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In the village of Blunham, Bedfordshire.

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February 1989



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Editorial

Now that the excitement of Christmas, New Year and the 50th Anniversary (?) are past, *Airwaves* has settled back down to normal. Once again the last couple of days of the month are spent making frantic phone calls to beg articles from people — and then apologising when some have to be left out.

Thanks to all of the contributors who have helped to make *Airwaves* what it is; please remember that this is *your* magazine and we'd like to know if you have any good ideas for articles.

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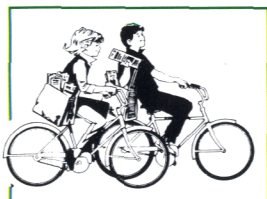
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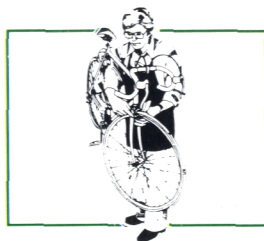
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LOCKING SCENE



RAF Locking Charity Presentation

Wing Commander and Mrs Poulter of RAF Locking present Mrs Nancy Hancock with a cheque for £200 to help with the running costs of the Worle Community Centre.

The money is a small part of the £27,000 raised for charity this year by RAF Locking personnel which has been distributed mainly to local charities.

The Worle Community Centre is a day centre for the old folk of Worle run on a voluntary basis by Nancy and a group of volunteers. The Centre provides fellowship, entertainment and lunch for the OAPs and is totally dependent upon voluntary contributions.



Best in the West

RAF Locking's Roundel Club was greatly honoured in November to be chosen as the best of 47 Junior Ranks Clubs in the South West Region. The competition being judged on profitability, staff efficiency and hygiene standards provided behind the counter by Naafi, and the RAF's management responsibility for environmental standards, facilities and the entertainment therein.

On the RAF side the club has been managed for the last five years by Sqn Ldr Terry Ferren, ably assisted by a succession of SNCOs on the Committee selected by him for their interest and

enthusiasm. Terry has presided over the 'Roundel' through its development as a rather sombre, predominantly green gloss painted edifice with fairly spartan comforts to the well-appointed club it is today. The Committee's enthusiasm and achievement in developing the Roundel over the years has been very infectious, resulting in most welcome and highly visible support from the Naafi, managed by Alex Schute who has risen to the greatly increased usage of the Club to satisfy the highest standards demanded in winning the award.

Christmas with TC Sqn

On December 22 TC Squadron got into the full swing of the Christmas festivities. In the morning at 0830 the CO and Wg Cdr Squire were transported to 1(T) Block on a Santa sledge and a fairy castle escorted by numerous students dressed in various forms of attire. The purpose of their visit was to watch the 1(T) Block Christmas Revue performed by the Direct Entry classes of TC Sqn.

The production consisted of small acts and sketches staged by the classes in Room 31 which had been converted into a theatre. This event was the culmination of many hours of hard work not only by the students but also the staff. A special mention must go to Sgt Mick Harrison and Cpl John Wile for the production and direction of the morning activities.

The classes had rehearsed hard as this year a trophy was to be presented to the best act. DTc 98 won the award but it was a hard decision for the judges as all the acts were of a high standard. After

the show had finished students and staff, in various forms of fancy dress, went around the camp on a charity collection. The total amount collected was £564.85 — sincere thanks to everyone who contributed.

At noon the students went on leave and the 1(T) Block bar opened: It was now the turn of the instructors to entertain the staff and extroverts from each syndicate got on stage to do their bit. At 1400 we had a break in the humour to present a cheque for the amount collected to Mrs Brown and Mrs Bennet of Weston Super Mare General Hospital; this was handed over to them by Mrs Pat Ferren on behalf of the squadron. The afternoon's festivities carried on until the star presentation of the year the 'brick' award, but no surprises this year as Sgt Rog Bowden was the recipient. Many thanks to everyone who made the day such a great success.

Nebyn



A problem for the 'mentor'.



The entertainers.

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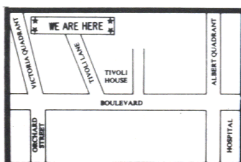
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The Magnificent Seven (X2)

On Wednesday November 23, 1 and 2 (T) Block staff carried out a subterranean inspection of the Mendips, or to put it another way, went caving.

The cave they chose was Swildon's Hole at Priddy. Swildon's Hole is a wet cave which descends about 400 feet under the Mendips.

The team of 14 were ably led by the intrepid Gollum 'what has he got in his pockets' Cruze, whose uncanny ability to look like Max Wall in a wet suit was not lost on the rest of the team! The other 13 members of the team were hand picked from a cast of 13! In fact they were all volunteers except for Brian Glover, who forgot to take one pace backwards when volunteers were asked to step forward.

Once changed, and after a short walk through the fields, the entrance to the cave was revealed — a hole in the ground where a river seemed to disappear! For some reason the team seemed to go into shock and became mutinous, but Gollum (or should I say Max) soon reassured them, and the mood quickly settled down to one of blind panic!

Once inside the cave the team started the slow (and often treacherous) descent into the bowels of the Mendips. A twenty foot waterfall was overcome with the aid of a flexible steel ladder. The various pot holes which were too deep to paddle were carefully skirted round by most of the team, although the more adventurous went for an early bath — no names mentioned Brian! Eventually the team came to a halt in a flooded chamber with no other visible means of exit. At this point the morale of the team lifted from suicidal, thinking it was time to turn round and go home — but Gollum had other ideas! So it was with a little prayer, a deep gulp of oxygen (and a not so small push) that a three-foot underwater passage was negotiated. Beyond the passage, a further five minutes of grovelling around (some were more adept at this than others) brought us to the limit of our descent. If that wasn't enough for everyone, all they had to do now was turn around and go back the way they came.

Some four hours after entering the cave, Gollum, who had counted them in, counted them out. Once changed, it was down to the pub for a well earned jar of real ale and time to reflect on how good being alive felt!

The Magnificent Seven (x2) were: Dennis Cruze Phil Ladyman, Pete Evans, Pete Gaffney, Jeff Holman, Clive Reynolds, Neil Flather, Brian Glover, Pete Telford, Nil Watson, Simon Underhay, Dave Hutchinson, Phil Buttifant and Martin Streeter.

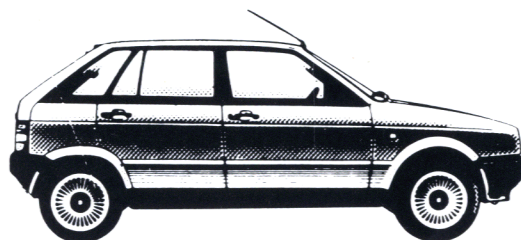
PS Please post any spare 'sense of humour' to Brian G. *Photographs by Dennis Cruze 1(T) Block.*

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Computer Engineering Squadron Expedition

By the time departure on day one was upon us, the nominal roll of expedition members could have been used for musical chairs. Of the original 15 members, six dropped out to be replaced by only two last minute volunteers. The excuses ranged from personal, bad back, operation on a vein, and leprosy. After the early setbacks the main party left sunny Locking at 1420 on a Friday afternoon.

After an uneventful journey the bus arrived at the RAF Adventure Centre, Brecon. The driver is the only member of MT brave (?) enough to take the bus the last half mile to the centre through a single track lane round a very tight right hander. He was also in such a rush to get back, but by the time the last rucksack had touched the ground, he'd set off back faster than Ben Johnson, taking the first aid kit and denims used for caving with him. The Sherpa and four-tonner arrived shortly afterwards, followed by the warden Mr Duguid who provided access to the centre. He gave the party a quick brief and told them the best place for firewood.

A scouting group gathered firewood while the remaining people got to work starting dinner. The meal consisted of steak, pork chops and gammon with mashed potatoes and peas personally cooked by the boss, Sqn Ldr Pete French. A short trip to Talgarth produced four bottles of wine. After the washing up was done we all headed for the local, the Castle Inn. A games night ensued with pool, darts and cribbage on the go at the same time. Chf Tech Ken 'Whirlwind' Macrae blamed his demise on the pool table to forgetting his RAF issue spectacles. Someone commented 'If his eyes are good enough to see through them he should be alright without.' A

party setting off walking from the centre, the other making a journey in the Sherpa to set off from the other end of the range. The weather was better than expected and the party setting off from the centre had soon stopped to strip off excess clothing. Sgt Pete 'Wilbs' Wilbraham with an injured knee from a hockey match had a good puff and blow before reaching the top of the main climb. His olive green Hercules T-shirt had taken on a darker green, round the armpits and back.

The visibility was good and the views spectacular on the fine Saturday morning. Stopping at a strategic stone mound for lunch, the party listened to DLT's darts on the radio. They answered every question correctly unlike the contestants. After passing the other group they began the steady descent off the hills. A muck filled farmyard had to be navigated and several demented dogs made their presence felt. After a quick stop at a local hostel to counter the effects of dehydration, the group returned to the Sherpa via Crickhowell camp, pausing to inspect the confidence course used by the trainees on R and I. Everyone suddenly began to radiate confidence and decided to leave the course for those who didn't have any choice in the matter.

