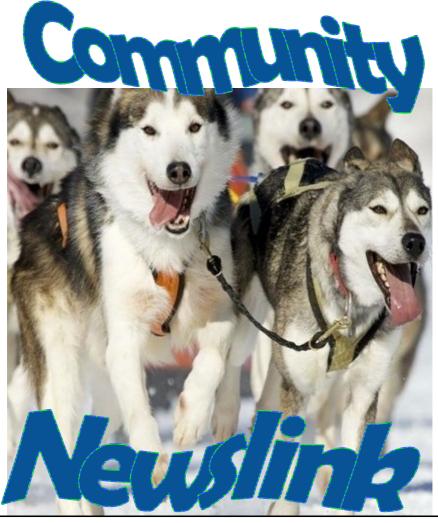
THE AREA MAGAZINE FOR LEWDOWN, CHILLATON, CORYTON, STOWFORD, MARYSTOWE, THRUSHELTON, LEWTRENCHARD

April 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/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/7th/Apr	Lewdown Cricket Club	Lewdown Cricket Club Pauline Gearing on 01822 820400	Grand Jumble Sale @ 2pm entry 50p
Mon/09/Apr	Victory Hall	Lewtrenchard W.I. 01566 784104	Meeting @ 7:30pm
Wed/11/Apr	Victory Hall	Soupa Troopers 01566 783392	Soup, Bread Roll, Tea or Coffee - £3 @ 12:30pm
Fri/13/Apr	Victory Hall	Thrushelton Church Wool Project	Next project date 10:30 - 4pm
Tue/17/Apr	(see pages 30 - 31)	Lewdown Past 01566 783396	Bude Canal - Day Visit
Sat/21/Apr	Bratton Clovelly Village Hall	In aid of 'Bloodwise' Mary Tomes 01837 871541	Table Top Sale
Sat/21/Apr	Stowford Parish Hall	Stowford Parish Hall Charles 01566 783223	Stowford Hall Supper
Fri/27/Apr	Blue Lion	Angie & Barbara (see page 8)	AUCTION in aid of Cancer Research
Sat/28/Apr	Victory Hall	Lew Trenchard Primary School 01566 783273	BUMPER JUMBLE SALE

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

LEWDOWN 200 CLUB

JANUARY DRAW £15 Alwyn Spry £5 Steve Yeo £5 Rosie Metherell FEBRUARY DRAW £15 Marion Wonnacott £5 Caryl Gibson £5 Adrian Cann MARCH DRAW £50 Ian Prout £15 James Singer £5 Ian Lethbridge £5 Peter Jones

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. 214 April 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 - The Arctic Wilderness Husky Trail - see page 8 for more details or go to https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/barbara-angie

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Lew Trenchard Primary School



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

LOCAL SCHOOL NEED VOLUNTEERS

Lew Trenchard primary school would like to invite volunteers to get involved in a team of enthusiastic adults to deliver 'Open the book'.

This group will tell bible stories to the children in a fun and lively way.

If you would like to get involved please come and watch how it's done when we showcase it in school on April 27th at 9.30 am in the school hall.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions and find out much more!



BRENTOR & MOOR COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBOURS URGENTLY NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS!

Brentor & Moor Compassionate Neighbours helps to support individuals living with a long-term condition, suffering from a life -limiting illness, or approaching the end of life, enabling them if at all possible to remain at home during this difficult time. BMCN works in partnership with St Luke's Hospice.

The scheme was launched in June last year, with the original intention of serving the area to the North of Tavistock, to include Brentor, Chillaton, Lydford, Mary Tavy, Lifton, Lewdown and surroundings. Due to demand, however, it has now expanded to cover Tavistock, Yelverton and surrounding district. Because of this, more volunteers are now urgently sought.

If you have two or three hours a week to spare, maybe have some experience in health or social care- or indeed have perhaps looked after a loved one, or simply have a genuine interest in helping this vulnerable group of people in our communitiesplease do get in touch *now*. We need you! Full training, DBS checks etc, is given to our volunteers.

