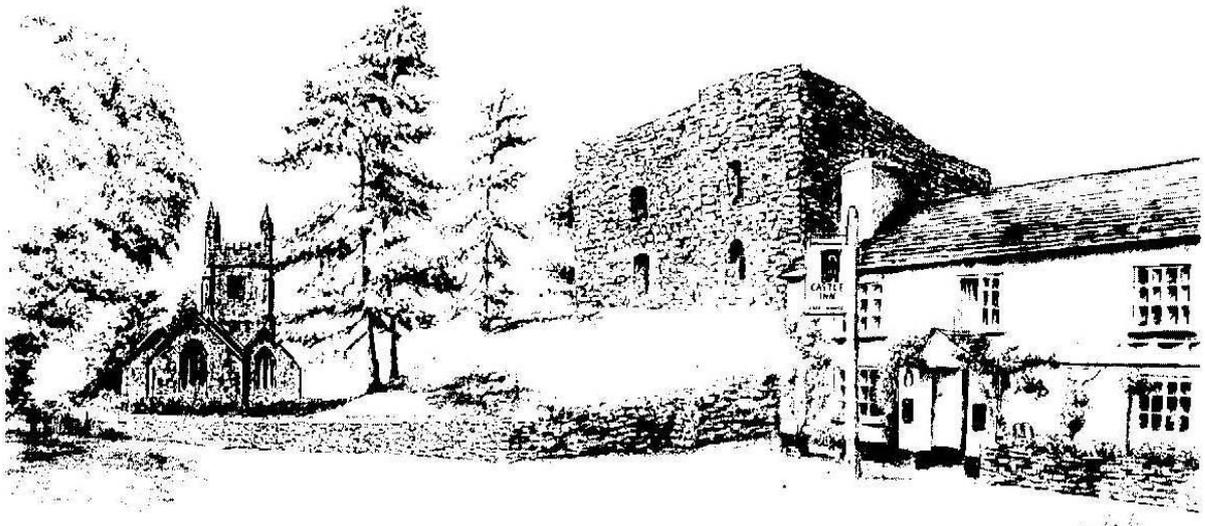


# **LYDFORD PARISH AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE**

**August 2020**



**Stay alert, be kind, be safe.**

**40p**

## LYDFORD PARISH STAFF

<b>Team Rector</b>	<b>Rev'd Stephen Cook</b> The Rectory, Okehampton	<b>01837 659297</b>
<b>Team Vicar</b>	<b>Rev'd Adrian Brook</b> St Bridget's House, Rectory Lane, Bridestowe	<b>01837 861580</b>
Church Warden	Mike Crocker	01822 820219
Treasurer	Mary Barkell	01822 820272
Secretary	Mary Barkell	01822 820272
Lay Worship Leader	Howard Barkell	01822 820272
Bell Tower Captain	Ivor Conybeare	01822 820374
	or email <a href="mailto:parishmag@powne.com">parishmag@powne.com</a>	
Magazine Editor	Sue Powne	01822 820411

**St Petroc's** is open every day during daylight hours - we hope that you will visit it often and find it a place of beauty, peace and prayer. We worship each Sunday at 11.00 and on other special occasions through the year.

We are happy to receive enquiries regarding baptisms or weddings from people in the Lydford area, or with connections to Lydford, and we conduct funeral services for local people. Please contact Rev'd Adrian Brook at: The Vicarage, Bridestowe, tel. 01837 861580 or email [adrian@ministry.plus.com](mailto:adrian@ministry.plus.com)

Please ensure all contributions for the Magazine are with the editor by the **20th of each month** either sent to Merriment House, Lydford, EX20 4AU, or emailed to [parishmag@powne.com](mailto:parishmag@powne.com).

## LYDFORD SUNDAY SERVICES

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
<b>11.00 am</b> Short Morning Prayer	<b>11.00 am</b> Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	<b>11.00 am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>11.00 am</b> All Age Family Communion	Joint Benefice Service at 11.00 am

## READINGS – August

<b>2 Aug</b>	Isaiah 55, 1-5	Matthew 4, 13-21	Michael Weller
<b>9 Aug</b>	1 Kings 19, 9-18	Matthew 14,22-33	Lorna Rolf
<b>16 Aug</b>	Isaiah 56,1, 6-8	Matthew 15 (10-20) 21-28	Ian Lamb
<b>23 Aug</b>	Isaiah 51, 1-6	Matthew 16, 13-20	Dinie Brickl
<b>30 Aug</b>	Fifth Sunday		

### CHURCH FLOWER ROTA


Thank you for your help. Vestry key is available from Dinie Brickl on 01822 820285 (phone the evening before you need the key), or Mary Barkell 01822820272 or 07724980394. **Please clean the cross, candle sticks, snuffer and alms plate which is in the top drawer of the bigger small chest. Cleaning materials are in the**

**cupboard under the sink.** If you find you are unable to do the flowers on your day, please arrange a swop.

### CHURCH CLEANING and COFFEE ROTA

	Cleaning	Coffee on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday

### MARY TAVY METHODIST CHURCH

**No Services at Present**

*All services have been suspended until further notice, but the church will remain open during daylight hours for prayers and quiet reflection.*

## *The Vicar Writes:*

It was wonderful to see the three swallows fledge from their nest in the church porch. At one point I thought only two would make it, the parents worked furiously to feed the growing chicks but the two bigger ones seemed to be getting all the grub, the smaller one wasn't strong enough to get the front first and seemed to be missing out. There is no orderly queuing, taking in it in turns or sharing when it comes to nature, just a first come first served survival of the fittest and strongest brutal reality. Not much room for morals in the animal world.

