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June 2020

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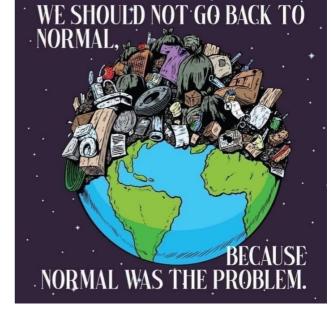
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June 2020

A very varied collection of items again this week. Many thanks to all of you who have taken the time to send these in. There would be no Ide Times without you. Thanks also to our new advertisers this month, Please pass your eye over these as they may be offering just what you need, and of course the income from adverts helps to pay for this free magazine.

Page 14 gives a taste of the first VE day, reminding us that times of great difficulty



provide the opportunity to reset the way that society works, In the case of WW2, the NHS was of course part of this reset. How will we make our country and hopefully the world a better place?

Ann Boyce

Please send items for the July Ide Times to Brenda Spivey by the 20th June brendaspivey123@btinternet.com Tel: 01392 275784

USEFUL NUMBERS

Community Policeman: 101

The Parish Church - Rev Mike Partridge 01392 491476 07751 725306 rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com and leave a message.

Congregational Church: Jackie Chadwick jacky.c@talktalk.net

M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 melstride.mp@parliament.uk

Community Shop Opening Hours: (Tel. 410035)

Monday – Friday 8am – 12 noon and 3pm –

6.30pm Saturdays 8am – 1pm Sundays 9am - 12 noon

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9am - 11.45 noon & 3pm - 5pm Saturdays 9am - 12 noon



The Mobile Library will be not be operating during the lockdown.

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

Idevillage.org.uk

Report by the Chair for the year May 2019 – May 2020

1. Pandemic

Just after 5pm on Monday 23 March 2020 the UK government announced emergency measures requiring the population to observe domestic "lockdown" to control the spread of coronavirus. So far the UK has suffered the highest number of deaths of any country in Europe. Calls for an enquiry come at the same time as calls for a route out of lockdown. The south west has been less severely hit relative to other regions and large cities. But in Ide, like everywhere, families are juggling working from home with schooling at home, getting out to exercise and shop for food, keeping in touch online with family and friends. People who live alone have been particularly hard hit. Volunteer schemes have blossomed. Schools, pubs, cinemas, theatres, hairdressers, universities, museums, sports venues, playgrounds, churches – all shut. Hospitals re-purposed for emergency work only; operations and treatments cancelled. Weddings postponed, funerals conducted with 10 mourners maximum. Workers furloughed, the economy gasping for air, all of us anxious, intermittently hopeful, for the summer ahead.

2. Parish Council Meetings.

Our scheduled two monthly meetings took place in the newly refurbished hall, until March, with the always present help of Carol Whitehart who takes and co-ordinates bookings, and holds the key for everyone who uses the hall. Thank you Carol on behalf of the village.

By 16 March coronavirus was threatening public events, so we held our planned meeting on 18 March as an online Skype briefing at which no votes were taken, and no decisions made. The Coronavirus Act 2020 came into force on 25 March, allowing parish councils to meet remotely online. We had already called an extraordinary meeting, to deal with the outstanding business, for 25 March, in the church, distanced and with a simple quorum (three). But this meeting was cancelled after the government forbade gatherings of more than two people. At another extraordinary meeting on 20 April in public on Skype, we eventually concluded the planned business from 18 March.

3. Parish Council Membership

In April Jenny Lundh and Carolyn Tysoe decided to step down as parish councillors. The two vacancies have been advertised, with a view to the Council co-opting two new councillors over the summer. Please contact the clerk or chair if you would like to be considered.

As I wrote in the May Ide Times, I'd like to thank Jenny and Cassa warmly for serving as councillors. For the year they were members, the Council had its first ever majority of women councillors, 5 to 4. Both Cassa and Jenny served on the Parish Council Climate Emergency Working Group; and Jenny will continue on it. Cassa serves on the Pynes Orchard Working Group; and was instrumental in bringing forward the paper with Richard Reynolds, now on ice, for the creation of a local volunteer group to train and skill up residents in dealing with cardiac and other emergencies. She also continues as chair of the Ide Allotments Association.

The seven remaining councillors are Pete Bishop (vice chair; and chair of the Planning Committee), Andy Swain (chair of the Climate Emergency Working Group and a district councillor), Rachel Herbert, Mark Thomas, Jessica Paine, Paula Burton Perrett (chair of the Emergency Planning Covid-19 working group) and myself.

