

Ide Times



"A Bit of a Do"

Read more on Page 10

June 2021

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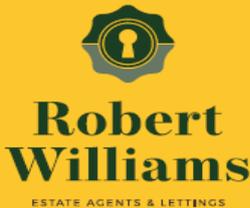
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June 2021



According to folklore, May blossom (flowering Hawthorn) pictured opposite is our unluckiest flower. Picking it was believed to result in a variety of calamities including bringing about a wet summer. The conditions prevailing as I put this edition together suggest that someone has been ignoring this advice. Otherwise, things seem to be moving in the right direction and we've even had a village wedding (page10). Congratulations Charlotte and Martin.

This edition includes the annual report of the Parish council which details all the work that this happy band of volunteers have been doing to help ensure that life in the village continues as normal during this very abnormal year. Thanks to all of them, but special thanks to Pete Bishop who is stepping down after 6 years chairing the very important Planning sub-committee.

Articles for the July issue of the Ide Times should be sent to me by the 20th June please – annboyce@talk21.com

USEFUL NUMBERS

Community Policeman: 101

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

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 am & 3pm -

5pm Saturdays 9am - 12 noon



360 BUS TIMETABLE

Ide	7.51	10.01	12.39	14.34	
Exeter Bus Station	8.13	10.20	12.58	14.53	
Exeter Bus Station	8.35	11.15	13.15	16.15	17.55
Ide	8.53	11.33	13.28	16.33	18.13

The bus is still running but you must wear a mask and only a limited number of passengers can travel.

.....
The Mobile Library will be in the Huntsman car park from 12.20am to 12.50 on Mondays, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st and 29th.

Report by the Chair for the year May 2020 – May 2021

1. Pandemic

Covid-19, the uncertain threat its variants pose and the hope that vaccination will lead us to safety still dominate our lives. The tension between the scientific advice for extended caution and the calls to unlock British society persist. The UK's third period of lockdown follows a fierce peak in cases and death in mid January. We anticipate further relaxing of restrictions in May and June. But international travel still looks dangerous; and the UK's current, exceptional experience of very low levels of infection is just that. The pandemic is accelerating in much of the world.

2. Parish Council Meetings.

The Coronavirus Act 2020 allowed parish councils to meet remotely under temporary, emergency legislation until May 7, 2021. Despite an appeal to the High Court by Hertfordshire County Council, the law stands: from 7 May parish and town councils will no longer be able to meet remotely, and council meetings must take place in physical settings.

Our scheduled two monthly meetings were all conducted remotely and in public. We held three special, extraordinary meetings during the year to discuss the planning application for 5 new houses on College Lane by Chillies Copse; the Devon and Ide Draft Carbon Plans; and the Option Agreement to purchase Pynes Victorian Orchard.

3. Parish Council Membership

We began the year with a council of seven members. In July Ben Ervine was co-opted as a councillor. Ben has taken on the development of the council's website. In November we welcomed Laura Bell, who has taken on liaison with the school, making our full compliment of nine councillors. Pete Bishop is standing down this month, so we will be seeking a replacement councillor over the summer. Pete has served for six years, chairing the Planning Committee and acting as vice chair of the Council, during which he developed an impressive knowledge of planning regulations. His love of Ide inspired us, and we will miss his fearless persistence, enthusiasm and humour on parish council work. Thank you Pete.

4. Parish Clerk

The council employs one member of staff, the parish clerk and responsible financial officer, Mel Liversage, appointed in October 2017. She is part time, working 21 hours per month. 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 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 all its members and the clerk. Thank you, Mel, for your support, commitment and good humour throughout the year.

5. Audit

In April 2021 we commissioned our fourth annual internal audit by the independent professional, Alison Marshall. 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 recommendations made in her 2020 report, we have:

- Re-designed and launched a new website which is now easier to navigate and sharper to read\
- Obtained professional advice about re-claiming VAT on purchases of Weir Meadow and Pynes Orchard
- Actioned advice on setting out accounts and data for the precept
- Uploaded the current asset register to the website
- Made corrections to and uploaded the annual Certificate of Exemption

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.

