THE AREA MAGAZINE FOR LEWDOWN, CHILLATON, CORYTON, STOWFORD, MARYSTOWE, THRUSHELTON, LEWTRENCHARD

March 2018 The magazine for all that's going on in your area



PUBLISHED BY THE LEWDOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION,
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ALSO SUPPORTED BY GRANTS FROM DEVON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND
LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION FOR ENGLAND & WALES

WHAT'S ON? - Events in your area

Date	Location	Organisation & Contact Information	What's going on in the area and at what time
Wed/07/Mar	Victory Hall	AUCTION Paul 07401192921	AUCTION @19:00-
Sat/10/Mar	Victory Hall	Victory Hall Colin 01566 783279	Whist Drive 20:00
Mon/12/Mar	Victory Hall	W I - Cathy 01566 784104	W I Meeting 19:30 - 22:00
Wed/14/Mar	Victory Hall	Audrey 01566 783392	Soupa Troopers at 12:30 Soup, bread roll & tea or coffee for £3
Wed/14/Mar	Victory Hall	AUCTION Paul 07401192921	AUCTION @19:00-
Sat/17/Mar	Victory Hall	W I - Cathie 01566 784104	Jumble Sale 14.00
Mon/19/Mar	Victory Hall	Y F C Becky 01837 52364	Easter Bingo 19:30 - 21:30
Wed/21/Mar	Victory Hall	NewsLink Day	Newslink assembly day @14:00- Help is always very welcome
	Victory Hall	AUCTION Paul 07401192921	AUCTION @19:00-
Sat24/Mar	The School Room Brat- ton Clovelly	Enquiries Mary Tomes 01837 871541	COFFEE MORNING 10:00 – 12:00
Mon/26/Mar	Victory Hall	Parish Council	Parish Council Meeting @19:30PM
Wed/28/Mar	Victory Hall	AUCTION Paul 07401192921	AUCTION @19:00-
Wed/04/Apr	Victory Hall	AUCTION Paul 07401192921	AUCTION @19:00-
Fri/06/Apr	Victory Hall	Y F C Becky 01837 52364	Young Farmers Disco 21:00—
Sat/Apr/7th	Lewdown Cricket Club	Lewdown Cricket Club Pauline Gearing on 01822 820400	Grand Jumble Sale @ 2pm entry 50p

Please advise us of any other event you would like to see listed here Send E-Mail or phone the editor (see page 3)

The Community Newslink

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE PROVIDING NEWS. INFORMATION AND ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE AREAS OF LEWDOWN, CHILLATON, CORYTON, STOWFORD AND MARYSTOWWE, THRUSHELTON, LEWTRENCHARD

> Established January 1999 Issue No. 213 March 2018 **Editor**

Andrew McCarthy

3 Reddicliffe Mews, Lewdown, Devon. EX20 4BO Telephone 01566 783093 E-Mail mccarthy.andy@gmail.com

Production, Distribution and Delivery Helpers.

Mrs C. Bickell, Mrs Martin, Mr. T. Nash, Mrs R. Squires, Mrs A. Westlake, Mrs M. Rolfe, Terry Southcott, Coppers Stores, Keith Turner and Ryan and Jessica Kingdom

All news, photographs, reports, events etc. for the Newslink need to be handed in to the Editor by 15th of the preceding month.

We welcome your articles / items / advertisements. Though we do our best, we cannot guarantee to publish all that is sent to us, as some things will not reproduce in a good enough quality.

DONATIONS TOWARD THE COST OF PUBLISHING THIS MAGAZINE CAN BE GIVEN TO ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER OR CONTACT:

LRA CHAIRMAN: TIM NASH (TIMNASH682@BTINTERNET.COM) LRA Treasurer: Sarah Nash (sarahnash@btinternet.com) YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED

******* Could you help with delivering the Newslink?

We always welcome new volunteers to join our excellent team of ★ helpers that deliver the Newslink every month. If you're interested please to contact us (details on page 3)

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Don't forget that you can always get copies of the Link in the Village Shops and in the local Churches, or register with us to be sent the PDF version (send an email to us at Lewdownra@gmail.com)

Cover Picture - Lewdown Young Farmers Club - Tractor Run 2018 (more on page 15)

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Monday to Friday 9.15am to 3.30pm

2-5 year olds

Please phone for availability.

