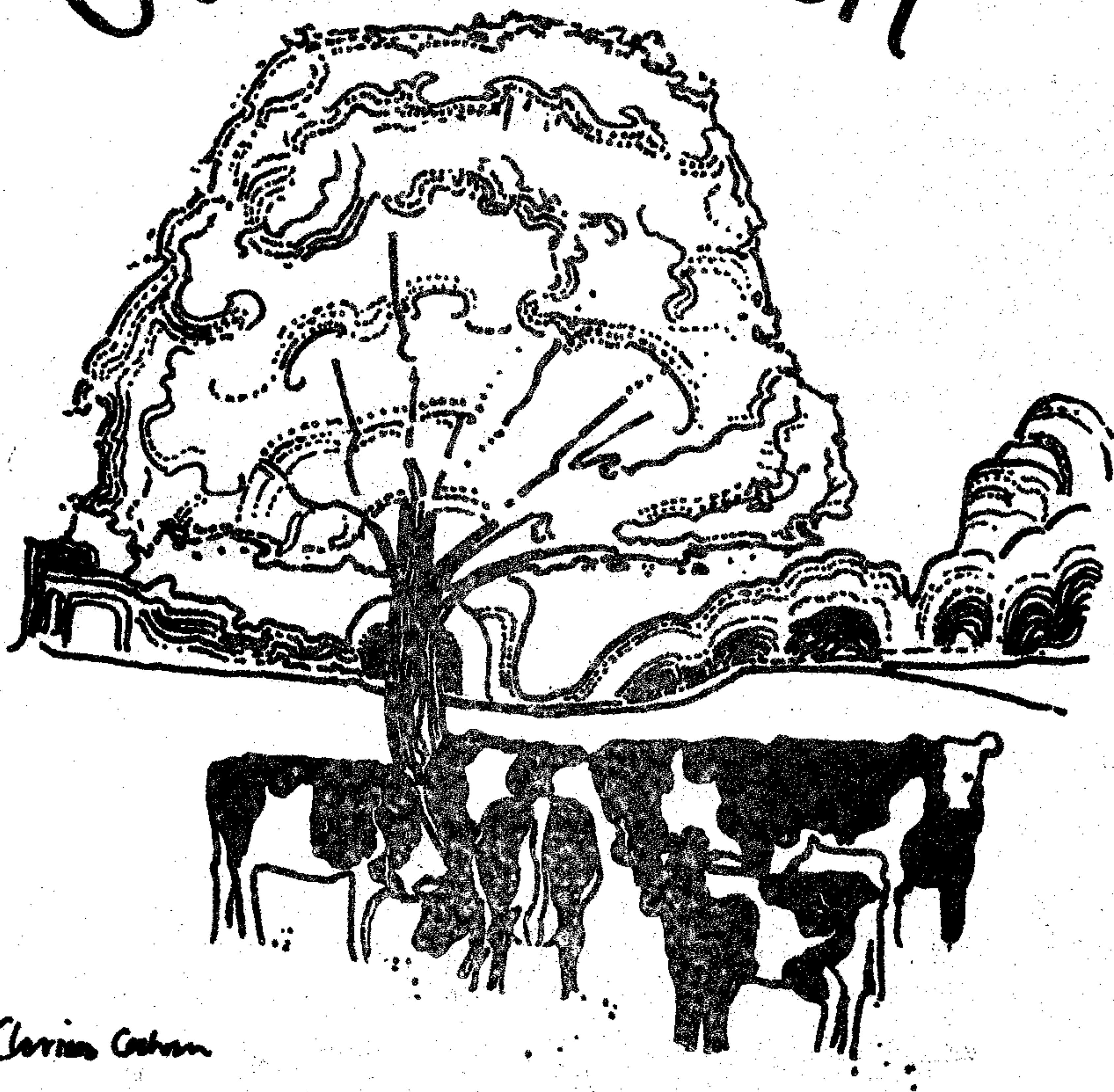


79

June 1983

Out of Reach



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OUT OF REACH

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No 79

June 1983

EDITORIAL

Perhaps the less said about this year's Reach Fair the better, but it is sad that despite all the efforts and hard work put in by the organisers, the appalling weather can ruin everything. The only thing to do is to hope for better weather next year! The last thing I want to do is to speak out of turn, but it does seem such a shame that at the indoor evening events held in Fair Week the attendance of village people was so very low. Although our village is small, we are fortunate in having a small core of people willing to work hard to provide entertainment on your doorstep for YOU. So please try to support local events. The next one will be a Ceilidh with Stacey's Braces at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Centre on Saturday 25th June. I am sure that this will be as successful as when they came last year, and in addition we will have the marquee, to leave more space for dancing in the Hall.

Congratulations go this month to Roger and Jan Clarke on the birth of their daughter Bethan. Best wishes for speedy recoveries after their recent operations to Mrs Nora Smith of Fair Green and Mrs Lilian Badcock of Swaffham Road. And a Reach welcome to Mr Norman Jarrold who has recently moved into the Hythe.

It is probably by now obvious that I have a fascination for local traditions, folklore and legends, and I have written a local tale for this issue. If anyone knows of any more similar local tales, I would be most grateful to hear of them. Alternatively, you could write them for future issues of Out of Reach!