For further information, visit: www.bmcneighbours.org; alternatively, for an informal chat- with no obligation to commit- please call the BMCN Co-ordinator, Mark Alderson, on 01822 860799.





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Angíe & Barbara's

Auction at the Blue LionOn Friday 27th April 8pm

Arctic Wilderness Husky Trail

For Cancer Research UK Sledding 260km \$\$\$\$\$\$

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 to start with a question? What do

Winnie the Pooh and Alexander the great have in common?, the answer is at the bottom of this rubbish.

May i welcome you all to this months big pile of rubbish.

I hope you all survived the snowy condition at the start of the month, personally i never even had chance to get the sleigh out of retirement before it all started melted.

I'm just about old enough to remember the winter of 1978, when the snow was up to the top of the hedges and as a student of Okehampton college we had nearly a fortnight off. I can vividly remember my mother hanging washing on the line, and within minutes it was like a sheet of cardboard. You knew it was cold when there was ice on the inside of the windows, what fun.

Anyway i digress, i will end this rubbish now as the ladies of the house are in need my able assistance, as they have started early and are making their Christmas cake, or is it the wedding cake, i get so confused. I am an expert in cleaning the mixing bowls out. Best wishes Tim Nash your hon chairperson.

PS. The answer to the question is that they have the same middle name.

Lewdown Residents Association are proud to announce that the AGM will be held on the 18th of April 2018, at 7.30pmat 2 Cannon Barn cottage Lewdown. Come along a get a free cup of Tea.



Lewdown has a defibrillator for the use of the village.

It is located in the roadside porch of the Blue Lion.

Please note it is not recognised by 999 calls if more than 200 mtrs away from it.

When ringing 999 they will access code to open box.

The Blue Lion, Lewdown

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

Events in April

(Sat. 31st Marsh - LIVE MUSIC Rufus Stoned)

Sat. 7th - Snail Racing

Sat 21st - Curry Night *****

Food is now being served Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday Lunch - Now Available - 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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BUMPER JUMBLE SALE zpm SATURDAY 28th APRIL LEWDOWN VICTORY HALL **50p ADMISSION** Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac & Refreshments.

For more info please contact 01566 783273. In aid of Lew Trenchard Primary School.

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Bratton Clovelly



Torben,

Alex & Thomas look forward to seeing you 01837 871447

Lewtrenchard WI,

Monday 12th March 2018

President, Cathie Slocombe, welcomed everyone and we started off on the right note by singing Jerusalem. Cathie invited members to sign up for the DFWI Spring council meeting on 18th April in Torquay, which is always an excellent day out including mini craft demonstrations over lunch.

Cathie highlighted the article in The Cornish and Devon about Sylvia Crockers's Milk & Sarnies campaign now rolling out to several Waitrose. Well done Sylvia!

This Saturday 17th March 2-4pm is our WI Jumble Sale at Victory Hall. The upcoming Tamar WI Group Meeting will be Monday 16th April 7:30pm at Victory Hall cost £3. Skittles will be moved to 24th March this month as our usual date clashes with Easter.

Cathie introduced our speaker, Mary Cole, who came to talk to us about vintage underwear. Mary began by complementing us on being an impressive WI complete with good singing of Jerusalem. She had attended a talk by 'the knicker lady' at STERTS open air theatre at Upton Cross, near Liskeard, a great place to visit. Mary realised, that through her mother inheriting and keeping various spinster aunts' estates, she had a serious collection of under garments from across the decades. A friend asked her to give a talk at her lunch club that's how it all started.

Mary started by telling us that 200 years ago ladies did not wear underwear, only the men and ladies of the night did. They did wear multiple layers of petticoats including red flannel ones in the winter. Cotton summer petticoats would have been both boiled and starched. Looking at surviving examples you can see that they were altered many times over and reused throughout the family.

The first 'drawers' (called this because they were pulled or drawn on) were more like two trouser legs joined together by a drawstring and were known to fall down. They were decorated with lace around the ankles, which would tantalise the men if they got a peak.

