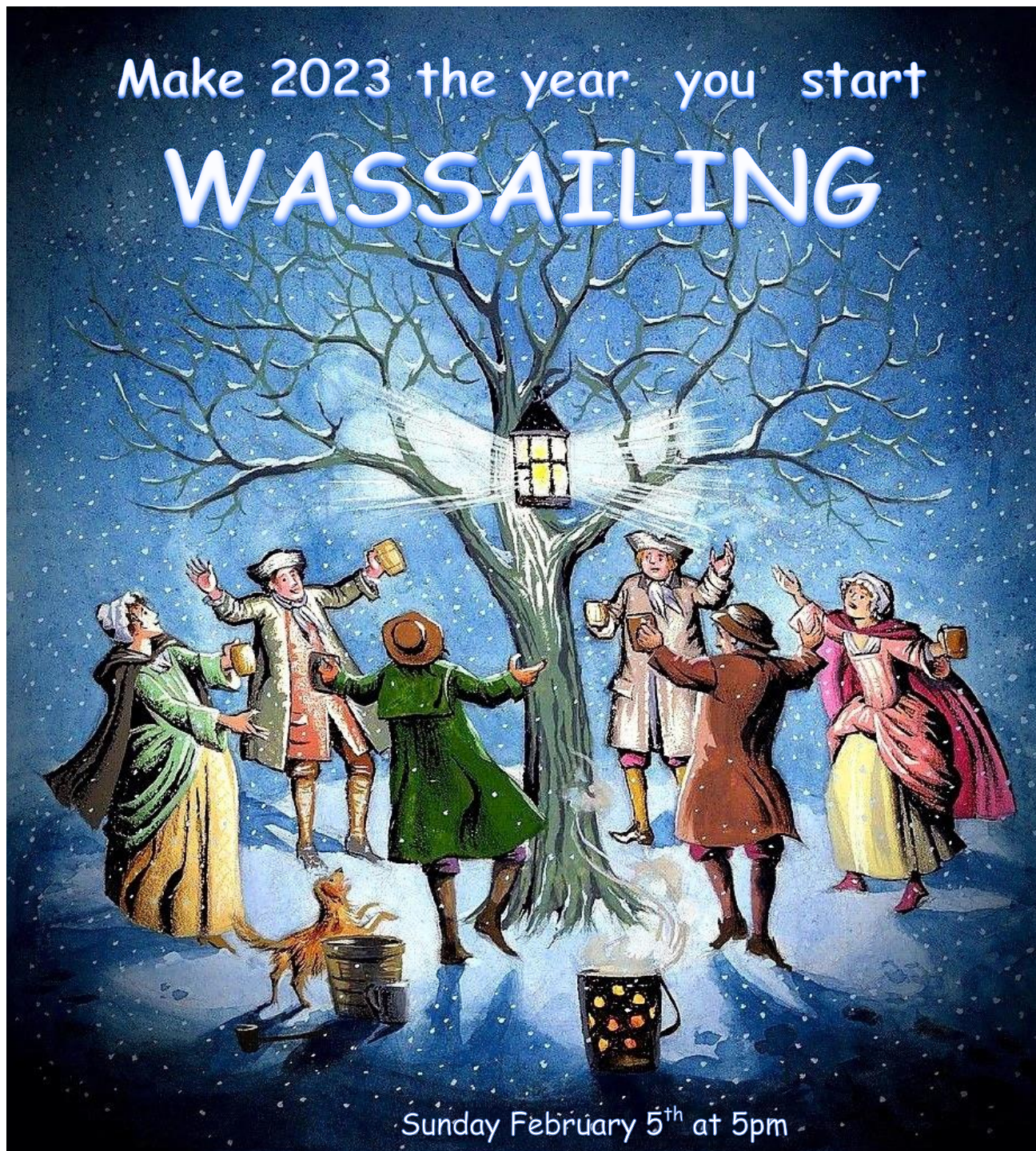


# *Ide Times*

Make 2023 the year you start

# WASSAILING



Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Details of this invitation on page 13

**FEBRUARY 2023**



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## FEBRUARY 2023

Whatever your interests - history, culture, music, poetry, cider,(and that's just wassailing) plus lots of other things going on in the village both now and in the past, this month's Ide Times has pretty much got it covered...and its free!

All this seasonal ice and snow is a good excuse to snuggle down on the sofa and catch up on what's going on in Ide.