Early Years Foundation Unit with plenty of safe outdoor space. We accept 2gether funding for 2 year olds and Early Years Education funding for 3 year olds.

Baby / Toddler Session

Thursday mornings 9.15am to 11.15am

Justine welcomes you to come and join her in the school hall for lots of fun activities (some messy) and plenty of singing. A great opportunity to meet other parents / carers.

£2.00 per session – please bring your own snack.

For more information contact the school office on 01566783273. www.lewtrenchardschool.org.uk Email admin@lewtrenchard.devon.sch.uk

Calling all babies and toddlers!

Have you heard?

Lew Trenchard School have set up a new and exciting toddler group based on the Montessori approach, all activities are sensory based and involve lots of messy play!

A great way to meet new friends and begin transition to our wonderful preschool / foundation unit.

Term time 9.15am to 11.15am and only £2 per session, run by our very own qualified practitioner Justine and taking place in the school hall. Come and join us for craft, messy play, singing and much more!!!!

Tel: 01566 783273

or email lewtrenchardadmin@andaras.org

LEWTRENCHARD WI JUMBLE SALE

Saturday, March 17th 2018

Doors Open 2pm. Entry 50p.

BROADWOODWIDGER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY A HISTORY OF BROADWOOD'S NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS

- Downicary (Wesleyan)
- Grinacombe Moor (Bible Christian)
- Rexon Cross (Bible Christian)
- Thorn Cross (Baptist)
- Monday 19th March at 7pm
- Broadwoodwidger Community Hub by Parish Church

Tickets (to include tea/coffee) £2 members and £4 non-members Everyone very welcome

Woman's World Day of Prayer Prepared by the Women of Suriname

Friday 2nd March 2018 @ 2.30pm

St Nicholas Church, Broadwood

Speaker: Rev Ann Curnow Enguíries: Audrey 01566 783392

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£3 per hour (Special rates for users of over 30 weeks per year £2 per hour) Parties, Wedding, Funerals £20

General and Euro Elections £120

Tables £2 each (plus £20 Deposit) Any number of Chairs 25p each Contact Julie Chick on 01566 783223 for bookings and enquiries

Grand Jumble Sale Lewdown Cricket Club

Saturday April 7th @ 2pm entry 50p to include tea/coffee + biscuits (strictly no entry before 2pm)

any info please contact Pauline Gearing on 01822 820400



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Dear readers

well after a depressing January weather wise, with what seemed like constant rain and wind we move on to February, so to try and lift your spirits a small amount here are a few bits of silliness.

Did you know the person who invented the knock knock joke has been given the a Nobel prize.

Why don't you see elephants hiding in trees? Their very good at it. The man who invented polos has recently died, he left a mint to his family.

What lies on its back 100 feet in the air? A dead centipede.

What type of birds would you find in church? A bird of pray.

Will close now as we have a wonderful fire going, there is rugby on the tele and its egg and chips for tea, what more could a man want from life.

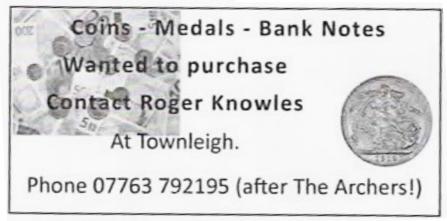
Best wishes from you Honary chairperson Tim Nash.

I was in the pub the other day and got talking to someone. He said that he was just starting a zoo in the area but at the moment he only had one animal, a small dog.

It's a Shizu.



"I reckon Spring is just around the corner. The rain is definitely feeling warmer!"



The Blue Lion, Lewdown

Charlie, Nicky, Charlotte, Georgia, Jonty & Alfie Welcome you to our Family Friendly Pub

Events in March

Sat 10th - Live Music - Dave Rich Thurs 15th - OPEN MIC NIGHT

Sat 31st - Live Music - Rufus Stoned *****

Food is now being served Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday Lunch - Plus coming soon... B&B!!

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For upcoming live music & quizzes etc follow us on Facebook Search for 'blue lion inn'

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LewdownVictory Hall @12.30pm

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Lewdown YFC Tractor Run

A big Thankyou to everyone who came and supported the event. We had just over 70 tractors and made £1001, with more money still to come in.

Thankyou to the kitchen mums, Sylvia, Sarah, Jane,

Tina and anyone else who helped out and came up to see the tractors during the day.

Also thanks to Jethro for

waving off all the tractors, and to Phil Uglow for organising the route and leading all off the tractors.