4. Parish Clerk

The council employs one member of staff, the parish clerk and responsible financial officer, Mel Liversage, who was appointed in October 2017.

Mel has been able to continue to work from home during lockdown without significant disruption. We rely on her for the smooth running of parish council and planning committee meetings, and the significant paperwork that goes with them. She is responsible for keeping proper financial records, budgeting, and managing the council's four bank accounts. Our finances are sound; and the council functions well, with respect and positive regard evident between its members and the clerk. Thank you once again, Mel, for the work you do and the style you bring to it.

5. Audit

In March we commissioned our third annual internal audit by the independent professional, Alison Marshal. She makes objective assessments across the range of administrative functions of the council, the policies we apply, and the records we keep, to assure the quality and probity of the council's operation. Following her last report, we have discussed and formally adopted the following protocols:

Ide PC: NALC Guidance on procedures for co-opting new councillors, July 2019

Ide PC: Risk Management Policy, Sep 2019

Ide PC: Data Protection Policy, Sep 2019

Ide PC: Freedom of Information Policy, Sep 2019

Ide PC: Complaints procedure, March 2020

Ide PC: Delegation scheme for Clerk, March 2020

Alison Marshall's full report is available on the website as a paper for the Annual Parish Council meeting.

6. Planning Committee

Scrutinising and commenting on planning applications in and near to the parish is one of the Council's main functions, and it is carried out by the Planning Committee, to which the Council delegates its function. The committee is Pete Bishop (chair), Rachel Herbert and Mark Thomas, supported by Mel Liversage, clerk. The committee meets in public, if necessary every month, and sometimes at shorter notice if an item crops up between meetings. Thank you to Jacky Chadwick for opening up the Hub and turning on the heating before meetings! In the last year it met in June, July, October and January.

When a development is classed as major or is especially complex, the application is debated at a full Council meeting. Pete Bishop published advice for residents in the April Ide Times on how to comment formally as an individual citizen on a planning application. Ide Neighbourhood Plan has played a significant role in fashioning the outcome of several applications. The committee updated its Terms of Reference in July 2019. My thanks to the three committee members for their thoughtful and painstaking work.

7. The Cemetery

Sarah Tiley has kindly continued to serve the village as cemetery co-ordinator, working closely with Mel Liversage to maintain the fabric and the function of the cemetery; responding promptly and with sensitivity to enquiries; and liaising with the churches, celebrants and funeral directors. Thank you for this important, unsung work.

8. Ide School

Coronavirus has affected schools dramatically, and their pupils and students profoundly, staying open for the children of keyworkers in some areas, forming hubs in others. The parish council has had to close with padlock the play area by the school until further notice. Use of the MUGA has stopped; and the school's allotment plot, which was in its first spring with the children, is now being looked after by other allotment gardeners.

9. Defibrillator

In preparing a paper on VETS (Volunteer Emergency Telephone Scheme) for the Council, there was discussion about the pros and cons of a second defibrillator in the village. Current advice and guidance from the ambulance service turns out not to support a second defibrillator in a village this close to Exeter – less than five minutes for a 999 ambulance – so the Council's previous notion of raising funds for a second machine have been shelved, in favour of community resuscitation training and setting up a residents' group for emergency response (VETS) once the Covid crisis is over. Thank you to Brenda Mosedale for looking after the machine outside the shop and performing the monthly check on its battery and housing.

10. Traffic Safety

Following a 24 hour traffic camera survey in September which found high numbers of cars using Doctors Walk and Balls Farm Road illegally, a community walk took place on the morning of 18 November, from the Twisted Oak to West Exe School, attended by about 30 people. It was filmed by ITV News, highlighting the dangers to pedestrians and the problem of traffic disobeying the restriction signs.

11. Emergency Planning and response

It was a winter of flood and a spring of virus. Thank you to the working group of Dave Black, Barry Hookins, Pete Bishop, Ian Campbell and Paula Burton Perrett for their work with clearing culverts, providing sandbags and getting out in the middle of the night to check winter levels. Come March, a new group rapidly formed, the Ide Emergency Planning Covid-19 working group, expertly chaired by Paula Burton Perrett, bringing together Ide Shop and Post Office, the Parish Council, St Ida's Church and Ide Angels Volunteers. This group has met every two weeks during the crisis, co-ordinating food and medicines deliveries, personal support to vulnerable village residents, and re-formatting the way the shop and post office operate to allow them both, magnificently, to stay open and safe.