Kay Pote



*St. Etheldreda
and the Holy Trinity*

Reach

FROM THE VICAR

Chairman's Remarks

S Mary's Annual General Meeting: 1st May 1983

If I offer a warm Thank-you to 'all the usual people', that doesn't mean that the thanks are perfunctory. The work of Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, The PCC as a whole, organists, singers, Verger, flower arrangers, cleaners, sacristan, grass-cutters and clock-winder can be, and very often is onerous and time-consuming (saving the pun); but it doesn't, I assure you, go unnoticed; and I hope that those of you who do these things will be able to see your way to continuing through another year, despite the growing pressure of anno domini.

Our present situation will be more or less as clear to you as it is to me. I have had a little moan this year about the fact that our worshipping congregation continues at a pathetic average of 22 - 25. No doubt, the Vicar is largely to blame for this, but I cannot believe wholly so. Meanwhile, there is nothing to be done, it seems to me, but keep the breaking of the bread at the centre of our life, and continue to meet here Sunday by Sunday to consider its meaning, and feed on its life-giving power.

Saddest of all about our life is the almost total absence of children. Our Baptist friends are better at coping with their needs than we are, and there must be no thought of competition. All I can tell you, with this continually in mind, is that I consider it my main duty, along with visiting, to give as much of my time as I possibly can each week to the school; and here I want to record my gratitude for the fact that I am encouraged to be there as much as I am, and allowed such freedom of speech, in the way of teaching, when I am there.

Meanwhile, it would be unfair not to warn you we shall have to increase our weekly giving again through the coming year if we are going to meet our increased Quota of £1325. I still don't believe

FROM THE VICAR (continued)

those of us who are lucky enough to be in full employment - (and here, of course, I include myself) - are yet taking the matter of weekly giving seriously enough. Our weekly collections have admittedly increased four-fold over the past few years; yet our average personal giving still nowhere equals the cost of a small fill-up of petrol. I was astonished and ashamed to discover that an ordinand I was advising last year, with an ordinary job and large family, was giving £12 a week to his parish church. Incidentally, perhaps I should say that those of you who have been so faithfully supporting us through the Envelope Scheme are shortly to be asked if you would consider putting that giving on a covenant basis, i.e., simply promising in writing to go on giving what you are giving already. By this means you make your gift eligible for tax re-bate of about £30%.

I have already publicly thanked both you and the community at large for your help with the porch restoration and tower repair. That has been a mighty work, on our tiny parish scale, and I have been deeply touched, to use an old-fashioned phrase, by the generosity of individual donors, where this has come to my notice. All that now remains is to get the roof of the church in good order, and the interior decorated. The decorating we might well be able to do ourselves, especially if a friendly contractor could lend us some interior movable scaffolding; but outside contractors will be necessary for the work on the roof. It will cost about £8500, of which I doubt whether we shall have to find less than £3500. So I hope you will be generous in helping us at the forthcoming Art Exhibition on July 9th, and our Gift Day on the 16th.

So may I thank you all once more for your help, not least for my Easter Offering, and wish you well in the coming year.

J.K.B.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

STAINED HUNDRED

The next meeting of the Stained Hundred - the local history society - will be on Wednesday 8th June. This will be a 'walkabout' at Swaffham Prior. Mr John Norris, of Anglesey House, Swaffham Prior, has kindly agreed to act as our guide on this occasion. Anyone who would like to take part in the 'walkabout' should meet at the church in Swaffham Prior, at 7.30 p.m.

The annual outing this year will be on Sunday 17th July, and will be a trip to Framlingham Castle in Suffolk. The coach will leave Bottisham Village College at 11.00 a.m., returning at approx. 6.00 p.m. Would anyone, whether a member of the society or not, who would like to come on this trip, please get in touch with the treasurer, Mr Dan McMahon, 19 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham (phone: Cambridge 811224). The cost of the trip, including the coach fare and admission to the Castle, will be £2.00 for members, children and pensioners and £2.50 for non-members. Bookings should be accompanied by a deposit of £1.00. Members might like to know that local pubs in Framlingham provide snacks and lunches on Sundays and there is also a tea-shop in the town.

FROM THE CHURCHES

Worship in June: S Mary's and Reach

5th TRINITY I

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)
9.30 a.m. Matins and Eucharist (S Mary's)
6.30 p.m. Deanery Evensong (Kennett)

11th S. BARNABAS, Ap

7.30 a.m. Holy Communion (S Mary's)

12th & 19th: TRINITY II and III

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (S Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (S Mary's)

12th 11.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. S Mary's: Quiet Day for students of Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

18th 7.30 p.m. Concert (S Mary's)

24th S JOHN BAPTIST - no celebration

26th TRINITY IV

9.30 a.m. Children's Eucharist (S Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Children's Eucharist (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (S Mary's)

29th S PETER, Apostle

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (S Mary's)

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

FROM THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

In recognition of our achievement in establishing the Community Room in the School, we were invited by the Sports Council to buy one of a limited number of Indoor Bowls sets available at a vastly reduced cost.

So - we are now the enthusiastic owners of a new Indoor Bowls set, and it is hoped to start using this at the start of the Autumn Term. If anyone is interested in playing indoor bowls either in the afternoon or evening in the School Hall, would they please let the School know. This is available for use to anyone in the village, young or old - we are very lucky to have it - please use it. Instruction will be given if necessary!

