it is not considered good manners to name something after oneself.

Chough - they called it Red-billed Chough because

there is another sort, Yellow-billed Chough, which you find in the Alps - is about the size of a Jackdaw, its next nearest relative. Its bill is sharp, red, and curves down; its legs are red, its plumage glossy black; its wings are long, broad, and the outer tips separate into 'fingers'. *Collins Bird Guide* likens it to an airshow pilot doing aerobatics in an old biplane. It lives on cliffs and in rocky places and likes to feed on short pasture where it digs insects out of the turf with its long bill. I wonder why we call it Chough, to rhyme with rough or duff? I am sure it ought to rhyme with plough or cow. Because it is a bird named after what it says - *Collins* describes its commonest call as "a cutting, whizzing, descending 'chiach'". Sorry about that, but the book was translated from the Swedish and it might mean more in that language.

Lots of birds are named after the noise they make. Think of Chiffchaff, or especially Kittiwake. In spring or early summer go to South Hallsands - down a tiny lane, no passing places, car touching the herbage on either side, and find a small car park near Trouts. Or try North Hallsands, the road is a bit better but you are more likely to meet something. To get to the Kitties you have to climb steep steps on the coast path. At least

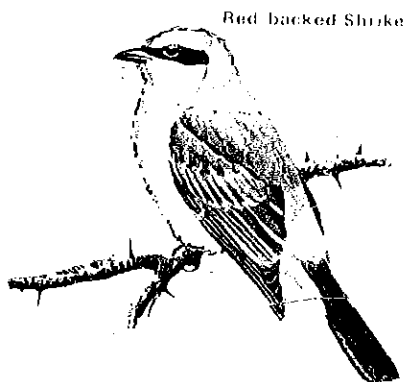


if you go the other way the walk to the Kitties is more or less level.

They nest on the cliffs, manage to make small cups stick on nearly vertical surfaces, and there the young birds sit until they can fly. You peer over the edge and gaze down on them, not easy this year because with all the wet the foliage grew very tall. Long before you can see any birds you hear them shouting - "kitti-WAKE, kitti-WAKE". Then go and eat an ice-cream at Trouts - they have the finest anywhere.

They think Choughs became extinct in Cornwall because the grassy cliff tops they like to feed on got grown over or were ploughed up. So for years people have been trying to create suitable habitat, grazing with bullocks and ponies and doing things like that. A year or two back they had some in captivity, to be released. I never heard the outcome - Foot & Mouth intervened. The pair seem to have arrived under their own steam, and let us hope they are the first of an invasion. Folks have been watching them day and night to protect them from egg collectors - the RSPB reckons there are about 500 of those in the country. If caught they are likely to be sent to prison, but that just makes thieving a bit more exciting, like the chance that when you are dallying with your lady-love her husband might come home. (I do not speak from personal experience.)

In Britain some birds have gone extinct - Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike. Others have



colonised. Collared Dove, the little pinkish pigeons which make rather irritating noises

around our village, were unknown here before the 1950s. Little Egret was almost unheard of until about twenty years ago. Now we see lots - well, lots for a big bird. They breed in Poole Harbour, southern Ireland, and no doubt other places which are being kept secret for as long as possible.

Whether Choughs will re-colonise remains to be seen. Some species come and we think they are going to make it, but they fizzle out again. They thought Serins, pretty little green-coloured finches, common in Europe, would invade and some did. For a few years there were pairs at Starcross and near Budleigh Salterton. One year they nested in the garden of what was then the Furzey Close Hotel, opposite our church. But they never did it again. This year Bee-eaters, beautiful things, a symphony in bright chestnut, turquoise and yellow, nested in County Durham.

Again people protected them by watching day and night. They nest in holes, like Kingfishers do. That way the ladies don't need the dull colours that most female birds have to wear so they are less visible to predators. They can be as bright as the gents. Spain and places around the Mediterranean are the places they frequent, but it is not unheard of for them to come to Britain and breed. Usually, though, you don't hear about it. When we lived in north Essex they nested somewhere not far away; our greatest birding friend there was the county recorder and we didn't even tell *him* until it was all over. This suppression is wise - you tell me in the strictest secrecy, no way to pass it on. I tell one other person on the same terms, with the result that it gets around quicker than a confidential memo in Downing Street.

Choughs do wander. For much of the summer of 2002 there were reports of one along the south coast of Devon, Prawle Point way. About twenty years ago a friend said he looked out of his window here on the Mead and saw a pair. His and ours were then in the lowest row of houses and below us was just

rough ground, full of dog-walkers and the builders' dead motor-cars (since buried in the valley). He wasn't a liar, you can't very well mistake a Chough, and doubtless what he said was true. Poor man, the only wings he sees now are snowy white ones, on angels.

Sometimes, though, you have to be a little bit, well, sceptical about what folks tell you. A friend at Hope Cove (now also with the angels) saw a Tristram's Grackle in his garden. He was a good stamp collector, didn't paint a bad watercolour, but was no birder. He searched right through his bird book (Tristram's Grackle is near the back) and that was all it could be, he maintained, and was most upset when we didn't believe him. Tristram's Grackle - the *Collins* book calls it Tristram's Starling (why do they change the names of birds?) - is like a starling with coppery-orange outer flight feathers. Found no nearer than southern Israel and Jordan. If there really was one in Hope Cove, Devon would be solid with twitchers from Exeter onwards.

In mid-Wales, many years ago, we found a few Choughs in quarries and saw them on Snowdon when trying to walk to the summit: never attained, for whichever way we went we ran into cloud and there is no point in going if you can't see. We looked for them on Anglesey, where they were supposed to be at the RSPB reserve at South Stack, not far from Holyhead. I forgot the first principle when looking for a rare bird - scan the car park first. Birds love car parks and especially picnic areas for there is food!

When we went to Israel about ten years ago (we saw Tristram's Grackles on top of the buildings) we visited Timna Park, a bit north of Eilat. Main attraction was a thing called King Solomon's Pillars - there was a copper mine there thousands and thousands of years ago. In the car park, hiding under cars, were Sand Partridges which otherwise we only saw in the far distance. There was a Blackstart, a little grey bird with a black tail, in the ladies' loo. I tried to photograph a

Desert Lark, again seen only in the distance before. This one not only obliged, it tried to stand on my feet to get in the shade of my legs.

So, at South Stack I was gazing through binoculars moaning that I could not see any Choughs. June said "*Look by your feet*", and there they were, picking up bits of sandwiches. We thought there were Peregrines - the people manning the reserve centre admitted so, but no way would they tell us where they were. Luckily a coach party arrived, a bird club from somewhere in Lancashire. June chatted them up. She is good at that, and folks don't mind telling things to a silver-haired lady, whom they do not regard as a threat. It was the same when we wanted to go fishing. The coach party soon showed her the young Peregrines in their eyrie and told her where to look on the island for Guillemots, their only nesting place in Wales. They said it was down a terribly narrow lane - huh, not nearly as narrow as some of those we regularly negotiate in Devon.

If you really want Choughs, go to the coast of southern Ireland - they reckon these in Cornwall came from there. We went to the Old Head of Kinsale, south of Cork, a narrow finger of land which sticks out into the Atlantic. I wanted to see it as I had read, in sailing books, that it was an obstacle they always had to struggle to get round. On the day we chose it blew a gale, not infrequent there. I crept to the cliff-edge to look at a seabird colony - auks and things. Wisely June stayed in the car. When I returned she said she had been surrounded by Choughs, about forty of them. Needless to say all had gone by the time I got there.

Never mind, perhaps these Cornish birds will prosper and spread; they bred in Devon until about 1910. Maybe they will again and we will have them on Bolt Tail!

Harry Huggins

Recollections from the Past....

Kath Evans from Exmouth has very kindly sent us a copy of a poem she remembers from her childhood, and agreed that it could be printed in Village Voice. It is an expression of what might perhaps be described today as "sibling rivalry". It goes like this:

My mummy's bought a baby, a little bit of a thing
Isn't it awful ugly, isn't it awful pink?
Just come down from heaven, but that's a fib I think.
The doctor told another - such an awful great big lie -
He said my nose was out of joint, but that's not why I cry.
He will take away my playthings, he will take my place in bed
And if I could get at my drumstick, I would wallop him on his head!