Nature is full of immoral living, even our beloved Cuckoo, herald of the English summer is a cheating freeloader. It doesn't bother to build its own nest, turfs out the eggs of the bird that did all the hard work and deceives her in to hatching its own eggs. I don't know how they sleep at night.

When it comes to mating, well close your eyes. Whether it's Bulls, Stags or Stallions it doesn't matter, they'll jump on anything, sister, daughter, mother; absolutely no morals whatsoever.

My two ponies have been together for a long a time and are completely devoted to one another, if one is separated the other gets very anxious and agitated, but when it comes to food the bigger one won't think twice about bullying the small one.

Any dog owner doesn't need reminding about some the disgusting habits of dogs.

Morality seems to be a peculiarly human thing and is often associated with that other peculiar human thing called religion.

Boy goes to confession and tells the priest he has been with a girl of loose morals.

"That's a grievous sin," the priest says. "Tell me: Was it Mary Cooper?"

"No, Father."

"Was it Kate Smith?"

"No, Father."

"Was it Kathleen Brown?"

"No, Father. I don't want to say who it was."

Later, as the boy leaves the church, he sees a friend, who asks him, "How'd it go?"

He answers, "Well, I got ten Hail Marys, five Our Fathers... and three great leads."

I have been reading a book by TV presenter Timmy Mallet, about his cycling pilgrimage along the Camino de Compostella in Spain. When he visited Castile he writes: "Under the impressive carved archway of the local church is the burial spot of Cesare Borgia, a sixteenth-century son of a pope. I'm surprised popes had kids, but the moral here is that what is

normal today may be quite strange tomorrow. However, a smile, a kind word and a good turn will always be appreciated throughout the ages.”

The third swallow chick fledged a week after the other two, the parents kept returning to feed it so it had all the best grub without the other two there.

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISH CHURCH**

### **From the Church Registers**

*Nothing from the records this month*

#### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

The church is open daily from 10am to 4pm for private prayer.

If you intend to use the church for this purpose, please observe the following rules.

Please only use the centre aisles. The rest of the church is cordoned off to make the daily cleaning routine easier. Due to the current 2 metre rule the red kneelers are placed to give an idea for distancing.

Please use hand sanitiser before entering the building and before leaving (sanitiser in the porch).

Please observe social distancing.

Please observe the silence and respect other people's privacy.

#### **The Church is Open**

Our normal Sunday Service pattern has now resumed but at the time of writing the services will continue to be said and there will be no refreshments after the Sunday service on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The PCC will be meeting in church at 9.00 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **Finance**

A big thank you to those of you who have been kind enough to answer my plea in last month's magazine and given donations during the 'lockdown' period. About £1500 has been given. A special thank you to the kind person who made a particularly generous gift and indeed to everyone that has found that bit extra to donate during this difficult time. As previously reported, it is unlikely that we will be able to fundraise this year and at the time of writing we do not know when it will be safe to welcome visitors back into church with book stock, and other merchandise for them to buy.

We also have three new subscribers to 'easyfundraising', thank you for letting us benefit from your online purchases. Here are the details for the link again which were given last month:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpetrocslydford](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpetrocslydford)

*Mary Barkell, Treasurer*

## **CHURCH SERVICES RESUMED**

If you live in West Devon, then compared with most of the rest of the country, you already live in semi-isolation, which now appears much sought after by those in metropolitan areas who like the idea of working from home.

To minimise the risks of Covid 19 the Church has principles which St Petroc's have implemented covering: preparation, entry, seating (though social distancing is normally only a problem two weeks of the year!), texts, and exit. No singing is allowed but we have devised a chant style to give some clear rhythm to prayers. There is specific guidance for individual types of services including Communion – the Celebrant drinks the wine on our behalf and we receive a wafer individually. So far we have had Matins on 5<sup>th</sup> July with an attendance of 19 and Communion on 12<sup>th</sup> July with an attendance of 22, similar to our normal numbers but without the visitors who join us in the summer. It was good to worship together again after three months absence although the Northmoor Benefice has provided a regular on- line service which has been greatly appreciated.

The Church, for the first time in a thousand years, closed on 24<sup>th</sup> March when the UK wide lockdown was introduced and re-opened for private prayer and contemplation from 15<sup>th</sup> June. We are fortunate in Lydford that St Petroc's is open daily between 10am and 4pm. Come in, find your niche, pause, think, listen and see what happens; you can talk to God. (If you want to meet him, use your mobile phone while driving!) Yes, there are risks in life; we live by being aware of them and taking the risks that are an integral part of life.

In his Sermon on July 5<sup>th</sup> our Vicar, Adrian talked of how Lockdown had emphasised the value of those who supported our lives in the public services and logistics that deliver goods and services and our lack of need for 'celebrities' from the media and sport. Also the calm during the period which challenged our need to be busy and made us think about what really mattered and the needs of others. This has much to offer as we look for the Normal in the year ahead, recognising the dislocation to the lives of millions of people for years to come.

*Tim Stapleton*

The Parish Council met online on Tuesday 14th. The period at the start of the meeting for public involvement was given over to discussion of the issues surrounding one of the planning applications to be considered at the meeting.

Councillors were told that the long standing facility for local residents to visit Lydford Gorge free of charge was having to be suspended for the immediate future. Because of restrictions caused by the Corona virus, admission to the Gorge is by pre-booked ticket only.

Borough and County Councillors wanted to remind residents that grants are available through both West Devon Borough and Devon County councils for projects to improve the community. Qualifying families who are either expecting or have children of 4 or under might be entitled to vouchers for free fruit and vegetables (fresh or frozen), milk and vitamins under the NHS Healthy Start programme. <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/>

Councillors are keen to open the public toilets now that the conditions of lockdown are easing and visitors returning to the village. They are grateful to Councillor Neil Grigg whose efforts have ensured that the toilets are fit for re-open safely. The Council meets on Monday 20th to approve the spending, and if agreed the toilets will re-open on Tuesday 21st.