MOUNT KELLY CHORAL SOCIETY

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Mozart

Soloists

Kate Walker – Soprano Bianca Phillips – Soprano

Andrew Farris - Baritone

Bryan Dadson - Tenor

Accompanist - Mary Mazur Park

Saturday 17th March 2018 7.30 p.m. St Eustachius' Church, Tavistock PL19 8AU

Tickets £10/free to under 18s Available from Book Stop Reception at Mount Kelly College on the door or online at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk (fee applies) www.kellychoralsociety.com

Lewtrenchard WI, February, 12th.

Our President, Cathie Slocombe took us through the many events on the WI calendar. These included our annual jumble sale on Saturday 17th March in the Victory Hall, Lewdown. Monique Hedger stood in for the secretary Barbara Scott.

Sylvia Crocker announced that Waitrose had now agreed to supply 65 of their stores with her small cartons of milk, another success in her campaign.

We then opened the meeting to our speaker Di Slocombe who had very kindly stood in at the last moment.

Di talked to us about the Renaissance with specific reference to the portrayal of the Mother and Child, Mary and Jesus. She wanted to show the development through the Renaissance of artistic style and technique. To begin we looked at what had gone before the Florentine expansion of artistic influence and activity which began around 1401.

We looked at a succession of images of Mary and the baby Jesus beginning with those which had come from the East and the Byzantine Empire. These icons from Russia and Greece were concerned with helping people worship the majesty and mystery of God, not any realistic portrayal of a woman and her baby.

The Western Church however, wanted to tell Bible stories to illiterate worshippers with pictures of Mary still being revered in the West. The heavy use of gold in the pre-Renaissance pictures was to symbolize heaven and also illuminate the subjects in dark, candlelit churches.

Di showed us the painstaking processes involved in creating these panel paintings from the initial block of wood to the final article. She showed us a Giotto picture which started to show the development from Eastern to Western interpretations of the Mother and Child. More realistic, less gold, the use of expensive colours like the blue created from lapis lazuli which is still sourced from Afghanistan with a 1kg of rock producing only 1oz of pigment.

Next we looked at the work of Masaccio who is now painting in the full Renaissance style with some blue and gold still there but a more 3D image and a far more realistic baby figure.

Among the techniques used by the Renaissance artists to create these more realistic, 3D images was linear perspective invented by the architect Fillipo Brunelleschi. A grid was used towards a vanishing point on the horizon and the grid was the ghost pavement used by artists to create realistic sense of space, distance and size. Light and shade were also employed to show realism and depth in paintings.

Our next artist was Fra Filippo Lippi who represented Mary as a normal young woman rather than an imposing somewhat intimidating image. He showed her as a rather well-to-do young Florentine woman. A softer image and the gold has gone. Her portrayal as a more realistic, believable and accessible character pays service to the Renaissance belief that human beings can educate themselves without looking to God or the Church.

We turned to Da Vinci and Michelangelo in 1499/1500 with the Renaissance in full-swing. The former famous for finishing very few pieces of work and an ambiguity of smudged features giving softer more fluid images. The latter a painter and sculptor a long way from Giotto with real muscle shape being shown in his portrayal of Jesus and his parents.

The tenets of Renaissance art shown in the images we looked at were perspective, emotion, believable 3D space, movement in the subjects and an acknowledgement of the spectator.

Di finished with a contemporary artist, Jenny Saville who referenced Da Vinci and the ideas of the Renaissance in her very modern portrayal of the Mother and Child.

There was a short Q&A with thanks given by Gail Bones for a talk that kept the room concentrating hard and totally engrossed. We leant much and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Flower of the Month: Monique Hedger.

Next Meeting: March 12th, 7pm Victory Hall, Lewdown.

Speaker: Mary Cole on Victorian Underwear.

Competition: A pair of double knit fingerless mittens in the Olympic colours of red, white, back, blue, green and yellow.

ALL WELCOME.





Fantastic Mr Fox

February 2018 saw the celebration of two big events – Red Spider Company's twenty years of theatrical productions and the launch of the spanking new Lifton Community Centre. Something very special was called for and something very special was delivered in the shape of David Wood's superb adaptation for the stage of the beloved Roald Dahl classic, Fantastic Mr Fox.