It's been a busy year. The Pynes Farm development application went through several iterations and comment from our council, before being approved. Contested applications were made for houses at Chillies Copse, and for a skip and plant park on Ide Village Road. The development of Springwell Nursery was approved in April after several years of negotiations. Enquiries about signage by the Alphington Junction roundabout, and the current use of Round Field by industrial plant are in train.

Our thanks to committee members Pete Bishop, Rachel Herbert and Mark Thomas for their thoughtful and detailed work, often at short notice.

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. Essential repairs to railings and steps were completed last autumn. Thank you for this valuable, unsung work.

8. Ide School

Coronavirus affected schools dramatically, and their pupils and students profoundly. They re-opened in January, and coupled with the vaccination programme and lockdown 3, have not only stayed open but have done so with little or no impact on infections so far. We re-opened the play area on 16 July school with Covid instructions and hand sanitiser.

9. Defibrillator

Thank you again to Brenda Mosedale for looking after the machine outside the shop and performing the monthly check on its battery and housing.

10. Road Safety

The Parish Council has sought the closure of Balls Farm Road to vehicular traffic for three years following repeated traffic surveys, and reports of accidents and illegal use of the road by motorised vehicles. In July ide Parish Council applied under the Emergency Covid Active Travel Scheme for closure of Balls Farm Road to through traffic, to allow and encourage its use by pedestrians and cyclists, made urgent by the constraints of social distancing in Covid-19.

Devon CC rejected our request on the grounds of needing space for bin lorries to turn. But, following consultation by Devon County Council with local businesses and residents, in particular the Twisted Oak pub, Devon Highways decided to close Doctors Walk at its junction with Ide Village Road in September 2020, using five large concrete blocks. The closure has resulted in a large increase in the number of pedestrians and cyclists using Balls Farm Road and Doctors Walk; and a dramatic reduction in illegal use by vehicles.

11. Emergency Planning and Covid response

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 and providing sandbags. The Ide Emergency Planning Covid-19 working group, chaired by Paula, bringing together Ide Shop and Post Office, the Parish Council, St Ida's Church and Ide Angels Volunteers, continued its marvellous work through the summer; and has been on hand to respond during winter and spring.

We appointed a volunteer village Road Warden in March, Stuart Brooking, under a scheme with Devon County Council.

12. Climate Emergency Working Group.

Andy Swain chairs this Parish Council working group of Ide residents, who meet monthly with the shared aim of halting climate change. The group produced a draft Ide Carbon Plan in January. Proposals for electric vehicle charging spaces in Ide have been submitted. A recycling guide has been published. Advice to households on how to measure their carbon footprint has appeared in Ide Times. A project to re-wild the church yard has been launched in partnership with the parochial church council of St Ida's. Richard Cottle and Jen Miles have been appointed as village Wildlife wardens. A new, replacement wooden bench, donated by Andy Bragg in memory of his parents, has been installed on the Dunchideock Road. Our thanks to Pip Smithson, James Romain, Carolyn Tysoe, Jenny Lundh, Andrew Bragg, Richard Cottle, Jen Miles, Julian Perrett, Paula Burton-Perrett, Georgina Ambrose, Andy Swain, Alex Goodman and Ann Boyce for their work on the group.

13. Ide Times

Every month, lockdown or frost, Ide Times arrives through our door, free. It's the main way the parish council communicates with residents, especially those who don't access the website. Thank you from all of us in the village to the editors, Ann Boyce and Brenda Spivey, and their band of volunteer deliverers.

14. Weir Meadow and Northern Fields

On 16 October 2020 we received planning permission for Change of Use of the Meadow to a recreation ground; and for construction of car parking, landscaping and relocation of the pavilion. Richard Cloke and Richard Cottle have submitted plans for water management and for landscape ecology management as part of the pre-commencement conditions, pro bono as they did for the application. David Howe has continued to give his legal services free of charge, and on 26 March 2021 we signed the three year Option Agreement to purchase the land. A fund raising prospectus for the project is in its 9th draft. My thanks to all those on the working group: 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

In May 2020, David Howe agreed also to provide us with his expert legal advice and service through Michelmores, again pro bono. This allowed us to engage on the detail of a three year Option Agreement, similar to the contract for Weir Meadow, without fear of further costs. We succeeded in resolving issues of boundaries, mineral rights, permitted uses, clawbacks and overage payments, VAT, timing of exercising the option, stamp duty, chancel repairs, access from the highway, environmental issues, water supply and vacant possession; and on 5 May 2021 we signed the Agreement.

