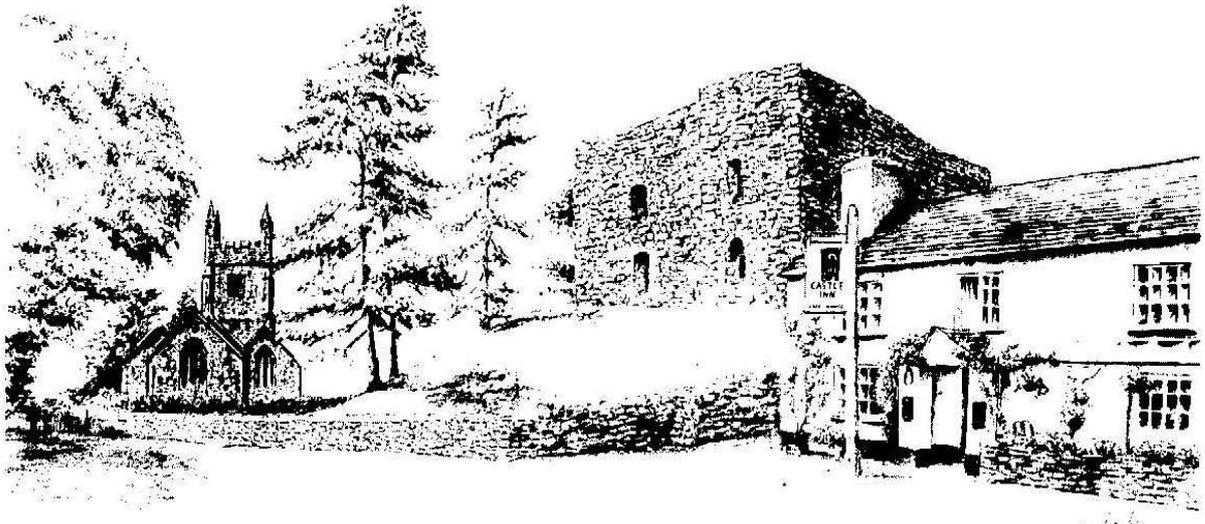


LYDFORD PARISH AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

June 2020



Stay alert, be kind, be safe.

40p

LYDFORD PARISH STAFF

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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

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.

LYDFORD SUNDAY SERVICES

1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
11.00 am Short Morning Prayer with Coffee to follow	11.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	11.00 am Morning Prayer	11.00 am All Age Family Communion	Joint Benefice Service at 11.00 am

Regretfully there are no public services until further notice.

READINGS – June

7 June	Isaiah 40, 12-17, 27-end	Matthew 28, 16-20
14 June	Exodus 19, 2-8a	Matthew 9, 35-10.8 (9-23)
21 June	Jeremiah 20, 7-13	Matthew 10, 24-39
28 June	Jeremiah 28, 5-9	Matthew 10, 40-end

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 st 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:

“Are you joining our Zoom meeting?” a colleague asked enthusiastically when the lockdown began. I guessed he was referring to some sort of virtual meeting over the internet but when I was growing up a Zoom was an ice-lolly. Apart from the fact that I am an IT Neanderthal there is something about video meetings I am uncomfortable with, they are a bit too mechanical. I feel a bit like a puppy that gets excited when it sees a dog on the telly but gets a bit confused when it discovers it doesn’t smell or react in the right way. Fortunately, I am not alone, I came across this essay by Anglican priest and journalist Giles Fraser:

“Native Americans and Aboriginal Australians are sometimes associated with the view that cameras can steal the soul. It is the sort of view that we in the supposedly more advanced and enlightened West scoff at, thinking it a primitive superstition. But it’s not. Cameras really can steal the soul.

My evidence is anecdotal. But among the friends that I speak to during this bleak time, one subject keeps on coming up, again and again: the soul-sucking nature of video conferencing. As many as 300 million users worldwide now communicate with each other using Zoom, and other video platforms are catching up fast. We use it not just for meetings, but for everything from socially distanced dinner parties to church services. It’s the software through which we make business deals, go to school, say goodbye to our dying loved ones, and even — believe it or not — attend sex parties. Zoom is now the gatekeeper, the space between our separate, isolated lives.

Now Zoom is having its problems with security. Is it vulnerable to foreign surveillance? Will uninvited participants come in and disrupt our meetings? My interest is not in such matters. I worry about its existential consequences. That this all-pervasive digital mediation is means of communication in which we lose something essential about ourselves.