It was pleasing to note that the dead trees beside the bridleway between the Castle Inn and Lydford Castle are to be dealt with by Dartmoor National Park.

Councillors are looking to explore additional sites for the new Vehicle Activated Speed sign that was failed to be installed on the A386 opposite the Lydford Farm Shop on Monday 1st June. This will entail further site visits, meetings with owners and more discussions with Devon Highways.

Following the number of complaints about the amount of dog mess being left around the village, Councillors have placed a number of signs to remind parishioners that it is their responsibility to pick up behind their dogs. West Devon Borough Council operate a Warden Scheme and wardens can issue penalty notices to anyone breaching regulations on cleaning up behind their dogs. Offences can be reported direct by email: [Environmentalprotectionauto@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Environmentalprotectionauto@swdevon.gov.uk) or online at

<https://apps.westdevon.gov.uk/webreportit>

Finally, it is hoped that the next Council meeting in September can be held in person rather than online, hopefully increasing the numbers attending. This however is dependent upon the advice coming from regional and national government.

Be safe, be kind, be smart.

Anyone wishing to attend future meetings either online or in person should contact the clerk in the first instance – [clerk@lydfordparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@lydfordparishcouncil.com) so that the correct provision can be made for them to participate safely.

## **A “STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF” MOMENT by Barbara Weeks**

**H**ow contrary the human race is! We have a wonderful planet to live on and yet from the moment we were kicked out of the Garden of Eden we have been fighting over something or other and thoughtlessly damaging our environment. Take now, when 'lockdown' came pollution dropped dramatically and we all noticed! How clear the air is, we said and how quiet, we can hear the birds sing, we must try and keep it like this. Did we? We tried, but the traffic is back and in fairness this is how we have learned to live over the years. In one lifetime we have gone from the weekly orders delivered to our door to multiple visits to the shops in the car, which we say is essential and, in truth, for rural dwellers it is. But all these crises are scary, do you remember the Suez Crisis? Autumn 1956, John and I were about to be married but my boss was quite high up on the Royal Navy reserve list and he explained to me that if he was called up I would have to stay on - marriage or no marriage! It was all right and our wedding went ahead as planned unlike some poor young people at the moment - and that includes one of my grandsons. I think everyone found the Cold War a very frightening time. One of my daughters was born at 9pm on 13th August 1961, on the ten o'clock news that evening it was announced that the Berlin Wall had been built. By the autumn of 1962 things between Russia and the West were at boiling point and we had the Cuban Crisis and that I found the most terrifying thing ever because there was absolutely nothing one could do to make oneself safer, one just had to sit there and hope and pray that one wouldn't get blasted to eternity.

Life should have been perfect, we were living in a 'tied' cottage at Carswell Manor which was home to a very nice Prep School where John was teaching. One of the nicest things was that there were colonies of nightingales to listen to as darkness fell on summer evenings. Carswell Manor is a Jacobean house with later additions built with beautiful honey coloured Cotswold stone for John Southby High Sheriff of Berkshire and M.P. for Berkshire around the 1650s, but his family had lived on the site from 1584. It stands on what is known as the 'golden ridge', partly because of its beauty and partly because of the number of stately homes built along it - neighbouring Buckland House, Barcote Manor, Faringdon House and Buscot Manor to name but a few. West of Oxford the original estate stretched from the Thames at Carswell Marsh to across what is now the A420 to Carswell Farm ( the model dairy farm whose owner I met by chance in Nairobi) the manor overlooked the upper Thames valley, scholar gypsy country with old inns with names like 'The Rose Revived' and the

'Lamb and Flag' it was just about perfect and also quite interesting. Carswell Manor was purchased in 1892 by William Niven, a lawyer and an architect, who went about sympathetically remodelling the place, this included landscaping the grounds and extending his view with a 'ha-ha', making a polo ground and moving the stable yard further from the house. The old thatched stables were used by the school for lawn mowers and anything else that needed a home; the new stables were converted into staff accommodation. From our kitchen window we could see right across the Thames valley goodness knows how far. Mr Niven must have loved his horses because the stables were wonderful and the yard with big high gates was a safe area for my small children, the disadvantage was that the rooms were lofty and extraordinarily cold! Local tradition had it that David Niven, a very attractive and able film star, I think the first James Bond, was born at Carswell, but his birth certificate states Belgravia. The family sold soon after but the Niven family crest and motto remain.

Next owner was Captain Butler married to an American heiress. He was an aeroplane enthusiast and probably used the polo ground as an airstrip. Again local tradition says he was from the Lambert and Butler cigarette business. We had been living at another Prep School which was in the house built by Mr Palmer of Huntley and Palmer -so we went from biscuits to cigarettes! Capt. Butler was reported missing in action in October in October 1917 but his only son was brought up at Carswell. Around 1940 there was a massive legal case over how long someone had to be missing before they could be officially declared dead. This was very costly and, along with the changes brought by WW2 meant that the estate was split up with the manor house and a fair acreage being sold to St. Hugh's School. We went to Oxford to have passport photos taken, goodness knows how John found this dear old photographer but he told us how he used to be fetched by car by both the Nivens and the Butlers to take family portraits. He took one of us in addition to the passport photos, we look very Edwardian in a setting which included the potted palm and all! So, why when we were apparently isolated from all dangers was I so scared? Well, in the valley below us about six miles as the crow flies was Brize Norton at that time an American air base for B52 bombers. A neighbour worked on the base running a quick snack bar on the runway, she was having to spend the night on duty and she told us that the planes were on 4 minute warning. Night after night we went to bed having watched the news about J.F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev snarling at each other. We would be woken by the sound of the planes revving up (no double glazing to keep the sound out) we would hug each other knowing that if they took off it was the end for us as Brize Norton would be a target. Enormous relief when the engines cut and silence returned only to be broken a couple of hours later. I was terrified for my three little children but equally the thought that our beautiful world would be so damaged - remember Nagasaki and Hiroshima were still not far behind us. Sunday morning I was outside, 28th October, 1962, feeding the pony and the chickens and, as I thought, looking my last at all things lovely when John, who was inside with the children with the radio on for Alistair Cooke's

'Letter from America', flung open the window and shouted 'It is all right we are safe'. Alistair Cooke summed it up when he said that the radio was playing 'Oh! What a beautiful morning'!