We watered the 68 apple and 4 pear tree whips during last summer's dry spell; and have mulched them this spring. Until we own the field, its use must remain a private orchard under the terms of the 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: Peter Cloke (chair), Trevor Gardner, Mel Liversage, Andy Bragg, Richard Sharman, Julian Perrett, Phil Willcock, Mark Thomas, and Jessica Paine.

16. Weir Meadow and Pynes Orchard Joint Projects Fund Raising Group.

On 31 March a new Parish Council working group formed to set out plans, and agree a co-ordinated strategy for raising funds for both projects, separately but in concert, to avoid confusion and make best use of our resources. It has refined the two prospectuses and drafted a joint fund raising strategy. My thanks to the members Cheryl Haddy, Doug Bell, Trevor Gardner, Mel Liversage, Phil Willcock, Charlotte McGregor, David Howe, Jessica Paine, Maresa Bossano and Richard Reardon.

This is an edited version of the report presented to Ide Annual Parish Meeting on 5 May 2021. The full report can be found on Ide village website.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Pete Bishop is stepping down as a parish councillor. He will be sorely missed. He has served on the Parish Council for 6 years, committed, fearless and hardworking, chairing the Planning Committee, acting as vice-chair, and lending his wonderful practical skills in repairing benches and play area equipment whenever needed. He has kindly agreed to attend Planning Committee meetings for a 4 month handover period. So thank you, Pete, for all you have done.

The Council now has a vacancy. This is an opportunity to represent your local community and improve its quality of life in the parish. It is an unpaid, voluntary position; you would be required to attend six bi-monthly meetings a year. Training will be provided. If you would like to be considered, please contact Mel Liversage or Nick Bradley in writing or by email. And if you would like to talk it over before committing yourself, please give us a ring. Details below.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

New Applications

21/00560/HOU - 2 Fore Street, Ide. Retention of a bridge, and a replacement front wall/fence and gate

21/00981/TPO - Maple House, Old Ide Lane, Ide. Reduce four limbs of one London plane tree by up to 5-6m to clear buildings and height reduce by 4-5m

Current Applications awaiting a decision

21/00080/HOU - 65 High Street, Ide. Demolition and rebuilding of an outbuilding, reconstruction of a greenhouse and alterations to the front and rear fenestrations of the main house.

21/02132/ADV - Stevens Farm, Ide Village Road, retention of 3 advertising signs.

Decided Applications
21/00292 - Springwell View, Ide Village Road , permission has been granted
18/01024/MAJ - Springwell Nursery, Ide Village Road. Erection of new Garden Sales Building has been granted permission, with conditions.
20/01674/HOU - 2 Fore Street, Ide. Single Storey Extension – permission has been granted
To view planning applications, go to www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning and search using the address or reference number.

Clerk – Mel Liversage 01392 259024 ideparishclerk@gmail.com
Chair – Nick Bradley 01392 420616 ncabradley@gmail.com
Cemetery administrator: Sarah Tiley 01392 217142 saraht61@btinternet.com

4.

The next meeting of Ide Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7.30pm in Ide Memorial Hall, unless otherwise notified.

IDE MEMORIAL HALL



Some events are taking place in the hall once again such as pilates and keep fit with reduced numbers taking part. You will see that Maresa Bossano is planning to serve lunches in the hall on alternate Fridays.

We now have WiFi in the hall which should overcome the difficulty with bad mobile reception. The WiFi code and password are displayed in the hall.

We will be having a Hall Annual General Meeting on Monday, 14th June, at 7.30pm in the hall. The hall belongs to the village and is run by a management committee made up of representatives from village organisations including the Parish Council. During the period of 'lockdown' the hall's income was greatly reduced but we gained a grant from the District Council and have been able to maintain the hall to a good standard.

If you would like to book the Hall please contact Carol Whitehart on 01392 213608. The cost is £8 per hour during the daytime and £10 per hour from 6pm.
B.Spivey

**IDE MEMORIAL HALL
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Monday, 14th June, 7.30pm
 in the Hall
 Come and find out more about this important
 village amenity.**

6.