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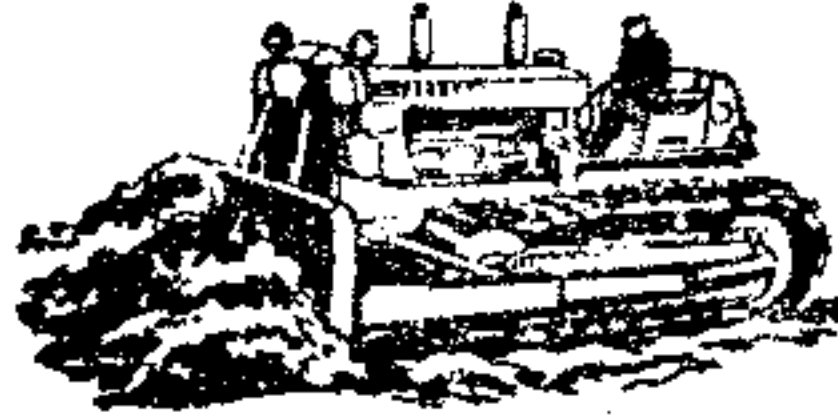
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REACH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the recent Parish Council Elections the following Councillors were elected: Mr A Johnson, Mr A Dudley, Mrs J Harrison, Mr H Harrison, Mr R Folkes. They are your representatives and are available to help with any problems or advice concerning people and places within Reach.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st June 1983 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Centre. All members of the public will be welcome to attend.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1st Swaffham Prior Scout Group

The new cub pack, serving the villages of Reach, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck was launched a month ago, and 18 boys are working towards Investiture shortly.

Over the next few weeks we have lots of things to try. We shall be welcoming 12 cubs and their Leader from the 12th Cambridge Scout Group who will be joining us for a meeting, and with whom we may be planning some future activities. We shall be doing some Camp fire cooking, and other outdoor activities if the weather is kind. We hope to enter a team in the District Swimming Competition, and some boys may be able to go on a Pack Holiday later in the Summer.

Some games are already becoming firm favourites played each week, while at the same time we have lots of new ones to try. We badly need some more adult help. At present several Scouters from Burwell are running our Meetings, which is an enormous help, but before long we shall be on our own. If the group is to be viable we need at least one adult for every six boys at each meeting. We must have a reserve of people we can call upon if a Leader is away for any reason, and people who can help with football games, other sport activities, handicrafts etc. We believe that the Group will become a most valuable part of our village community, but it does need support both financially and in practical terms. It would be extremely disappointing if it were to collapse through lack of adult help when all the boys are so enthusiastic.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The White House
Reach

Dear Fellow Villagers

Please pause before you go to the polls this week and ask yourself what really is the most vital issue in this election.

Is it inflation, unemployment, industrial development? I believe the most crucial issue to be the sanity of accepting the Cruise Missiles which are about to be deployed here.

Whatever you may think about the morality or need for a nuclear deterrent, Cruise represent something altogether more dangerous. Not only is this move a quite unnecessary escalation in the arms race, but, far more important, it means the siting of missiles belonging to another power in our country; this could lead to the possibility (probability?)

of a war between the superpowers in which we are merely the battle-ground.

What dangers for the future are we creating? What will the next step be? What inheritance are we preparing for our children?

This election is your last chance to make your opinion clear to those who govern this country, before the fatal step is taken.

Jenny Johnson

XXXXXXXXXX

Chalk Farm
Bottisham
Cambridgeshire

The Editor
"Out of Reach"

12th May 1983

Dear Editor

Now that we are in the midst of a General Election campaign, it seems a million years since the District Council contest took place. For those most closely involved, however, it was a fascinating experience and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the Electors of Reach who gave me their support and worked hard in the Conservative Interest.

Unfortunately, we failed to make it this time and I have sent my personal congratulations for a splendid, clear victory to our District Councillor, Mrs Margaret Cook. I have also sent her a small file of complaints and concerns of people that I met during my canvassing. Now that the dust has settled - as far as the District Council is concerned! - I do hope that Mrs Cook will have an enjoyable further four years, coping with all our 'problems' and continuing to represent all our interests at Ely.

With best wishes and renewed thanks

Yours very sincerely

(signed)

Geoffrey Woollard

XXXXXXXXXX

COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES

SCHOOL CLEANING

The forecasted reform of school cleaning is likely to come to a head within the next month or two. The report of the County's experts in management services has now been aired at Committee and is going the rounds of consultation with Heads, Governors, teacher unions, cleaners' unions and the cleaners themselves.

Continued...