In 1929, the Jewish Marxist philosopher Walter Benjamin wrote a seminal essay reflecting on the advent of mass culture. In “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”, he argues that the technological changes of modernity, and in particular the capacity to reproduce images, has a profound and transformative effect on how we understand art. For with mass reproducibility we begin to lose the idea that there is something special about the original work of art — its uniqueness, its “aura”. The original painting of the Mona Lisa hanging in the Louvre has a quality about it that its many representations, on posters and postcards, just do not have. Benjamin thinks that this special and unique quality the original artwork has is linked to the original use of art in cultic and religious festivals. One could even say that Benjamin was arguing that the camera steals the painting’s soul.

Benjamin’s essay was the reflection of a Marxist worried about the dehumanising effects of modernity and mass culture. I wonder what he

would have made of Zoom? It is not too much of a stretch to extend the argument he used more than 90 years ago to our present concerns — not just the work of art, but also the human subject in the age of digital representation. For it is Benjamin's essay that best captures for me the thing that Zoom takes away — our "aura", our souls.

I think a word or two about the idea of the soul is necessary here. I do not mean it in the sense that it developed in the early Christian era, when some aspect of our personal identity was required to carry the essence of who we are into the heavenly kingdom, beyond death. I simply mean by the soul the thing that makes me... me. My essence, my individuality, the specific characteristic that picks me out as different in the world.

Philosophers have argued about what this 'thing' could possibly be ever since at least the fifth century BC when the comic playwright Epicharmus described how a debtor tried to wriggle out of his obligation to repay a loan by arguing that because so much of him had changed since he took it out, he was not the same person and so could not be reasonably expected to repay something that was effectively taken out by someone else.

So too with justice. If there is nothing that makes me me, how can I be punished for a murder I committed 20 years ago when I was, so to speak, a totally different person? The soul may be a fiction, but it is a fiction that underpins some of the very basic features of our common life. These days philosophers are much more likely to speak of our physical continuity in space and time as the carriers of our identity. Our bodies have become our souls, so to speak.

I don't want to go too far down the rabbit hole of the philosophy of personal identity. But I do just want to disabuse those who presume that the very use of the word soul commits someone to a Christian-type world view. I use it as a useful shorthand for what makes me me and you you. Our distinctiveness.

With many of the people I meet over video conferencing, especially in a business context, I don't care too much about their fundamental distinctiveness. Our relationship is transactional and instrumental. We want to get some sort of deal done. I don't need to know how they smell or the funny, distinctive way that they stir your coffee. I have no need of their "aura". But if I am trying to communicate, say, with my wife after a period of absence, Zoom is incredibly frustrating. I want to touch, to hold, to inhabit the same space. I want the original, not the digital copy. And indeed, if Benjamin is correct, even if the technology gets so advanced that we will be able to experience the touch of another at a distance and mediated through technology, that still wouldn't be enough.

Zoom does many weird things. The other day I sat in a meeting with people sitting in the US and Jerusalem. The space we commonly inhabited, the Zoom space, was not a physical space. It was a space that is not a space. There is both a curious intimacy to the face-to-face encounter, but also a sense that something is not quite right.

Zoom enables a rather bloodless kind of meeting. Not only do we carefully curate ourselves to the other — now even concerned about the books we have on the shelf behind us — but the whole experience seems stage managed in such a way as to make impossible many of the traditional ways that we use to get to know each other. For example, getting to know someone partly involves my presence disrupting the careful self-presentation of the other, and their presence disrupting mine. Never before have I appreciated quite how essential the interruption is to mutual acquaintance . On video calls all this is flattened out.

With Zoom you can travel the world and meet important people, not only without leaving your study but without even having to put on your trousers. In other words the social obligations of sharing a common physical space no longer apply. And, to me, that makes for something profoundly disquieting. Different rules apply to the public and the private realms. Zoom collapses them, plays with them. And I worry that no good can come of this.

Video conferencing is an extremely useful tool of human communication. And it has become a lifeline to many in these times of isolation. But it is precisely because it is so important that we must also worry about it, for we can all too easily allow our agendas in life to be set by the limitations of our tools. As Abraham Maslow famously said in 1966: “I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.” And the tool du jour is Zoom.

It is not easy to express my anxiety about this new tool, and what it is doing to us. But I feel there is something subtly dehumanising about it. Perhaps that’s why Zoom is so draining, why it makes us so tired using it. It’s like a voodoo doll. We pay the price for our global connections with something that is slowly sucking away at our souls.”

NEWS FROM THE PARISH CHURCH

From the Church Registers

No records this month

Until the suspension of services announced on 17th March is lifted there will be no Sunday services at St. Petroc’s. Funerals and weddings are still permitted, but not necessarily in their usual form.