The first 'bloomers' arrived around 1850 for well-to-do ladies in grand houses. They were baggier, still did not join in the middle and did up with buttons front and back. Later bloomers were sewn together with a trap door at the back – still done up with buttons! – for necessary access.

The name bloomers came from a mid-nineteenth century, American temperance and women's rights activist called Amelia Bloomer. To make travelling by coach and horseback more comfortable she scandalously wore a

long coat with Turkish style trousers (hence the name bloomers) rather than a dress as she toured around the country.

Knickers, a shorter style came next named after the Knickerbocker family from Switzerland. Lace was very important to ladies and girls at the time and all of the examples Mary showed were decorated with beautiful examples. Before the invention of the Singer sewing machine in 1856, all underwear would have been hand sewn with perfect, tiny stitches.

Whalebone corsets became the fashion in the Victorian times and girls who didn't wear a corset were considered 'clumsy' and would not attract a husband. Children wore them from the age of 8 and they caused health issues and deformation. There were actually ratcheting machines for maids to help their mistresses achieve the ideal 18 inch waist. Employers of high end shops such as Harrods or John Lewis would not employ girls with a waist greater than 19 inches.

Mary showed us examples of an aunt's wedding trousseau, which included beautiful nighties, chemises and combinations again decorated with fine lace.

We moved into the twentieth century looking at silky French knickers, bias cut slips, satin pyjamas, waist petticoats and the famous liberty bodice that brought a few sentimental smiles. Fabric was rationed during the war so Utility fabrics were introduced in 1941. If you were lucky enough to get hold of a parachute – whether it was recovered or sold as a second – you could make wedding dresses, underwear and blouses. The 1950's brought panty girdles, suspender belts and taffeta petticoats complete with 'whale bone'. We ended with nylon negligees, baby doll pyjamas and modern-day teddies and thongs.

The vote of thanks was given by Cathie, who thanked Mary for 'showing us her knickers' and giving us a fascinating talk. Mary was given an enthusiastic round of applause.

The competition winner for the fingerless mittens in Olympic colours was Mary Edgecombe.

The Flower of the month was won by Joyce Vanstone.

Next Meeting: Monday 9th April once again at 7:30pm as we will have started BST.

Speaker on Dementia Awareness. Competition: 8" floral wreath in Olympic colours

LEWDOWN VICTORY HALL

Charity No 230270

JUMBLE AND PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 12TH MAY at 2.00pm Admission 50p

FOR VICTORY HALL FUNDS

Thrushelton Church Sunday Lunch May 6th 12.30pm for 1pm 3 course roast beef dinner tickets £12

from Andy 01566783274 / Tim 01566783320





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. Andy 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 Ma	ry'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 Baptist				
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

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 APRIL 2018

	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			

The Rectory, Lifton 01566 784228 revtimdeacon@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

"One more step... to Easter and beyond"

At the conclusion of my letter to you in the February edition of The Newslink, I expressed the hope that we might view 2018 as a "Year of Pilgrimage" – a time given to realising the value of discovering afresh the pattern of Jesus as the aim for our pilgrimages of faith and the strength of his company and guidance in our daily journeys of life. In the same letter I promised there would be a focus on pilgrimage in the worship of our local churches in the months to come. I have been true to my word!

On the Sundays of February and March we have been looking at the journeys of life and faith in a variety of ways. We started by remembering that we need to revisit the Gospels to rediscover the whole ministry of Jesus and we were reminded of his words (Jn.8.22) "I am the light of the world – whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Anything we do, and anywhere we go is so much more easily achieved in the light ... when it's dark, we fumble and fall.

We believe and we live with purpose and positivity when do so in the **Light of Jesus!**

As we journey through the bad and the good in life and faith; as we encounter new experiences and challenges and find ourselves having to moving on from the familiar into the unknown we can better cope when we focus on the significance of the **Cross of Jesus**. His shining light was only briefly extinguished by his death; for because of Easter and the new life of Jesus, his cross is recognised as an anchor for hope, a beacon of the depth of God's love for us all, a sign of welcome, purpose and new life. We strive to put the cross and its message at the centre of our journeys of life and faith.