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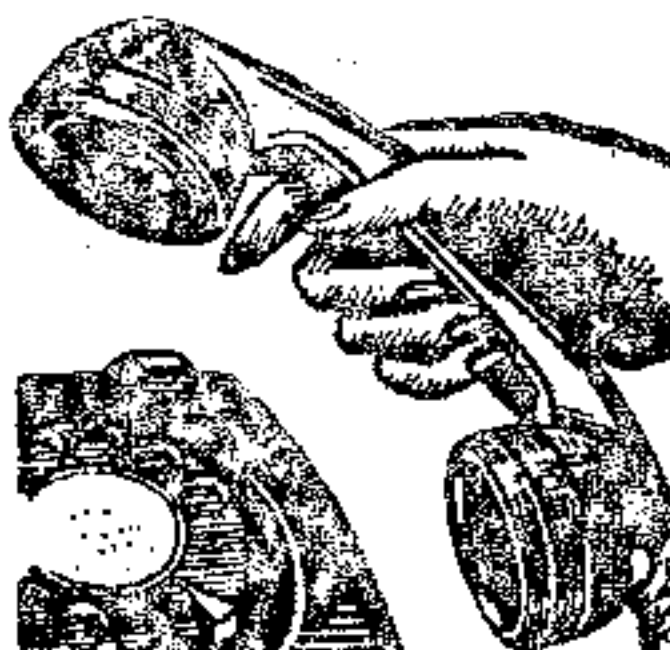
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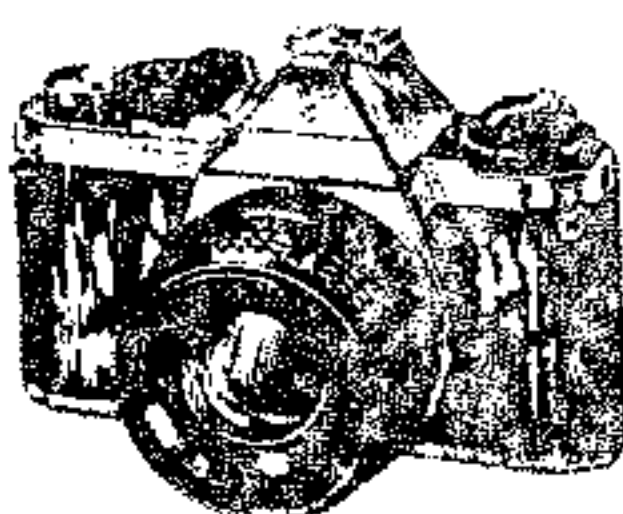
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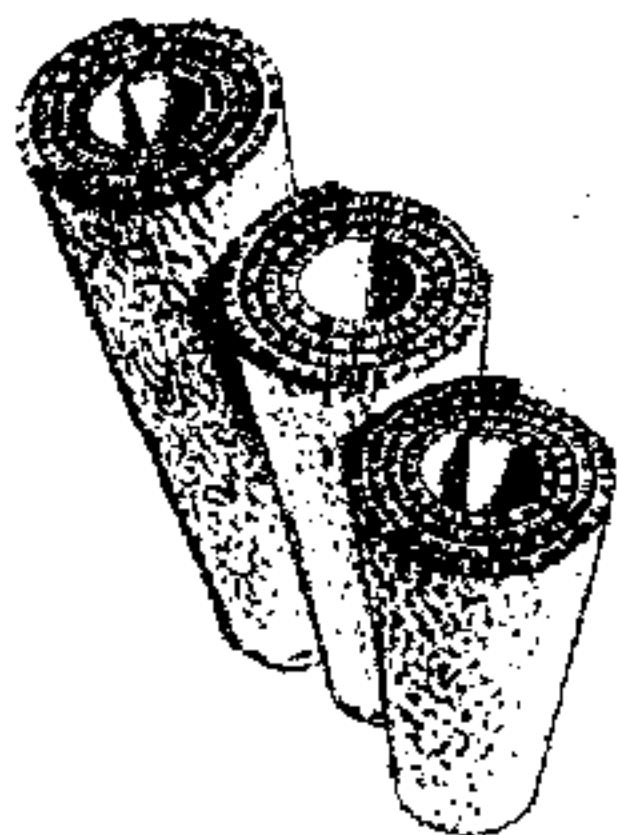
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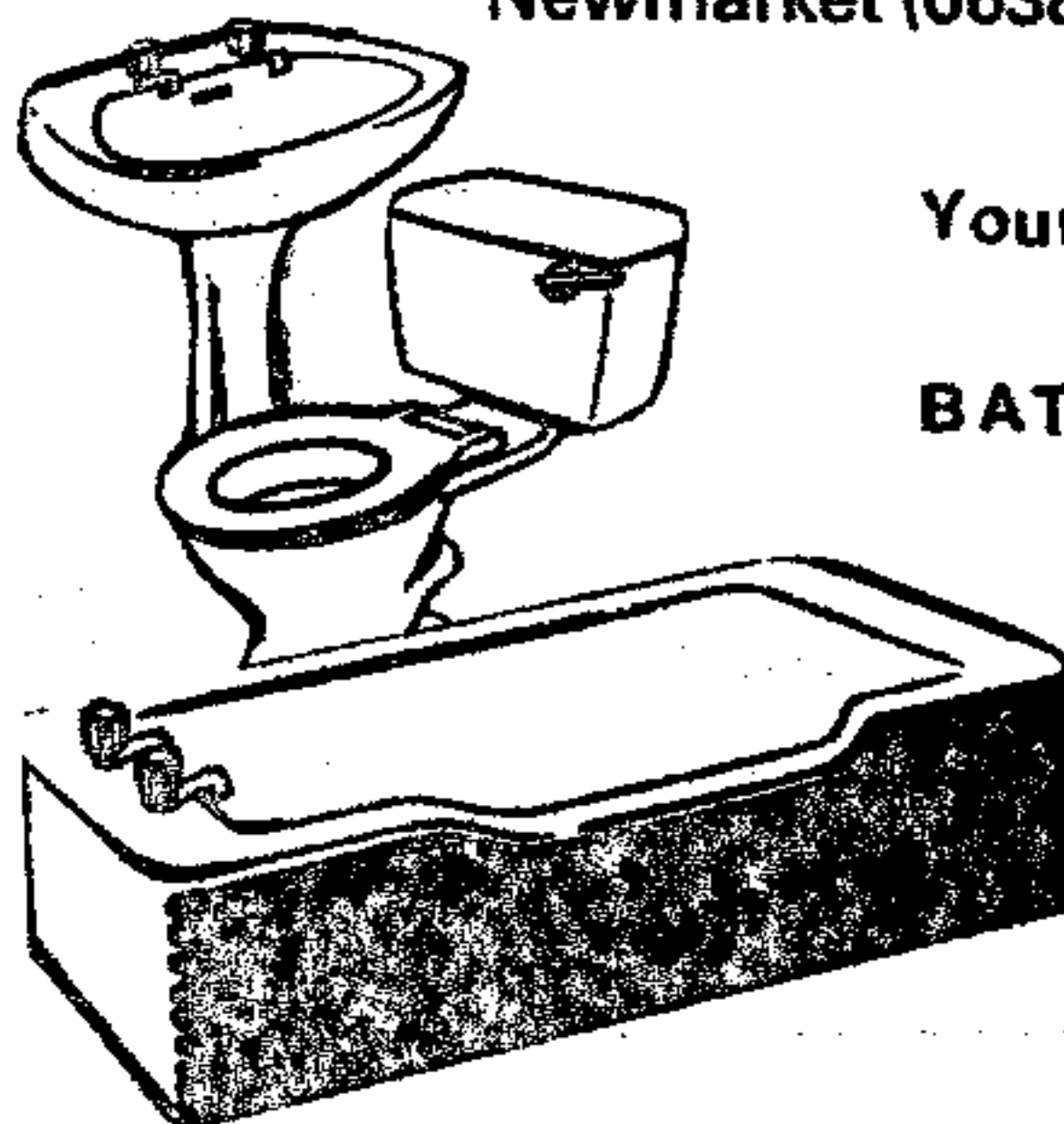
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COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES (continued)