On returning to the centre the other members were still out on their visit to the Castle Inn listening to the rugby international. In the evening everyone went out to the Tower Hotel in Talgarth and tasted the local cuisine. A pool table provided a bit of entertainment with both Cpl Paul Birchall and Flt Lt John Bauer being beaten by a 13-year-old whizz kid, Gusty Evans, albeit being barracked by the rest of the group (Wilbs).

Sunday morning came around a bit too early, especially for the ones who hadn't abseiled before. The group set off for Merthyr in the Sherpa and by this time it had become apparent that there was a competition for the front seat. When a petrol stop came up it was time for musical chairs. As everyone alighted to stretch their legs Flt Lt Phil Denner stayed in the front seat. Wilbs, in cahoots with the PTI Nick Brooksbank, told Phil the tyres needed air and asked him to get out of the van, whereby Wilbs leapt smartly back on board.

At the viaduct just outside Merthyr, the two cavers John and JT Stew Stephenson left with PTI Andy Vaughton for Porth yr Ogof. Apart from the obvious delights of crawling about in semi-darkness through pools of freezing cold water, the boys had

another treat. An attractive young lady was changing into her caving gear when she removed her t-shirt to reveal her ample proportions before climbing into her wetsuit.



Reaching the dizzy heights

good team game of 'Up Mr Jenkins' finished off the night.

Day two saw the party split into two teams. One

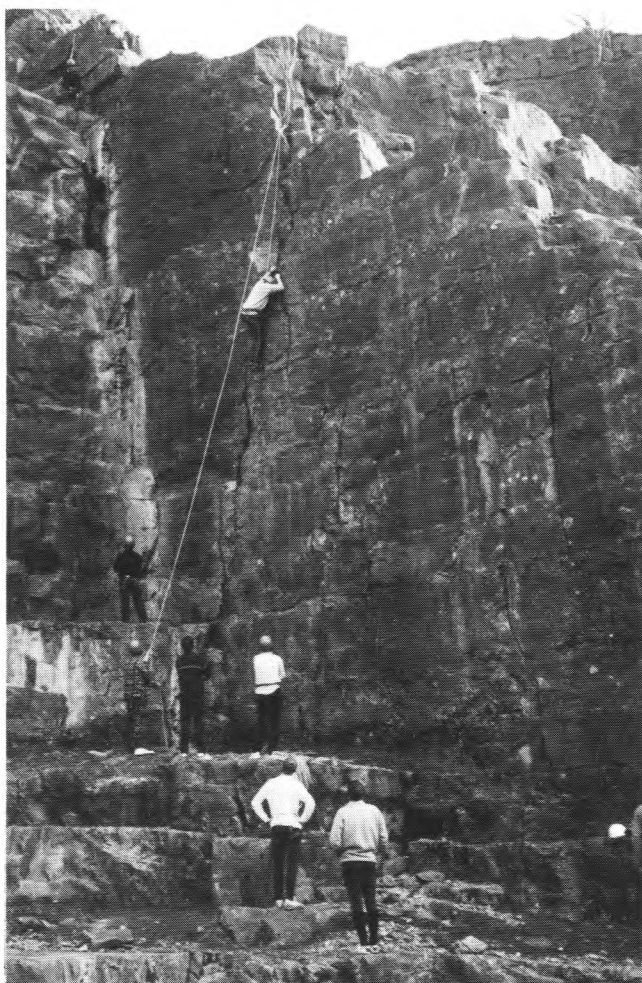
At the viaduct where the abseiling was taking place various other parties had started arriving, including a Navy party with a small dog. Eager to relieve itself the dog ran over to our equipment and much to the chagrin of Flt Lt Stuart Peoples it peed all over his rucksack. Anyone who knows Stuart wouldn't be surprised to learn that he threatened to throw the dog over the viaduct if it did it again. Of the party of nine, four hadn't abseiled before but PTI Nick, after his brief and demonstration, made it all look easy. Cpl Shaun Witts went first and did well for his first attempt whereas poor old Wilbs went a funny pink colour and got the shakes, especially his thighs. It didn't help when as he started his slump Nick shouted, 'Your stitchings coming undone.' Ken 'Daredevil' Macrae shot down in four bounds, followed by a leap of five bounds by Stuart Peoples. A few more descents ensued followed by Flt Lt Duncan Overton who had been the anchor man belaying the safety line.

The second round of jumps is when the fun started. Shaun did a good second run followed by Wilbs. Unknown to Wilbs, Ken had pulled up five feet of slack and stood on it. Once Wilbs had started his descent, Ken lifted his boot, dropping Wilbs suddenly the extra five feet. It came as a bit of a shock to him but after threatening to strangle Ken he saw the funny side. Paul went down next to find that halfway down Duncan and Stuart pulled the rope out from the wall, they then ran in with it but checked before he was splatted. Phil found a series of slip knots stopped him before he reached the bottom.

Nick demonstrated a different way to abseil down the viaduct by going face down and running down the wall Batman style. It took him less than five seconds to reach the bottom of the 110 foot viaduct. Shaun bravely went face down, followed by 'Mad dog' Ken Macrae. Wilbs decided to go down the standard way after his earlier exploits. Chf Tech Geoff Gelder, with two abseils under his belt, was determined to go face down, although he was a little apprehensive. When Ken shouted, 'Pretend you're jumping to your death or you're a member of a suicide squad,' Geoff held his heart and climbed back over the wall. Paul also had



What the fashion conscious hill walker is wearing this winter.



Playtime, or being driven up the wall.

his doubts but after much ado he scrambled his way to the bottom, knees bent and face down. Phil went next and was about halfway down when the anchor man stopped belaying the safety line and he was left suspended 50 feet up in the air. When he had stopped shouting they let him down again. The Boss braved the face down method and was almost to the bottom when Paul and Wilbs grabbed the rope and pulled him out from the wall. They threatened to keep him there unless they got three 9's and spec recs, laughingly he agreed.

During a short lunch break, the two cavers arrived back and managed one abseil each before everyone made their way to the rock climbing area. Due to large groups of people on the rock and the lack of time the PTIs only set up one climb which was of a difficult standard. While a couple of the group were climbing five others made their way through a small cave. Darkness meant disorientation and at least two people banged their heads but it was all good fun. Time was a little short for climbing but Duncan, Ken 'Iron man' Macrae, and Phil made it to the top. Shaun, John and Paul made noble attempts but time was against them. After the return trip to the Brecon centre, all that was left to do was to give the place a good clean and get all the kit together.

The weekend was a resounding success with all that took part. Thanks must go to the organiser John Bauer, the Boss for giving his permission, coming along, and mucking in with the rest of the lads and Mr Duguid the centre's warden. Special thanks go to both PTIs Nick and Andy for their help, guidance and patience.

A Brief History of Radio in the Royal Air Force

When the Electrical and Wireless School opened at Flowerdown in 1920 to train wireless operators, the need for communication between RAF aircraft and Royal Artillery gun batteries was well known. In 1915, RE8 'spotter' planes, fitted with a small Spark transmitter (Sterling Type 52) operated by the pilot, sent Morse coded signals to the Battery. One RFC wireless operator was allotted to each Battery and carried a small crystal receiver (short wave tuner) and a set of Popham Panel ground strips. The aircraft provided information on the location and range of targets, and after firing started, reported the position of 'hits'. The SW tuner had a quartz crystal detector, 'tuned' by a 'cats whisker' and was found to be unstable under gunfire. A valved receiver was used later, but early valves were microphonic and were also affected by gunfire.

Aldis lamps were used between aircraft and the Batteries in the event of radio failure, but the Army did not like this, as the lamps were liable to give away their position. Messages in weighted bags were dropped from aircraft, and the reply, in a bag, was suspended on a cord between two poles (or rifles with fixed bayonets stuck into the ground) and picked up by means of a hook on a retractable arm, hanging below the fuselage of the aircraft.

The E and W School commenced apprentice training at Flowerdown in 1922, and was transferred to East Camp Cranwell in 1929. In 1956 the School moved again, to RAF Locking where it remains today, although apprentice training ceased some years ago. Other radio schools during world war two were located at Yatesbury, Compton Bassett, (both now closed) and Cosford.

By the 1930s, it was realised that to cover the diverse roles of Army Co-op, fighter, bomber, coastal, and transport aircraft, separate command headquarters were necessary for each.

By the 1930's, it was realised that to cover the diverse roles of Army Co-op, fighter, bomber, coastal, and transport aircraft, separate command headquarters were necessary for each. Also, the 'radio fit' in these aircraft depended on the operational role of the Command. Some standardisation was possible, and the T21/Tf Mod receiver was used for all long distance W/T communication. Army Co-op aircraft also carried a two-way R/T equipment, plus the single transmitter, T32 for use with the Artillery. The TR2 later fulfilled both functions. Fighter aircraft had small HF R/T transceivers, TR9's for Fighter Control.

Air Traffic Control by radio was a late starter. Initially an airfield caravan located on the edge of the grass airfields marshalled aircraft into the take-off position by Aldis lamp signalling, and landings were signalled by the same means. In bad visibility, Very cartridges, in red or green colours, were used. the

TR9, HF set was perhaps the first communications facility for air traffic control, and some caravans were fitted in advance of the availability of control towers. Before the end of world war two, VHF frequencies were in use, and the TR1133 four-channel transceiver came into use both for air and ground. The TR1143, with 12 channels followed, and an American made version, known as the TR5043. The early GCI control was carried out on VHF frequencies also. Ultimately, UHF was introduced and fitted in all RAF aircraft.