12. Climate Emergency Working Group

Andy Swain chairs this working group of Ide residents with the shared aim of halting climate change, who met nine times during the year. Last May the shop solar panels went live. In January a Plastic Free Ide was declared, with detailed advice set out on the village website. The Council signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration in March. In February the group held a public meeting addressed by Kate Willett from the Met office, and local residents Richard Cottle and Andrew Bragg. Our thanks to Pip Smithson, James Romain, Carolyn Tysoe, Jenny Lundh, Andrew Bragg, Richard Cottle, Georgina Ambrose, Andy Swain, Alex Goodman and Ann Boyce for their work on the group.

13. Ide Times

Every month, lockdown or flood, Ide Times arrives through our door, free. Do you know who delivers yours? Ever thought how long it must take to compile an edition? Thank you from all of us in the village to the editors, Ann Boyce and Brenda Spivey, and their band of volunteer posties.

14. Weir Meadow

I reported in May Ide Times on the two public meetings we held on 22 and 26 February about plans and ambitions for Weir Meadow and the Northern Fields. We abandoned the idea of a bridge over the brook last summer. Our offer to buy Northern Fields was accepted, removing the problem of retained agricultural access across the Meadow; and we await a draft option agreement from the Church Commissioners to formalise that undertaking.

On 28 April an application for planning permission was submitted by David Wilson Architects for change of use and phase 1 of recreation ground development. See Teignbridge Planning portal ref 20/00668/MAJ and 20/00669/FUL to view and comment. Thank you to the community and sporting groups, and individuals, who have contributed funds during the year to cover professional fees and planning expenses to get us to this point: Ide Growers, Ide Twinning, Ide Shop, Ide Aloud, Ide Rugby Club, Ide Cricket Club; and to our district and county councillors for contributions from their community funds. In particular, thanks to Richard Cloke (flood risk assessment report), Julian Perrett (ecology report), Pete Skinner (surveyor), Stuart Brooking (arboreal report), and David Howe (legal support) who have each given their expertise and time pro bono. Thank you too to those on the working group, which met five times during the year: Stuart Brooking (chair), Richard Cloke, Tony Stearman, Barry Hookins, David Howe, Jessica Paine, Doug Bell, Richard Cottle, Cheryl Haddy, Mark Thomas, Pete Skinner, Phil Willcock and Mel Liversage.

15. Pynes Community Orchard

Progress on securing an option to purchase agreement was delayed for a year by an adverse claim for possessory title to a strip of dismantled railway line on the north eastern boundary of the orchard. This was fully resolved in February, and the Church Commissioners have now issued us with a draft option agreement which excludes any of the previously disputed ground. Once we have agreed some limited amendments with the Commissioners, we should be in a position to put the agreement to the Council for approval this summer.

68 apple and 4 pear trees were planted in January. Livestock has been removed and will not be introduced again to avoid faecal contamination of fruit. Peter Cloke is strimming around the new trees, and has arranged for grass cutting during the summer. Until we own the field, its use must remain a private orchard under the terms of the annual licence that Andy Bragg holds with the Commissioners, and not yet open as a public amenity. My thanks to the members of the working group, who met five times during the year: Peter Cloke (chair), Trevor Gardner, Mel Liversage, Andy Bragg, Richard Sharman, Julian Perrett, Phil Willcock, Mark Thomas, Carolyn Tysoe and Jessica Paine.

16. Pynes Farm Yard development

The Church Commissioners have submitted their application for 10 houses at Pynes Farm. The full Parish Council discussed the details on 13 May. See Teignbridge planning portal 20/00621/MAJ to view and comment. We support the scheme in general; and in particular for the Commissioners' attention to Ide Neighbourhood Plan concerning the number (five) of smaller two bedroom houses, and making two of those affordable. We will be making representations to improve and update the carbon reduction plan which currently specifies gas boilers; further improve the design and visual impact of the buildings to be more in keeping with their agricultural setting; and investigate the options for ensuring highway safety at and around the entrance to the development.

17. Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 1) 2020-2040. Quality as Standard – Consultation.