**Clergy will continue to pray the daily services and celebrate the Eucharist on behalf of the people, a single bell will be rung on Sundays to signal these times so people may join in prayer at home.
*Issued by the Church of England***

A Prayer for all Affected by Coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen

If you would like to talk to someone please contact Revd. Adrian Brook on 01837 861580 or email adrian@ministry.plus.com

Church Finances

Since 'lockdown' several kind people foresaw the church income would be severely affected due to no 'loose' collections and no wall box donations and have either posted cheques or dropped cash in an envelope through my door.

Thank you so much for thinking of the implications and taking the trouble to get funds to me. It has all been banked.

I have to say we have sufficient reserves to 'weather the storm' this year BUT (there is always a but!) at the end of this year our bank balance will be depleted which means next year will be difficult.

Clearly, we are not going to be able to fund raise for the remainder of this year so I am going to suggest two things you may like to consider which will help our church funds.

Easyfundraising website – please do read on, this is not a gimmick but a tried and tested way of your church being donated funds at no extra cost to you. St. Petroc's registered with EFR about 15 years ago before buying goods widely online took off. To date we have received approx. £250 in commission since we registered. It is a way of purchasing, where the company you are buying from, donate a small percentage of the money you spend (in the region of 0.5% - 1% to church funds at no extra cost to you. For example I purchase about 60 reams of photocopy paper p.a. (roughly £160.00) from Viking direct for the printing of our magazine which results in our church receiving £7 to £8 for the order. You simply log on to Easyfundraising on this link

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpetrocslydford then search for your retailer eg Viking, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, Amazon – there are over 4000 shops & sites with big names and then order as normal.

This is confidential, as organizer for the PCC I only ever see the name of the person who has ordered and the amount of commission donated to the church. I do not see/know what you have ordered, or how much you spend.

Often the commission is pence but if you need to purchase a laptop and would normally go to Currys, PC World or John Lewis the commission can be £10.

Organisations such Scout groups and Friends of School have benefited from this way of generating income for years and it is recognised as a useful way of boosting fund raising for Churches now more than ever.

If you are used to ordering goods on line please consider supporting St Petroc's.

2) If you are one of those people that pop money in the collection plate when you attend church and do not give money on a regular basis with the PGS or envelope scheme you may like to consider making up your collection for the weeks you would have attended in the lockdown.

It would help enormously.

We are prepared for a loss of £3000 in wall box donations and £1250 in the collection plate this year but in reality this will mean a further loss next year of the GASDS receipt (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) we would have claimed on the £4250 amounting to approx. £1000.

It is not all bad news, all PCCs in the Northmoor team have so far had two months holiday from contributing to the team expenses during lockdown which has saved Lydford PCC £224, we have had no organist fees to pay and also the energy costs will be minimal. But the Common Fund and Insurance has to be paid. There will be serious implications for the diocese if common fund is not paid by parishes and the last thing we want is the loss of clergy for parishes because of not paying our dues to the Diocese for clergy salaries, housing and pensions.

It is difficult for everyone at this time, all our village organisations are suffering from lack of income, local food banks need help, jobs are at risk, the list is long. So far there is no indication whatsoever that churches will get any government assistance during the coronavirus epidemic.

I thought long and hard about putting this in the magazine but decided I should do so, better to try and fail and not try at all. In the future no one can say if we had realised we would have contributed a small sum. Small sums do add up and sometimes make a huge difference. I seem to remember Adrian saying this in one of his sermons early this year. Thanks to his perseverance the subscribers to the Parish Giving Scheme have recently increased.

Mary Barkell, Treasurer

Revd Denis Hutchings

John Denis Arthur Hutchings, who was the Priest in Charge of the Lydford Group of Parishes between 1993 to 1995, has died recently.

He was here during a period of reorganisation, following on from Martyn Bateman. He oversaw the formation of the new Blackdown benefice and was succeeded by Ian Sykes.

The Parish Council met online on Tuesday 12th using the Zoom app and were joined online for the first time by a member of the parish who wished to express the village's thanks to those who manned the Lydford Help Line for their help and support, and to the owners and staff of Lydford Farm Shop who went "the extra mile" to help others at the onset of the lockdown. Anyone wishing to "attend" future meetings online should contact the clerk in the first instance – clerk@lydfordparishcouncil.com

Councillors were reminded that West Devon Borough Council in association with Devon County Council have now made funds available to those who are in serious financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 Welfare Support Fund will provide small emergency payments to help residents who have no money for even the most basic household essentials with necessities such as food, basic household items, essential travel or utility payments. Applications can be made via the West Devon Borough Council website or by phone to 01803 861407.