Navigation for long distance flying was an urgent requirement. In the early days D/F loops were fitted to all except fighter aircraft, and used to obtain bearings from MF beacon transmitters. D/F stations were also set up, and aircraft carrying two-way W/T could ask for bearings, or 'fixes' from these ground stations. At

An airfield caravan located on the edge of the grass airfields marshalled aircraft into the take-off position by Aldis lamp signalling.

first, MF D/F stations existed, but were replaced in turn by VHF and later UHF/DF stations. (It is interesting to note that the US Air Force Fighter aircraft were also equipped for reception of MF Beacons in early world war two days.) But, during war operations strict 'radio silence' has to be observed, both by aircraft and ground stations, which ruled out all these navigation systems. The introduction of other types, such as Gee, Loran, Oboe and Decca was therefore most opportune. These are all 'lattice navigation systems' and Oboe was the most accurate of these and used by Bomber Command target marking aircraft.

Turning to ground communications, initially all RAF stations in UK were fitted with T19 Transmitters and R1084 receivers, which were also used for ground/air W/T communications. In the late 1920's the RAF started to spread into the British Empire and communications with these outposts, especially in 'volatile' areas like the Indian NW frontier were essential. So, all overseas stations were fitted with the T19/R1084 combination, and when conditions were right, traffic was exchanged. But, over these distances, an MF link was far from reliable.

In 1924, Flt Lt Jack Durrant, Signals Officer at Gosport, designed a short wave transmitter, operating on 30 metres. Amateurs in several countries were similarly engaged. Durrant's circuitry and construction details were sent to all overseas stations and a date and time set for tests with Gosport. Malta was the first to make contact, and the remainder followed in a short period. It was a most successful test. By coincidence, an important message was held up by adverse conditions on the MF 'net' but when offered on 30 metres, was through immediately, much to the surprise of the Air Ministry! It was not long after this, that the RAF Inter-Command short wave network was set up. At first the Durrant equipment was used, then

T58's of similar design followed, using two VT5B valves in push-pull. Some stations had used a high power long wave transmitter, T28, and when some of these were made redundant, the components were used to make higher-powered versions of the T58, using VT9B valves. Two of these were used for flying boat flights from UK to the Far East, and gave very satisfactory service. Later the Inter-Command stations were equipped with Naval T26 transmitters, and then Marconi SWB8 and SWB11s. These latter were capable of automatic high-speed keying. Progress was also made with aerial systems, dipoles giving way to Koomans arrays, Rhombics and Vee Beans.

Mobility, not merely for squadrons, but also for headquarters, was always necessary, and in the early days of world war two some 'Green Line' coaches were bought by Air Ministry. They were fitted with SWB8 transmitters, R1084/CR.150 receivers, perforators and undulators, cypher equipment, aerials and masts, AC power supplies, plus personnel transport. The whole was named a 'Heavy Mobile W/T Unit' and the first went to France in 1940. Some went to the Middle East, Iraq and Persia, and gave great service.

This nearly brings us to the present day, and in recent years much progress has been made, and communications are much more advanced. Whatever system is in use, the aim must always be for reliability and speed, together with maximum security.

Wg Cdr Gilding RAF (Ret'd)

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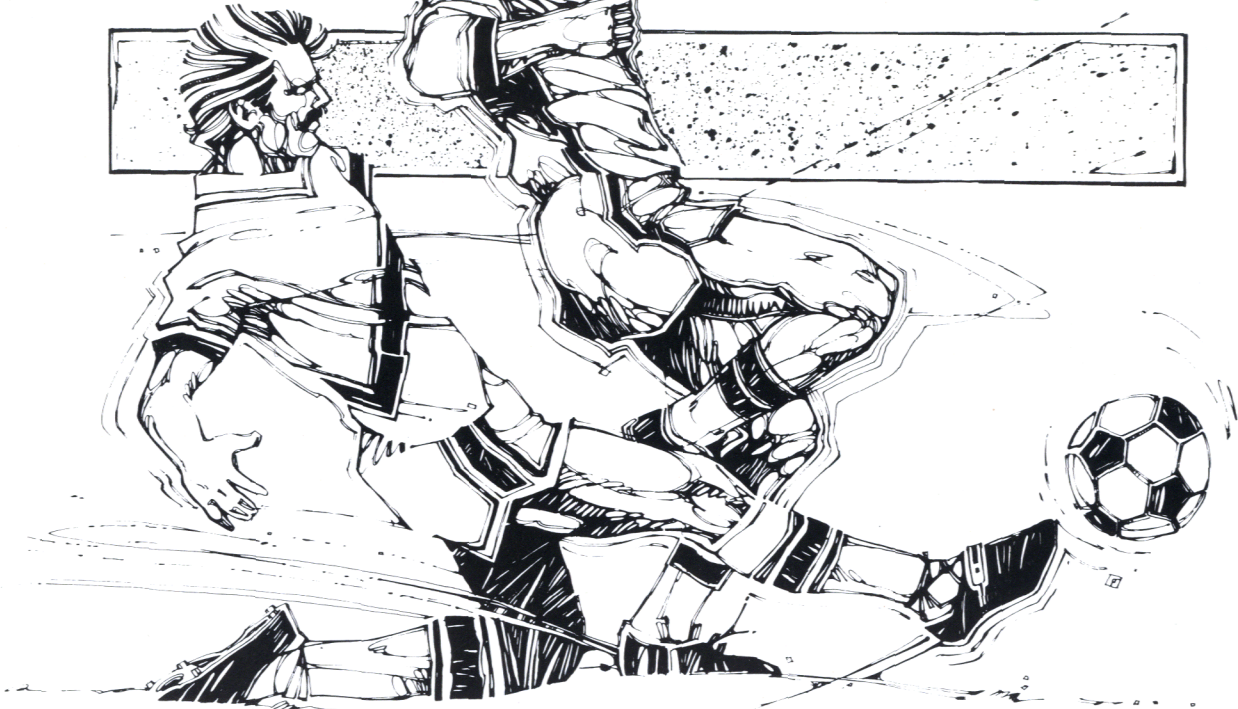
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Re'al Locking FC



(End of Season Report)

The alternative football team, Re'al Locking (alias 1T Destructors) have completed yet another glory filled season, winning practically (and theoretically) every game.

Re'al, now have the enviable two season statistics of:

Won: 22, Lost: 6, Drawn: 2.

Opposition

This has been formidable this season, with a high degree of skill being shown on (and off) the field, by teams from local villages, DTC, FTC, FAF and DAF courses.

Who are Re'al FC?

The individual talents, that combine to make up the devastating Re'al team, are listed below:

Keeping Goal Count

Neal 'the Cat' — on account of his ability to leap under or over the ball at every opportunity. (Transferred to 1T Pogo-Team.)

Defensive Tackles and Sackings

The old reliables, (more of the old and less of the reliable) once again managed to contain the opposition to single figures:

Hitman Holman — 'he hit me first Ref,'

Big E — 'watch your nuts,'

Rob (Sniff, Sniff) jaffa-boy and ex-manager.

Niall 'the Body', and Conversion 'Body-check' Carl.

Midfield Wombles

The midfield Wombles, produced the goods on at least one occasion this season, next season they are going for a 100 per cent improvement!

Graham — 'here mate take this back-elbow and what time *did* the game start lads?'

Brad 'Nice-legs' — shame about the face.

Serious Steve — can't play snooker either (transferred to Saxa Salts), Pete 'Super-Sub' Institution Evans, and finally, Trev 'the Haircut' — transfer listed (Cyprus teams only need apply!)

Forwards and Backwards — Or the Good the Bad and the Ugly.

Phil 'Captain Iron-Fist', Brockers,

John 'Look' Wile I lose the ball,

Caveman Brian (anyone finding a sense of humour — please return.)

Pete 'I've retired' Teflon, and finally:

Boss (Main dribbler) — I've got flattened again flatter, — why does he keep picking the ball up, and then go and drop it again?

Subs

Many thanks to the 'fleet of subs' including; Paul 'Slow-worm', Mick 'where's the sun gone' Acrid and the cleanest player on the pitch, 'Persil' Churchill.

Thank you to the ex-manager and Jaffa-boy, Rob the Sniff (why does he do it?) To the man in the middle, who keeps turning up in the wrong kit and cannot make a decision (without an argument!) To the PEd Staff for their invaluable support and sports aids (balls and bibs).

However, the biggest thanks go to the opposition, whoever and wherever, *you* are.

The Challenge. Could your team take on the might of Re'al, and survive? Whether 11-a-side in the summer, or 5-a-side in the winter?

Prove it! Contact: Cpl Gray/Beaton ext 322.