Her father, who was born in Kathleen Cottages in Buckland in 1894, would repeat it to her as a child and he told her that he also used to recite it at Thurlestone School. He was the youngest of nine Elliott children (four boys and five girls). One of the older boys, James Elliott, Kath's Uncle Jim, was killed in WW1 and his name appears on the War Memorial at Thurlestone.

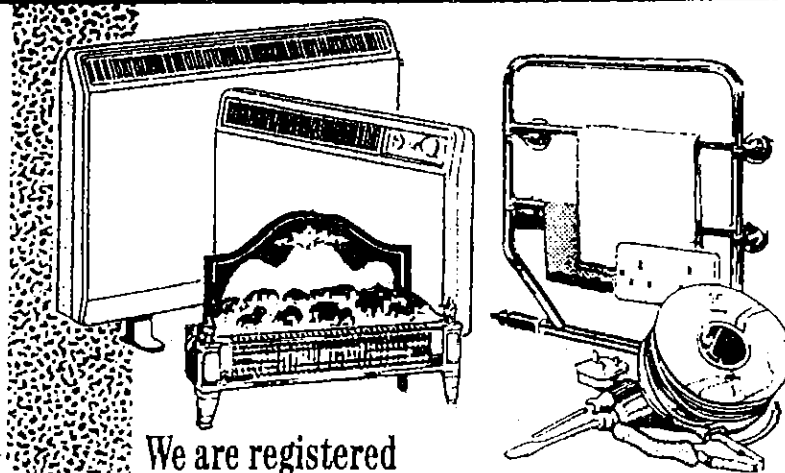
Kath used to come as a child and stay with her grandfather Elliott at Bantham during the 1920s for the whole of August. She recalls that *"We children used to go and stack the corn when they were cutting. The last field to be cut was the one inside Ham gate, and belonged to Chadders Farm. The whole village had a harvest supper in the field, all the food being home-cooked by Mrs Chadder. I have never been able to find Devonshire cream like she made...."*

....and reflections on the present (or the perks of being over forty!)

- * Kidnappers are not very interested in you
- * In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first
- * No one expects you to run into a burning building
- * People phone at 9 pm and say "Did I wake you?"
- * There is nothing left to learn the hard way
- * Things you buy now won't wear out
- * You can live without sex but not without glasses
- * You have a party and neighbours don't even realise it
- You stop trying to hold your stomach in - no matter who walks into the room
- * Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off
- * Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the Weather Forecast
- * Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either
- * You can't remember who sent you this list

Oh yes we can! It was **Kate Hubbard** and we send her our thanks.

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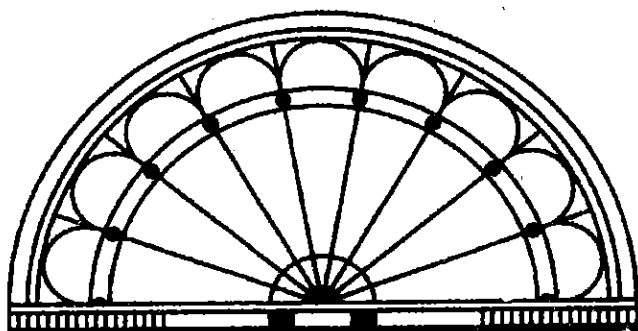
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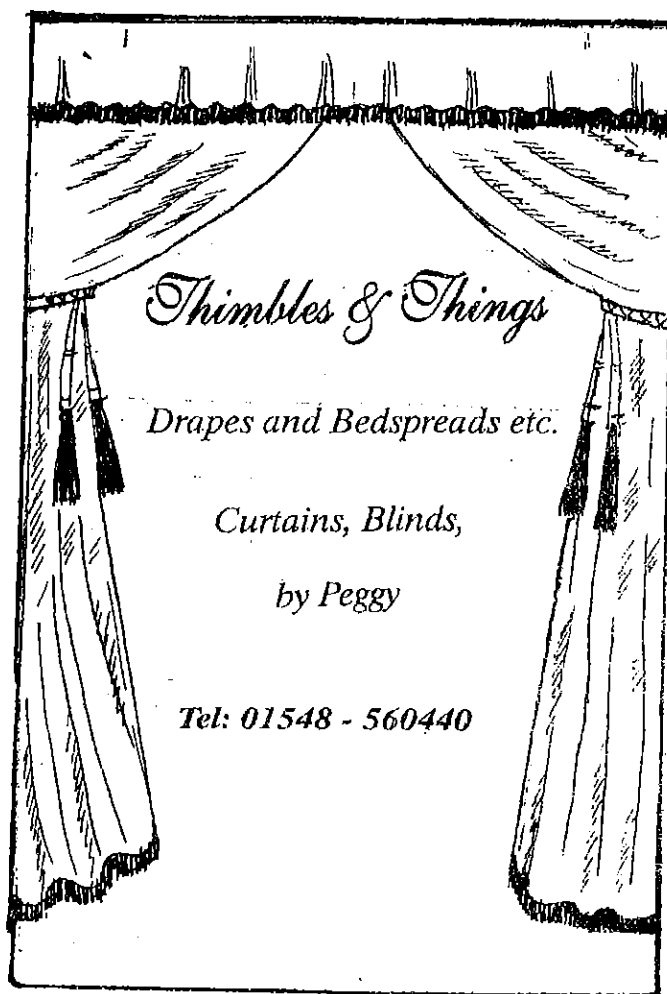
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Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH

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

1. A mollusc
2. A balancing act
3. Mountain grouse
4. Comes after daytime
5. Referees must be
6. For the sweet tooth
7. Getting louder
8. An old master
9. Money management
10. Renounce
11. Looks dreadful!
12. Needs a dentist
13. You're born with this
14. Just over a yard
15. Children playing roughly
16. AA required
17. Yellow wildflower
18. Apes live on this rock
19. The sick are treated here
20. The outer edge
21. ???

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NOM	SAT	REM	THM	ICE	CUP	BRA
HTR	LAY	TES	IME	SCE	IRM	ART
KIL	TRO	AKD	RMI	BRE	ECO	HTF
OWN	RIF	GIB	THA	OME	COL	SAC
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TEN TEASERS

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is another name for the Gnu? 2. How many islands are there in the Shetlands? 3. In which country would you find El Alamein? 4. How old was Queen Victoria when she ascended the throne? 5. Which English golf club is owned and run by ladies? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What is England's most common garden bird? 7. How many years did it take to build the Great Pyramid? 8. Does sea-salt in fact come from the sea? 9. Which crop does the boll weevil attack? 10. Sinology is the word for the study of.....? |
|--|--|

THURLESTONE & S. MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Show was held on Saturday 3rd August at South Milton on a lovely summer day. Despite the difficult spring and prolonged cool dull days earlier in the year, which had tested the skill and patience of gardeners, a wonderful display was put on.

The variety and colour of the floral exhibits was delightful to see, and the vegetables were impressive in their range and quality. Flower arrangements, although disappointingly few in number, were colourful and so varied. The cookery classes showed off some mouth-watering baking and preserves. In the 'arts' section, including painting, photography, sewing and other handicrafts, much talent and hard work were in evidence.