Ide Community Lunch Club

Fridays 12pm -1.30pm

Ide Village Hall




Starting 28 May, then every two weeks
11, 25 June, 9, 23 July (closed August)

Two courses made with seasonal fruit and vegetables,
 and surplus food. Soup, salad and cake or pudding.

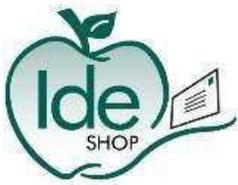
Jubilee Club

In the May issue of Ide Times my last words re plans for the club were “here's hoping”. Well I am still hoping and have everything crossed! Positive thinking! We had a meeting of the helpers this week, just 6 of us, obeying all the rules. Tentative plans are to have our first meeting on July 5th in the hall at Ide, but I know all the best plans can go astray, particularly during these difficult times. If all goes according to plan, we have exciting times ahead, just watch this space.

As I write this, it is not at all inviting to even leave the house with wind and rain just batten down the hatches. The rain was welcome for the gardens but can someone just pass on the word that for now we have had enough for the time being. I am always pleased to hear news of club members and send my good wishes, looking forward to seeing you all.

Jean Hoskin





Well we start this article with the good news that we can hold our AGM this year after not being able to due to Covid restrictions last year. The date is **Thursday 22 July** and we extend grateful thanks to Colin and Dawn who have kindly agreed to allow us to hold it in the Huntsman's Garden Lodge to comply with social distancing etc. They are also laying on some AGM Food Specials for us to enjoy. More details on this to follow in July's Ide Times.

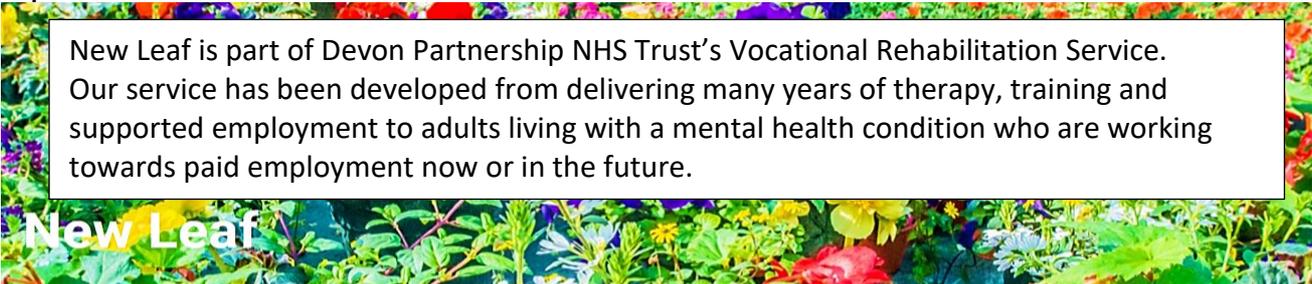
During May we relaxed restrictions a bit in the shop and post office and allowed a few more people in at a time as long as they were wearing masks and sanitised their hands.

We continue to update the lines that we carry as we get requests from our valued customers on lines they would like to see in stock and so please do let us know if there is something you would like us to investigate stocking. Several people now regularly order their favourite Shaldon Bakery line to make sure they get it.

As more people return to work on a more normal footing it has created more spaces in the shop rota at times and we are always looking for volunteers to help in many aspects of shelf life as well as serving on the till. Do speak to us if you think you have something to offer the shop and can help in some way – you will find it a lot of fun and you can commit to as little or as much time as you can spare.

A request from the Post Office side – if you leave parcels or letters for us when we are closed, which we are more than happy for you to do, please can you ensure you leave a contact number with the items so we can contact you if there is a query or inadequate or no postage on the items which we have had lately. We want your items to get where they need to as quickly as they can but cannot do that if things are not as they should be. Very often we can tract the sender of the parcel of sort the issue but are not meant to do it and would hate to let anyone down if we could not do it one day. Also can we ask that when you address your letters and parcels you leave enough space for us to put the stamps, label or in some cases labels on. Frequently we are struggling to find enough room to correctly affix labels.