We spent four more happy years at Carswell and I am still in contact with the friends I made all those years ago. The school is still there but the model farm is now a golf course!

**LYDFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL, Acting Head of School - Mrs  
Deirdre Petersen**

*No report this month.*

**NICHOLLS HALL**



**Booking Secretary:** Jerry Lock 01822 820664, or email [lydfordhall@gmx.com](mailto:lydfordhall@gmx.com).

**All of the activities are cancelled until further notice due to the coronacrisis. The Nicholls Hall is closed for events and hiring for the time being.**

**MORE OLD THINGS TO INSPECT - Howard Barkell**

Since in many moorland villages the oldest building is the church it is not surprising that they are listed and if you have anything to do with maintaining them will know how difficult it is to get permission to alter them in any way. Most will not be the original building and all will have undergone internal 'restoration' of sorts, especially during the later years of the nineteenth century. Most buildings date from the fifteenth century. St. Bridget's replaced an earlier building close by which was then used as a 'poor house'. The present tower was rebuilt and heightened in 1828 and the windows are not original. At St. Thomas a Beckett the chancel, the oldest part of the church, was largely rebuilt in 1848 and most of the windows have been replaced during its history. Likewise, at St. Petroc's a chancel wall had to be rebuilt and a new aisle and vestry added in 1890. The stained glass in the windows dates from 1880 to 1936, although there are bits of much earlier Flemish glass in one of the chancel windows.

The churchyards also contain scheduled monuments in the shape of gravestones. Several eighteenth century memorials have survived, invariably in slate, although it is likely that many more have perished during various re-orderings. They normally give details of the deceased followed

by a verse about the person's mortality. At Lydford there are also a set of granite head and foot stones. The head stones give initials, the foot stones year of death. The pinnacles of society often went for elaborate tombs within the church, those slightly less important settled for a table tomb in the churchyard, usually a large granite slab supported on two legs, the whole surmounted by a suitably grand slate slab. Chest tombs were similar in purpose, although the body was buried under ground. Lying horizontally the slate slabs have often become victims of the weather, lack of attention or climbing ivy and have fragmented. The well documented Watchmaker's Epitaph at Lydford is now displayed inside the church for this reason.

One of the oldest things in Lydford is the font. It is tub shaped and carved from a solid block of Hurdwick stone from the quarry near Tavistock. It is pre-Norman, probably Saxon in origin. It still bears the remains of the iron hinges and staple used when fonts were ordered to have a locked cover in the early thirteenth century. This was to prevent the theft of the holy water which was kept in it.

At Bridestowe look no further than the arch at the entrance to the churchyard. This Norman chancel arch was placed in its present position circa 1828 when the church was undergoing renovation. Coryndon Luxmore, Rector at the time, records how the shell of the old Norman church was still in the churchyard and how it had been converted into use as a refuge for the poor, but had long since fallen into disrepair. He had it demolished, but moved the arch and equipped it with cast iron gates similar to those on the church porch. The whole was completed with a rubble wall and granite crenellations. The gateway is something of a survivor because it was completely demolished and the gates smashed beyond repair in 1944 when an American Army tank transporter returning from D Day preparations in Cornwall ran off the road late at night, glanced off the houses on the right and veered into the cottage and gateway on the left. The cottage was quickly repaired, but the gateway was a pile of rubble for several more years. Fortunately, the driver of the left-hand drive tractor and the ancient stones of the arch survived unscathed. Lest it be thought that Coryndon Luxmore had little feeling for the poor it should be mentioned that as well as pulling down the old poor house he was so appalled at the state of housing in the village when he arrived that he built a terrace of twenty or so cottages on both sides of the church gate, four of which still survive.

Sourton can boast of at least two instances of even older examples of man's legacy in the area. The cross, now on the by-road to the caravan park, has had at least three different uses. It is a granite slab about seven feet long. It is thought to be a sixth century Romano Christian memorial. Where it was originally erected is not known. Later, probably 14/15<sup>th</sup> century the slab was fashioned into a cross with short arms and used as a waymarker. Those of you with long memories may remember when it stood in a recess where the A386 crossed the A30. At some time to reinforce its use as a kind of signpost the four faces were marked with the

letters T for Tavistock, O for Okehampton, L for Launceston and H for Hatherleigh. It was moved to its present position when the A30 was dualled and re-aligned.

Another old standing stone has had at least two different uses and at least three different sites. This is the granite pillar now placed on the Village Green opposite the Highwayman. It is an early Christian stone probably dating from the tenth century. It was removed from its original site and used as part of an agricultural building at East Linnacombe. It was repaired and re-erected in its present position in 1985.

A short, but uphill, stroll to the north slope of Sourton Tor will take you to the remains of another ill-fated industrial enterprise on Dartmoor called the Iceworks. In 1875 James Henderson took out a 21 year lease with the Duchy of Cornwall to build a series of 6 terraces divided into ponds where during the winter water from a spring would freeze hard. The resulting blocks of ice would be stored in a central building dug into the ground before being sold to the fishing industry in Plymouth. Although the railway had gone through in the previous year the scheme was doomed to failure by the recent invention of machine-made ice. Mild winters only exacerbated the problem and the lease was relinquished in 1886.