The children's classes demonstrated creative ability, flair and imagination and Alice Henderson is to be congratulated on her many successes. It was particularly encouraging to see some first-time winners, including Mrs Sue Durant, Mrs Diana Parker-Swift and the Gilkes family! Cups were presented by the Show President, Mrs Pat Macdonald, to :

David Coward	Ben Horn, Yeo, Amateur Fruit & Vegetable, and Wray Cups
Tony Church	Open Fruit & Vegetable, Cut Flower & Pot Plant, Chapman Bowl, and the President's Tankard
Diana Parker-Swift	Marshall Cup
Mary Tregelles	Flower Arrangement Cup
William Brown	Under 7's Cup
C.Gilkes	Derrick Yeoman Cup and Oswald Junior Cup
Alice Henderson	White Cup and Oswald Senior Cup
Sue Durant	Doris Tyler Trophy and the Domestic Challenge cup
Val Brown	Doris Jackson Trophy
Margaret Illingworth	Handicrafts Cup
Daphne Osmond	Most points South Milton Resident
Tony Church	Most points Thurlestone Resident

Show Chairman, David Coward, said how pleased he was at the overall high standard of the exhibits which showed off the great depth of talent in the two parishes. The event had drawn much favourable comment not only from the judges but from the many visitors. In particular he thanked the two 'back-room' teams of Mary and Julian Tregelles and their helpers for providing another excellent Judges & Stewards lunch and to the hard-working team of Annabel and John Beven who logged the show entries and then did all the calculations for the awards. He thanked all his committee for the considerable effort they put into producing another highly enjoyable annual show, particularly the secretary John Lonsdale.

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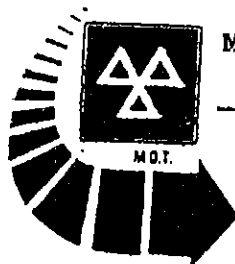
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BOOKSHELF

The Great White Palace

by Tony Porter

(Doubleday £12.99)

Burgh Island - and all that jazz...

Everyone, so they say, has one book in them. Everyone, so some say, would love to own their own island. So it is that if you put the two together you end up with Tony Porter's book *The Great White Palace*.

Tony Porter? If the name doesn't mean anything to you, then you should think Burgh Island, which Tony Porter and his wife B (very short for Beatrice) bought for £550,000 in 1986 with the help of a massive loan from the bank. At one stage they ran up debts of £700,000 to bring back to life the ruin on the island of "the great white palace", the famous Art Deco hotel in the 1930s.

To get the hotel and the whole island, the Porters sold everything. Though the sale of their big house in Chiswick cut their massive debt by nearly half, their small yacht went too. Even their prized classic Daimler had to go. They opted out of the PR company, from which Tony Porter had founded British Fashion Week (his sister-in-law was Barbara Hulanicki, who created Biba), and cashed in their insurance policies.

Written in a light-hearted way, the book makes a fascinating read for locals. It tells the story of Tony Porter and his wife in their long battle to keep their hotel safe from the flood waters of debt. In truth, it could hardly have been such a jolly time as Porter makes it. At one stage almost everyone on the mainland seems to be against them and one bank in particular appears to have tried to make them fail. But they were fighting to live out their long-held dream of having a home and a business by the sea in the West

Country and refused to give up.

They raised some money by selling the three cottages on the island for some £80,000 at the same time as they bought the island. Part of this money went towards the purchase price, but it left something over for essential expenses, such as buying diesel, a jerrycan at a time, as dealers - owed money by the previous owners - refused to fill the tank of the old hotel boiler without cash on delivery. The boiler was a monstrosity, pipes led from it in all directions, under floors and in walls and nobody knew where they went. For a long time it defeated all efforts to supply hot water to baths or radiators, until the lucky discovery by the new owner of a pipe right behind the boiler put an end to the crucial leak. Electricity wires were in the same tangle, but finally the lights went on.

Stained glass had to be replaced in the broken Palm Court dome, roofs had to be made watertight, walls had to be replastered, gallons of paint had to replace rusted metalwork, beautiful parquet floors were uncovered and restored. They even found a sprung dance floor under the dust of ages. Septic tanks had to be made to function properly. The work seemed to be endless. But somehow that same year they opened as self-catering holiday apartments - a week for a couple was £280. A family with two children paid £420.

The clients loved the hotel but word-of-mouth publicity was not enough, neither were holiday adverts in the papers. So Tony Porter using PR contacts targeted magazine and newspaper travel writers, inviting them to come and see how the "great white palace" had been restored to Art Deco glory, to see as well where Noel Coward relaxed, where Agatha Christie was inspired to use the hotel as the setting for her book *"Evil Under the Sun"* and where other star names

of yesteryear had danced to the music of the resident Harry Roy and his Embassy Band. At other times the 30s guests paid £1.15.6d. for dinner, dancing, room and breakfast, with entertainment provided by Charlie Kunz and Geraldo and his band.

Tony Porter tells, too, how one old client of the hotel in the 30s paid a return visit in the 80s and told him *"Last time I was here, Edward and Mountbatten were sitting over there."* *"Was Wallis Simpson with them?"* asked Tony Porter. *"Good Lord, no"* exclaimed the old man, *"they were on a dirty weekend!"* Porter adds in his book that he learnt later that *"Edward did once come with Wallis, apparently landing from a yacht anchored off the island"*.

Though that Simpson story didn't make the press, articles did sprout on all the best pages and in came the holiday-makers. The sea-tractor, which looked as though it had survived from Wells' "War of the Worlds" ground its way back and forth to the island laden with clients.

Much of the fascination of this book is the tales of the "regulars" and the "irregular" visitors who, no matter what the weather, dressed up in 30s gear and tangoed and Charlestoned the nights away - stoned, let it be said, by the powerful Screwdrivers, Bloody Marys and Evil Under the Sun cocktails served every night in the bar. This happy state, perhaps, made most of them unaware of the desperate efforts of the Porters and their staff to keep the hotel functioning around them. They didn't always succeed. One bibulous guest, trapped in his bed when a plaster ceiling fell down on him, managed to slur out *"Don't you dare tell me I'm plastered!"*

But as they ironed out the problems, the Porters could see that it was ridiculous to operate the hotel as self-catering units, often guiding their clients to restaurants on the mainland for special meals. So they applied to the local council for change of use back to a full hotel. In November, 1987, that

permission was given.

Tony Porter and B set to work once again. This time their dream was to create the best island hotel in Britain renowned for its luxury and good food. Fourteen years after they had first bought the island they seem to have succeeded. Only then did the Porters think about retiring. They put the hotel on the market - then changed their minds and stayed on.

The hotel became the star of several television programmes, and was once the prize on "Blind Date". Show business names spent their rest time there and even attended rehearsals in the ballroom. The same clients returned year after year. By the end of the Porters' reign the Smith family had chalked up a record 29 visits, closely following by the Edwards' with 27 stays. Since the granting of a civil marriage licence to the hotel, Porter claimed to have kissed all the 200 brides who were married there.

As the Porters were taking a rare holiday at the time, he missed kissing a bride called Deborah who married Tony Orchard on the island in April 2001. But on their return from holiday they did get a letter from the Orchards saying how much they had enjoyed their wedding and honeymoon on the island, and would the Porters sell it to them?

Tony and Beatrice Porter say they recognised themselves in the way the newly-weds had fallen in love with the hotel and the island, and so agreed to sell it all to them. Four weeks later contracts were exchanged and the hand-over date was set for 1st October 2001. And so it ended with a huge party during which a lightning flash and a huge thunderclap signalled the change of ownership in a suitably dramatic fashion.

FOOTNOTE: In his book Tony Porter does not reveal the selling-price but the Gazette reported, at the time when the Porters first put it on the market, that the guide price was £3m.

K.McD.

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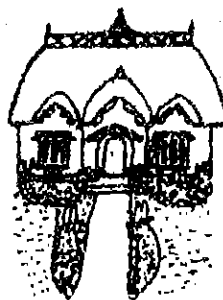
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BOOKSHELF

Drowning Ruth

by Christina Schwartz

(Headline £5.99)

The first novel by Christina Schwartz became a best seller in 2001 and was acclaimed by Anita Shreeves, herself no mean novelist, as "a complete and rewarding debut". The story opens at the close of the First World War with Amanda Starker returning to the family home in Wisconsin to recover from a broken love affair. If this sounds like Barbara Cartland I can assure you that it is not!

Amanda's sister, Marie, is younger by several years and is married to a soldier not yet home from the war. Her small daughter, Ruth, is the eponymous heroine of the title and after the tragic death of her mother is raised by Amanda. What really happened the night that Marie died? When the truth is revealed it is as moving as it is dramatic. The whole novel grips with its well-drawn characters and its assured prose.

M.H.