De-Bilb

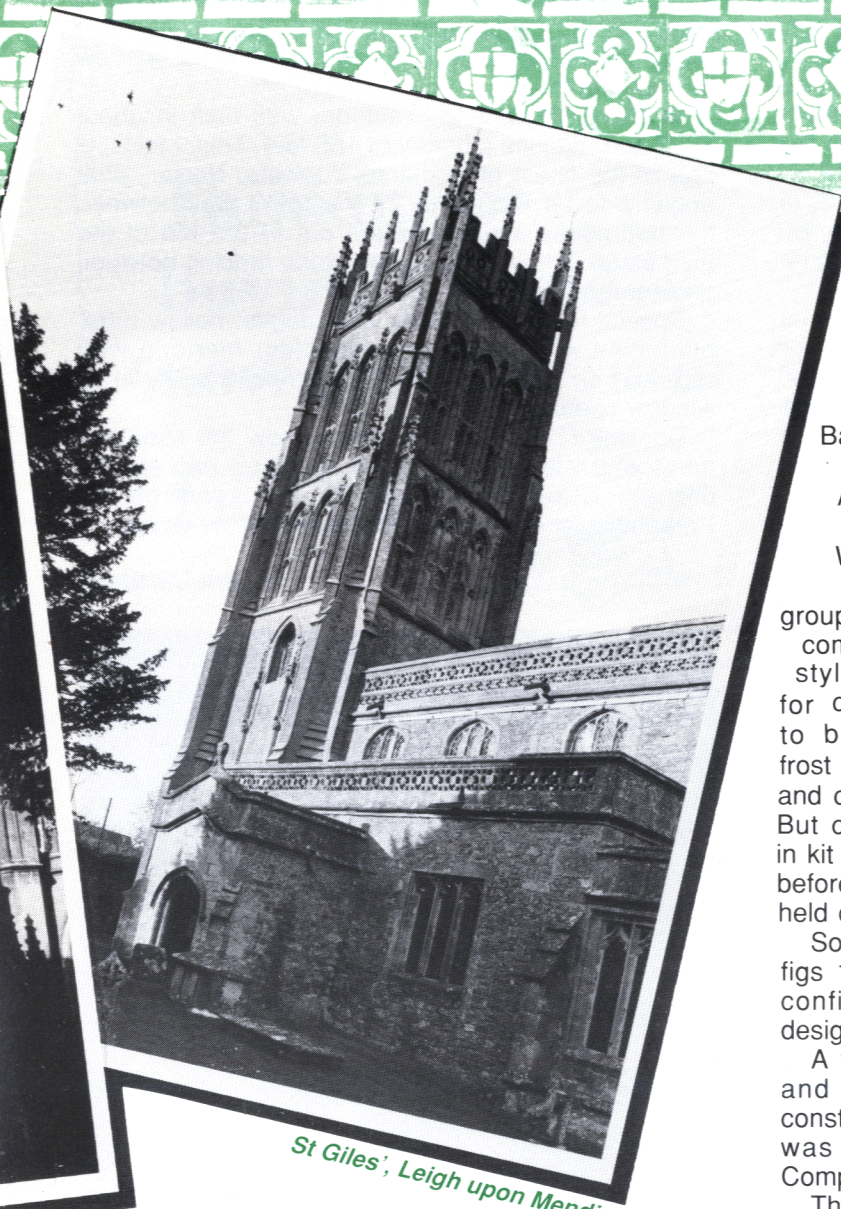
Somerset Towers



SS Peter and Paul, Shepton Mallet



St Andrew's, Mells.



St Giles', Leigh upon Mendip.

It was also blessed with easy-to-carve stone; Bath stone, Dundry stone, Douling stone and Ham stone.

A team of craftsmen stayed together, and built a group of towers.

When one man died or retired, a replacement was trained. It has been possible to tell which group of towers was built by the same team using computer analysis. Of the 500 Perpendicular style towers in Somerset, 74 were selected for classification. Some 37 variables had to be considered. No building work took place while frost was about. The winter was devoted to dressing and carving the stone, and digging foundations. But come Easter time, the tower would arrive on site in kit form. If the assembly work could not be finished before the end of harvest, then completion would be held over until the following spring.

Some general architectural features are outlined in figs 1, 2 and 3 which shows the different buttress configurations in use, also the various parapet designs, favoured by the architects.

A team would build its first tower as a prototype and improve the design with subsequent constructions. For example: Churchill, built in 1360, was the prototype for Compton Martin, 1370; Compton Bishop, 1380, and Kewstoke, 1390.

The photographs show three, out of a group of five East Mendip towers. First the prototype Shepton

Look around Somerset (and South Avon), and note how many of those tall, square, ornate church towers seem to dominate the village, or stand out in silhouette against the skyline.

The country's leading expert on these towers, Peter Poyntz Wright, a Somerset architect, has recently published a book 'The Parish Church Towers of Somerset'. I will quote from his opening paragraph: 'Of the church towers of England those in Somerset stand apart from all except some small groups in Yorkshire and in the Fens. They stand apart by reason of their style, their intricate decoration, and their great height'.

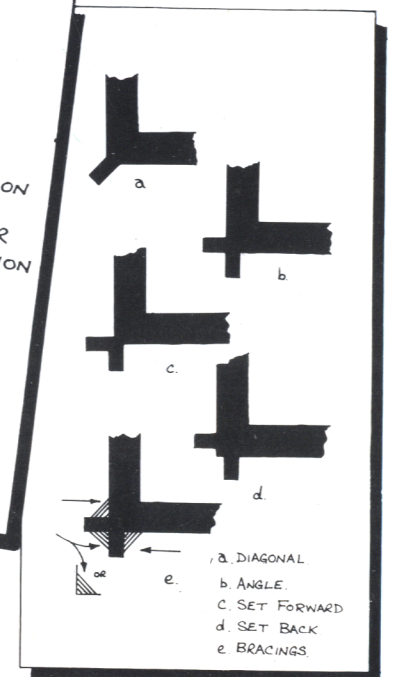
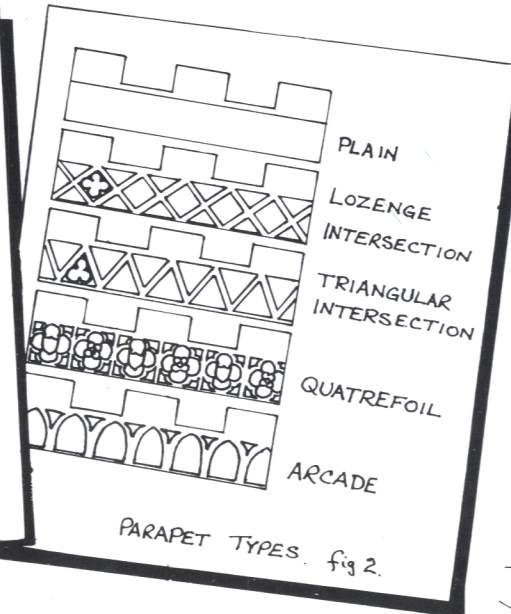
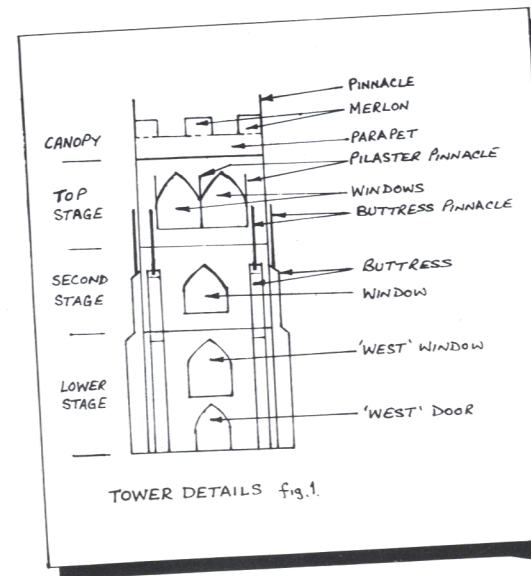
The majority of Somerset's towers were raised during a particular period in history — between the Black Death, 1348, and the Reformation, 1540. The earliest towers were Norman (1066 to 1200). They were low plain structures, and built at the centre, or

crossing, of the church. Then came the Early English style (1200 - 1275), and Decorated style (1275 - 1350), which were also central towers.

The problem with the central tower is that it has to stand on four piers, forming arches, and relies on the adjacent solid masonry of the main church walls for stability. However, when it came to extend the churches, those solid walls were removed and replaced by arcading (arches), thereby weakening the towers, causing some to collapse and others to be demolished.

The Black Death of 1348 killed off many architects and craftsmen, and their old ideas. And there arose new men with new techniques who developed the grand Perpendicular Style — the best the world has ever seen. Perpendicular Style towers were invariably built at the west end using solid masonry right down to the foundations, with an average wall thickness of four and a half feet plus another two to three feet for buttresses.

At that time, Somerset was rich with the wool trade.



Mallet, 1425, followed by Branmore, 1440, then Mells. 1450, Bruton, 1460, and finally Leigh-on-Mendip, 1465.

Notice Shepton Mallet's angle buttresses (braced). It also has buttress pinnacles, pilaster pinnacles, and lozenge intersection on the parapet. Three windows in top stage over one in the third stage, over one in the second stage — repeated on each face.

Then Mells. Notice that the upper of two sets of buttress pinnacles, now reach above the parapet. Three round windows in the top stage, sit over three in the third stage.

Finally Leigh-on-Mendip, the 'pinnacle' of this team's achievement (excuse the pun). The upper buttress pinnacles reach almost to the height of the main parapet corner pinnacles. Three windows in the top stage over three in the third stage, over one in the second stage. Angle buttresses (braced). Parapet merlons with quatrefoil tracery.