First of all it must be noted that school caretakers are not included in any proposals for change, nor are "cleaners-in-charge". Hence many small schools will not be affected.

Secondly "aided" schools, i.e. many of the Church schools, are not going to be affected as their staffs are employed directly by the Governors and not by the County Council.

The report states that economies of approximately £900,000 could be achieved if all schools not included above were cleaned by contractors according to the tenders received. This sum includes an allowance for redundancy payments. The report also states that approximately £600,000 could be saved even if direct labour continued to be employed, but to do so it would be necessary for the Unions and the cleaners themselves to accept major changes in organisation and working practices.

The possible savings are so enormous and would release so much money for other purposes that the Education Committee will be quite unable to ignore them. The sub-committee dealing with the issue has stated that it would prefer a combination of methods, with a part of the County having its schools cleaned by private contractors and the remainder by direct labour using the suggested new employment practices. While the present consultations are continuing there will also be negotiations with the Unions to find out how far they will be prepared to cooperate.

The final decisions are expected by the full County Education Committee in June.

John Brooks
County Councillor

XXXXXXXXXX

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

I should like to thank most sincerely, all those in Reach who supported me in the recent District Council Elections, particularly those friends who gave me so much practical help and encouragement both before the election, and on the day itself. Over 72% of the electorate went to the poll, the highest turn out in the District in Reach itself, the turnout was nearer 90%.

I intend to continue to represent you all to the best of my ability, and without fear or favour, as I have tried to do up to now.

Margaret Cook

HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY

The covered pool at Bottisham has now been in use for over a year, and is a continuing success story.

Well over 2,000 people have used it. There is now a school of swimming which as well as teaching both adults and children to swim is also an ASA training centre for teachers of swimming. The Village College pupils use it - only a very few out of 900 cannot swim a width.

Clubs are increasing their use of the pool. Sub-Aqua and Lifesaving are just two of them. Bottisham Swimming Club is going from strength to strength with success at county and national level.

Penguin Biscuits took a liking to the pool penguin logo and have agreed to sponsor us, and this summer landscaping of the garden should be finished. Double doors will then open out onto a pleasant seating area.

The running of the pool is done by a small group of volunteers together with a pool manager. We can really be proud of the community effort that produced this success story. Our fame as a self help organisation is spreading. A group of visitors who hope to build a pool of their own in Dorset recently came specially to see OUR POOL!

Hilda Buchanan

XXXXXXXXXX

THE PRIORY YOUTH CLUB

The Junior Section of the Youth Club is going very well with an average of 30 children enjoying themselves each week with snooker, table tennis, cooking and rounders plus table games of chess etc. For any information on the junior section please contact Carol Taylor on Newmarket 742322.

The Alnight Disco Dancing, which was held in February raised a total of £60. Well done to the members who collected sponsor money. Everyone, as you will already know if you visited Reach Fair, got soaked through, especially the boys who ran the Rifle Range for the Youth Club. Many thanks to the boys who helped - £3 was raised.

A few weeks ago some of the youth club members took part in the Cambridge Association of Youth Clubs Postal Quiz, which they passed and are now through to the third round.

The disco that was held in April raised another £35.

THE HUT is doing very well and we are just waiting for a good spell of weather to be able to get the cement lorry to the site. Many thanks to the leaders who have put so much effort into all the above events, and made them go so well.