Crow Lake

by Mary Lawson

(Chatto & Windus £12.00)

This is a debut novel by Mary Lawson, published in February of this year, and due out in paper-back later this year. It is the story of a family torn apart by tragedy, and chronicles family misunderstandings and disputes as seen through the eyes of the narrator, Kate Morrison, a child of seven when the story begins. She later becomes a university professor and the novel moves between past and present.

Set principally against the rural backdrop of the harsh 'badlands' of Northern Ontario, the trials and hardships go hand-in-hand with the landscape, but this is not a miserable or

unhappy novel. Yes, there are tragedies, but it is full of hope, humour and understanding as the novel examines the narrator's struggle to come to terms with her past and the reality of that past.

The prose is neat and effective and the observed dynamics of family life and relationships are astute and gripping. A splendid read for beach or bedtime.

M.H.

Aveton Gifford - A Heritage

edited by Ken Doughty

(The Aveton Gifford Project Group £10)

A friend of ours recently moved to Aveton Gifford. When asked how she felt about the change in her surroundings, she said "It's such fun to be living in a real village". This opinion is borne out by a masterly tribute to the village, edited by Ken Doughty with illustrations by their resident artist, Mike Glanville, and designed by Erica Anderson.

It covers nearly 1000 years of history from the Domesday Book when there were eight slaves on the inventory (what's new, some might ask) to the present day with a piece about the skate-boarders. Along the way it knots together the history, the people and the topography - the role of the non-conformists, the changes in farming practice and the tragic destruction of the Early English church by enemy action in January 1943. The last century and a half is well illustrated by photographs and everyone gets a mention: the handbell ringers, the WI, the cricket and football clubs, the regatta, even old Albert, and much else beside.

For those who, like me, are driven by nostalgia, it is a great delight to see every aspect of South Hams village life so expertly chronicled.

J.C.

BANTHAM

GOLDEN JUBILEE BASH

SATURDAY, 24 AUGUST 2002

A report by Kit Marshall

The huge marquee in the field at the top of the hill beckoned and 600 plus excited revellers headed up there laden down with hampers full of sumptuous delights. Red white and blue was the theme of this Bantham Golden Jubilee Bash organised by the Bantham Sailing Club and red white and blue hats, tiaras, ties, bikinis, underwear, suits, socks and every other garment imaginable were on show matching the decor within the marquee itself.

Warm-up music, played whilst the picnics were devoured, soon had all the feet tapping and it wasn't long before the dance floor was filling up. Under the auspices of The Sloop Inn, the Parish Hall volunteers manning the bar were quickly run off their feet and continued so throughout the night. After supper the main band moved in and played sensational music of all rhythms and kept the dance floor bouncing until the early hours.

A break in the dancing sent the merrymakers outside where the Commodore of the Bantham Sailing Club, Hugh Cater, offered a big welcome and gave well deserved thanks to all the organisers. He explained that the proceeds from the event were to be split between the St Lukes Hospice and the Building Fund for the new Parish Hall.

A wonderful fireworks display then took

place and no prizes for guessing the colour theme on this Golden Jubilee occasion.

Never a dull moment and a ludicrous game called Heads and Tails eventually produced a bottle of vintage Champagne for the winners. Later, the auction of promises raised an amazing £20,000 or so. Lunch for four at £2900 was a snip, considering who the host was, as was the, by then rather bedraggled, union jack suit for a similar amount. A picture of Thurstone Rock was also pushing the £3,000 mark. What a lot of generous people our parish pulls in.

Slowly but surely the exhausted revellers went home, throwing all their garbage into the skips provided and leaving everything fittingly shipshape. The parish was predictably quiet the next morning and the Rector was heard to congratulate his rather reduced congregation on their presence.

Although no official figures are yet to hand we are reliably informed that in excess of £25,000 was raised. If anyone doubted that the Bantham Sailing Club could repeat their Millennium Bash success then they can eat their Jubilee hats.

Congratulations to all the organisers. What a great way to end the parish Golden Jubilee celebrations!

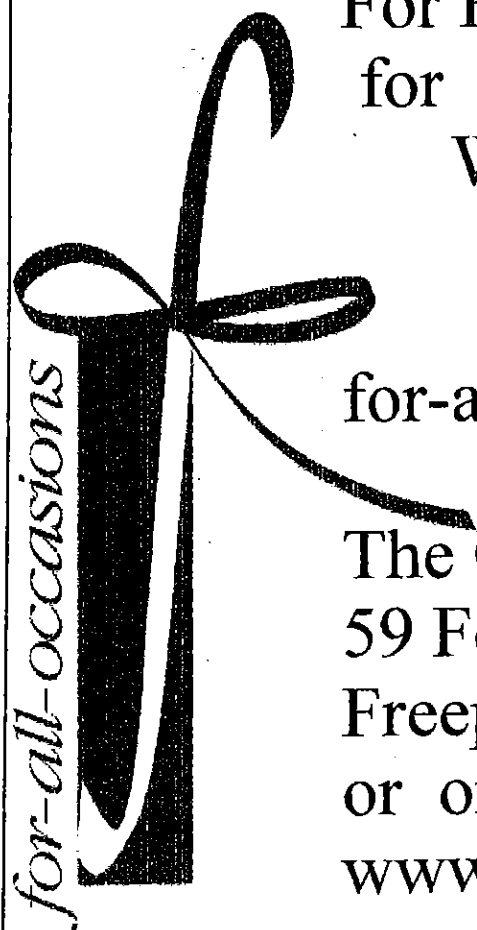
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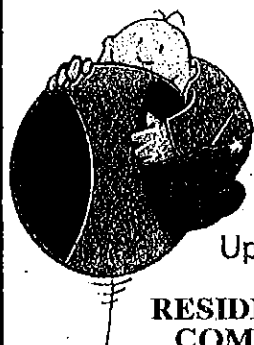
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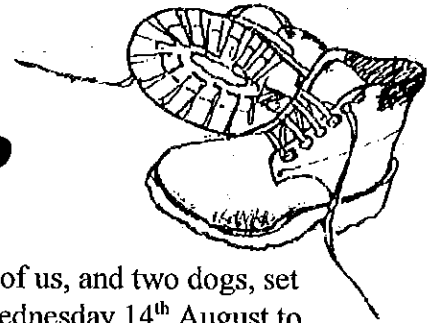
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TRAMP



1 On Wednesday 24th July, for our second outing of the month, we began our walk through the Heatherscombe Woods, following the footpaths to West Coombe. The path led upwards between Shapley Tor and Hookney Tor and we paused as we joined the Two Moors Way to admire the distant panoramic views.

The thought of the Warren House Inn ahead spurred us on and the eleven of us, and our two dogs, sat outside and were served with an excellent lunch - and also lots of liquid refreshment. The return journey took us past Grimspound, at which point our leader, Graham Durant, was able to give us an excellent guide to the Bronze Age settlement having previously done some thorough research on the subject.

The remains of the hut circles, enclosed within their surrounding walls, occupy a wild and grim situation today. However, the climate would probably have been kinder three thousand years ago. We all felt the place well-named - but Grim may refer to a mythical figure, Grimm, leader of the Wild Hunt, rather than to the bleak moorland setting.

We continued our walk back over the moor, but before we reached the cars we passed a sad reminder of more recent history, a memorial to an aircrew who crashed on the moor on the way back to their base in Lincolnshire during WW2. Remembrance Day crosses show they are not forgotten.

We, too, paused for a moment and thought of their sacrifice before continuing our way down from the moor to head back home.

2 Fourteen of us, and two dogs, set out on Wednesday 14th August to walk along the Dart valley from Dartington to Staverton. It was perfect walking weather and, unusually, a walk along fairly level ground. The dogs enjoyed their swim in the river and we all enjoyed watching them and the steam trains which passed by just across the river from us.

The last part of the morning walk was still close to the river, but up through the woods until the final descent along the road to Staverton Bridge. We crossed the river there and walked alongside the South Devon Steam Railway line by the river bank for a short way before crossing the line and walking up past the church to the Sea Trout Inn for lunch. One of the group had experienced a 'blast from the past' as the railway siding which we had passed had contained a National Benzole tanker, a company he once worked for.