See www.teignbridge.gov.uk/localplanreview

A large piece of work, and if you give yourself some coronavirus time to get into it, an engaging and encouraging read, this document sets out the policies by which planning decisions will be made over the next 20 years. Reversing climate change, reducing carbon emissions, providing affordable housing, supporting low energy, low polluting, non fossil fuel transport, and darkening night skies are some of the principles at stake. Individual comments and feedback are invited, closing date 15 June 2020. We discussed the plan on 13 May and have commented as a Parish Council. Nick Bradley May 20

NOTICE OF VACANCIES FOR TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION

To make up its full complement of nine parish councillors, the Council intends to co-opt 2 new members at its July 2020 meeting. This is an opportunity to represent your community by improving services and facilities in Ide. It is an unpaid voluntary post in the first tier of local government. You would be required to attend six evening meetings per year. Training will be provided.

Candidates must be 18 years or older on the day of nomination, and satisfy at least one of the following four criteria:

- Be registered as a local government elector for the parish
- Have during the whole of the preceding twelve months occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the parish
- Principal or only place of work during the preceding twelve months has been in the parish
- During the whole of the preceding twelve months have resided in the parish or within 4.8 km of it

Candidates must also be a British citizen, or citizen of a Commonwealth or European Union country.

Written expressions of interest from anyone wishing to serve as a councillor should be sent to the clerk to the council. A prior telephone enquiry would be very welcome.

The closing date for written submissions of interest is 6pm on 25 June 2020.

Signed Mel Liversage

Clerk to the Council and Proper Officer

20 Little Johns Cross Hill, Exeter, EX2 9PJ Tel. 01392 259024 19 May 2020

PARKING IN FORE STREET

Agricultural contractors sometimes have difficulty squeezing their vehicles and machinery between parked cars in Fore Street. When parking at the eastern end of Fore Street, please park flush up against the curb. If you park a van in Fore Street, please check that you are not creating a bottleneck opposite another wide vehicle."



IDE COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE



Lockdown - The New Norm in Shop Life

Well lockdown life almost seems the norm now. New routines started weeks ago are now standard routines. New volunteers have become 'old' volunteers as they have settled so well into the roles and know what needs to be done now automatically. This is starting to change though as people start back to work. We already miss Emily immensely who has been such a lovely asset to the shop over the last few weeks. She has grasped the community aspect of the shop and has had such a lovely manner with the customers along with her can do attitude. We have all loved working with her.

Customers are getting used to the system of being served in the main from outside the shop and we thank everyone for their patience when this is a little bit time consuming and

a queue has formed.

The shop has seen record sales of eggs, bread, milk and fruit and vegetables over this period – as can be seen from the photo of a morning's delivery - which is understandable as people avoid the supermarkets and shop for the basics daily. We have also seen increased sales on wine and chocolate as people treat themselves as they cannot do much else.

As customers are not coming into the shop to see lines so much we are trying to put bargain lines on the table outside so now one misses out on a bargain. We are also trying to use Facebook more to promote new lines and again our bargains alongside regular competitions and other shop news. If you do not follow the shop on



Facebook – you don't know what you are missing so please do follow us.

Thank you also for saving your egg boxes and dropping them back to the shop – the egg supplier has found them very useful and it helps her as she is struggling to get egg box supplies at the moment, alongside it being a good way to save waste and reuse.

A very big thanks for the kind words, the thank yous, the cards and a huge thank you for the cakes you have kindly dropped in to thank the shop for what we are doing over this time. These kind gestures and thoughts have really touched us and 'made our days', and these good things certainly cancel out the challenging things.

The Post Office is still very busy as people post loved ones cards and gifts as they cannot visit them. There are some VE Day stamps still available if you like nostalgia and want to commemorate a great occasion.

The continued lockdown situation is proving a challenge with regard to our AGM – we constantly review the position on how we can get over this working within the current restrictions. At the moment the AGM is postponed until conditions allow us to hold it. We will be filing, as normal, the accounts and annual return with the FCA and accounts will be available in due course to view in the shop if you would like to see them.

Zetta King

Locked Up after Drugs Raid in Locked Down Ide



On Monday 11th May, the bucolic idyll that is normal life in Ide was rudely interrupted by an armed police raid on the house in Station Road formerly occupied by the curate. Several thousand pounds worth of class A and B drugs, cash and firearms were seized and 4 men were

subsequently arrested and appeared in front of Exeter magistrates two days later.