Julie Taylor

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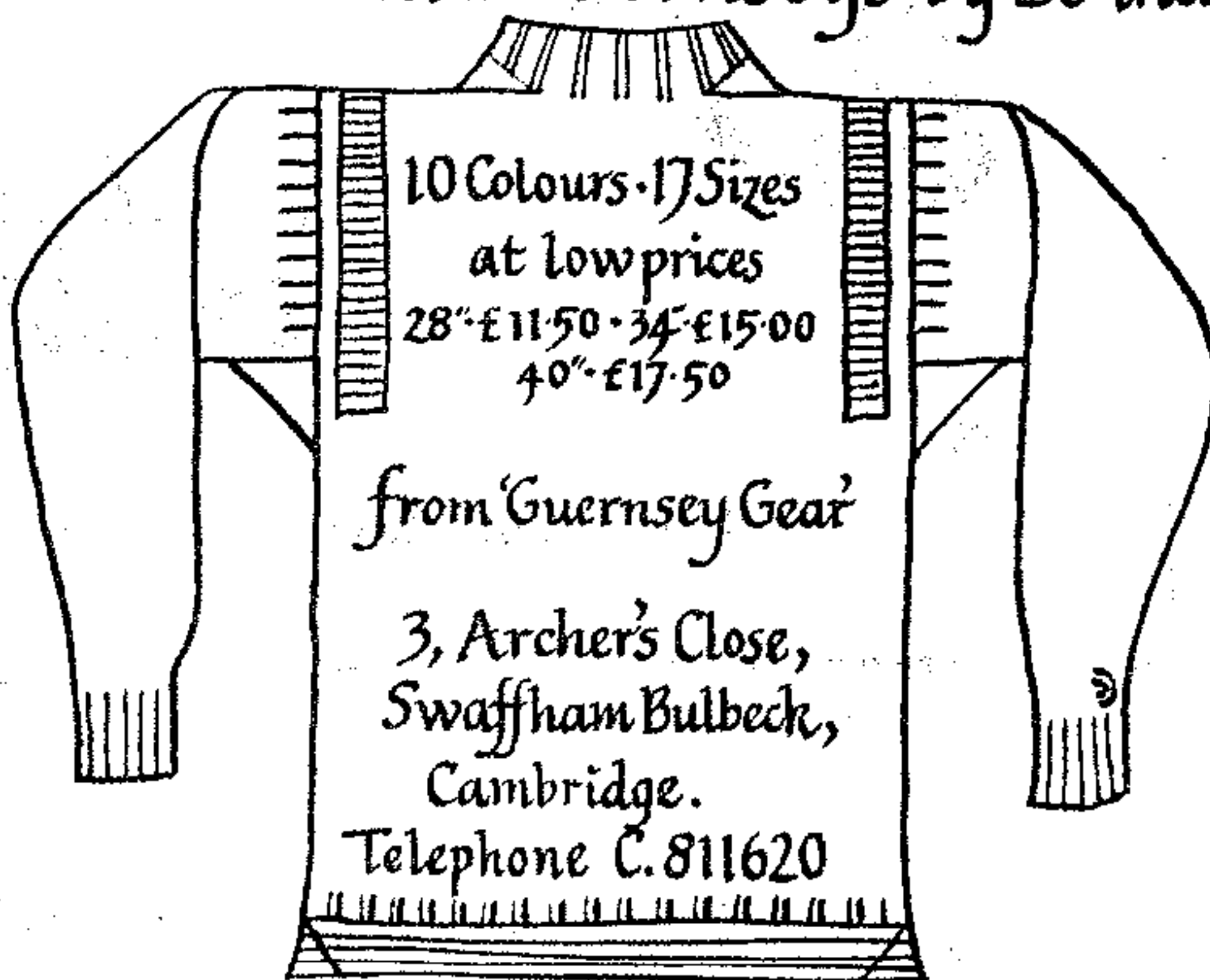
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THE LEGEND OF THE BOY'S GRAVE

The day was heavy and oppressive, and the young boy minding the sheep struggled desperately to keep awake. He listlessly whistled tunes, but he was tired, tired to the bone. From first light of day till dusk, his job was to watch the sheep, a lonely soulless task for meagre wages and bread and cheese cut with a grudging knife by the cruel farmer. No wonder he was tired. He bitterly regretted deserting the gipsy travellers to seek for work at the hiring fair. Lying down beneath the hawthorn tree, he felt that he could fight his weariness no longer. Maybe if he dared to sleep for just a little while ... When he awoke he rubbed his eyes in horror. Already it was almost dusk and there was no sign of the sheep; they must have scattered far while he was dreaming. He stumbled to his feet and set off running across the fields, for great would be the farmer's anger if even one were lost. Every little lamb of the flock represented gold in the farmer's purse and guineas locked in his chest.

The moon was already rising by the time the boy had found the sheep and he drove them home by the evening star. The farmer was anxiously awaiting their return and he counted them into the fold. What was this? One was missing. "Have you sold my sheep to the travelling folk?" roared the farmer. "I take you in from God knows where and treat you like a lord and is this how you repay me, by selling my sheep behind my back?" "I have not sold your sheep", protested the boy, "I fell asleep under the hawthorn tree - I was so tired, I could hardly open my eyes". "You lie", said the farmer. "If I were not a merciful man I would see you tried and hung. But I'll turn you out of the house to scrape your living as best you may".

The boy turned and walked out across the yard misery blowing through his very soul. He decided to beg for bread from the neighbouring farms. But at every door that he knocked he received it slammed in his face. The farmer had lost no time in spreading word of the boy's disgrace. He cursed the very day he had been born. Then he knew what he would do. Returning to the farm, he entered the stable. There, he remembered, was a coil of rope hanging on a nail. He slung it over his shoulder, his face hard and pale and walked towards the four crossroads. And there, where no human soul could see, he hanged himself on a tree.