In our recent times of Sunday worship our development of the theme of pilgrimage has involved reflecting on the joy and the benefits of remembering a whole host of well-known saints and personally-known individuals who in so many ways have helped to guide us in life and nurture us in faith. As we have reflected with thanksgiving on the influence others have had on our journeying and believing it is our hope that others in the future will look back and give thanks for our examples and faithfulness with equal thanksgiving.

Travelling well and making a difference to ourselves and to others is not about making a choice between life or faith – but about choosing to bring the two kinds of journey together – the secular and the sacred; the ordinary and the holy, the earthly and the heavenly – for only then is our travelling truly complete.

In the churches of the Lifton Benefice we shall be continuing with our examination of pilgrimaging in faith (and how that can positively influence our journeying in life) in the weeks to come – "through Easter and beyond…"

If you have not yet thought about the benefits of combining faith and life in the one journey of life, or wonder how that might be achieved, then please be sure that it's never too late to take a first step on a journey of faith. **All of our local churches** (of all denominations) are ready to welcome you into their company and to walk alongside you on a journey of faith that will bring us all the "the promised land." If you would like to share any thoughts on the journey of faith or ask any questions, please do so – I would be glad to hear from you.

Sheila and I wish you a truly blessed Easter,

in Jeacon

BROADWOODWIDGER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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by leading Devon historian

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MONDAY 16th APRIL 2018 AT 7 p.m.

BROADWOODWIDGER COMMUNITY HUB

(by Parish Church - parking on village green)

Meet at the Hub

- part of presentation will be in St Nicholas Church

TICKETS (to include tea/coffee): £2 members, £4 non-members

Stowford Parish Council



Stowford Parish Council is looking for additional councillors, if you are looking for an interesting and rewarding experience and would like to put something back into your local community then please contact the clerk to learn more.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Stowford Parish Clerk

Telephone: 01566 783023

Email: stowfordclerk@gmail.com



SOUPA TROOPERS

Wednesday April 11th

LewdownVictory Hall @12.30pm

Soup, Bread Roll, Tea or Coffee - £3

Enquiries – 01566 783392

Lifton Local History Group

HAldon Belvedere (Lawrence Castle) was the talk given by Sue Knox on 7th March. It is open to the public and also is available as a venue for parties and weddings. A truly lovely (Grade 2 listed) building with fabulous views. It has had a very chequered history but is now in superb condition and well worth a visit.

The next date for the LLHG is Wednesday 4 April, in the Tamar Room, Arundel Hotel, when the subject is:-

Fishermen of Port Isaac

an illustrated talk by Geoff Provis.
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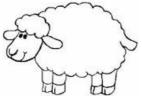


Website: www.cblstoves.co.uk Email: carl@cblstoves.co.uk



Thrushelton Church Wool Project

next date: Friday 13th April 10:30am to 3pm, at Lewdown Victory Hall



You can come and lend a hand, or just come to see what we are doing.

Before too long there should be several more runners to sit on in the Church - so all is going very well.

Thank you to all helpers!

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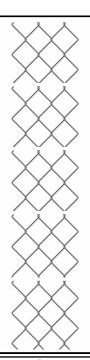
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The Forgotten Garden of Lewtrenchard this year intends to reroof the old lime kiln and will be hoping to raise money at eyents such as the annual

Bluebell day on Saturday 5th May. Cream teas served 2.30 – 4.30pm. Children's gnome hunt.

The Bluebell day is a chance to see the woodland garden with the flowers in bloom. Children can help us find some missing pixies that are hidden on the walk.

This year we are running a **Photograph Competition** for *images from the Forgotten Garden* so that we can choose the best in the autumn giving us enough time to make a Forgotten Garden calendar for 2019. A small prize will be given to the winners in adult and junior (under 16years) categories.