Another slightly earlier, but even bigger undertaking, also Scheduled are the remains of Wheal Frederick or Foxhole Mine on the Doe Tor Brook. Indeed, the whole area up to Dick's Well is included. Again, no expense was spared to prepare the site for production. A leat was dug to provide water power, a water wheel and crushing stamps installed and the tailrace water was used in two circular buddles to separate the heavier tin ore from the lighter sand and soil. A two roomed building was built complete with fireplaces. A short track was used to convey ore to the cleaning plant. It crossed the Doe Tor Brook on an 8 slab clapper and some drilled granite sleepers which held the rails can still be seen. Small quantities of dressed ore were sent to Cornwall for smelting but it is unlikely to have ever done much more than covered costs. The mine worked intermittently from 1845, but was abandoned by 1879 and probably never had more than half a dozen workers at any one time. The upper valley had been extensively worked for alluvial tin in the sixteenth century.

Another scheduled site where an awful lot of digging took place was at the top of Burley Wood. First an Iron Age earthwork was built followed by a Norman motte and bailey castle.

The area has long been covered in trees, but the earthworks spread into the surrounding fields as well.

A small, but interesting, relic is the milestone on the old turnpike road between Tavistock and Okehampton. It stands just to the north of Lower Beardon where the original toll road was diverted in 1824, a route which the present A386 still follows. The granite pillar, about a metre tall, has short arms and if you have a good imagination might be likened to a cross. It marks the distance from Tavistock as 7 miles, that from Oakhampton 8 miles and rather surprisingly Truro 57 miles. No mention is made of

Plymouth for example. The original road crossed the Lyd at what is locally called Roman Bridge, but dates from the 1762 build, then goes steeply uphill through the garden of Skitt Cottage and through a field before emerging onto the present road near the sharp bend above the present Skitt bridge.

As might be expected the old 'big' houses like Bidlake, Leawood, Millaton and Collaven are listed. The old Rectory at Lydford (Bayfield House) is included as well as some farm buildings. Among 'ordinary' houses are the three (originally four) estate workers' cottages at Bridhayes, and Bearslake (which was originally two cottages and associated farm buildings). Various other sites, too numerous to mention here, are also thought worthy of being listed. Take a closer look at your heritage next time you are out and about.

### LYDFORD BOOTS AND BEER CLUB – Paul Brookes

**B**ack in harness, sort of, our first trip of the month took us out to Prewley Moor where we set off and completed the same walk as described last month, out along the West Okement valley, through Black a Tor copse, across the river to visit the crash site, and back via Shelstone Tor and Corn Hole Bowl. Mentioned last month was "roche moutonnée" as a description of the Slipper Stones along the valley side and I can now reveal that this is "where a lump of bedrock in the valley bottom or side has a smooth or grooved-up glacier surface with a rough broken lee side." Thus indicating which direction the glacial ice was moving in.



The next walk saw our intrepid bunch set off on the second Friday, (except it was a Thursday this time!) of the month. Our route of just under 9 miles saw one of our team achieve a long held wish of walking from Mary Tavy to Peter Tavy via the old track from the church. This sets off past the entrance to the Power Station and crosses the Tavy in the delightful glade below. Here, we took a detour to visit some of the old mine workings and in particular the turbine remains. This is a relic of the Edwardian age and dates from 1906 having been used as dynamo creating electricity to power tin extraction from the mines, as well as compress air. This served what was Wheal Ann, the Devon United South Mine, that operated until 1922.

An inscription on the turbine reads "When you pass me, don't forget those days gone by when my brave heartbeat to the sound of a thousand men's voices echoed in water." A very romantic vision but forgetting the noise of the mining, the pumps, the tramway and the smell and smoke being produced (not forgetting the arsenic being mined)!

We backtracked to the river and carried on along the bridlepath, passing Longtimber Tor covered in greenery and trees. This is another example

of dolerite and lies just outside the metamorphic aureole of Dartmoor mentioned last month. Into Peter Tavy alongside the Inn (having intensive work done to the car park) and then up through Little Combe onto Smeardon Down. It was now very humid with light rain and poor visibility to contend with. Reaching Stephens Grave we paused for a while before ascending White Tor. This is not a granite tor, lying in the middle of the metamorphic aureole, but of dolerite, a volcanic intrusion from c350 million years ago. Unfortunately, the rain came back, and the visibility did not get much better so after our coffee stop we descended without having a look round the hillfort and many settlements.

Exiting the moor via a few stone walled drift lanes we arrived at Cudlipptown and decided to extend the walk out to Hill Bridge via Horndon Bridge and the north side of the Tavy Valley. The recent rain had turned this tiny path into an adventurous scramble alongside the river with one of our younger walkers saying he felt like Indiana Jones! Lunch was by the river below Hill Bridge and its salmon leat (recent railings have stopped the use of the riverside wall as a convenient sitting bench for lunch!).

Back through Creason Wood alongside the fast flowing leat to Horndon and into Mary Tavy along the lane, avoiding the often muddy and extremely difficult stiles on the footpath down from The Elephants Nest.

Reaching our cars we bid our farewells and hoped that perhaps next time at the finish, we could adjourn to a watering hole to enjoy the second half of our little club name!

The current restrictions are easing, and we are out and about again with restricted numbers. Second and last Thursday of every month, 0930 at the car park. Numbers have to be limited so it would be helpful to make contact before coming along please; Paul Brookes at Burley View, Vale Down on 01822 820597, 0796959 2779 or paul@burleyview.co.uk.