Next morning, as the sun rose some travelling gipsies found him hanging like a thief. They cut him down, closed his eyes, and dug him a grave. They recognised him as the gipsy-shepherd boy, and anger filled their hearts as they wondered what or who had driven him to this sad end. Later they returned to plant flowers on his grave.

Back at the farm next day, the word was running up and down the lanes of the village that the sheep that was lost had come home to fold. And the farmer laughed and rubbed his hands in glee because his flock was once more complete. But never a thought did he spare for the boy who slept under the hawthorn tree.

THE LEGEND OF THE BOY'S GRAVE (continued)

This local story was brought to mind one evening recently on visiting "The Boy's Grave". While I freely admit to fabricating the bare bones of the tale it is more or less true. The Grave is three miles out of Newmarket, at the Chippenham-Moulton crossroads. It is merely a mound of earth with a bunch of plastic flowers in it. However it is said that at various times passing gipsies tend to it and leave bunches of flowers there in memory of the wrongly accused gipsy boy. Another version of the legend is that the sheep was stolen by gipsies and the boy was hanged because it could not be proved that he had not stolen it. Thereafter gipsies have laid flowers on his grave in remorse.

I tend to favour the former version, because it used to be the custom to inter suicides at crossroads as they were denied Christian burial until 1823. (When an Act of Parliament ordered that a piece of unconsecrated ground should be set aside in all burial grounds for those who had committed suicide, unless they had been proved to be insane.)

Another superstition connected with the Grave is the tying of different coloured ribbons to the bushes surrounding the Grave. These colours, it is said, will predict the winner of the next big race at Newmarket.

Tradition has it that the hawthorn tree is unlucky (as is said to be bringing its blossom into the house). In the Middle Ages it was said to be dangerous to fall asleep under one - it certainly brought tragedy to the poor lad in the story!

A friend of mine, Joy Rutherford, has written a beautiful song based on this legend, entitled "The Ballad of the Hungry Road". I would like to thank her very much for her help, and for letting me borrow the ideas in her song.

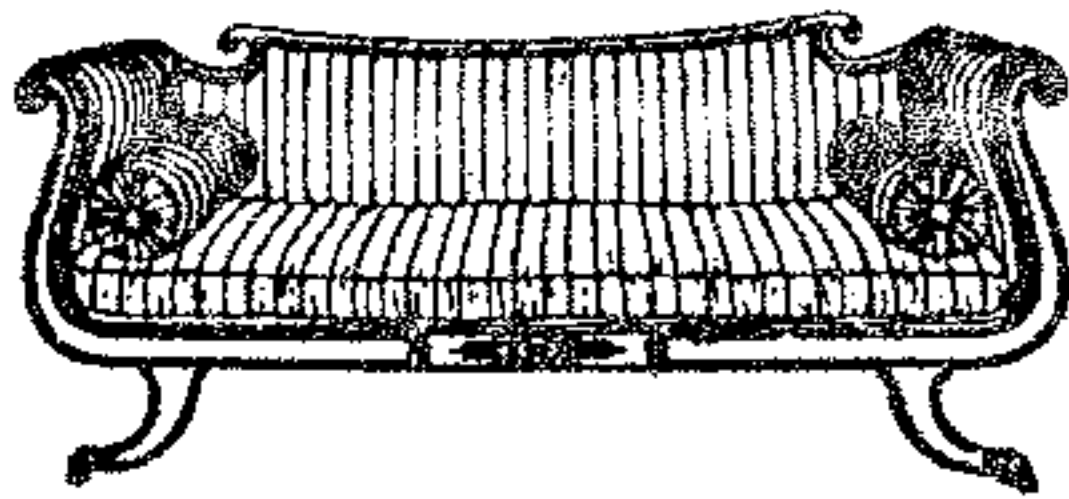
Kay Pote

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Home-Made Ice Cream

½ pint cream (or synthetic cream)
4 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons icing sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
2 - 3 whites of eggs
Pinch of salt

Mix the icing sugar with 2 tablespoons of the milk. Add the cream and beat until thick but not stiff. Add the rest of the milk and vanilla essence, and beat again to regain thickness. Whip the egg whites and pinch of salt until very stiff and gently fold them in. Put into a tray and put in freezer (or freezer compartment of fridge). During the freezing process, the mixture will need stirring twice to prevent ice crystals forming.