A huge thank you to everyone who stuck their head out of the door to give me a wave on 26th April. I should have been doing the London Marathon - and while not doing it was a bit of a disappointment, running up and down the High Street 26 times was a fun replacement.

For my troubles, I got a can of cider, sprayed by a garden hose and some generous sponsorship to support MIND. A good afternoon all round.

Thanks,

Mark



THE JUBILEE CLUB

A few words to let you all know we do think about you and miss meeting each fortnight. I hope everyone is coping at these strange times. Several will have memories of the war years but at least we were then able to socialise then.

I see there are some special birthdays of club members at the beginning of June, Nora Bryant, Michael Green and a very special one for Enid Hoskin. I know Peggy

will be busy sending out cards, thank you Peggy.

I am sad to report the death of Ralph Joyce, he did so enjoy the club and was often ready with his camera. Our thoughts go to Sheila.

More sad news is that Daphne King has died. She had gone into a home and had some falls, always such a pleasant lady, she will be missed.

I look forward to when we can all meet up again, meanwhile keep safe and well. Should anyone feel like a chat on the phone please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of us, you have the numbers.

Jean Hoskin



Marion Ames.

I was so sorry to read in the Ide Times the passing of Marion. I have known her for a very long time being born two days before her. Marion (so the story goes) was meant to have been a boy so her mother prepared for him. I was supposed to be a girl so the two mothers swapped the clothes. There were eight babies born in the village in six weeks. I was the first and Peter Tucker the last.

So the list is me, Marion, Jack Westaway, Donald, Audrey Fursdon, can't remember the next two and last Peter. We all attended Ide School. The boys all went to John Stocker in Dunsford Hill and the girls went, I think, to Montgomery. My Grandmother decided that I should go to Hele's Grammar the same as my father, brother and uncles and she would pay the fees. I don't know that it did me much good but I did enjoy playing rugby.

Back to Marion. She married Fred in 1947 and moved into the little cottage on the left corner of the large gangway opposite Drakes. We still had the milk round in the village delivering to the largest part of the houses. This was by pony and trap with the mik in churns being dipped out into peo

The rest you might say is history. God Bless you Marion for the good you have done in the village.

Rest in Peace. David Garnsworthy.

Talking of babies, The Ide Times is David's baby, as he started it up many years ago.

Thank you Ide for your generous donations to the Exeter Foodbank



The village shop reports that the Foodbank drop box is being well used and Ide Angels will continue to collect any donation you can spare from your doorstep every Friday 4-6pm.

Mr Mark Richardson, the manager of Exeter Foodbank is so grateful for our contributions, and we plan to continue this collection service to support local people facing food poverty.

The usual items in demand - sugar, rice, UHT milk, tinned pies, meats and vegetables, sweets and biscuits, sponge puddings and tetra-pack custard.

nappies, toilet roll and cleaning products.

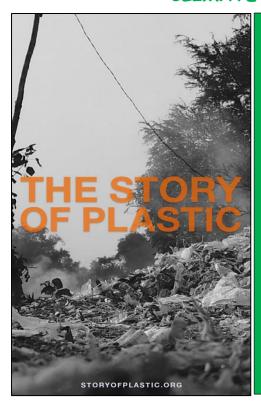
Thank you IDE - together we are making a difference. Olivia Ambrose

Ide Primary Expanding the Number of Children in School.

Amidst the continuing uncertainty as to whether it is safe for children to return to school, and constantly changing advice from unions, SAGE and Government, staff at Ide have continued to provide and improve the online learning and other support they are providing for the children as well as looking after the children of key workers.. Now they are also planning for increasing the number of children in school and carrying out very detailed risk assessments. As you can imagine the logistics of keeping 'pods' of children isolated from one another in a school like ours where space is so constricted is a significant challenge, before you start to think about how to staff a situation where you have to split classes into two! Consequently we cannot provide an absolute timeline for return but will obviously keep parents updated with as much advance notice as possible.

Ann Boyce Chair of Ide Local Governing Board

CLIMATE and ENVIRONMENT EMERGENCY



Plastic free Ide is proud to be taking part in one of the first digital screenings for the new film 'The Story of Plastic', a documentary produced by the Break Free from Plastic movement. This new film portrays the story of a man-made crisis and its worldwide effects on people and planet. Illustrating this emergency with interviews from experts and activists on the frontline, as well as the rising global movement trying to tackle this flood of plastic smothering communities and poisoning ecosystems worldwide.