***NB.*** *We used to meet on the second and last Friday of every month, but now it is the second and last Thursday of the month.*

<b>LYDFORD BOOK CLUB – Bekki Hill</b>
---------------------------------------

**D**ue to the current need for social distancing book group meetings are taking place via Zoom at 8.30pm on the first Thursday of the month. We will be discussing what we are currently individually reading and having a catch up with each other.

If you wish to join in call or text Bekki on 07949870812 or email bekki@thedartmooryarncompany.co.uk for further details.

## LYDFORD KNIT/CROCHET AND SIP – Bekki Hill

Due to the current need for social distancing meetings are cancelled until further notice.

## LYDFORD SPORTS FIELD – Hannah Braithwaite Smith

No report this month.

## LYDFORD FOXES – Chairman of Lydford Foxes AFC



For more information visit [www.lydfordfoxes.com](http://www.lydfordfoxes.com). You can also find us on Twitter @LydfordFoxes and Facebook. Support your village club and our children. Go Foxes!

If you know of somebody who would like to join the Foxes, get in touch via the website [www.lydfordfoxes.com](http://www.lydfordfoxes.com). Alternatively email [gavin@lydfordfoxes.com](mailto:gavin@lydfordfoxes.com) or [asa@lydfordfoxes.com](mailto:asa@lydfordfoxes.com). Come on you Foxes!

## FILMS AND TV SHOWS– a Recommendation by our Film Correspondent

### Inception – Christopher Nolan’s Hit Sci-Fi Blockbuster

In August Christopher Nolan’s new high-concept film Tenet will hopefully release in and is the latest in a line of complex and unique science fiction films from him that started ten years ago with his heist film, Inception.

While Inception follows the structure of a typical heist movie, its story and setting makes it more like high-concept science fiction thriller, featuring elements like lucid dreaming and the perils of tampering with someone’s subconscious. Inception follows Dom Cobb (played by the always excellent Leonardo DiCaprio), who is an extractor: he extracts information from someone’s subconscious by placing them within a dream that his team builds and manipulates. They are hired by a man called Saito (Ken Watanabe), CEO of an energy company, to infiltrate the subconscious of his competitor (Cillian Murphy) and plant the idea in his head to dissolve his company – this is Inception. While for his team this is just another job, Cobb has high personal stakes in the outcome, stakes which his volatile subconscious will exploit to sabotage the inception in the form of his wife, Mal (Marion Cotillard).

Inception’s biggest strength is its use of the extreme physics in dreams to create jaw dropping visuals and stunning set pieces. Despite being ten

years old the visual effects are seamless and the set pieces are frequently creative and varied. Of particular note is one ingenious hallway sequence in the latter half that makes excellent use of the impact events in the real world can have on someone dreaming. All this visual splendour is grounded by a story that while not particularly complicated or deep does a good job at giving the audience a reason to be invested in Cobb and his team's task. This is helped by an excellent cast, with Tom Hardy in particular frequently stealing scenes as the suave and debonair forger, Eames.

Unfortunately, Nolan's concept of going into people's dreams to plant or extract information is so ambitious that it necessitates having a large part of the film deal with explaining all the various rules of performing inceptions. While the exposition is well-written the amount of it means that most of the crew have little time to be developed and lack characterisation. Fortunately, once the heist starts none of this really matters as they all get their own moments to shine as Inception becomes an exciting thrill ride that pays off the earlier exposition.

In some ways Inception is the quintessential Nolan film. It highlights his weaknesses – an overabundance of exposition and slightly clinical storytelling – but also makes excellent use of his greatest talents: a knack for creating engrossing and complex worlds, stunning set pieces and his ability to make it all understandable to the audience. The result is a wholly unique twist on the heist movie formula that manages to be both smart and full of spectacle. Hopefully Nolan's new film Tenet manages to be just as engrossing as Inception and his other efforts, and so far there is no reason to doubt otherwise.

**BRENTOR GARDEN CLUB – Heather Webster 01822 810004**

**D**ue to the current situation with the Coronavirus the committee have decided that, in line with Government recommendation, the Garden Club meetings have been cancelled until further notice. We are sorry that we have had to do this but hope that the very interesting speakers that were scheduled can be rebooked for next year.

With very best wishes to all in this very difficult time.

*The Garden Club Committee*

**THE NATIONAL TRUST NEWS FROM LYDFORD GORGE**

**Rose Cooke, Visitor Experience Manager**

**S**O, at the end of June we reopened the waterfall walk (with a mainly one-way route) to pre-booked visitors, which felt great after just over

3 months closed. I'm just about losing my voice from all the talking I've been doing, I'm obviously out of practice!

We're waiting on changes to government guidelines regarding sanitising handrails and social distancing before considering opening the full gorge route so I hope you can bear with us a little longer.

In other exciting news the waterfall tea-room has reopened. Currently, it's open every day 11am to 4.30pm serving a limited range of takeaway hot and cold drinks and some light snacks. (The pasties have been fully taste-tested by me and the rest of the team!) For up to date information on what is open and when, please visit the website.

When you next visit the gorge look out for the new sani-trees (as named on facebook). Ranger Luke came up with a way to hide the hand sanitiser dispenser in a log, they are pretty quirky and have had lots of good feedback from visitors, he's thinking of patenting them...

He even inspired one of the Lydford team to write a limerick about it!

*There once was a ranger called Luke,  
Whom no one could ever rebuke.  
His hand cleaning station,  
Was a complete revelation,  
But if you drink it then it makes you puke.*



Just before we reopened, I saw a kingfisher in the gorge for the first time. I know some of the rangers had occasionally seen one about, but I'd never seen one down there before. I was driving the ATV along the path to the waterfall when it flew off ahead of me and turned in towards Whitelady Waterfall. I was hoping that I'd see it again as I got closer, but I think it must have flown up over the waterfall and away. Was lovely to see and really good to know they're around, even if they are pretty elusive.