We enjoyed our lunch sitting outside in the inn garden and then, to coincide with the arrival of the steam train at the station for a railway buff amongst us, we began the short walk back. Uphill and through woods once more and then a pleasant stroll through the Dartington Hall grounds brought us back to the cars.

A shorter, easier, pub lunch walk this, but very enjoyable and through lovely countryside on a fine day. We were very pleased that Rosemary Durant was able to join us for the first time since her hip operation. We are hoping to extend our programme in future to include some less-strenuous walks to enable as wide a section of the community as possible to take part.

S.W.

S.W.

3 We arrived at Haytor car park at 10.30 am on the 28th August, and were undecided whether to wear shoes and shorts, or waterproofs and boots. A typical English summer morning! After a quick check to make sure that the ice cream van had arrived to supply the after-walk goodies, nine walkers and one dog made their way to the small lake within the Haytor "Templer Quarry".

Our walk leader gave an informative talk about the quarried stone, method of extraction and the unique transportation by stone-railed tramway and barge to Tynemouth, whilst the dog had a dip. A thorough shake later, we realised that waterproofs should have been worn!

We also learnt that the quarried stone was further transported by sea to London and eventually used for the arches of London Bridge and the columns of the old British Library. Meanwhile the dog reloaded for more mischief, but this time we were all ready and moved swiftly on towards the planned visit to the thirteenth century medieval village. It was a most beautiful walk past Smallacombe Rocks, down the valley and across the Becka Brook stone bridge and then past Greater Rocks.

There was a settlement at this site as early as the eighth century. We were able to walk amongst the remains of three longhouses, which sheltered both humans and animals. We were informed that the living areas were raised above the cowsheds, which provided a degree of heating to the human occupants above. The village was deserted around the time of the Black Death of 1346. With all this information to mull over, we settled down to a picnic on the south flanks of Hound Tor, famously known for its association with "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

The day became hotter and hotter as we tramped towards Saddle Tor, making a

second crossing of Becka Brook valley and skirting Holwell Tor. Here, the vibrant colours of gorse and heather along with the hum of the bees and the sultry scent of the flowers became quite intoxicating as we moved towards the final sections of our day's walk.

We concluded our very enjoyable six-mile walk with ice creams, and were in common agreement that late summer is the best time to be on Dartmoor.

R. & H.S.

4 Our walk on the 11th September was from Cadover Bridge to Clearbrook, via Shaugh Bridge and back over the moor. A group of fifteen - plus three dogs - set off on a beautiful day from Cadover Bridge along the path by the River Plym. It was quite idyllic; the sun shone through the ancient oak trees on to the even more ancient moss-covered rocks beneath, while the river burred busily towards Shaugh Bridge. There we passed the ruins of old china clay drying kilns before climbing a granite laid quarrying roadway through Knowle wood and down again to another riverside path, now by the Meavy, on our way to Clearbrook. The Skylark provided a very welcome pub lunch in their garden.

In the afternoon we navigated by compass bearing over the open moorland to a hilltop cairn giving a fine view of Plymouth Sound. On the way down to the car park we watched the model yacht enthusiasts sailing their craft across the water, changing tack around little buoys by remote control - a very peaceful, contemplative hobby. Rather a contrast, we thought, to our kind of walking which entails non-stop conversation and lots of noisy laughter!

J.P.

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS NEW WEDNESDAY WALKERS

The immediate environs of Thurlestone, including Dartmoor, are world-renowned for their natural and cultural beauty. The objective of TRAMP is to enable participants to enjoy this beauty on foot with the friendly company of others.

Our walk leaders try to ensure that each walk is interesting by including a range of natural and/or cultural features and points of interest. They research any special aspects to be able (hopefully) to answer any queries. The distance and pace of each walk is regulated to accommodate the specific expectations of the participating group members and is not pre-prescribed. The group operates on a voluntary basis without cost.

All those wishing to participate will be given a warm welcome from the existing members. Forthcoming dates of excursions are noted in the diary section at the back of this issue. A detailed notice about each "Tramp" outing is also exhibited at least one week in advance in Thurlestone Post Office window and on the notice board in the Old Pump shelter.

If you wish to discuss any aspect regarding the above,
please phone Richard or Heather Swan on 01548-560892.

QUIZ NIGHT

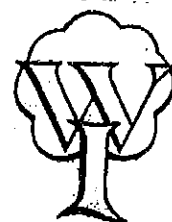
organised by/and in aid of
Thurlestone Parish Hall

Saturday 7 December at 7 pm
Quiz Master: the one and only **Mike Jones**

*Are you a Parish Pundit ?
Can you form a team of 6 ?*

Full details will be 'advertised' nearer the time

NEWS FROM THE WI



Clean Start

A sparklingly clean and starched WI tablecloth greeted us all after our summer break as our President, **Dorothy Candy**, had undertaken to launder it during 'the holidays'. It is a treasured and beautifully embroidered cloth, made by members some 50 years ago, of which we are all proud. Thank you, Dorothy!

Show Success

Rallying to the appeal from the Kingsbridge Show organisers for more entries, we decided to put in an entry for the WI Co-operative class on the 7th September - and won a third prize!

The idea was to interpret an event during the reign of Elizabeth II and we very daringly chose the Windsor Castle fire, 1992. This gave scope to artist **Judith Reynolds** to paint a magnificent fiery back-cloth, with **Pat Crawford** and **Joan Booth** providing craft items, **Mary Tregelles** a flower arrangement, and **Pat Clarke** and **Pat Macdonald** doing cookery items. A good eventful time was had by all!

September Speaker

Juliet Wilson came to the meeting to tell us about the Bowen Technique, a simple, gentle and natural remedial therapy, involving no manipulation or adjustment of hard tissue, which is said to promote healing and bring relief from pain.

Gourmet Lunch

Eight members are treating themselves to a lunch, prepared by top chef **Michael Caines** (Gidleigh Park fame), which is being organised by the county on 25th October at the Royal Clarence in Exeter. After lunch he

will talk about his catering career.

A Good Night Out

Plans are going ahead for an evening of old-fashioned entertainment, at the Parish Hall on Saturday 23rd November. Already **Val Brown** has started recruiting and rehearsing the 'artistes' but further volunteers are required. It will be a 'bring your own picnic and wine' event and profits will go to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Further Travel

The county is organising two trips. The first is to Cardiff for Christmas shopping and sight-seeing on 20th November. The second will take us further afield - to Cologne for three days - from 27th November, for the Christmas Market, a visit to the cathedral, and other city sights.

Christmas Plans

On Wednesday 30th October there will be a 'Christmas Fabrics with the Quay Quilters' all-day workshop at Charleton, run by the South Hams Home Economics Area. They are also arranging a demonstration of tassel-making, which will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 27th November.

The Christmas Lunch will be held on Friday 6th December, and South Milton WI will be the hostess at the Sea Coast Group carol service on Friday 13th December.

October Meeting

Our guest speaker on Thursday 10th October will be **Eileen Taylor** of the Modbury Hat Studio. If you are not a member and would like to come and hear Eileen, and see the lovely hats she brings, you will be made most welcome as a visitor at 3.00 pm.

TIMBER-JACK

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HORSWELL DIARY

First there was August, bright, brash, and bustling with visitors and then September, if not a full-stop at least a semi-colon in the syntax of the year. A pause for us to draw breath before the onrush of autumn. Suddenly there is a stillness, a welcome peace when the golden days of late summer return the countryside to those who live here and we can resume the usual pattern of our lives.

But how empty the house feels without the paraphernalia of grandchildren; their surfboards and wetsuits, beach towels and trainers, the buckets and spades and cuddly toys. How empty the beach has become without all those li-los and inflatable boats, the picnic rugs, hampers, windbreaks and tents. Even the lanes seem empty now that all the four-wheel drives and people-carriers no longer squeeze by, laden to the roof with children and possessions.