By the time you get this edition of Ide Times we should have some lovely colourful plants from New Leaf at Exminster to brighten up your hanging baskets, window boxes and gardens for the summer. It is good to be able to work with New Leaf and every plant you purchase helps their valuable and important work.



New Leaf is part of Devon Partnership NHS Trust's Vocational Rehabilitation Service. Our service has been developed from delivering many years of therapy, training and supported employment to adults living with a mental health condition who are working towards paid employment now or in the future.

New Leaf

Weir Meadow and Pynes Community Orchard News

With lockdown restrictions easing the fundraising events for the Weir Meadow and Pynes Community Orchard projects can begin in earnest. The committee has gathered several ideas which we hope to run in the future including quizzes, auctions, film nights, music, and sporting events. We are currently in the process of creating a community page on Facebook where the events will be announced once they have been finalised. Keep an eye out for the page which will be called 'Green Space for Ide'. Events will, of course, also be flagged up in the Ide Times.

In addition to the Village Sports fun day on the August Bank Holiday weekend, announced by the Cricket Team in the last edition of the Ide Times, we are planning a Cycle Event where members of the Ide Green Rovers football team will take it in turns riding an exercise bike the 180 miles from Ide to Wembley Stadium in London. Exeter City may not be going to Wembley this year, but Ide are! Come to the Huntsman Pub on the 19th June to watch the team in action.

Richard Reardon

"Join us for a short and leisurely, socially-distanced stroll and litter pick around Ide and the locality on Sunday 13th June, meeting at 10am outside the Memorial Hall. Some litter pickers, Hi-Viz jackets and gloves will be provided but please bring your own if you have them, as well as some kind of BAG."

BEN ERVINE



OPEN GARDEN

MARSHALL'S FARM

11 and 13 June

1 till 5pm

Refreshments and plants for sale

Entrance £4 - money to S.I.A and N.G.S

Jenny Tucket



At last, after a lockdown year we were able to celebrate the marriage of Ide residents Charlotte Ives and Martin Robson on Friday 21.5.2021.

Guests were transported from the village to the historic Guildhall in Exeter for the ceremony aboard a lovingly restored coach. The Albion vintage bus was built in London in the 1950's in London with the engine being made in Scotland. This historic vehicle has only ever had two owners and even featured on TopGear. The bus certainly gained a lot of attention when making its way through the city to the first stop, Exeter Brewery for the formalities of speeches, cutting of the cake and the first dance. Guests then boarded the charabanc to head back to the village for a warm welcome at the Huntsman Inn and drinks reception.



The wedding party then made their way to the final stop of the day, The Poachers Inn for more merriment, As we walked up through the village neighbours had decorated Martin & Charlotte's house with bunting, banners and balloons. A huge thank you to the local hostelryes, friends, neighbours and family who all made the day so special, on behalf of everyone we wish you a very long and happy marriage.



Ide Congregational Church June 2021

Ide Congregational Church continues to be open for worship unless the rules change.

Sunday Services are held at 11am each week.

Our speakers this month are:

June	11am
6 th	Rev Caroline Stott
13 th	David Bulley
20 th	Ruth Endacott
27 th	Adrian Dawe

Social distancing is required by all attending, as is wearing a face mask and applying hand sanitizer on entry and exit, until we are told differently.



A screen has been fitted at the front of the church and a deep clean of the building undertaken to make attending church as safe as possible.

You will be required to give your name and contact details on entry to ensure we have a track and trace system in place should any problems arise.

Writing can be a very enjoyable and satisfying activity. Maybe you really enjoyed writing when you were at school. Perhaps you could give it another go! This is a community magazine and could be greatly enlivened by your stories. Have you reacted strongly to something in the news?...write about it. Have you a lifelong passion for ...football, gardening, music, history, textile art, space exploration, tardigrades? ...write about it. We would love to hear from you.

SAINT IDA'S CHURCH



6 th June	Trinity 1	9.30am	Holy Communion
13 th June	Trinity 2	9.30am	Morning Praise
20 th June	Trinity 3	9.30am	Holy Communion
27 th June	Trinity 4	8am	Holy Communion
4 th July	Trinity 5	9.30am	Holy Communion

We are now enjoying having Services in Ide Church again and with Colin our organist. Masks need to be worn and hands sanitised when entering the church. We have started to have hymns and can hum along to these whilst reading the words.