Make no mistake this was a challenging production for the Red Spider Company director, Gill Taylor, and her production team. Firstly the play required an unusual adaptation of the stage so that the illusion of simultaneous action both above and below ground could be created. However the Lifton Community Centre does not have a built-in stage to adapt. Neither does it have backstage facilities or curtains. Somehow an impressive tiered stage with stunning scenery was purpose-built by the production team thus providing the necessary illusion at the same time as it facilitated easy access for the actors from the wings and front of stage. Scene changes were brought about through the use of lighting, sound and music. The mechanical tractors and diggers were another unexpected but very amusing production team surprise. Everything worked beautifully.

The other big challenge for the director was the presence in the production of a small army of children, more than 25 in all and playing the parts of fox cubs, rabbits, mice, chickens and rats. They were drawn from four different local schools: Lewtrenchard, Lifton and Gulworthy primary schools and also Tavistock College. Surely keeping so many children in order, seeing they were in the right place at the right time and seeing that they delivered their lines correctly was asking a lot? Not a bit of it. Their contribution to the success of the production was immense. They were all hugely entertaining and I just loved the way the mischievous rats ran around the hall, playfully harassing the audience at various times during the performance.

Mr Fox was indeed fantastic. He was suave, always in control and had a pleasant singing voice. By contrast Mr Badger was delightfully portrayed as a pompous idiot. Then, of course, we also had some humans in the shape of three thoroughly unpleasant and murderous farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean. We tried our best to hiss and boo, but the portrayals of them were so wonderfully absurd that most of the time it seemed more appropriate to laugh and applause.

All in all this was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. I cannot remember when I laughed so much.

So how do I sum all this up? Easy!

Fan-tas-tic!!

Ron Wawman



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Ministers

United Benefice of Lifton, Broadwood, Stowford, Lewtrenchard with Thrushelton & Kelly with Bradstone

The Revd. Preb. Tim Deacon, BA 01566 784228 The Rectory, Lifton, PL16 0BJ

Milton Abbot Benefice

The Revd. Andv Atkins, 01822 870298

The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot PL19 0NZ

Churchwardens

Lifton-St Mary's			
Mr J Courtice	01566 784562	Mrs G Whitford	01566 784242
Broadwood- St Nicholas			
Mr D Perkin	01566 776758		
Kelly with Bradstone-St M	ary's		
Mr W Kelly	01822 870393	Mr R Eggins	01822 870240
Marystowe—St Mary the	Virgin		
Mrs B Dawe	01566 784797	Mrs D Asbridge	01822 860378
Coryton—St Andrews			
Mrs. S. Andrews	01822 820420	Mr R. Searight	01822 860148
Stowford—St John the Bar	otist	_	
Mr C Chick	01566 783223	Mr S Hedger	01566 783765
Lewtrenchard—St Peters		_	
Mrs A Westlake	01566 783909	Mr B. Grant	01822 860569
Thrushelton—St George			
Mr A J Nash	01566 783274	Mr T Nash	01566 783320

Roman Catholic Services

Tavistock Sunday 9.15 am Holy Days 10am Fr. Greatbatch 01822 612645

(P. Sparling 01822 860355)

Okehampton Saturday 6pm Sunday 11am

Fr M. Darline Joseph

01837 52229

Launceston Sunday 10.00 am Holy Days 7.30pm

Rev. David Annear 01566 773166

Quakers

Meeting for Worship

Tavistock every Sunday 10.00am.

4 Canal Road, Tavistock.

Contact – Kay Nicholson

01822 614596

Okehampton

Every Sunday 10.30am.

Children's Meeting 2nd Sunday Community Centre, Okehampton Community College, Mill Road,

Okehampton.

Contact - Eleanor Flack 01837 53475

St. Mary the Virgin, Marystowe

Church services at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

1st Sun. in the month - Holy Communion • 3rd Sun. in the month - Family Service

Dear Friends,

RENEWAL

All around us the world of nature is putting on her new clothes as Spring (at last) takes hold; a time when members of the local Anglican Church will be busy renewing their commitment to the Church through the Electoral Roll Revision and Annual Church Meetings.

Thinking about the value of renewal reminds me of the purpose of Lent – the 'spring-time' of the Church's year. Lent provides six weeks every year for Christian people to examine and renew their lives of prayer, worship and service and reaches its climax in the glorious Festival of Easter when the churches will be filled with flowers and colour and praise; when everything feels especially "new." At Easter we shall be celebrating again the renewal that is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is most fitting that part of our worship on that day should include the renewal of our own Baptism Vows.