After a month of visitors there is a lot to catch up on: housework, laundry, bills to pay, letters to write, gardening to do. With work everywhere we look it is hard to know where to begin. Or where to find the energy. Survival tactics are clearly required. We decide to eat up all the leftover children's food, maximising our intake of additives and e-numbers in the hope of becoming hyperactive.

Charming childish thank-you letters soon arrive, their colourful drawings and mis-spelt words make us smile. Memories slide through our heads projecting images of sand castles and seaweed fights, icy water and electric squeals. What fun we had! And despite our exhaustion, how sad we were to see them go!

The dogs leap with joy to resume their

walks to the beach. Selfishly we love it when all the visitors have gone. When all that is left is a curve of sand and the sigh and hiss of the sea. Bertie is always first into the water. He lowers himself gently into the shallows until deliciously cool, then races up the beach like a mad thing, sending up a flurry of sand. Flossie swims out around the rocks, snapping at her own bow wave and has to be cajoled from the water to continue our journey. The hedgerows are tired and tangled now, providing protection for ripening brambles and fat black sloes. Spiders' webs hold morning dew and sunlight gleams on metallic wings as horseflies doze.

Some days it feels so still it is as if the whole world is holding it's breath. High pressure days, when the air is so clear one can see the definition of each individual pebble, the shape of every leaf, the detail of the far-distant views that go on forever. Days when dragonflies skim the surface of the pond and bees drone by, intent on honey. When dandelion clocks and thistledown drift like feathers on the wind and squirrels scamper across the lawn filling their winter larders with supplies. The sun, still hot upon our skin, encourages us to sit outside and absorb its warmth. We sit, like old batteries left on a radiator, hoping to recharge ourselves sufficiently to last through the winter.

On other days, winds storm through the trees like a tidal wave. With a deafening roar they swirl and toss the leaf-laden branches in an attempt to relieve them of their burden. But they are too early. The leaves rattle their defiance and hold on tight. Disappointed, the winds race on through the garden, scattering rose petals and teasing the peafowl with their bullying strength.

In passing, the winds shake the apples from the trees with a bruising thump, reminding me there is chutney to be made. Peeling apples used to be chore, but now with my American Apple Peeler (a gift from the Oregon aunt) it has become a pleasure. A few turns of the handle and not only is the apple neatly peeled and cored but sliced as well. It may not be rocket science but it's a gadget no country kitchen should be without.

It seems such obvious good husbandry to utilise one's own produce when it is available that the lack of support for the British agricultural industry defies logic. It is evident that those who make the rules are not countrymen. The policy to import wheat from the Ukraine and milk from Poland, both from unmonitored sources whilst our own yields are good and production methods proven to be of the highest quality, beggars belief.

Why are we destroying the things we do well? Why is it so 'unfashionable' to protect our own industries, whilst supporting others? Why are we not allowed to be proud of Great Britain? Does it no longer exist?

"*Africa*" our Prime Minister stated at the World Earth Summit in Johannesburg recently, "*is my passion*".

Well, that is all fine and dandy, except what we need is someone who has a passion for our own country. Let Africans be passionate about Africa, and please, please, let Britons, and especially our leaders, be passionate about Britain.

In *The Times* this week there was a scathing article about the nationalistic flag-waving which accompanies the *Last Night of the Proms*. Why is it laudable to sing and wave flags in support of a football team and yet not at a concert? Why is it acceptable to attend a World Cup Final with faces painted as national emblems, to hurl abuse at the competing teams from other countries, to sing *Rule Britannia* from the stands and yet not to support our country elsewhere?

We ARE our country. If we are not prepared to honour it, we are failing to honour ourselves.

Prunella Dart

Puzzle Page - Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. GASTROPOD | 2. TIGHTROPE | 3. PTARMIGAN | 4. NIGHTFALL |
| 5. IMPARTIAL | 6. CHOCOLATE | 7. CRESCENDO | 8. REMBRANDT |
| 9. ECONOMICS | 10. SACRIFICE | 11. GROTESQUE | 12. TOOTHACHE |
| 13. BIRTHMARK | 14. KILOMETRE | 15. HORSEPLAY | 16. BREAKDOWN |
| 17. BUTTERCUP | 18. GIBRALTAR | 19. INFIRMARY | 20. PERIMETER |
| 21. SENSATION | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Wildebeeste | 3. Egypt | 5. Formby | 7. Twenty | 9. Cotton |
| 2. One hundred | 4. Eighteen | 6. Starling | 8. Yes | 10. China |

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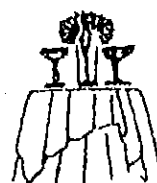


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Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

Well, at last there is some weather to talk favourably about. It would seem that overall my hopes for a fine spell did materialise..... just about. August was quite a nice month with temperatures a little below last year, but more rainfall (66 mm of the month's total of 73 mm fell on three days only). However, the temperature was down on last year, because there was lots of high cloud or sea fog at my station, at 17.6C against 18.3C in 2001.

I have also been looking at the figures for the first six months of this year and comparing them with those of the last eight years, which may be interesting to some of you.

Rainfall:

most = 2001 (570 mm)
least = 2000 (234 mm)

Temperature:

highest monthly average = 1995 (11.8C)
lowest monthly average = 1996 (9.7C)

Sunshine:

From 1996, when I first recorded sunshine, there were 910 hours that year but only 501 hours in 2002. This seems quite a downward spiral!

Let's hope that this trend will be bucked next year. I have to say that it doesn't surprise me. It seemed that the sun was never going to shine properly again in the first part of this year.

Do you think that a lack of sun affects our general health and state of mind? Although lack of sun smacks of lots of rain, it is not always the case. This year, in fact, although the rainfall is relatively high, much of it has fallen in short bursts and there has been a long session of high cloud, or stratus, which did not contain much rain. It was just miserable

and dull. At least the cloud protected us from frosts and there was no snow. Even gales have so far been in short supply.

Long may it last with the next weeks into the Autumn being be calm and warm with just a little rain. These last few weeks in early September have been a joy really - warm, dry and calm. It is rare to see the wind very uniform in speed and direction. But a static low/high situation in the last few days has seen the wind in the west, top speed 30 mph, minimum speed 1/2 mph.

There has been some appalling weather in some parts of the world, with huge deluges in the foothills of the Himalayas, parts of China, and South America. Droughts in South Africa and countries to the north (e.g. Zimbabwe). Even Sicily is facing dire straits in some of the rural areas.

The result of man's inter-action with the environment is to be questioned in many areas of the world. Some Western World areas are perhaps not sufficiently in tune with the global picture of climate change, and are behaving like the proverbial ostrich with head in the sand, hoping that the problem will go away. Can any of us hope to alert these folks of the dangers of a change in the world's climate pattern? Today, 10th September, I read about the floods in Inverness and the devastating rainfall and floods in SW France.

The sea is warming up this year quite well - ask the hardy swimmers of your parish. I'm OK as far as dipping in my toes or fingers goes, then I retire to warm up at home.

What a coward..., but I still like watching others enjoying the challenge of bathing at Thurlestone and South Milton!

IN YOUR GARDEN



Have you enjoyed colourful flower-filled pots and containers in your garden this summer? If so, don't miss out on the opportunity to replant them to brighten the coming winter days. There are so many things available - heathers, polyanthus, pansies, cyclamens, ivies, lots of small bulbs, dwarf conifers and so on - to continue the cheering show.

I heard recently on Gardeners' Question Time (Radio 4) an idea for use with a window box. Plant two small-leaved ivies, one at each end of the box. At the front edge of the box pin down into the soil, beside one of the ivies, a piece of wire, taking it across the front of the box in a 'swag'. Peg the other end of the wire firmly by the side of the second ivy. Train the 'leaders' of the ivies along the draped wire, tying them in tidily. They will eventually join in the middle and as they thicken keep them trimmed close to the wire until they form a permanent green rope. Sounds good - must try it!

If you fancy some new daffodils for next year I hope you have already planted them. If not, don't delay. Tulips, on the other hand, like to be planted in November so think about buying them soon. There are lots to choose from and the tulip, with its many kinds, has a good flowering season, a wonderful selection of colours and comes in many heights to suit different positions in the garden.