The gorge may not be as colourful as it is in spring, however there are some beautiful wild flowers around at the moment; I think it easily rivals Monty Don's white garden. Look out for the delicate enchanter's nightshade, valerian – which is often used to help sleeping disorders, the fluffy flowers of meadowsweet and a variety of umbellifers, which I find hard to tell apart.

### **Booking a visit to the gorge**

Tickets are released every Friday for the week ahead and you'll need to book by 3pm the day before your visit. The easiest way to book is via our website [nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge). Scroll to the what's on section, then click the 'book now' link. Or call 0344 249 1895 to book over the phone.

Please check our website for up to date information on opening times. All events are cancelled until further notice.

Website: [nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge) Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: [lydford.gorge.nt](https://www.instagram.com/lydford.gorge.nt)

Lydford Gorge National Trust, Lydford, Nr Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4BH

Tel: 01822 820320 Registered Charity Number 205846

## **MARY TAVY & PETER TAVY WI REPORT– Barbara Weeks**

**The Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy WI has cancelled all meetings until further notice due to the current coronacrisis.**

## **RUSTLERS? – Brian Cook**

**W**e had enjoyed our few days away in Cornwall and now it was time to catch up with the gardening. As is usual in our house, Lin started the hard work of weeding and hoeing while I made the tea and I was surprised to hear the call from our roadside border 'Hey, Bri, come and look at this!'. Obediently I wandered across expecting what? – a birds-nest? a hedgehog? a pristine bloom? In fact there was nothing to see. Nothing where there should have been a 4 metre tall, 50cm diameter, tree in our border. 'Nothing' is an exaggeration. In fact what remained was a ground level trunk neatly sawn-off and surrounded by a few remnants of sawdust. Trees don't generally go walkabout in Lydford (it's not Middle Earth) so what had happened?

Our neighbours had seen the chop happening but understandably thought that it was work we had asked to be carried out. Even our neighbouring local councillor had been alerted by the sawing noise but again thought no further when he saw it was happening at our house. From memory, this

had been an ash tree, so had some community minded body decided to remove the tree because of the risk of ash die-back? Surely no-one would find an unoccupied house and cut down a random tree 'on spec' for firewood? The tree people at the National Park deny any knowledge of a culling programme, Highways haven't got any money to do anything (we asked them) and our tree surgeon who we last used over two years ago hasn't been moonlighting for additional work. The Police have logged the 'incident' but I don't expect a forensic team at our doorstep in the near future.

So it remains a mystery – an uncomfortable mystery, I have to say. There may be a simple explanation (!) but if you get offered cheap firewood with a Lydford derivation, please let me know!

## **THE SHOP**

### **Located at Lydford Caravan and Camping Park**

We have a small but well stocked shop which welcomes local residents.



Competitively priced, you will find fresh produce to include bread, milk, butter, eggs, yogurts and cheese and not forgetting locally reared meat for your barbecue. We stock chilled alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks in the fridge. Confectionery, ice cream, snacks and much more.

We will be operating our shop safely, one person in shop at a time and initially we will open between 9 – 11 am and 2 – 4 pm

We look forward to welcoming you

For further information please contact us on 01822 820497

# Lydford Caravan and Camping Park

Lydford near Okehampton, Devon

+44 (0)1822 820497

*Peace, Tranquility, Beauty and Adventure ...*

We are currently seeking some locally based part-time staff to join our team and help us maintain our high standards of facilities cleaning and grounds maintenance during this busy season. Training and appropriate workwear will be provided.

Please apply by email in the first instance to [info@lydfordsite.co.uk](mailto:info@lydfordsite.co.uk) or by calling our reception on 01822 820497.

Thank you for your interest.

Roger and Angela Stokes



# Brentor Playing Field

IN AID OF VILLAGE FUNDS



**SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 2020**

**We are holding a Carboot Sale in Brentor Playing Field**

**Sellers: Cars £5 Vans £10 Buyers Free!**

**Sellers to arrive From 8am Buyers from 10am**

**No sellers will be let in after 8:45**

**We will need to adhere to Covid secure rules.**

**A one way system will be**

**in place to ensure social distancing**

**Please call **07706 972906** or email:**

**[belarusness@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:belarusness@hotmail.co.uk) to book a space**

**Refreshments will be available**

**If this is something that is a hit with the locals we**

**will hold it once a month**

## **Avon**

brought to you by Vanessa –

Beauty, Cosmetics and a whole lot more!!

Facebook - Ness & Avon a Great Combination

Online Shop - <https://www.avon.uk.com/store/ness2020-shop>

Email - [avonness2020@gmail.co.uk](mailto:avonness2020@gmail.co.uk)

Tel: 07706 972906

## AND FINALLY

It reminds me of the man who as sizing up God by asking, "God, how long is a million years to you? God said, "A million years is like a second." Then the man asked, "How much is a million pounds to you?" God said, "A million pounds is like a penny." The man smiled and said, "Could you spare a penny? God smiled back and said, "Of course, just wait a second."

*"If voting changed anything, they'd abolish it."*

Ken Livingstone, 1945 - , British politician

*"Speech is civilisation itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact. It is silence when isolates."*

Thomas Mann, 1875 – 1955, German novelist.

*"The empires of the future are the empires of the mind."*

Sir Winston Churchill, 1875 – 1965, British Prime Minister

*"They say travel broadens the mind, but you must have the mind."*

G K Chesterton, 1874 – 1936, English writer

*"What literature can and should do is change the people who teach the people who don't read the books."*

A S Byatt, 1936 - , English novelist

*"Nothing in the whole world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."*

Dr Martin Luther King jr., 1929 – 1968, American civil rights leader.