In just about every sphere of our daily lives and existence we know the value of renewal - we eat, exercise and sleep regularly; we occasionally re-decorate our homes inside and out; we know the value of having our cars serviced at appropriate intervals. Passports, television licences, insurance policies and the like are useless and invalidated if they are not regularly renewed.

Our Christian life requires the same constant and thoughtful renewal lest it become useless and invalid! It often happens that for a variety of reasons we allow the promises made at our Baptism to lapse – often through no particular fault of our own! We may reach the point when we would feel awkward about coming to church or even calling ourselves 'Christian'. This is precisely why the Church exists – to offer renewal and to provide an unquestioning and unqualified welcome and support to all-comers.

Such an attitude stems from words of Jesus himself who said: "Come to me, *all* who are weary and heavy laden and I will refresh you." (Matthew 11.28).

Please be absolutely certain and confident that your local churches are made up of 'normal people' who are very welcoming and friendly and ready to welcome any and all visitors and regular worshippers at their times of worship – on Sundays and during the week. You are welcome to discover this for yourselves!

I encourage you to make space and time in your lives this Lent to be renewed in your faith and following of Jesus Christ as together we make our pilgrimage through this season of renewal to the foot of the cross and beyond to the empty tomb of new life and hope.

With every blessing and my prayers.

Faithfully yours,

Rector

LIFTON BENEFICE CHURCHES



Sunday 25th. March PALM SUNDAY

9.30am
9.30am
11.15am
Lifton Church, Holy Communion
Church, Holy Communion
Lewtrenchard Church, Holy Communion

All Services today include the Distribution of Palm Crosses

Wednesday 28th. March WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10.30am Lifton, Holy Communion (Said Service)

Thursday 29th. March MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Stowford Church

Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper, the stripping of the Altar in haste ...

Followed by opportunity to make a personal Vigil of Prayer.

(Those present are invited to "keep watch with Jesus" for as long as they are able)

Friday 30th. March GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am Meet at Strawberry Fields Farm Shop for a Walk of Witness following the Cross

of Jesus - to Lifton Church

10.30am Ecumenical Service at Lifton Church

Followed by Hot Cross Buns and fellowship

2.00pm Devotional Hour at Thrushelton Church

Followed by Hot Cross Buns in Church

Saturday 31st. March EASTER EVE

8.00pm Lewtrenchard - Service of "New Fire"

Lighting the Paschal Candle, The "Exultet" (Easter Praise)

and the First Communion of Easter

Sunday 1st. April EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am Lifton, Holy Communion

9.30am Broadwoodwidger, Holy Communion

11.15am Kelly, Holy Communion11.15am Stowford, Holy Communion





WORSHIP IN THE LIFTON BENEFICE

The Churches of

St.Mary, **Lifton**. St.Nicholas, **Broadwoodwidger**. St.Peter, **Lewtrenchard** St.Mary, **Kelly**. St.John the Baptist, **Stowford**. St.George, **Thrushelton**

HC Holy Communion. MP Morning Prayer. EP Evening Prayer Holy Communion every Wednesday, 10.30am at St.Mary's, Lifton

SERVICES in MARCH / APRIL 2018

	9.30am unless different			11.15am	un	ess different
4th. Lent 3	Lifton Broadwood	-	Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Kelly Stowford	-	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
11th Mothering	Lifton Thrushelton	-	Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Lewtrenchard	-	Holy Communion
18th Lent 5	Lifton Broadwood	-	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Kelly Stowford	-	Holy Communion Holy Communion
25th Palm S.	Lifton Thrushelton	-	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Lewtrenchard	-	Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK 2018

28th March Wednesday	10.30am	Said Holy Communion at Lifton Church Followed by refreshments in church
29th Maundy Thurs	7.30pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper and Watch of Prayer at Stowford Church
30th Good Friday	10.30am 2.00pm	Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Lifton Church after Walk of Witness from Strawberry Fields (Gather at Strawberry Fields at 10.00am) Devotional Hour at Thrushelton Church
31st Easter Eve	8.00pm	Service of "New Fire" and 1st Communion of Easter at Lewtrenchard Church

