

TIME FOR CHANGE?

I was talking to someone recently who was telling me about their experience with a satellite navigation system (sat nav) they had been given for Christmas, that added 20 miles on to their journey, by directing them via a much longer route than was necessary. I told them how I had once come across a juggernaut on the south west coastal path that was trying to find a farm! Again it had been following its sat nav. It is true that some farms can be difficult to find which reminds me of my first job, which was a long time ago, long before they had sat navs. My new boss, who didn't believe in wasting money, had given me a battered old map so I could find my way around the area. It had all the farms clearly marked so I could not get lost!

It just so happened that one night I was called out to a farm, some distance away, that I had not visited previously. I pulled my trusty map from the glove box and headed off into the countryside, along the very narrow lanes. I found the track that ran down to the farm itself and turned off, but felt somewhat worried as the lane was rather narrower and more overgrown than I expected. It carried on going down hill and got gradually narrower, bumpier, muddier and more overgrown. The lane was too narrow and steep to turn around anyway so I pressed on ahead to the bottom of the hill where I met a very swollen stream, well almost a river. I did not want to risk driving through it so I pulled on my waders (this was Exmoor and you needed these to get around the farms) and pulled together some equipment and a torch and set forth across the river. Up the other side I went and was soon gladdened by the sight of distant lights. As I approached the farm I felt a pang of sympathy for the farming family having to make such a difficult journey every time they went out.

However on reaching the farm this soon evaporated, when on coming to the brow of the hill, I was greeted by the sight of a new lane running down to a new road! None of which was on my battered old map! The farmer was amazed; no one had used that access for years he said. My car had to be towed out backwards and needed some repairs to its clutch which cost a lot more than a new map. Now while my boss was always a bit careful with what he spent he would not have deliberately

scrimped on buying a new map. It was just he had never got round to it. He was busy and there was always something more important to do!

This is, of course, like many of us. It can be difficult, for example, to find the time to take our pet for its vaccination, or to de-worm or de-flea it. So now we have reached yet another new year I am making a resolution not to be like my old boss but to get on and make the time for all those jobs that need doing. Maybe you will join me!?

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