If you are unable to attend church, you may like to join with Alphington for the 11am Service via Zoom or the St Michael's Alphington Facebook page. If you would like the ID and password so that you can join the service, please contact Mike Partridge on rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com or ring him on 01392 491476.

Summer Fete – It is hoped that we will be able to have the Summer Fete on the village green on Saturday, 10th July, if the covid restrictions continue to be eased. We will give more details in the July Ide Times and on posters.

We are pleased to learn of the Wedding of Charlotte Ives and Martin Robson on the 21st May and wish them a long and happy married life together with their two boys, Harry and Lysander.

Mothers' Union – members met together on the 18th May for the first time for many months. It was an informal meeting over a cup of tea, but it was good to be able to be able to socialise once again. Our thanks to Sue Campbell for her hospitality.

The church is now open on a daily basis from 10am to approximately 5pm for private prayer and for everyone to enjoy the peaceful building. There is a box of second hand books by the children's table for anyone to borrow.

Baptisms (Christenings), Weddings & Banns of Marriage - If you wish to make any enquiries about these please email weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org for weddings and banns of marriage at Ide; and christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org for baptisms at Ide; or you can ring 01392 491476.

Brenda Spivey

New Ide Residents



Early in the year many of us were entranced or even startled by the very vocal social interactions of our local tawny owls. Thanks to Richard Cottle we can now see the consequences of some of these interactions!

He writes: "we have been following the progress of the Tawny owls nesting in one of the plane trees. The two chicks started making appearances at the hole entrance a couple of weeks ago. And now one has made it out completely and seems rather unsure of what to do next. The garden blackbirds are unhappy as mum/dad is keeping a look out".



Save our Peatlands

The UK government must ban the sales of peat compost this year after its goal of a voluntary phase-out by 2020 proved an “abject failure”, according to a group of gardening experts, conservationists and scientists.

In a letter sent last month to the Environment Minister they declared that “If the government wants to show global leadership on the climate crisis before it hosts the Cop26 climate conference, this is a vital step.”

As concerned gardeners, we could help to promote this message by asking garden centres and supermarkets to stock more peat-free alternatives to the peat-based composts which currently make up most of what is on offer.



UK peatlands hold more than 3bn tonnes of carbon, three times more than UK woodlands, but only about 20% remain in a near natural state. As well as extraction, draining of the bogs and fens for farming and forestry, overgrazing, and burning of heather on grouse shooting estates have damaged peatlands. Peatland restoration has many other benefits including providing an internationally important habitat for wildlife, improving water quality and reducing flood risk.

The degradation of peatlands means they are currently losing more carbon than they are gaining.

PAST TIMES

The following article was first published in 1988. Written by Frank Moore, he went on to become a regular contributor for more than 10 years. Many of his contributions, like the one that follows, provide a vivid picture of life in Ide when he was growing up 100 years ago in the 1920s.

The Not So Good Old Days

It will probably come as a surprise to some newcomers, that this village once supported a butcher’s shop, a bakery and four other grocery shops all trading at the same time. There was also a separate Post Office and for a while a hardware store and a cobblers. This was back in the 1920’s period when personal means of transport were at a minimum so people did not have much option but to shop locally.

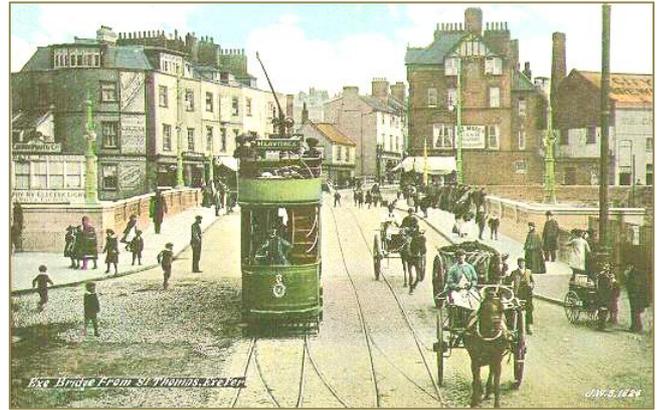


There was no bus service until sometime later. There was a train service, known as the Teign Valley Railway. Useful as this was, it was not too bad catching a train from the top half of the village, but if it meant walking up from the lower part of the village up to the station, which was sited on the present St Ida’s Close area.