When you next go into Locking village, and before you drop into the Coach House, take a look at the church tower. It was built in 1405, and is quite small

by Somerset standards, but it belongs to that great Perpendicular family. What type of buttresses does it have? Does it incorporate a turret staircase? How many stages? What type of parapet? And the window arrangements...?

St Mary Magdelene, Taunton, was built in about 1500 and reaches a height of 165 feet. This, I think, is one of the finest of Somerset's towers. Notice, what appears to be the corner of the tower wall between the buttresses actually peters out at the top of the third stage. It is, in fact, square stone bracing between angle buttresses.

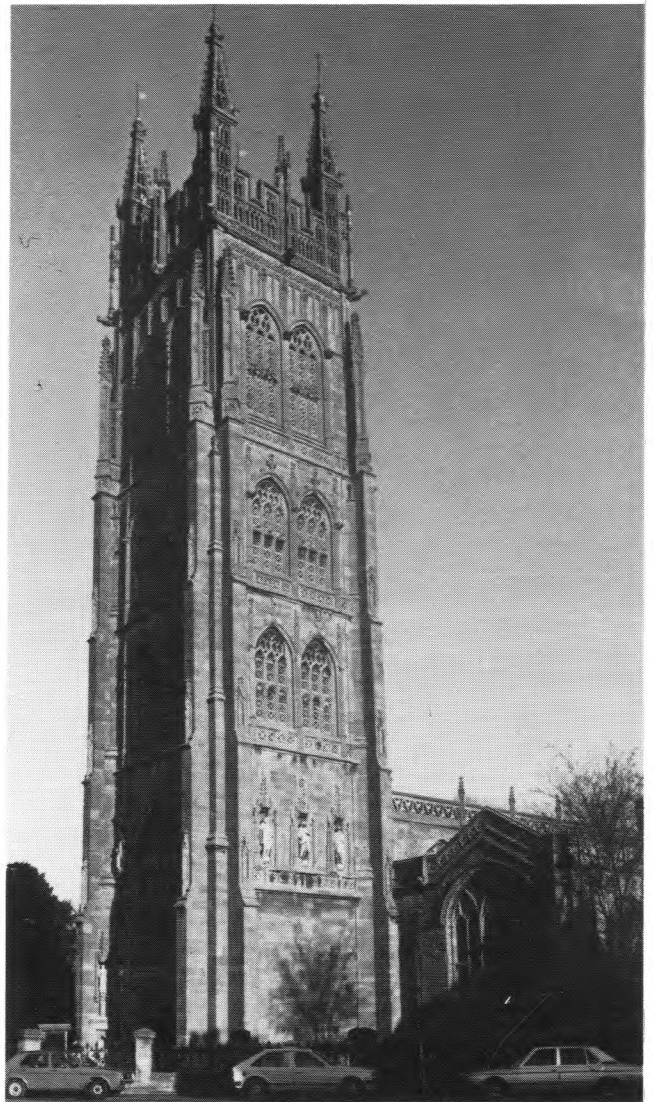
Special features include: four stages; hollow turret pinnacles with outrigger pinnacles; merlons with arcading on the parapet, and quatrefoil tracery in all window openings.

Banwell (1420) is included to show the staircase turret which is surmounted by a conical cap on one corner. Stair turrets are to be seen on all Perpendicular style towers in this part of the world.

Jim Lambard



St Andrew's, Banwell.



St Mary Magdalene, Taunton.

Thinking of buying a home — now or in the future?



If so read the tale of *Toby the tortoise*



Once upon a time Toby decided to buy his dream home. He thought that having found the property it would be plain sailing. But alas, this was not the case. He needed a mortgage but didn't know how to proceed. Suddenly, everyone was trying to advise him, until he didn't know which way to turn.



He was told he needed a solicitor, which frightened him a little. The world had suddenly become a very confusing place. He seemed to be needing lots of money for surveys, indemnity premiums, solicitors' fees — the list seemed endless.



Nobody wanted to talk to him anymore it appeared. He didn't know what was happening to his mortgage and the solicitors said they were searching for something but still the home wasn't his. He seemed to be coming up against a brick wall. He was totally in the dark and very frustrated. Of course this fairy story has a happy ending. Toby did acquire his home — eventually — but decided never to move again!



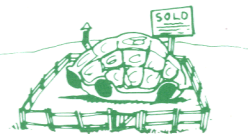
(or only very slowly)



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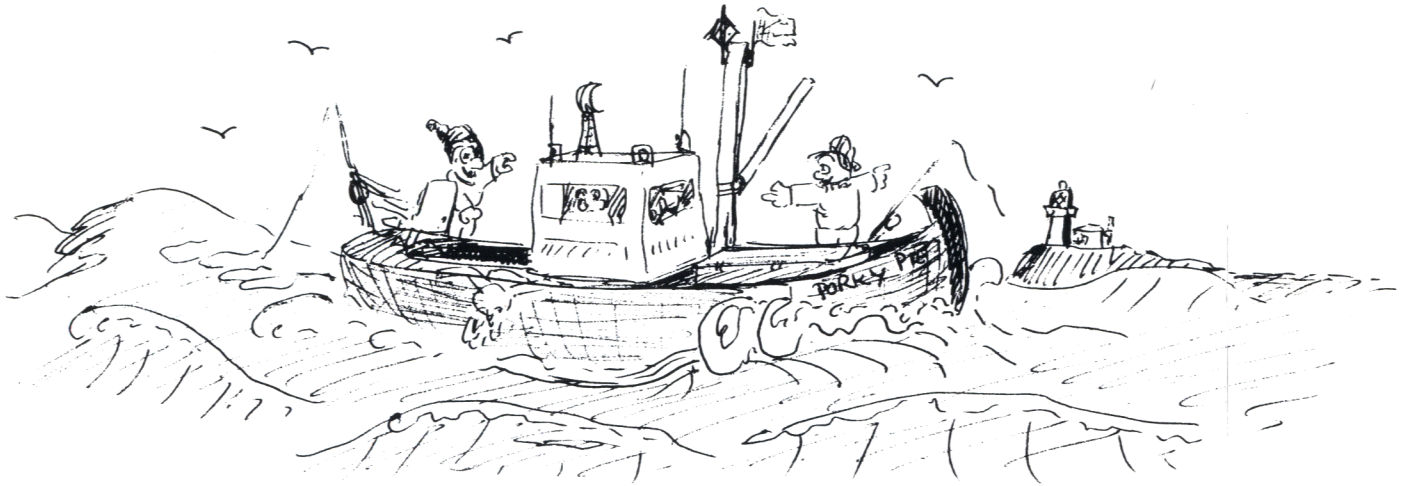


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A Fisher's Tale?



Was it the lure of the bright lights of Bridlington, or the value of the prizes on offer, or a desire to put RAF Locking on the fishing map or even the need just to get away from it all and spend a few hours fishing? Whatever the reason five ardent sea anglers departed Locking heading NNE for the RAF Inter-Unit Sea Angling Championships held at Bridlington on Friday September 30.

On arriving at the hotel on Thursday, the intrepid few went into a huddle to discuss tactics, length of snoods, hook sizes, strength and cost of beer and other miscellaneous subjects affecting the quality of a sea angler's life.

After booking in with the match organisers and discovering which boat and position each of the three team members and the two individuals would occupy in the morning, the team captain, WO Keith 'La Snorer' Phillips dragged his reluctant fellow anglers to a high class bistro. The look of disdain on the waiter's face when asked for an egg banjo was classic. After the meal some headed for a night cap at the bar and the others departed for bed to dream of the massive catch that was going to knock all the opposition for six.

Friday dawned bright and frosty with a freshening breeze. At six o'clock over breakfast the discussion revolved around delicate stomachs, especially Simon's, and the fact that the sea was becoming more turbulent. Undaunted the fishermen five made their way to the harbour where the photographer from the *Sea Angler* magazine took happy snaps of the group of competitors. Everyone then scattered to locate their boats and by eight o'clock the armada left the shelter of the harbour.

Flt Sgt 'Rip de Rigga' Kerby who was on *Statesman*, the largest of the boats, was a little apprehensive to discover his skipper sported earrings, a punk hair style and looked young enough to be R de R's grandson. All the boats headed just around Flamborough Head to a sheltered bay but the *Statesman* headed seaward into the rising waves to get to the underwater cliff some miles offshore. The skipper promised that it was worth the risk of losing valuable fishing time in steaming out for two hours in

the hope of landing larger and heavier species than boats which were fishing inshore. He also warned that it was going to get rougher as the boat left the lee of the shore. The party of anglers on board were not so sure of this tactic as the competition rules gave 12 points to the angler catching the heaviest weight of fish on his boat, 11 points to the second heaviest catch and so on. The individual champion's prize would go to the angler with the highest percentage of his boat's total weight. The only advantage in hunting for large fish was a chance of the heaviest fish prize. Apart from partaking in a mutiny, a little extreme in this case, there was little they could do except sit and hope the skipper was right.

Once anchored the anglers dropped a varied assortment of terminal tackle into the murky depths and awaited for that adrenalin pumping tug of the heavyweight fish taking the bait and hopefully the hook. Despite the skipper's advice to use shortish snoods R de R was using a long flowing trace that he had found productive when he fished the same venue 10 years previously. Sure enough he soon hooked into a fish which came to boat with little fight and proved to be a pouting just over the minimum size.