Lydford Parish Council has received grant money from Dartmoor National Park, Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council to help it support the Lydford Community Emergency Plan, which largely requires the Council to act as a bridge between those members of the parish who need help and the larger bodies or local volunteers providing assistance.

Councillors wondered how the social distancing rules might affect parents picking up or dropping off their children at the School when it re-opens and will contact Highways at Devon County Council to start exploring what can be done to provide parents and children with more space immediately outside the School.

Following the line taken by Dartmoor National Park Councillors have agreed to keep the public toilets in the village closed for the immediate future as they represent a source of potential infection to those volunteers who maintain and clean the toilets, and to all those who might visit them. The matter will be kept under constant review going forward.

Be safe, be kind, be smart.

John Bright, Clerk, Lydford Parish Council, email:

clerk@lydfordparishcouncil.com

LOCKDOWN IS NOT THAT BAD by Barbara Weeks

When you reach a certain age it is almost inevitable that you start to look back - the future is viewed with tempered optimism, hope, faith and uncertainty and at the moment and for some time ahead uncertainty is almost written in capital letters! In the past we got through the bad times they are no longer worrying and the good and happy times are bathed in golden sunlight - whatever the weather was like at the time!

A couple of years to the church building is nothing, it has stood for over a thousand years and will welcome us back whenever we are allowed to gather again. But what of the living stones, the church people, for us a couple of years is a long time to be without food for our faith. We are fortunate that our church team is working hard to keep us connected so there is plenty available to make us feel cared for; services on YouTube, Radio Devon and TV and, of course, Grapevine and Sunday Post. Adrian's 'at home' Holy Communion was new but I found it was far more meaningful than I believed beforehand - the Lord was with us.

I am very much at ease with the 'lock down' now. Mary Tavy shop takes care of most of our needs and Diana, who visits her aged parents (from 2 metres away) brings fruit and veg and a roast dinner to heat up! A neighbour collects our prescriptions, so we have never been better looked after.

And the weather! A real blessing! I spend a lot of time in the garden, not digging and cutting and planting, though I do quite a lot of that too, but just wandering round, as I tell John, watching things grow!

But actually it is remembering. I have a very good memory, which I think is a gift beyond price, so every thing tells a story. The hawthorn flowering so beautifully at the moment and cow parsley remind me of walking down the footpath beside the hay meadows, crossing the railway line that divided my village, Woodmancote from Bishop's Cleeve where I was heading for 8am Holy Communion at the parish church. Later I would be riding with friends round quiet lanes or in the cool air at the top of Cleeve Hill, the highest point of the Cotswolds. That was long ago but there are recent memories. Lily of the Valley in the front garden - a gift from Monica Des Claves from her garden at Ingo Brake, clematis on the porch given by my horticultural daughter, honeysuckle on the other side of the porch, a cutting taken from one at Holmeleigh, the overgrown Daisy Bush in the 'natural corner' where John built a tree house for the grandchildren to play, now one is about to get married, another nursing at St Thomas's, another a home carer in Exeter and her elder brother has just sailed from Antigua to the Azores in what resembles a cigar tube with outriggers filled with gadgets to enable fast sailing, they did it in 5 days; now they are stuck in the Azores waiting for spare parts to do some repairs, under lock down,

sleeping in the cigar tube is not much fun! And so it goes on, the dark leaved Hebe a descendant from a sprig in the 90th birthday bouquet of Mrs Cornish - 'take a piece, dear, I think you can strike it', likewise the Box bush again Monica's suggestion when we were doing church flowers. Even cutting the grass - I can see my father in oldest trousers, shirt sleeves rolled up, old trilby on his bald head pushing the hand mower up and down the lawn while my mother sets the tea table under the apple trees - someone is coming to tea and wafer thin bread and butter is sliced and homemade jam in a special dish. The garden Guelder rose is in flower, as mine is now, so it is probably Whitsun, mother used to call the snow ball covered shrub - Whitsuntide Boss, don't know where she got that name from.

What has taken the most adjustment for me is doing nothing. In any previous crisis, I have been part of the busy caring team, this time I do nothing and accept graciously the care of others. Once again I remember my father, who had a great storehouse of poetry quotes, John Milton when his blindness prevented him serving his Maker, "Thousands at his bidding speed and post o'er land and ocean without rest: they also serve who only stand and wait."

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

There will not be a report until school reopens

NICHOLLS HALL



Booking Secretary: Jerry Lock 01822 820664, or email 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.