Our film night will take place on the 5thof June from your own home, to register to receive the film sign up on the link below and it will be emailed to you on the day.

https://www.sas.org.uk/storyofplastic/

UK's first wild white storks in centuries hatch in Sussex



A conservation project to reintroduce home grown wild white storks to the UK has announced the hatching of some eggs in Sussex. The chicks hatched in a nest on the 3500 acre Knepp Estate near Horsham in West Sussex. Once intensively farmed, the land has been devoted to a pioneering rewilding project. Despite erecting nesting platforms for them at Knepp, the birds chose to construct their own large nest on top of an oak tree. White Storks are particularly associated with the county of Sussex. The Saxon name for the village of Storrington, near Worthing, was originally "Estorchestone", meaning "the village of the storks".

The team behind the 'White Stork Project' said it is the first time in centuries that baby wild white storks have been born in the UK. The organisation wants to establish a population of at least 50 breeding pairs of white storks in southern England by 2030.

According to the White Stork Project, archaeological records show that white storks were breeding in the UK 360,000 years ago, with the most recent record being in 1416.(when a pair of white storks were found nesting on the roof of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh). It is thought hunting, habitat loss and persecution during the Civil War lead to their decline.

White storks have been associated with the arrival of babies since the medieval times. Couples would traditionally marry at the summer solstice, at the same time as the storks were gathering for their migration, and would return about nine months later in time for the couples' first babies.

SAINT IDA'S CHURCH

Services

Ide, Shillingford and Alphington are joining together for an 11am Service each Sunday morning via Zoom. There is also a Service on Wednesdays. If you would like the link please contact The Rev Mike Partridge. His email address is

rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com and he will be pleased to add you

Ide and Shillingford, and will be including these in future.

to the list of people to whom he is sending the Zoom link. You can also join via the St Michael's Alphington Facebook Page. If you link in from 10.30am you get put in a chat room with a small group before being joined together for the Service at 11am.

Unfortunately on Sunday, 17th May, Zoom had problems and a number of churches, including ours, lost connections at 11am. However, links were restored a few minutes later and the Service of Morning Praise took place.

Most of the music used in the Services has been very modern, but Mike has told us that he now has access to the more traditional hymns, which are usually sung in

If you do not have a computer or smart phone, you might like to try the Archbishop of Canterbury's freephone number 0800 804 8044 for daily hymns and prayers.

It is, of course, not the same as meeting together but it does mean that we are all helping to keep the coronavirus from spreading and we all hope and pray that things will get back to normal in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, keep safe and keep well.

Sadly we have to report the death of Julia Tooth's husband. Bill. His warm friendly smile will be greatly missed. Julia and Bill worshipped at Alphington but a number of us knew him well from joint Services and events. Some will know Julia from the time she taught at Ide School. We send her our deepest sympathy and love.

Mothers' Union

The Rev. Caroline Luff is still regularly sending Sue Campbell 'Thoughts for the Day' which are being forwarded to MU members. Please let Sue know if you would like to receive these.

Brenda Spivey



LOCAL WILDLIFE Many of us have had more time for spotting wildlife during lockdown.. It would be good to share photos of anything interesting you see.

Thanks to Richard Morley for this beautiful baby owl and dormouse





Hello. Even though there's no Open Gardens this year, Ide Growers are planning a magazine to celebrate the gardens of the village instead. We'd like as many people in the village as possible to be featured. We'll get the magazine printed and raise some funds for local charities.

So if you're up for sharing some pictures of your garden, we'd love to see them. If you can send no more than 5 - with one of them ideally featuring you!

- that would be great. The pictures can be as formal or as informal as you like
- flowers, ponds, trampolines, tools, greenhouses, pets...

We will also do an online version that we'll share on social media.

You can email pictures to markdthomas@live.co.uk.

If you can send them over by **June 10th** that would be great.

Thanks.

Ide Growers



A gentle nudge to those of you currently displaying symptoms of OCLCD (Obsessive Compulsive Lawn Cutting Disorder)
Yes, it is a good way to exercise but it doesn't need doing every day or even every other day so please spare a thought for your neighbours trying to enjoy a quiet time of reflection or a peaceful bit of reading in their gardens.

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN IDE

Thank you again to those who responded to our request for photos showing some of the ways you are passing the time in lockdown. (The Morley family, the Thomas family and Nigel Walsh)





We made this rainbow mosaic from broken crockery we found on a path on our way to Shillingford Organics.