The skipper tried several other marks and even drifted for a while but all to no avail. The only fish caught so far was that miserable pouting so after nearly two fruitless hours he decided to steam back inshore. R de R was beginning to think of victory because after five hours of the eight hour match he had 100 per cent of the boat's catch.

Soon the other competition boats hove into view and the *Statesman* anchored up in their midst with the skipper advising smaller hooks and even shorter snoods. Flushed with his 'success' R de R kept his trace long and picked up two codling while one other angler caught an undersize whiting. The skipper suggested a move which R de R opposed saying that fish were being caught. 'Only by you with your golden ****!' was the retort.

According to the reports coming over the radio the fishing was poor throughout the fleet and R de R's thoughts were of his fellow team members winning their boats and RAF Locking sweeping the board. Despite his trying to conceal his tackle the other anglers on board had worked out the reason why R de R's was catching and they were not. During the move they got busy making up long traces which at the new position proved more successful with codling, whiting and dabs being taken. However, none were in the heavyweight bracket and the measuring rule was in high demand with several undersize species being returned to the water. With his lead reduced and becoming slimmer by the minute despite catching one codling and one whiting at this mark, R de R was glad to hear the call 'Everyone up we are going into harbour.'

At the weigh-in with rumours of 100 per cent boat

weights and moans about the lack of fish, R de R searched out his team mates to ascertain how they had fared. It soon became apparent that even with him winning top points RAF Locking was not in the running for a team prize.

After the weigh-in and a quick wash and brush up the competitors congregated in the Southcliffe Hotel for a buffet meal. While waiting for the results to be announced nearly everyone was bemoaning the lack of sport. It seems no matter how hard the organisers work at making the competition run smoothly, someone, somehow, warns the fish to stay away.

With everyone fed and watered, well pints really, but it doesn't sound right does it 'fed and beered'; Colin Bond the match secretary apologised for the lack of fish and reiterated the prizes. He then announced the winning individual with 44.7 per cent of his total boat weight, as Flt Sgt Rip Kerby from RAF Locking. Picking his chin off the table R de R went to collect his trophy and selected as his prize a Triton RDL15, one of the new lever drag reels. Back with the team R de R was in a daze, he thought he might be somewhere in the top five but coming top of over 200 anglers was something he had only dreamed of. For him the rest of the evening was a blurred memory and only the presence of the trophy negated his disbelief.

If this tale of daring do and false modesty has whetted your appetite for the piscorial hunt why not join the RAF Locking Angling Club which caters for all forms of angling. New members are always welcome so come along to the Regiment Section where the club meets at 1900hrs on the first Tuesday of each month.

See you there R de R

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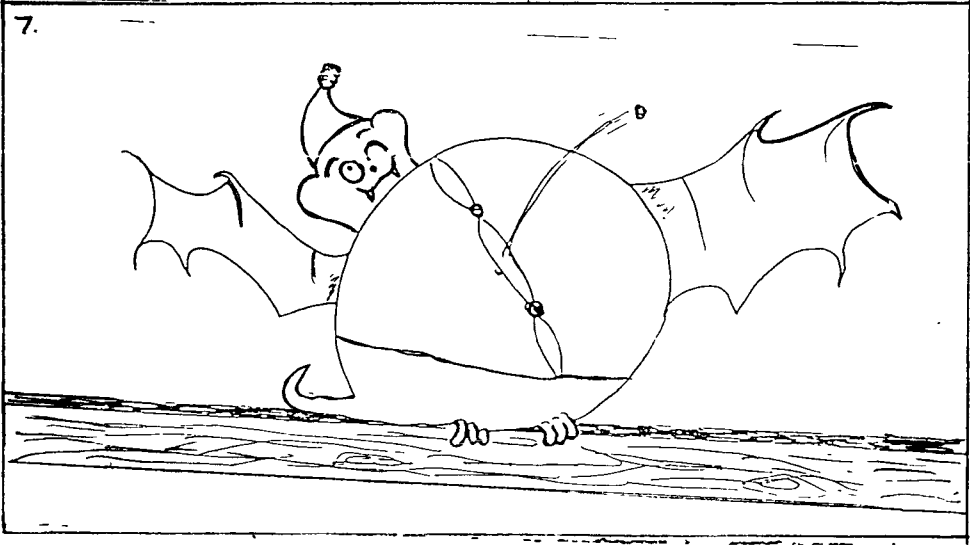
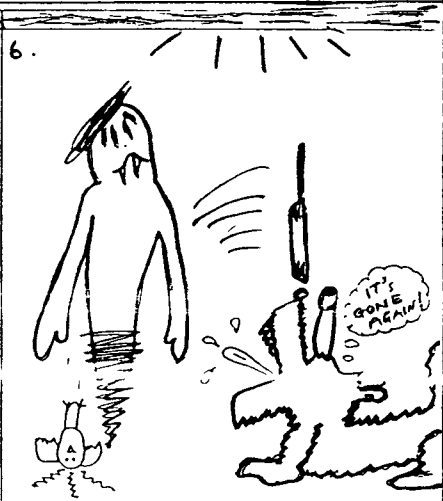
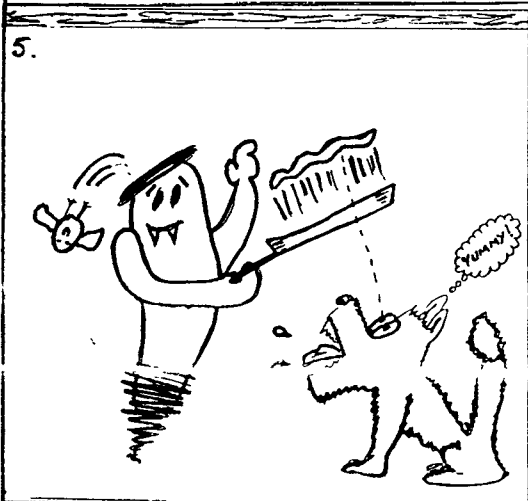
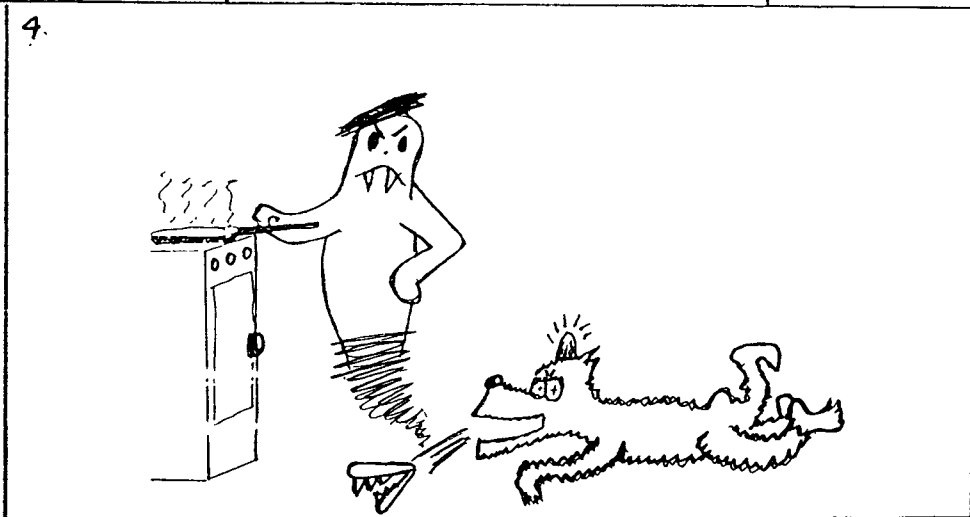
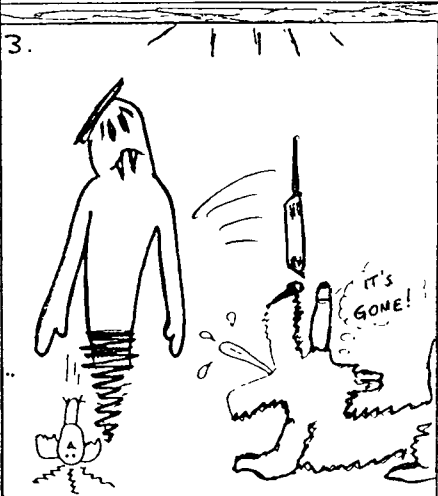
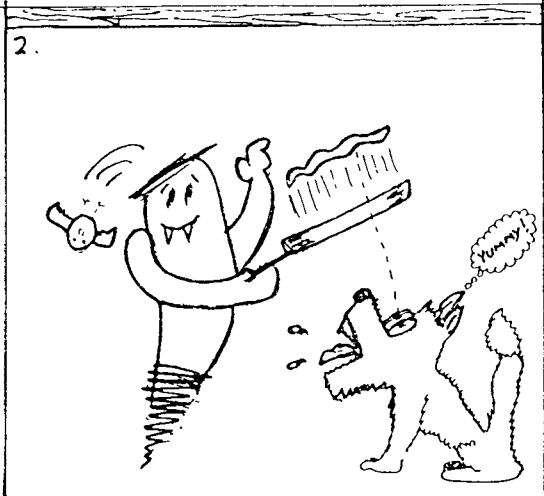
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Locking Wives' Club

The meeting held on Monday December 5 was very well attended. Kathryn Cardwell showed us how to decorate our cakes for Christmas without getting into a flap and covering the kitchen with icing sugar.