Lawn-mowing will become much less demanding now and the cutting blades can be raised so the grass is no longer being close-cropped. If the weather is suitable an occasional mowing in late autumn, and over the winter, improves the appearance of the garden. If there

are worm-casts about brush them over first with a stiff broom.

The tattered remains of spent crops in your vegetable patch should be cleared and the area cleaned up to prevent too many 'nasties' spending the winter in comfort. Broad beans (Aquadulce), first early peas (Fortune) can be sown now and cloves of garlic (the sort suitable for autumn sowings) put in. Sweet peas can also be sown directly into well-prepared ground in an open but sheltered place for early flowering next year.

Now is the time for getting in some new shrubs to prevent the borders from looking flat and lifeless when all the herbaceous top growth has vanished. Yellow foliated 'evergreen' shrubs give a feeling of warm sunlight on a dull winter day, e.g., choisya 'Sundance', euonymous 'Emerald 'n Gold', dwarf gold conifers. The broad 'hands' of a fatsia's leaves add a strong architectural note as well as being a useful evergreen.

If seeing old foliage hanging about your perennial border doesn't suit you, the spent stems can be tidied back but try not to do it too severely as it is winter protection. Leave the old foliage of penstemons in place if you want to help ensure their survival until the spring. October is a good month for splitting up herbaceous plants.

Photographing the same spot in your garden in successive years can reveal just how much a garden can change over a comparatively short period of time. Is this one of the reasons why a garden is so fascinating?

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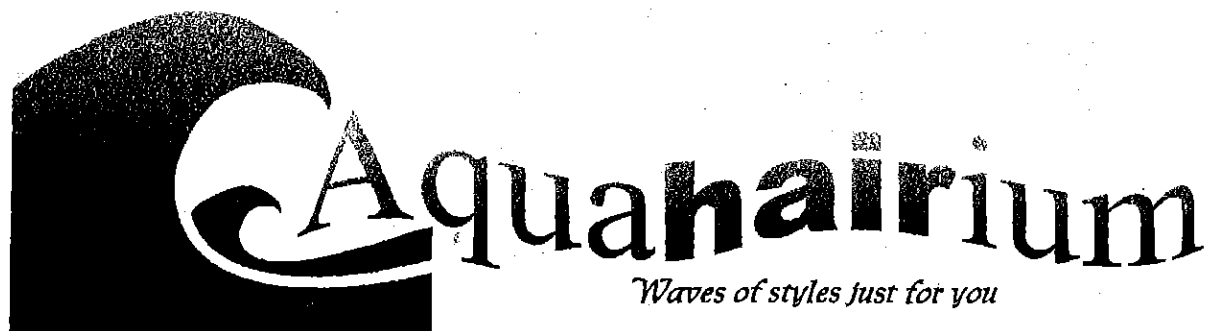
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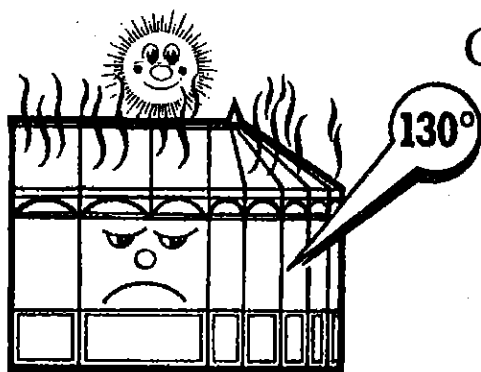
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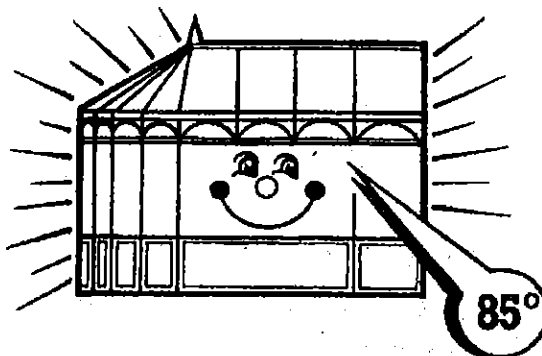
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♥ At The Bridge Table ♣

My previous articles have mostly been concerned with bidding at a high level and the resulting play by declarer. It is perhaps now time for a look at **defending**. Here are two examples - fairly easy ones - to get us started.

On this hand South opened with a strong No Trump (15-17 high-card points) and the bidding finished at 3 No Trumps. West led the 4 of Hearts and as East you took your Ace. What next? You have 15 high-card points and dummy has 9, so it follows that your poor partner can have at most a Jack. The only Jack missing is the Jack of Clubs, and if partner has it you can set up some Club tricks. If you do not switch to a Club at the second trick there is no hope of winning more than one Spade, one Heart, and two Diamonds. If South has the Jack of Clubs you were never going to defeat 3NT anyway. **The tip, of course, is to estimate the high-card points held by declarer as soon as dummy appears, calculate the points held by partner, and then plan the defence accordingly.**

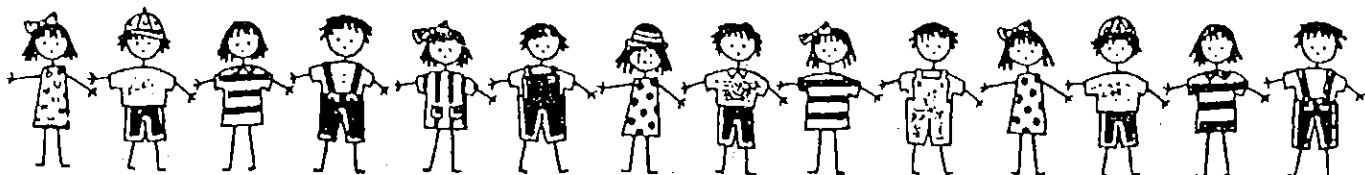
In our second example South again started with a strong No Trump, and after denying holding a four card major suit (via Stamen) finished in 3 NT. West led the 5 of Hearts to dummy's 9 and your Queen, South playing the 6. Looking at all four hands it is clear that to defeat the contract you must unblock the King of Hearts at trick two. But at the table would you have known that South did not hold the Jack of Hearts? (If he did, it would be fatal to unblock the King.) The bidding tells you that South has fewer than four Hearts, and (playing fourth best leads) you know from partner's hand and the **Rule of Eleven** that South has only one card higher than the five. If this card were to be the Jack then partner's Hearts would have been headed by 10, 9, 8 and he would have led the 10. As he didn't do so, you know that he holds the Jack. This is the type of situation where thought at the beginning is vital - so do not rush your play to the opening lead!

One No Trump is probably the most common opening bid and at club level - contrary to the above examples - usually shows 12 to 14 high-card points (HCPs). In many hands the HCPs are divided fairly evenly between the two sides and the scoring system for duplicate bridge makes it essential that in appropriate cases a method of competing against 1NT is available. This need has given rise to a proliferation of defensive systems such as Cansino, Astro, and Landy. They all have their defects, but my own preference is for the simplicity of Landy - in which an overcall of **2 Clubs** promises a **minimum of nine cards in the major suits** and general strength insufficient for a double. Partner responds by bidding his better major, or 2 Diamonds if his Hearts and Spades are roughly equal. It generally works well - though there is an obvious problem if you want to play in 2 Clubs!