THE BOTTOMLESS PIT - Howard Barkell

You may have heard how the impecunious 7th Duke of Bedford's (he had shut up Woburn, but owned most of Tavistock and a lot of the surrounding countryside) finances took such a turn for the better that he was able to remodel the square, including the civic buildings and build terraces of workers' cottages at both ends of the town. This fortunate occurrence was due to copper being discovered on his land at Gulworthy and as the owner of the mineral rights was paid royalties on any ore raised. He was not even one of the original investors. In the event the group of small mines became known as Devon Great Consols and quickly became the most productive copper mine in the world, and later was the largest producer of arsenic. It was so busy that it built its own railway to Morwellham on the Tamar and enlarged the dock facilities there. In the first six years alone the Duke received £44000, a large sum of money in 1850.

In the early to mid-nineteenth century mineral mining was big business in Cornwall and to a lesser extent in Devon and financial gamblers, entrepreneurs if you prefer, they were known as adventurers, were prepared to float companies in the hope of discovering another Great Consols. Several small mines operated on both sides of the Lyd, eventually coming together under the heading of Lydford Consols. Included under the umbrella was Wheal Mary, which as Paul mentioned last month, was on Fernworthy Down. On early maps it was shown as Battishill Down Mine (disused). I always thought that Battishill Down was the fields on either side of the Granite Way belonging to Michael.

All these mines were financed from London and were prospecting mainly for lead and hopefully silver, the same minerals as mined at Wheal Betsy. It is doubtful if any ever paid a dividend as they appear to have lived from hand to mouth. There is a record from 1853 of 16 tons of lead ore being sold for £19 8s 6d per ton, but it doesn't say which mine it came from. It was the norm for the bi-monthly meetings of shareholders to be given encouraging reports about progress made and good news around the corner, but the bottom line was always a call on the shareholders for another couple of shillings per share to pay the deficit from the previous two months.

By 1854 the situation was increasingly serious and the shareholders were sued by a Mr. Escott, a trader from Tavistock in the Court of Common Pleas in London. He claimed that goods to the value of £35 16s 7d had been supplied but that he had never received payment. Witnesses confirmed making the order and receiving the goods. The court found in his favour. The shareholders had to pay up. In early 1856 it was reported that 250 shares had been forfeited for arrears on calls. In other words they had failed to pay the extras agreed and had written off their investment.

The shares were made available for sale. Their original price would have been a pound a share. The asking price now was threepence! At the next meeting reports from Mr. Richards, a member of the committee, and from mine captains Godden and Richards, suggested that there were encouraging prospects if the business was developed properly. It seems unlikely that the shareholders were prepared to throw any more money into that bottomless pit and the business folded.

The first mention of Wheal Mary that I have come across is in May 1851 when the gossan shaft was now down 8 fathoms (48 feet) and in the gossan were spots of lead ore. Gossan is a dialect word for the rust coloured oxide that caps an ore deposit. You may have noticed that the deposits from the stream water that flows through the marsh is so coloured. This may have been the trigger that encouraged those early prospectors to dig through the gossan to see what was below. At the same time an adit was driven underground to connect with the shaft and give a circulation of fresh air. I assume that the shaft was the one whose remains can be spotted from the Granite Way which appear as two light patches near the crest of the down among the gorse. An adit was usually sited at the bottom of the hill, partly for easier access into the mine but also to help with drainage. I haven't yet discovered it. Paul mentions the site of a horse whim which would indicate the basic nature of the operation, nothing operated by steam or water power as in more productive mines. The whim was a cable drum with a bucket on either end of the cable. When the horse walked in circles to turn the drum one bucket descended the shaft, the other rose. Another prospect at adit level was driven south. This may have been the one called the Fanny lode. A cross cut to join the two adit levels discovered another lode. All were looking promising or encouraging!

When farms were much smaller and farmers needed to lay up fields for hay, the down was a godsend for those with grazing rights. The vegetation was kept in check by the grazing animals and the shaft was a useful dump for all sorts of farm rubbish. Since the management agreement has been in place and a virtual absence of farm stock the valley bottom has become virtually impenetrable and is very boggy, so exploration is well nigh impossible. There is very little waste material visible, just one possible overgrown bank, which suggests that mining never got very far. One excavation could have been an adit entrance or a wheelpit or neither! I do know of one hole, but that may have been from a later working. It may be that the remains of the shaft which can be seen above the Granite Way near the lengthsman's hut dates from that later enterprise which suffered the same fate as the previous one. At least some of the shafts eventually proved useful when they were used as receptacles for Lydford's twentieth century refuse.