It was almost as quick to walk into St Thomas and catch a tramcar.

People never travelled very far, and even a trip into Exeter was quite an occasion.

Those who worked in the city nearly always walked there. Little John's Cross Hill was still all fields and trees, no houses had been built there then. The big house at the top of the hill was there, but no shop next to it. The Cann family, in residence at the time, had market gardens on both sides of the road.



Reading Mr Donald Cann's reminiscences in the last month's magazine, reminded me that many years ago he used to call around the village collecting wet batteries, accumulators as they were called for the radios or better known at the time, wireless sets, which he used to recharge and deliver again. All the radios used to run on a dry 12 volt battery and an accumulator as we had no electricity supply at that time. It is hard to realise, perhaps, but even a radio was not a common possession in those days. People fortunate enough to own one, used to invite friends and neighbours in to join in their listening. Sports commentaries and the church service from St Martin's in the Fields, in London, on a Sunday evening, always brought a good gathering around the horn-shaped loud speaker. In these days we find ourselves sharing noisy portables and music blaring in a lot of the shops whether we really want to listen or not.

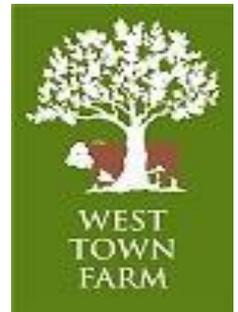
Several large families have been raised in this village, with as many as eight and nine children and when one thinks of all the hard struggle this obviously incurred, it all seems amazing how it was ever carried through. There was no electricity and only a few had gas. No recognised bathrooms and flush toilets. The majority had to carry water from the chute below the school. There was very little money and no National Health Service, so asking a doctor to call had to be paid for and this was not often done unless deemed absolutely necessary, because of the ill-afforded outlay.

It was a common sight to see children walking to school eating breakfast in their hands. Usually a slice of bread and jam or maybe dripping. It was not a period for the fashion-minded child. Many of the girls wore lace-up boots and boys in cut down father's, or older brothers', clothes were things which were all accepted in those times. It was not any good crying for what we knew we could not have and anyway if we did grumble too much, child abuse was still in fashion then and by today's standards the courts would have been overflowing with guilty parents. Despite this, it is highly probable that the strong discipline did us more good than harm in the long run.

The words 'holidays' and 'leisure' were still missing from the vocabulary then and of course there was no time-wasting television so it seemed that all the time was used up in parents working and struggling to ensure the livelihood of their families. Some folks talk of the "Good old Days", but come to think about it, they were not all that good.

Frank Moore

WEST TOWN FARM NEWS



With the further easing of restrictions last month, May promised to bring lots of people back onto the farm for the first time in months. As part of our spring clean to get ready for all of our visitors, we finally got round to clearing out the event's barn and getting it back to its usual glory. You may be wondering 'how many people does it take to change a lightbulb on West Town Farm?' Well, the answer is three! One person to drive the tractor, one to give directions and one to actually change the light bulb.

We were lucky enough to start up our educational visits again and it's been wonderful to hear all the children having such a great time. Our barn has also proven a popular choice for those who aren't able to gather indoors at the moment. We've had lots of bookings to use the barn as a practice space for bands and choirs recently, so if you walk through the farm in June you may be lucky enough to catch some stunning choral music or even a bit of jazz.



May also saw the return of the bluebells in Chillies Copse. If you took any photos of them whilst on your walk we'd love to see them; you can send them to us via email or tag us on social media. It's getting towards the end of bluebell season now, but there may still be some lingering around if you're worried that you missed them! Finally, it's been a while since we had fresh beef in stock, so, if you've been looking forward to another fresh meat week, I have just the news for you; fresh meat week will start on June 21st. If you've never tried one of our fresh meat boxes before, now will be a brilliant time as we'll be getting fresh beef, pork and lamb back. To place an order for delivery, just pop onto our online shop, email or call.



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Printed by Philip Tucker parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

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