In keeping with current health problems featuring in the news; even the problem of raw eggs was solved! With a variety of ways to decorate the top of the cake demonstrated we should all have had different cakes

this year.

Following the demonstration we had a small buffet washed down with wine and coffee in keeping with the festive spirit. Unfortunately Mrs Simms was unable to attend at the last minute and we missed out on her table decorations.

February's meeting will be a colour analysis to be held on Monday February 6. See you all then!

Mothers and Toddlers

Come and meet some other 'mums' and have a chat — everyone welcome.

We meet every Monday from 1.30 - 3pm and Wednesday from 9.30 - 11am in the Flowerdown centre.

Toys, large and small, are provided and coffee, orange and biscuits are available for only 30p.

Did you know that the people at the Cheshire Home are served their morning drink by volunteers?

Each Tuesday, three or four of our ladies visit the home at Axbridge and have built up a reputation of reliability and caring.

If you can spare approximately one hour per month then we need you — they need you!

Please contact Lindsay Burton, tel 820546.

Info Snippets

✧ **Buses** to Weston-super-Mare stop at Oxford Square and the Guardroom. For times telephone Badgerline on W-s-M 21201.

✧ **Window cleaner** telephone W-s-M 823413.

✧ **Launderette** at east end of the Roundel Club building.

✧ **Mobile library** visits very other Thursday. Stops at the following places:

Adastral Road — 11.20 am

Canberra Crescent — 11.35 am

Anson Road, No 70 — 11.50 am

Merryfield Road — 12.05 pm

Woolvers Way — 12.20 pm

✧ Any queries about the Naafi shop? Contact your Naafi representatives — Veronica Symons, 7 Merryfield Road or Chris Plaxton, 27 Trenchard Road.

Baby Clinic

Baby milk, fruit juices, vitamins etc are on sale at the Welfare Clinic, Medical Centre, on the first and third Tuesday of the month between 2 and 3 pm. If you require a brand we do not currently supply, please enquire when you come.

Married Quarters Road Representatives

Canberra Crescent	Carole Abbott, 5 Canberra Cres
Anson Rd 9-51, 42-68	Angie Hendrie, 53 Anson Rd
Anson Rd 1-7, 2-40	Anne Lawn, 32 Anson Rd
Anson Rd 53-71, 70-98	Jackie Place, 60 Anson Rd
Varsity Way	Teresa Davies, 21 Varsity Way
Larkhill Rd	Joanne Lambert, 17 Larkhill
Woolvers Way	Annette Howarth, 18 Woolvers Way
Merryfield Rd	Veronica Symons, 7 Merryfield Rd
Oxford Sq 2-48	Linda Gudgeon, 24 Oxford Sq
Oxford Sq 1-75	Linda Hobbs, 26 Oxford Sq
Portal Rd	Sue Mellor, 2 Portal Rd
Trenchard Rd 1-11, 4-12	Sue Mellor, 2 Portal Rd
Trenchard Rd 13-27	Renee Springthorpe, 10 Trenchard Rd

Pinetree Rd 1-15	Renee Springthorpe, 10 Trenchard Rd
Flowerdown Rd 1-7	Cherry Sheppard, 1 Mendip Rd
Mendip Rd	
1-9, 11, 13, 15, 17	Cherry Sheppard, 1 Mendip Rd
Flowerdown Rd 9-21	Kathryn Cardwell, 9 Flowerdown Rd
Broadway	Kathryn Cardwell, 9 Flowerdown Rd
Mendip Rd 10-16, 19, 21	Kathryn Cardwell, 9 Flowerdown Rd
Spinny Rd	Rea McCullough, 4 Pinetree Rd
Pinetree Rd 2, 4	Rea McCullough, 4 Pinetree Rd
Adastral Rd	Rea McCullough, 4 Pinetree Rd
Tower Hill	Rea McCullough, 4 Pinetree Rd

Thrift Shop

The RAF Locking Thrift Shop needs your custom. We will sell your new and second hand clothes, toys, books, household linen, prams and bikes, and bric-a-brac — almost anything in fact, with the exception of electrical goods.

Ten per cent of the selling price goes to charity and an added attraction is our tea room, where you can enjoy a chat over a cuppa and a reasonably-priced snack.

The shop, in Scarf Block, is open every Wednesday during term time from 11am — 2pm.

A bright spot as a result of the present security state is that queueing at the Thrift Shop is now a thing of the past, so sort through those cupboards and drawers and let us sell all those unwanted toys etc.



Chocolate Shortcake

- 1 packet of plain chocolate digestive biscuits
- 4 oz butter
- 4 dessertspoons drinking chocolate powder
- 1 dessertspoon caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- Little caster sugar
- Double cream — whipped

Crush the digestive biscuits. Melt butter, add chocolate powder, sugar and syrup. Stir in biscuit crumbs and turn into a shallow dish. Leave overnight in a fridge and then dust with caster sugar. Cut into fingers and serve with cream.



A worthwhile and exciting hobby for boys and girls aged 13+.

Activities include flying, gliding, shooting, exercises, sport, camps, aviation studies, band, etc.

All this plus uniform for only 20p a week!

Call at 290 (Weston Super Mare) Squadron HQ — next to the Royal Mail sorting office, off Langford Road or Phone Padre Rumbold on ext 292 or Banwell 820049 or the Squadron Commander, Flt Lt G Hawkes on WSM 513076.

Did you know that...

Worle Comprehensive School and Locking Primary School have personnel from RAF Locking on their Boards of Governors?

Wg Cdr Poulter is on the Board at Worle, the SEdTO, Flt Lt Jewsbury, is a co-opted member of the Governors at Locking and Flt Lt Burton (5T, ext 392) is a Parent Governor there.

Did you know that...

The 1986 Education Act has given governors new responsibilities and powers. Like most acts of government it is heavy reading but below is a summary of the items which will affect you as parents.

The Governors must provide parents with:

- ☛ A written statement on the aims of the school curriculum which it must also send to the Local Education Authority (LEA).
- ☛ An annual report which explains how the responsibilities of the Governors have been carried out.
- ☛ The date, time and place of the annual parents' meeting. (This is a chance for the parents at the school to meet with the Governors to discuss school affairs and in particular the content of the annual report).
- ☛ A list of the members of the governing body and their relevant details.
- ☛ Details of the next election of parent governors.
- ☛ Financial information, supplied by the LEA to the Governors to enable them to plan the school's financial affairs, and details of any expenditures made by the Governors.
- ☛ Details of the Governors' work to strengthen the school's links with the community.

The previous role of the Governors was to have an overriding concern for ensuring the welfare of pupils together with the quality of their education. This role remains the same today but, the emphasis of the new Act is to share the role more evenly between representatives of the School, the LEA, the parents and the community. Hence there is no longer a monopoly of one particular section on the Board with the result that the number of elected parent governors has increased. This is in line with the present Government's thinking that parents should play a more active role in the running of their children's schools.

Remember... from now on, whatever happens in classrooms should be a shared responsibility!

Trivial Retreat — by Merlin



Thirteen new questions to test your general knowledge. Award yourself one point for each correct answer to questions 1-12 and 3 points if you can answer Merlin's Special. Ten points or more is very good, five or less is dire. Good luck.

Geography

1 Where would you find Invercargill, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Mt Cook?

2 Darwin is the capital of which Australian state?

Sport

3 Name the scorers for Manchester United when they won the 1968 European Cup Final.

4 Name the two jockeys who rode Red Rum to victory in the Grand National.

Famous Britons

5 For what should Nickolas Breakspear (1100-1159) be remembered?

6 Who discovered that a person who caught cowpox was immune to smallpox and so originated the use of vaccine injections to protect against infection?

Flags

7 Which colours appear on the flag of Finland?

8 Which is the first country (alphabetically) whose flag contains the colours red, white and blue?

History

9 In what year did the Boer war finish?

10 To within 200 years, when was Tutankhamen pharaoh of Egypt?

Literature

11 Who wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories?

12 Who wrote Moby Dick?

Merlin's Special

13 When Nick Berry reached No 1 in the UK charts with 'Every Loser Wins' in September 86 he became the second member of the Eastenders cast to have a chart topper. Who was the first, what was their record called and in what year did it reach No 1?

(One point for each part)

Poets' Corner

It's February, spring can't be far away if it's Valentines Day on the 14th with all it's hearts and flowers and dedications of undying love. How often have we heard that old chestnut before, but let's not knock it, someone somewhere will be really sincere as they utter those words. Me, I'm just too old in the tooth for such things. The words below are in fact the words of a song and yes I must confess I find them very beautiful, which dear readers (or should that be reader?) just goes to show I am also going soft in my old age.

Avalon

The Rose

Some say it is a river
That drowns the tender reed
Some say love it is a razor
That leaves your soul to bleed
Some say it is a hunger
An ever aching need
I say love it is a flower
And you it's only seed.

It's the heart afraid of breaking
That never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking
That never takes a chance
It's the one who won't be taken
Who cannot seem to give
And the soul afraid of dying
That never learns to live.