All Vulnerable		Dealer South	
		NORTH	
		S K 7 9 8 5	
		H J 9	
		D 7 5 4	
		C A 5 2	
WEST		EAST	
		S Q 10 2	
		H A 8	
		D A Q J	
		C Q 10 8 6 4	
		SOUTH	

All Vulnerable		Dealer South	
		NORTH	
		S K Q 6 3	
		H A 6	
		D Q 9 7 6	
		C 8 4 3	
WEST		EAST	
S 7 2		S J 10 9 3	
H J 9 8 5 2		H K Q 7	
D 10 5 3		D K J 8 2	
C Q 9 6		C J 10	
		SOUTH	
		S A 8 4	
		H 10 4 3	
		D A 4	
		C A K 7 5 2	

Victor



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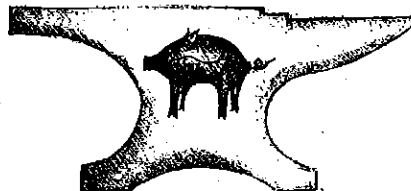
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Over 70 very local
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ABOUT WITHOUT THEM!**

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Mon 7th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 9th TRAMP - South Pool
 Thur 10th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm. (Eileen Taylor - Hats)
 Fri 18th Conservative Dinner, (Ann Widdcombe M.P.), Thurlstone Hotel, 7.00 pm
 Sat 19th NSPCC Bridge, Parish Hall, 6.30 for 7.00 pm
 Mon 21st St. Crispin's Fair, Parish Hall, 10.00 am

NOVEMBER

Sun 10th Remembrance Day, Services in Church and at War Memorial
 Wed 13th TRAMP, local walk
 Thur 14th WI Annual Meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Sat 23rd WI Party, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Sat 30th NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 2.00 pm

DECEMBER

Fri 6th WI Christmas Lunch, Parish Hall, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
 Sat 7th QUIZ NIGHT, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm
 Mon 9th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 11th TRAMP, Christmas walk

Advertising Rates for Village Voice
 12 months (six issues)

Whole Page - £70.00
 Half Page - £50.00
 Quarter Page - £30.00

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 £8.00. Please apply to:

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

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlstone 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.

In Thurlstone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by **Bill and June van der Welle and Vicki Dent**. In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by **Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott**.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th NOVEMBER 2002

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

PARISH

BANTHAM SURF 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	Graham Worrall Liz Webb	562016 560090
COFFEE TIME (Parish Hall) Mondays, 10.30 - 11.30	Contact Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kit Marshall	560214
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary / Manager, John Scott	560405
TENNIS SECTION	Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560157
KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	Contact Brenda March	560487
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact John Lonsdale	560742
PROBOS	Contact Tom Trender	560893
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Richard Swan	560892
W.I. Second Thursday monthly (ex August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall	Contact Dorothy Candy	560857
RECTOR	Canon Andrew Girling	562219
PARISH COUNCIL		
Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Vice - Chairman	Veronica White	560236
Parish Clerk	John Lonsdale	560742
District Councillor	Carolyn Stoen	0370 - 965683
County Councillor	Sir Simon Dey	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Girling	560489
	David Grose	560375
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Andrew Rhymes	560564
	Geoffrey Stidston	560695
Parish Tree Warden	John Crawford	560688

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

DIRECTORY

HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge Salcombe	833551 842284
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckner & Son	01803 - 832801
VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop	M. T. Th. F. Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday,	8.00 am - 5.30 pm 8.00 am - 3.00 pm 8.00 am - 2.00 pm 8.30 am - 2.00 pm
PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Pat Crawford	561006 560688
POST OFFICE	Thurlestone P.O.	561917
Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday 10.30 am Saturday, 11.00 am Sunday	Wed, Sat, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm	
POLICE Emergency Municorn users	999 01392 - 452935	08705-777-444 0800-555-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION		
Thursday (But Friday in Bank-Holiday - Monday weeks) Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays from 3 rd October 2002		
PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE		
For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day)		0870 608 2 608 7.00 am to 9.00 pm
Devonbus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk		
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight	560220
KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays)		852315
	11.10 - 11.30am Bantam 11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 12.20 - 12.35pm Thurlestone Church	11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall 12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sands
MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN		
Calls alternate Wednesdays from 9 th October 2002, from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, outside All Saints Primary school.		



The Village Inn

Thurlestone

Tel: 563525

October / November Diary

Jazz Nights

13th October, 10th November, 8th December

Listen to the sounds of the
Dixie Demons Jazz band

Quiz Nights

Return on 1st October
at 8pm with your
Quiz Master Mike Jones then
every Tuesday from 8pm

"Nick T"

Music from the 80's and 90's
4th October, 18th October, 29th November

The ever popular

Howard Jones

31st October

Sunday Night - Steak Nights

will return shortly check the board for details

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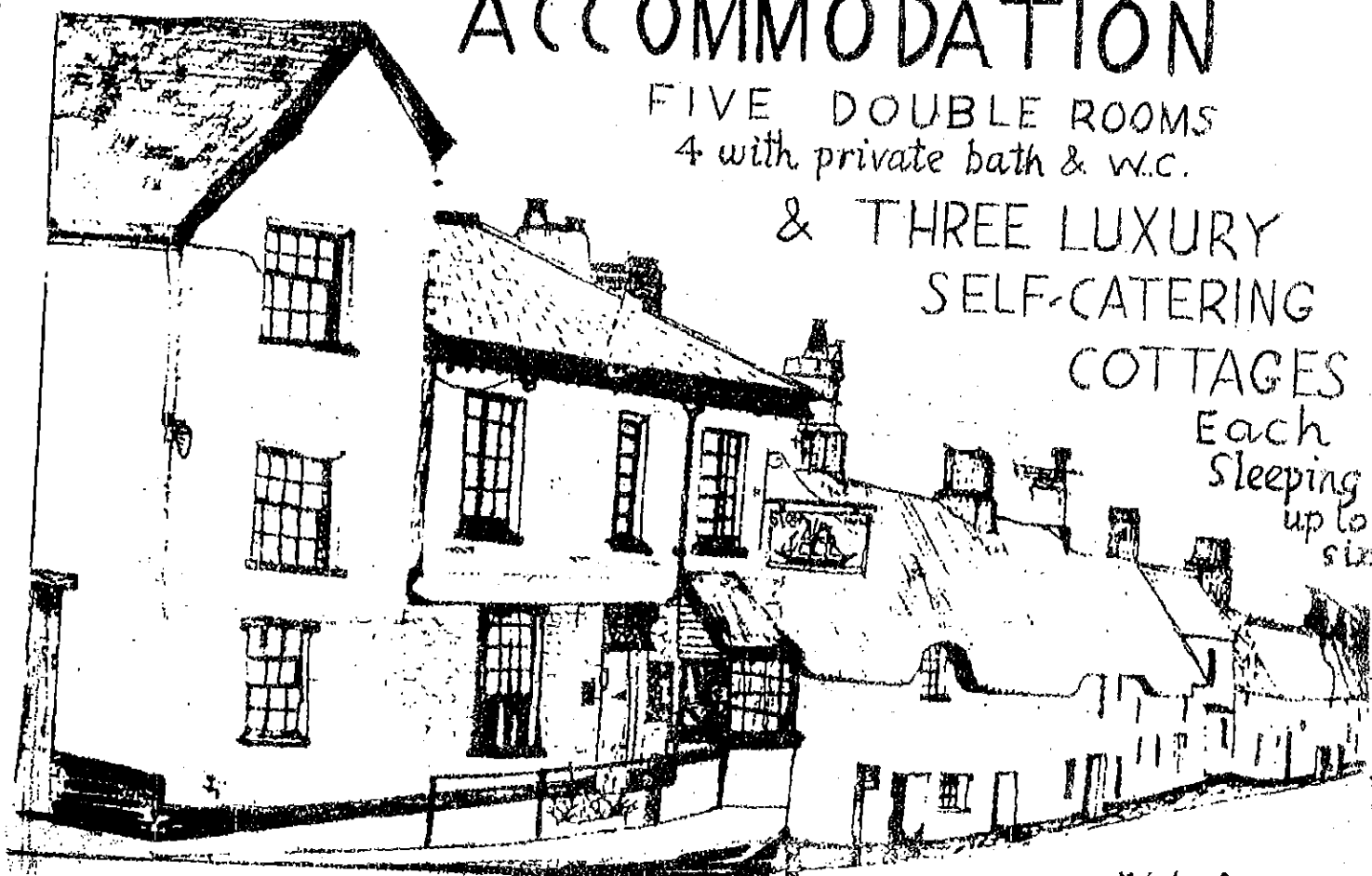
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Prepared Dishes

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4 with private bath & w.c.

& THREE LUXURY
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Sleeping
up to
six



Malcolm Freeman