A Blast from the Past! By Sue Powne

Actually it is the Lydford Ringer's Annual Dinner held at the Lydford House Hotel possibly in the late 1960s. Obviously, this invitation was not extended to spouses! Regrettably some of these faces are gone for ever, and of the remaining I know of only two who are active bell ringers now, but such is life. As always with regard to the faces I know, everyone looks so young! And then the girls were allowed into the tower, and now we sometimes have more lady ringers than men. And we still have an annual dinner and partners and spouses are all as welcome. Happy days!

Back row (from right to left) Aubrey Fice, Norman Fry, Donald Rooke, Norman Pearce, Mike Crocker, Roger Friend, Colin Friend and Alan Varcoe. Front row George Rooke (Donald's father), Gerry Matthews, Bob Pengelly and Roy Varcoe.



Like so many, we ringers are longing to get back into our tower as a band and ring as we used to, but for the moment only one person is allowed in at any time, so our Captain rings just the one bell on a Sunday morning to remind you that it is Sunday and there will be a virtual service somewhere at 11.00 am. When this is all over and you would like to have a go yourself, please do join us.

LYDFORD BOOTS AND BEER CLUB

The Moor continues to be an ideal social distancing medium for us and here are a few more exercising wanders.

The day of the London Marathon was marked with challenges being sent out involving the number 2 and 6. We decided not to walk 26 miles but that 2.6 was appropriate and as such how far would that take us in a straight line from the house (although via Nodden Gate)? Answer: Green Tor Water on the side of Amicombe Hill, tuther side of Rattlebrook. Quite a feat trying to keep in a straight line especially up and down through the old mine workings on the way to Dick's Well. Essentially we were following the old Lydford Boundary, sort of, and it proved to be an excellent excursion, with lunch by the tinkling stream that is Green Tor Water.



Next up was a trip across to White Hill and the Willsworthy ranges, basically the very first Lydford BandB walk that Judy didn't do. We revisited the strange little target railway with its "manhole" at one end and this time traced its complete length (all of about 150m!) up the slope to another sort of chamber and the remains of some metal switching gear. From there it was across to Ger Tor and Tavy Tors, walking through the many hut circles of the old settlement between the two. This is sited with incredible views up and down the Tavy valley so good for territorial warning, but a steep up for water carrying! On our day, the cloud was low all the time, so views were very restricted and coming back down to Doe Tor from Hare Tor involved some seat of the pants navigation along the lines of "that way, probably" and "it should be over there".

Another very extensive settlement was visited on the way back from Fur Tor (yes it can be walked from our house!) where we discovered Watern Oke settlement for the first time. There are over 76 extant hut circles clearly visible (out of an original 90, I believe) and again the siting gives fantastic views up and down the Tavy valley, located on its north-eastern side about half a kilometre beyond the Rattlebrook junction. NO relation to Watern Tor, which is over 7km away?

This settlement has been subject to excavation dating back to 1905 with research and comment by various Dartmoor alumni such as Butler, Crossing and Hemery. One writer who only writes somewhat sketchily of such things is the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould and I have just found out that the Gutenberg Library has copies of his books on Dartmoor (and loads of others). I have now downloaded the second edition (1907) of his A Book on Dartmoor as a pdf copy to read on my PC and tablet. Project Gutenberg is a free digital library facility based in the US but available to all and covers a lot of historic books and documents. The first one digitised

in 1971 was the US Declaration of independence! Quite fascinating to see what is available and all FREE!!

Returning to the Reverend, his literary style is very readable, well researched and often deviating from the subject with tales of his own experiences (we are talking late 19th century) and those of others to keep the reader entertained. Quite the opposite to above mentioned writers! I propose to give you more excerpts from his works as I weave my way through them but will end this piece with some wonderful descriptions he uses of Dartmoor:

“The interior consists of rolling uplands. It has been likened to a sea after a storm suddenly arrested and turned to stone; but a still better resemblance, if not so romantic, is that of a dust-sheet thrown over the dining room chairs, the backs of which resemble the tors divided from one another by easy sweeps of turf.”

The current restrictions are starting to be eased and perhaps our walks can start to be shared? Maybe soon we can consider reawakening our group and enjoying our special place together. Keep in touch or enquire for the future by contacting Paul Brookes at Burley View, Vale Down on 01822 820597, 0796959 2779 or paul@burleyview.co.uk.

LYDFORD BOOK CLUB – Bekki Hill

Due 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 beki@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. 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. Alternatively email gavin@lydfordfoxes.com or asa@lydfordfoxes.com. Come on you Foxes!

FILMS AND TV SHOWS TO WATCH IN LOCKDOWN – a Recommendations by our Film Correspondent

Hopefully this short list will be useful if you're looking for something new to watch during your free time.