*"I asked my doctor today how long he thought this COVID thing will last.. He said, "How should I know, I'm a doctor not a politician."*

*Lady (to her doctor): "What I am worried about is my height and not my weight."*

*Doctor: "How come?"*

*Lady: "According to my weight, my height should be 7 feet, 8 inches."*

*What do you call bears with no ears?*

*B*

**TRADE DIRECTORY - These are all local services provided by local people – please support them**

<p><b>AGB DECORATING &amp; GARDENING SERVICES</b> – Local Painter and Handyman/Gardener. No job too small, or too big – fully insured. Please contact Andy via phone or email <a href="mailto:agbdecorating@gmail.com">agbdecorating@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>07867 424206</b> <b>01566 784153</b></p>
<p><b>AVON</b> – brought to you by Vanessa – Beauty, cosmetics and a whole lot more!! Facebook – Ness and Avon a Great Combination. , email <a href="mailto:avonness2020@gmail.co.uk">avonness2020@gmail.co.uk</a>. Online shop <a href="https://www.avon.uk.com/store/ness2020-shop">https://www.avon.uk.com/store/ness2020-shop</a></p>	<p><b>07706 972906</b></p>
<p><b>BARRY WARE</b> Decorators Professional Painting and Decorating Service. Interior and Exterior. Wall papering etc. Over 20 years experience and references provided. Email <a href="mailto:barrydecorators@hotmail.co.uk">barrydecorators@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>01837 659958</b> <b>07974 388034</b></p>
<p><b>CHIMNEY SWEEP – R. Mears and Sons</b>, Vacuum and brush cleaning, chimney linings, pots, cowls fitted. Rayburns, woodburners, stoves installed and serviced. <a href="http://www.sweepcornwall.co.uk">www.sweepcornwall.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>01840 261221</b> <b>07737 533392</b></p>
<p><b>DARREN PHARE MOTOR ENGINEER</b> – Bridestowe Garage. Cars, Light Goods and 4X4s – servicing, repairs, welding, MOT preparation and MOTs arranged.</p>	<p><b>01837 861770</b> <b>07773 669097</b></p>
<p><b>ELLIE</b> – Mobile Hair &amp; Beauty, Cut &amp; Blow, Colours, Manicures, and Pedicures</p>	<p><b>01822 820210</b></p>
<p><b>EVANS PLUMBING AND HEATING – Lydford based.</b> Offering Installations of central heating systems, boilers, servicing, maintenance, repairs, blocked drains, burst pipes. 24 hr callout. Kitchen and bathroom installations. Call Robbie</p>	<p><b>01822 820884</b> <b>07794 053150</b></p>
<p><b>LYDFORD HOUSE</b> - High quality and Eco Friendly accommodation and Venue hire. We have 12 bedrooms, a guest lounge, bar and dining rooms, as well as beautiful landscaped gardens. Afternoon Tea available by advance booking. <a href="mailto:info@lydfordhouse.co.uk">info@lydfordhouse.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>01822 820347</b></p>
<p><b>MONUMENTAL MASONS – E Pascoe and Son.</b> Five Acres, Gulworthy. Email: <a href="mailto:epascoe@gpamail.co.uk">epascoe@gpamail.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>01822 832320</b></p>
<p><b>MOOR VIEW HOUSE</b> – 4 star self catering accommodation for 2 adults only. Open all year.</p>	<p><b>01822 820220</b></p>
<p><b>MORRIS BROS.</b> – Your local independent Funeral Director is owned and run by the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Morris Family, Simon and Lucie Luke. Providing a personal, confidential service 24 hrs a day. <a href="http://www.morrisbros.co.uk">www.morrisbros.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>01822 612023</b></p>

## TRADE DIRECTORY (cont)

<b>ROSS SIMMONS</b> - Your local builder for all your building needs, extensions, renovations, conversions and general maintenance.	<b>01822 820335</b> <b>07974740187</b>
<b>SBG PLUMBING &amp; HEATING SERVICES LYDFORD.</b> Includes all plumbing and heating, boiler installation and maintenance, natural gas, LPG and oil central heating, bathroom installations and all aspects of general plumbing. <a href="mailto:sgilbert@btinternet.com">sgilbert@btinternet.com</a>	<b>07811490356</b>
<b>TREETOPS @ BRIDESTOWE</b> – Treetops Preschool and Out of School Clubs for 2 – 12 year olds. “Flagship child care provision in West Devon”. Early years education for 2 – 5 years. Breakfast, after school and holiday clubs for 2 – 12 years. Servicing all our local schools for breakfast and after school care. <a href="http://www.treetopschildcare.co.uk">www.treetopschildcare.co.uk</a>	<b>01837 861761</b>
<b>YELTV</b> - Yelverton TV Services, Sales, Aerials, Rentals, and Satellite Services. For trustworthy, local expertise Call or email us: <a href="mailto:enquiries@yeltv.co.uk">enquiries@yeltv.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.yeltv.co.uk">www.yeltv.co.uk</a>	<b>01822 854386</b> <b>07725553804</b>

**DON'T FORGET**, THE VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR IS SITUATED ON THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE NICHOLLS HALL, TO THE RIGHT OF THE MAIN DOOR. JUST OPEN THE CASING AND TAKE THE DEFIBRILLATOR TO THE PATIENT.

No training is necessary as the machine talks you through the procedure, but if you have learnt how to use it first, your training will better help you deal with this stressful situation. Contact the Parish Council re training.

**DON'T FORGET**, If you need the Police in the event of an emergency ring 999. If you would like to report something to the Police but ringing 101 means you have been put in a queue for ages, you can email on [101@dc.police.uk](mailto:101@dc.police.uk). Emails are dealt with when the 101 staff are less busy, but they are looked at regularly.