Some of you let me know how much you enjoyed the whimsy of Barbie and Ken's wedding. I could not resist the sequel "Go Skipper you can do it", when Barbie's sister, Skipper, takes on the challenge of abseiling!







VE day 75 years ago

'Ratter-a-tat-tat' Memories of VE Day in Topsham

Before moving to Topsham I played drums in the Boys Brigade in SW London. Mrs Drew knew about my drumming interest and was keen to be involved in supporting Topsham's VE Day celebrations and thought up a drummers march through Topsham. Large tins with lids, complete with string 'halters' were provided for us kids. Anything went for the drum sticks so long as they made a loud noise - 'Ratter-a-tat-tat'. On VE Day I was barely 15 years old and many of the kids in the band came from White Street (ruffians some people said, not like the Strand folk). Marching in single file, we were cheered on past the Town Hall. On the balcony, the Mayor stopped his speech because of our noise. Out of the corner of my eye I saw him smile till we had passed by. I don't remember taking part in a tea party but the racket the drummers made remains in my memory.

DC Fore Street Ide









The celebrations of the 75th anniversary of VE day were intended to be very special, to mark the last significant anniversary when the sacrifices and resilience of those who lived through WW2 could be shared with those who remembered them. Sadly the pandemic put an end to those plans.

Dennis Chadwick shared his memories of the day and I hope these pictures will give a sense of VE day !945 showing Street parties in Wonford and Exe Island, Parades in High Street and Cathedral Green and another picture of the high street which reminds us of the immense challenges faced by this generation. I could not find any pictures of Ide at that time so if anyone has memories or pictures they would like to share, I would be very happy to do a follow up article next month.

WEST TOWN FARM NEWS

It is so bizarre that we are heading into June and the farm is the quietest I have ever known it. This would usually be the start of our busiest time of year for the various events that happen here at West Town Farm. It's remarkable how quickly life has changed here. All our bookings for this



year have been postponed which has a knock on effect for us as a business. It's a scary time for all small businesses and we are looking at ways to bring in extra revenue but it's important we take small steps and follow Government guidelines.

Our new bull 'Pliny' arrived this month from Cornwall. He is a Hereford with big old horns. He seems to have a very calm air about him. He'll be put in to do his 'work' soon! We're all looking forward to getting to know him while he's with us.

So far we've had 12 female calves and only 1 male. All the animals are happy, out to pasture and blissfully unaware of the unusual events taking place in the outside world.



We've now planted all the pumpkins/squash out in the field. It was a boiling hot day and by the end of it I couldn't feel my bum as the seat was so uncomfortable. However, it was therapeutic planting them out and keeping the same distance in between each plant is more difficult than it sounds!

I wanted to use this opportunity to mention the footpaths on the farm and the fields. We are seeing lots of people out on the farm and often not sticking to the paths. Also, sadly, we are finding rubbish in fields. Gates have also been left open and we've had cattle get out onto the road as a result!

This is so so dangerous. Gates need to be left closed. A very small number of people are ruining the shared use of the path for the majority. We ask everyone to please be as vigilant as you can when using the paths around the farmland to close the gates and take any rubbish home with you.

We don't receive funding for the upkeep of the paths so if you wanted to support the future of them using the farm shop now and again, this definitely helps go towards that.

We have plenty of meat in the freezers. We also spent a day making over 900 burgers last week so we shouldn't run out of those for a while. Andy's burgers are a must for any BBQ, so come and get them!!

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Devon Highlights: Weekly Tuesday Zoom calls for isolated over 55's Hi all.

I'm writing to share an invitation to weekly, hour long, Zoom calls for over 55's living in Devon. All the details of how to join are attached, with one meeting for Torbay and Teignmouth, and one for the rest of Devon. The groups are intended for anyone to join, but especially those feeling isolated and lonely at this time.

We have been running these sessions for 4 or 5 weeks now, with a good base of participants, and we would love for more people to join us. The sessions are very simple, and easy going, with a mixture of chat and activities like quizzes, chair yoga, or a drawing practice.

We know that Zoom, and video calls are not easily accessible for everyone, but for those who are already comfortable (or just need a little supportive encouragement) – it opens a new world.

If you can share this attached information with your group members, service users, parishes or neighbours that would be fantastic, and do please get in touch with any questions.

Many	than	ıks,
Harry	and	Aggie

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