	9.30am unless different		11.15am unless different	
1st. Easter Sun	Lifton Broadwood	Holy CommunionHoly Communion	Kelly - Holy Communion Stowford - Holy Communion	
8th Easter 2	Lifton Thrushelton	Holy CommunionHoly Communion	Lewtrenchard - Holy Communion	
15th Easter 3	Lifton Broadwood	Morning PrayerHoly Communion	Stowford - Holy Communion	
22nd Easter 4	Lifton Thrushelton	Holy CommunionMorning Prayer	Lewtrenchard - Holy Communion	
29th Easter 5	"Together at 10.00" on a fifth Sunday of the Month. All welcome to Lewtrenchard Church for Communion and Fellowship			

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 24th March 10 - 12 The School Room Bratton Clovelly

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Enquiries Mary Tomes 01837 871541

Gladys Bennett and the family would like to say a very big thankyou to all our neighbours and friends for all the support they have given, and are still giving, since the sad death of Les.

To all the people who have sent cards (sorry . too many to answer) over 100! Thank you all. Gladys and Family.

Lifton History Group

Public Health in 19c Launceston' was the title of the talk given by Les Kennedy at the February meeting. It was, to say the least, shocking, but at the same time made us all feel glad that we were not having to cope with the conditions. Open sewers, no clean water for most residents as at one time there were only 7 taps in the town. Animals living cheek by jowl with families was not unusual. There was a fair amount of humour in the talk, which made it a bit less gruesome and we did enjoy the evening.

The talk on Wednesday 7 March, at 7.30 pm in the Tamar Room, will be given by Sue Knox. The subject is Haldon Belvedere (Lawrence Castle). All are welcome to attend and so we look forward to seeing you then.

The April meeting is on Wednesday 4th, in the Tamar Room, and the subject is 'The Fishermen of Port Isaac' which should be interesting. We hope to see you there.



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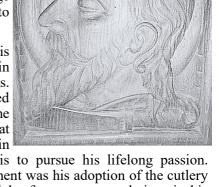
an illustrated talk by Simon Dell

Tuesday 20th March at 7.30 pm Stowford Parish Hall

Simon Dell hardly needs any introduction, having served in our local police force for many years. Now retired, he has researched numerous subjects, written many books and has a large collection of photographs. This particular talk has been highly recommended by everyone I know who has heard it and gives an insight into an aspect of war which has possibly seemed taboo for so long.

Visitors are very welcome but may like to phone 01566 783396/793567 nearer the time to check there has not been a rare change of programme or for further information. Lifts are possible also. Charge £2 for members, £3 for non-members to include refreshments.

January meeting: Harry Hems is renowned for his stone and wood carving in many Devon churches and other buildings. Even as a nine-year-old he was enthralled by carving, having been inspired by some particularly intricate work at the Great Exhibition of 1851. He began working in



the family cutlery firm but soon left this to pursue his lifelong passion. However a legacy from this early employment was his adoption of the cutlery business' trade mark, 'IXL' (I excel) which often appears on knives in his carvings and whose significance was apparently first identified by our speaker, Sue Andrew.

After a seven year apprenticeship and some foreign travel, Hems arrived in Exeter in 1866, set up a workshop, and began work on stone carvings for the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). He also collected numerous samples of medieval carving on which to model his Victorian church restoration work. Many of these were later bought by RAMM and now form one of the most important collections of medieval woodwork in any British museum. His work also had a contemporary flavour: for example, a scene of St John the Baptist's beheading might show a Bowie sheath knife Page 30

(inscribed IXL of course) like that in Stowford Church. His extensive work at St John the Baptist, Stowford is particularly well regarded and part of the reason for its Grade I listed status.

Hems was a workaholic, and expected the same of his employees, but he also remained intensely loyal to them if they were, in turn, loyal to him. He occasionally defended his principles with violence and also refused to pay his taxes on more than one occasion when he believed they were unjust. To fund

his tax bills he organised some rather irreverent auctions of his possessions, including: 'three second hand tombstones (slightly damaged) suitable for the graves of Income Tax Commissioners'; his 'bulldog named Bob': a statue of St Matthew the Tax Gatherer and a sculpture of the Twelve Apostles. Fortunately his many close friends bought these lots and returned them and it was widely reported that he had made the Twelve



Apostles pay his tax. Hems was also a prolific contributor to newspapers and periodicals, keeping scrapbooks of cuttings (over 33,000 of them) of everything published, so we can still discover a great deal about his life. But maybe not how to fund our taxes!

Photographs by Stewart Whitelock

The Devon Home Library Service

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