Bourne Trilogy – After a top-secret mission goes wrong, superspy Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) is found adrift at sea with two bullets in his back. With no memory of who he was Bourne must use the skills he has retained to evade other US government assassins as he uncovers who he was, what happened, and what drove him to become an assassin. Well written, with great action sequences and memorable twists, this thrilling trilogy is one of the best the spy genre has to offer.

Rise of the Planet of the Apes – Caesar (Andy Serkis) is far smarter than other apes due to experiments conducted on him. When he witnesses how cruel humans can be, he leads his fellow apes in a revolt. Little does he know that his actions to keep apes safe would eventually result in a Planet of Apes. Led by an extraordinary motion captured performance by Andy Serkis, *Rise* and its sequels *Dawn* and *War*, are a compelling prequel to the classic film.

Blackadder – The classic comedy series *Blackadder* follows the various members of the *Blackadder* family (Rowan Atkinson) from Tudor England to the World War One trenches as they try to improve their lot. Unfortunately, they are forever hindered by the idiotic Baldrick and their own chronic bad luck.

The Simpsons – This hilarious animated series following one of TV's most famous families has been on air since 1989 but its golden age (anywhere from the first season to the twelfth depending on who you ask) still ranks as some of the best comedy ever produced.

Finding Nemo – When Nemo, an adventurous young clownfish, is caught and placed in a dentist's fish tank, his nervous father Marlin will stop at nothing to venture across the ocean to rescue him in this beautifully animated film from Pixar that is equal parts funny and touching.

Ghostbusters – Bill Murray stars in this 80s comedy as the leader of a group of hard-up scientists who break into the ghostbusting business when they realise that ghosts actually do exist. Dealing with a portal to Hell may be slightly beyond their pay grade though...

Aladdin – In this Disney classic the eponymous ‘street rat’ pines for the beautiful, free spirited Princess Jasmine. When he discovers a magical lamp containing a highly eccentric Genie, voiced by Robin Williams at his comedic peak, he realises his dreams of leaving the slums of Agrabah could come true – that is, if the evil Jafar doesn’t stop him in his own quest for power.

BRENTOR GARDEN CLUB – Heather Webster 01822 810004

Due to the current situation with the Coronavirus the committee have decided that, in line with Government recommendation, the Garden Club meetings scheduled for April, May and June have been cancelled. 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

I’m pleased to report that the gorge is safe and well. We’ve been dropping by regularly to do essential checks and maintenance. As I’m writing this in May I don’t have any news on opening dates or plans; but we’ll keep you updated through the Parish council and on our website when anything changes.

Now for some good news; the pied flycatchers have returned! They are on the ‘Birds of Conservation Concern’ Red list and so it’s great to see these endangered birds return to the gorge. There were at least two pairs visiting nest boxes around the bird hide area. Due to the current restrictions we can’t monitor the boxes this year but it’s good to capture them on camera at least.

I have also seen a deer in the gorge for the first time. The rangers have seen deer before, but I don’t usually get out early enough in the morning I guess. This was a young male roe deer, resting on the path just below the Devil’s Cauldron tea-room, at about 1pm. It seemed very relaxed and watched us approach before getting up to amble down the side of the gorge towards Pixie Glen.

Have you ever stopped to look closely at primroses? I recently found out that there are two types of primrose flower (those of you who watch Gardener’s World will be ahead of me here!). Thrum-eyed flowers – where the pollen bearing anthers rise above the stigma, and pin-eyed flowers –

where the stigma protrudes beyond the anthers. This self-incompatibility mechanism helps to ensure that cross fertilisation happens when butterflies and bees visit the flowers. Something to look out for next spring.

The UK is home to around half of the world's bluebell population. Our native species (English bluebell) is currently under threat from the introduced Spanish bluebell. You can tell them apart as the Spanish form stands upright with flowers all around the stem. The native bluebell has a much more drooping form with flowers only on one side of the stem.

In the past our native bluebell was far more than just a beautiful sight.

- During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I their big ruff collars were stiffened using starch made from crushed bluebell bulbs.
- During the Bronze Age the sticky sap was used to attach feathers to arrows.
- The gummy sap was also used as glue for bookbinding. Being highly toxic it stopped certain insects from attacking the binding.
- Thirteenth-century monks used bluebells to treat snakebites and lepers; although possibly not with much success.
- In the language of flowers it symbolises constancy, humility and gratitude.
- If you pick a wild bluebell, many believe you will be led astray by fairies.
- If you wear a garland of bluebells, you might be compelled to tell the truth.
- It's said that if you can turn one of the flowers inside out without tearing it, you will eventually win the one you love. Although your time would probably be better spent with the one you love rather than testing this out.