Keep up with our news on our website. http://www.forgottengarden.co.uk

Stowford Hall Supper

Sat 21st April 7pm for 7.30pm

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Lewdown Past

The Bude Canal - the Devon network

all-day visit: Tuesday 17th April

Meet at Lewdown Post Office at 10.30 am. We aim to share cars, as parking is very limited. Please bring a picnic lunch, suitable clothing and footwear. The visit will include several short walks along the canal, mostly level, with one very short, gentle-gradient incline plane:

- Virworthy Wharf- terminal canal basin and small museum.
- Lower Tamar Lake supplied water for the canal (toilets here).

 Optional 10 min (1/2 ml) walk between these; lunch at one or other.
- Stroll (3/4 ml each way) From Vealand (SS 292067) along canal bank, via Vealand incline plane (gentle slope), to aqueduct over the Tamar and the farm bridge beyond; past remains of Bude-Stratton water treatment works.

AND/OR:

- Walk (1/4 ml each way) from Vealand to the junction with the Holsworthy branch of the canal and a basin.
- Tea in Bude if members wish.

A member of the Bude Canal Trust has offered to be our guide.

Please register your interest as we need to know numbers for planning. Please supply your name and phone number to 01566 783396 if you have not signed the list at our last meeting. Non-members are very welcome (charge £3).

February meeting: Elly Babbedge gave us a lively account of Great Bidlake and the Bidlake family who have lived there for almost all of the past 750 years. 'Bidlake' appears to have originated as a place name until the Coombes of Bidlake, the initial family members to live there from 1268, simplified their name to just Bidlake. Over the next few centuries the estate expanded, through a string of strategic purchases and successful marriages, adding properties in parts of Devon (including Bradstone) plus a few in Cornwall, with a scattering of tenanted farms. 'Wester Bidlake', as it was then known, was more prosperous than neighbouring farms on Dartmoor granite and had 'venfield rights', allowing animals to be moved seasonally to the moor's open grazing. The farm also benefitted from its location in a sheltered coombe and having a mill with a good water supply.

In the Civil War Henry Bidlake took the Royalist side although his wife's family, at Kelly, were Parliamentarians. He may well have taken part in the battles of Sourton and Meldon in 1643. Being on the wrong side when hostilities ended, he was fined £300 'for delinquency' but, being destitute and unable to pay, the story goes that he hid in a cottage nearby to avoid immediate arrest. Surprisingly his Parliamentarian mother-in-law helped to repay some loans he had been forced to take out but some of the Bidlake estates had to be sold off to pay the rest.

In the early 18th century the Bidlake male line of succession died out and the family became the target of an audacious fraudster. A claim to the estate came from a Richard Becklake, who had very convincingly altered his name to Bidlake in local parish registers and other documents. This dispute rumbled on unsuccessfully for years and the falsified registers remain uncorrected to this day.

The last Bidlake by name to live at Wester Bidlake for a while was Phillipa, who died in 1792, leaving four daughters. The estate was left to her eldest niece, Mary Hearn, who had married a Thomas Wollocombe, hence linking the Bidlakes to this other local family with connections to Stowford. Various family members lived in Great Bidlake on and off until, in 1946, the estate had to be sold to an outsider. However, a few years later, in 1968, Elizabeth and John Roger Wollocombe came to live at Bidlake Mill. A young James Bidlake enjoyed visiting 'Aunt Elizabeth' and remembers being allowed to close the hatch on the leat, diverting water to make the mill wheel turn. He often gazed wistfully at the family home and declared that one day he would buy Great Bidlake and bring it back into family ownership. Two years ago, he and his wife Alex did just this. Maybe the Bidlakes' success and long history has something to do with their family motto: 'by excellence, not cunning'. As James puts it, in the book written by Ellie Babbedge: 'The Bidlakes were content with their lot and simply stayed put in their bucolic idyll there was no desire to fight on foreign shores, seeking personal glory and profit'.

Stowford Parish Hall Hire Charges 2017

£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



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For Neighbourhood & Farm Watches and crime prevention advice please contact PCSO Dave Chapple on his mobile no above

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Newslink Day

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Wednesday 25th April 2018 2pm @ Victory Hall

We would welcome your assistance in collating the pages, stapling or folding the magazine... and you get a cup of tea and a biscuit.