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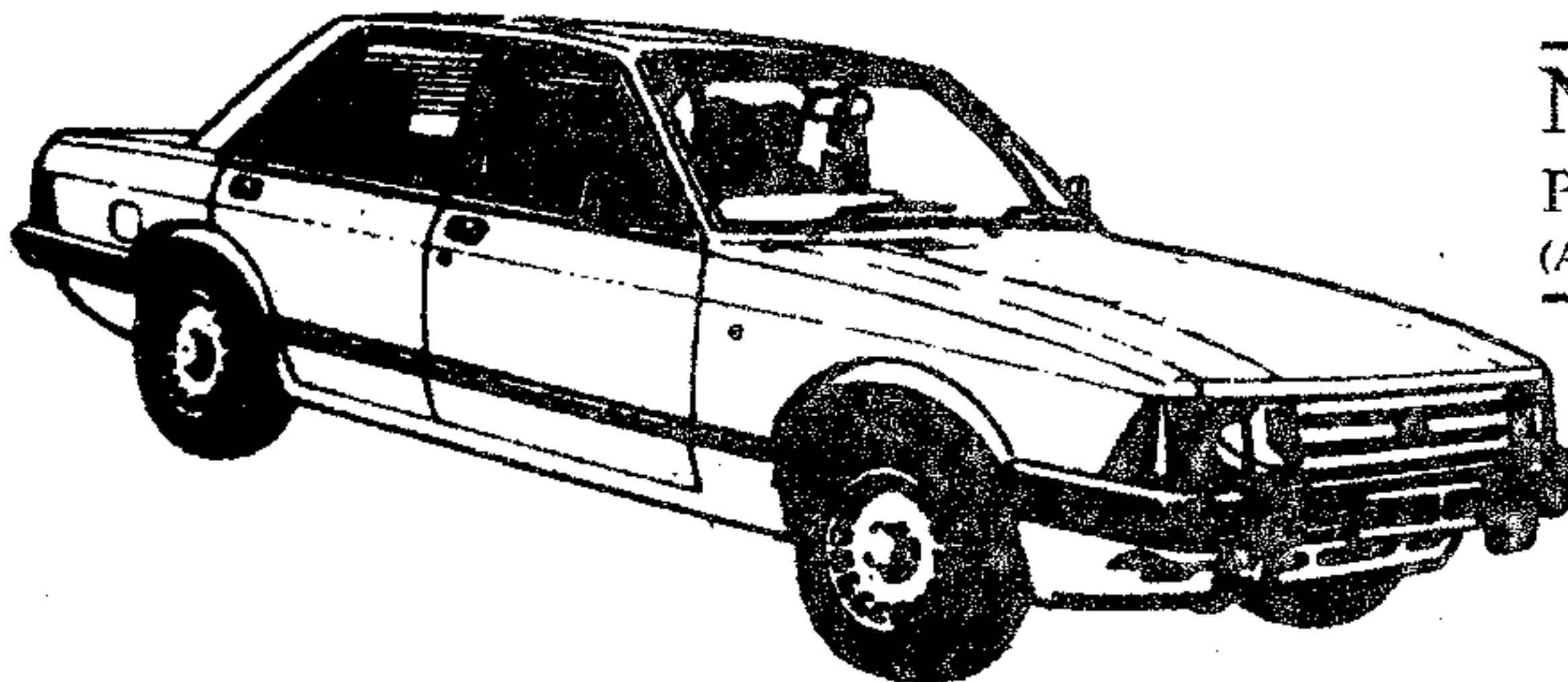
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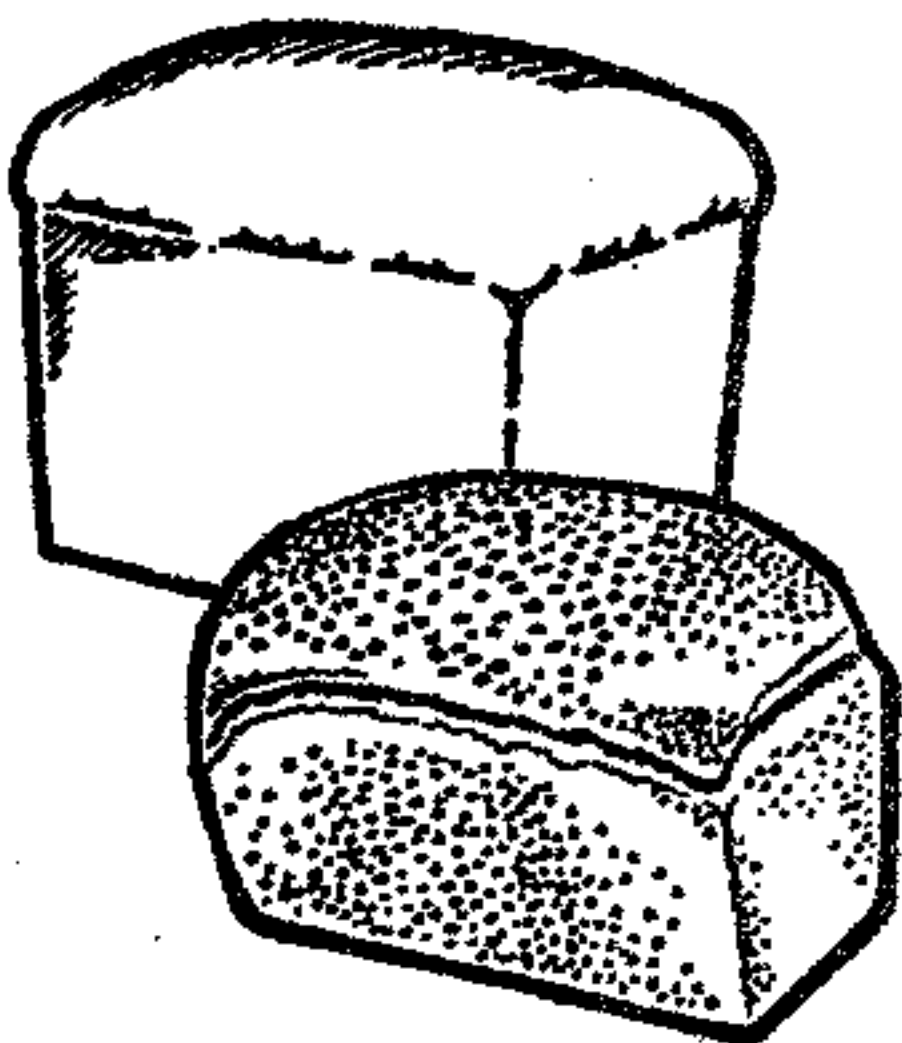
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