The gorge walks, tea-rooms and shop are now closed until further notice. All events are cancelled until further notice.

Website: nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: 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

Although all meetings and events have been cancelled the WI has not been idle. We were so sad to miss our village event - our Spring Sale but there has been a busy plant swop (social distance, of course, so nothing has been wasted. Several ladies have been making face masks

and the more ambitious have tackled 'scrubs'. Everyone has been keeping in contact via phone and social media with some very entertaining jokes from the internet making us laugh. We are all ready for when the doors open again.

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

And Finally

Some Lock Down quotes

“Knowing me, when this is all over I’ll probably fancy a nice night in.”

“Now I understand why pets try to run out of the house when the front door it open.”

“In eight weeks 88% of blonds will disappear from earth.”

“I finished Netflix today.”

“Not all heroes wear capes, but a whole dedicated bunch of them wear scrubs.”

“My mum has a PhD on coronavirus from WhatsApp University.”

“2020, the year my bin went out more than I did.”

“If you thought the toilet paper saga was crazy, wait until 25 million women try to book a hairdressing appointment.”

And:

A lion walks into a bar and asks the barman “Any jobs going, pal?” the barman says, “No, sorry, why don’t you try the circus?” The lion looks at him and say, “Why would the circus be looking for a barman.?”

YOUR HOROSCOPE THIS WEEK



ARIES

You'll be spending time in your home



LIBRA

You'll be spending time in your home



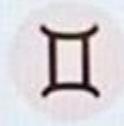
TAURUS

You'll be spending time in your home



SCORPIO

You'll be spending time in your home



GEMINI

You'll be spending time in your home



SAGITTARIUS

You'll be spending time in your home



CANCER

You'll be spending time in your home



CAPRICORN

You'll be spending time in your home



LEO

You'll be spending time in your home



AQUARIUS

You'll be spending time in your home



VIRGO

You'll be spending time in your home



PISCES

You'll be spending time in your home

TRADE DIRECTORY (cont)

ROSS SIMMONS - Your local builder for all your building needs, extensions, renovations, conversions and general maintenance.	01822 820335 07974740187
TREETOPS @ BRIDESTOWE – 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. www.treetopsschildcare.co.uk	01837 861761
YELTV - Yelverton TV Services, Sales, Aerials, Rentals, and Satellite Services. For trustworthy, local expertise Call or email us: enquiries@yeltv.co.uk www.yeltv.co.uk	01822 854386 07725553804

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. Emails are dealt with when the 101 staff are less busy, but they are looked at regularly.

TRADE DIRECTORY - These are all local services provided by local people – please support them	
AGB Decorating & Gardening Services – Local Painter and Handyman/Gardener. No job too small, or too big – fully insured. Please contact Andy via phone or email agbdecorating@gmail.com	07867 424206 01566 784153
BARRY WARE Decorators Professional Painting and Decorating Service. Interior and Exterior. Wall papering etc. Over 20 years experience and references provided. Email barrydecorators@hotmail.co.uk	01837 659958 07974 388034
CHIMNEY SWEEP – R. Mears and Sons, Vacuum and brush cleaning, chimney linings, pots, cowls fitted. Rayburns, woodburners, stoves installed and serviced. www.sweepcornwall.co.uk	01840 261221 07737 533392
DARREN PHARE MOTOR ENGINEER – Bridestowe Garage. Cars, Light Goods and 4X4s – servicing, repairs, welding, MOT preparation and MOTs arranged.	01837 861770 07773 669097
ELLIE – Mobile Hair & Beauty, Cut & Blow, Colours, Manicures, and Pedicures	01822 820210
EVANS PLUMBING AND HEATING – Lydford based. Offering Installations of central heating systems, boilers, servicing, maintenance, repairs, blocked drains, burst pipes. 24 hr callout. Kitchen and bathroom installations. Call Robbie	01822 820884 07794 053150
LYDFORD HOUSE - 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. info@lydfordhouse.co.uk	01822 820347
MONUMENTAL MASONS – E Pascoe and Son. Five Acres, Gulworthy. Email: epascoe@gpamail.co.uk	01822 832320
MOOR VIEW HOUSE – 4 star self catering accommodation for 2 adults only. Open all year.	01822 820220
MORRIS BROS. – Your local independent Funeral Director is owned and run by the 5 th generation of the Morris Family, Simon and Lucie Luke. Providing a personal, confidential service 24 hrs a day. www.morrisbros.co.uk	01822 612023