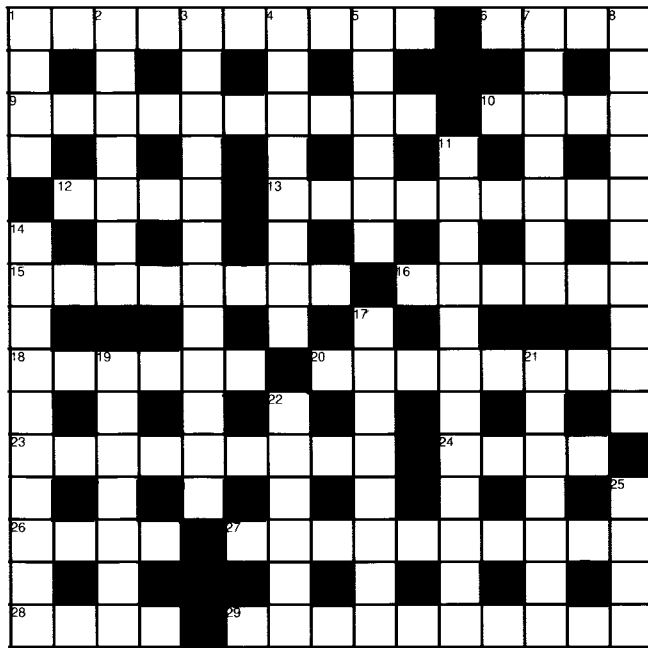
When the night has been so lonely
And the road has been too long
And you think that love is only
For the lucky and the strong
Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snow
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the Rose.

Trivial Retreat Answers

Answers: 1 New Zealand (South Island), 2 Northern Territory, 3 Bobby Charlton (2), George Best and Brian Kidd, 4 Brian Fletcher (twice) and Tommy Stack, 5 He was the only English Pope, 6 Edward Jenner, 7 Blue and White, 8 Australia, 9 1902, 10 1361 BC - 1352 BC, 11 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 12 Herman Melville, 13 Wendy Richards (with Mike Sarne) 'Come Outside' (1962).

Answers on page ?

Crossword



Across

- 1 Aquatic insect with expensive head? (10)
- 6 Vehicle parking seems fishy. (4)
- 9 Disadvantages of illegal copying makes for a secret agreement. (10)
- 10 Perform partly veiled — what a bird! (4)
- 12 Hence you are sounds dismal. (4)
- 13 Rice to act can provide cover. (9)
- 15 Small, short, miserable and sure to reduce further. (8)
- 16 The French leave racquet game alone but not down. (6)
- 18 London University circle is enticing. (6)
- 20 The IBA annual programming for plant. (8)
- 23 Actors get results when not at home as hardened sinners. (9)
- 24 Wrecks wrecked without lavatory for lowly fly boys. (4)
- 26 Royalty in trouble with rats. (4)
- 27 A fuss about restrictions has surprisingly affectionate outcomes. (10)
- 28 Shut out dwellings. (4)
- 29 Stomach performance by Dane with cell demolition. (5,5)

Down

- 1 Nick changing direction is not good. (4)
- 2 Old aircraft flying to Eastern city. (7)
- 3 Trial work with menial expert. (12)
- 4 Predict warning throw. (8)
- 5 Safe rescue attempt. (6)
- 7 Fruitful outcome of common meter with backward current action. (7)
- 8 Though badly shaken Irene helps to hold on. (10)
- 11 Sadly the awful snake initially dies and takes the performance to heart. (12)
- 14 Minor problem will upset the anglers. (5,5)
- 17 With some effort a slim tern could sing. (8)
- 19 A Rolls Royce has taste but may need assembly for another go. (7)
- 21 This clue is not described till solved. (7)
- 22 Dan Dare's initial presence in bargain opportunity proved burdensome. (6)
- 25 Starting points in South London environment links man with dogs. (4)

Solution to last issue's crossword: No 2

Across: 1 Streaks; 5 Last lap; 9 Amiss; 10 Devils Bit; 11 Celery; 12 Match Fee; 14 Impel; 15 Deference; 18 Good Alibi; 20 Repel; 22 Clematis; 24 Asarum; 26 Character; 27 Gases; 28 Allstar; 29 Matilda.

Down: 1 Searching; 2 Ruislip; 3 Australia; 4 Side; 5 Love Affair; 6 Salic; 7 Lobefin; 8 Pathe; 13 Administer; 16 Rare sight; 17 Eclampsia; 19 Overall; 21 Perusal; 22 Cocoa; 23 Apart; 25 Dram.

Word Search

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

Can you find these nine ingredients for a good Shrove Tuesday!

Pancake, Frying Pan, Shrove, Tuesday, Batter, Lemons, Sugar, Flour, Eggs

Kids' Korner

Change the top word to the bottom word by changing one letter at a time. Each new word you make on the way must itself be a proper word.

eg. **Foal** **Foal**
 Fool
 Food
 Ford
 Fore
 Fare
Mare **Mare**

Try to make the minimum number of changes.

Easy: Cats Harder: Show Hard: Help

Dogs

Hide

Save

Pancakes and Penance

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday to give it its proper name, falls on February 7 this year. The pancakes we eat on that day are, for most of us, the only remnant of what was once a very big church festival. Pancake Day is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and Lent is the period of forty days fasting representing the time Jesus spent in the Wilderness and leading up to His death on the cross on Good Friday. So on Pancake Day, the custom was to use up all the remaining luxury foods such as meat, fat and eggs in one big fry-up, and only eat plain and simple food until Lent was over. There was also a public holiday with fairs — Mardi Gras (which means Fat Tuesday) — and lots of other merry-making on Pancake Day. After the festivities, and probably with a hangover, it was the custom to go to church to be 'shriven' or make your confession to mark the beginning of Lent. So Lent is a time for thinking seriously about ourselves, our weaknesses, God's Grace and His forgiveness. It is a time for 'being sorry' and resolving with God's help to 'try harder', accepting the forgiveness and love shown to us on the cross.

So why Ash Wednesday? Originally very pious people used to wear tatty robes made of sacking or similar rags and rub ashes in their hair to show their humility and to indicate they were trying to sort themselves out. Hence the phrase 'sackcloth and ashes', and in mediaeval times people would spend time with their parish priest during Lent seeking help with both their religious and worldly problems and anxieties, rather like people go to a counsellor or psychotherapist today. So strangely, all the time that I spend in counselling today is really very much like my mediaeval predecessors.

People hurt in many different ways because of all sorts of problems, and it's good to be able to share the pain with somebody and receive some help. I am sure that you all know that you can come and see me in the strictest confidence if you wish, but there are many other organisations able to offer help and I have listed some below. I hope that you never have need of them, but please be assured that if you feel the need to talk to them — or me — on any of these problem areas, you will receive sympathetic, supportive and confidential help.

**Every blessing
Bernard Rumbold**

Alcoholics Anonymous Bristol 265520 or 265926
CRUSE (for the bereaved) Bristol 264045
RELATE (formerly Marriage Guidance) WSM 27206
Narcotics Anonymous
(for drug problems) Bristol 40084
AIDS Helpline (free calls) 0800 567 123
(Padre Rumbold is also a trained AIDS Helpline counsellor)
Samaritans WSM 32555

Also you can always speak to Padre Rumbold, office ext 292 or home Banwell 820049.



Church of England

St George's Church — Scarf Block ext 292 (telephone answering machine).

Sunday Services

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am 1st Sunday — Family Service
3rd Sunday — Mattins
Others — Holy Communion

Chaplain — Padre Bernard Rumbold, 1 Broadway, Locking, Banwell 820049

Baptisms and Confirmations — by arrangement with the Chaplain.

Church of Scotland and Free Churches

St Andrew's Church — by the Guardroom. Office — Scarf Block ext 360.

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Worship with Sunday School
Holy Communion — 1st Sunday in Month

Chaplain — Padre Leslie Gregory, 3 Partridge Close, Worle. WsM 514842.

The Church is open every day for private prayer and meditation. Marriages, baptisms and confirmations by arrangement with the Padre.

Roman Catholic Church

Holy Cross — Scarf Block ext 360.

Holy Mass

5.00pm Saturdays (confession before and after Mass)

Chaplain — See church noticeboard.
Baptisms by arrangement with the Chaplain.

Weekday Events

Monday at 8.00pm — Fellowship Group for Bible Study, discussion, exploration of the Christian Faith or just fellowship.

Details available from the Padre.

Thursdays

12.30pm Holy Communion and Prayers
8.00pm SASRA Bible Study — with singing, prayers and study of scripture.

These meetings take place in the Coffee Lounge upstairs in Scarf Block. All are welcome to come along to both of the above meetings.



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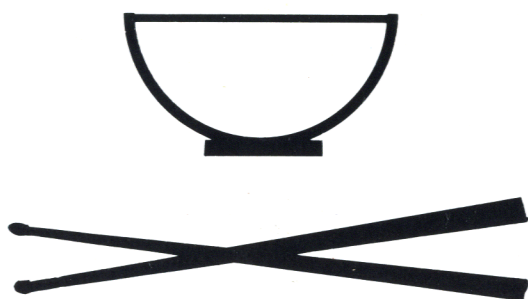
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