Articles for the March issue of the Ide Times should be sent to Ann Boyce [annboyce@talk21.com](mailto:annboyce@talk21.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Ann Boyce (01392 213011)



### 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](mailto:rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com)

Congregational Church: Jackie Chadwick [jacky.c@talktalk.net](mailto:jacky.c@talktalk.net)

M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 [melstride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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



\*\*\*\*\*

**IDE MEMORIAL HALL** - to book the hall for your event/party please contact Carol Whitehart on 01392 213608.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Mobile Library** will be in The Huntsman car park from 12.30 to 12.50 on **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February** .

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

Hedges and overgrown brambles were cut back before Christmas. People have made good use of the bumper apple crop in late autumn, with a lot of fruit left for the migrating birds. Field fares came early and have stayed longer to feed off the fallen crop. There was still fruit to pick from some of the mature trees in late December.

**Volunteer days** have been held on the first Sunday of each month, focussing on planting daffodils and crocuses. Fifty kg of naturalising bulbs went in along the transverse path and by the tables in the top corner. Work is ongoing to remove fallen trees from the hedges and tidy up decaying timber. The young trees planted in 2020 will be professionally pruned in February. We will need to replace four which have died. Some forty trees are now sponsored.

**A winter Wassail will be held in the Orchard on Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.** We are inviting everyone to come and wake up the trees by making a lot of noise, bringing along lights, musical instruments, joining in or contributing to traditional wassail singing, processing around the orchard, and bringing cider and apple juice to enjoy or share.

## **WEIR MEADOW and NORTHERN FIELDS**

**A stile and a kissing gate** have been installed at the two points of entry into Northern Field East, off College Lane. **Two new dog waste bins** - one at the entrance to Weir Meadow, the other at the upstream end of College Lane ford - have also been installed. The rusted dog waste bin by the cemetery will soon be removed from use.

In early January, the brambles in **Oak Bank** (the steep scrubby part of Northern Field West) were flailed, specifically sparing 40 oak saplings which we will protect with guards against rabbits and deer. A new opening has been cut in the hedge dividing the two Northern Fields, close to the junction with Weir Meadow, providing access along the southern margin of Northern Field West to Oak Bank. There are new signs, each with a map, at the entrances to each field.

A **National Lottery Community Fund** grant of £9,825 has been awarded, for fencing and tree planting, an interpretation board, bird and dormouse nest boxes, benches for Oak Bank and possible infill works at the Meadow entrance.

A **Woodland Trust** grant for a community tree pack has also been awarded, providing 420 mixed species saplings, guards and canes for planting in Weir Meadow along Fordland Brook, at the end of March. We will arrange a volunteer tree planting day - or two - to get these planted before Spring.

**Football and Cricket Pitches.** Devon Cricket Association has inspected the site, and advise that Ide would need to offer junior and women's programmes to qualify for funding from their association. Funding may be available from Sport England, the National Lottery or elsewhere.

Investigations are being undertaken to assess the **drainage works** required for a Weir Meadow football pitch. The Football Foundation, using its Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, would consider funding drainage and levelling works in the Meadow if an affiliated team were to start playing matches there.

**A volunteering WhatsApp Group** has formed, led by Rachel Herbert, to undertake the various tasks needed.

**Fundraising.** On **Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>** there will be a fundraising concert at West town Farm featuring Police Dog Hogan, organised by members of the Weir Meadow and Orchard Working Groups.

## CONTROL OF DOGS

On 10 January at 4pm two dogs that were dangerously out of control and running off the lead attacked a 12 year old boy in Northern Field East, biting him on the leg. Very frightened, he was taken to hospital and missed some days at school. The person in charge of the dogs said they had seen the notice requiring dogs to be on the lead in that field, but had decided it was not necessary.

For the avoidance of doubt the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 as amended in 2014 states that if any dog, whatever breed, is dangerously out of control in any place, including all private property, the owner, or person for the time being in charge of the dog, is guilty of a criminal offence. That offence becomes an aggravated offence if the dog injures any person or an assistance dog while out of control. A dog is regarded as dangerously out of control on any occasion on which there are grounds for reasonable apprehension that it will injure any person or assistance dog, whether or not it actually does so. The incident has been reported by the boy's parents to the police, who are currently investigating further; and to Ide Parish Council which owns the land.

The Council will not tolerate owners whose dogs are dangerously out of control on its land, posing a real or perceived threat to others.

<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>
<b>New applications</b>
<a href="#">22/00732/FUL</a> Rollsbridge House, Ide EX2 9QU. Change of use of outbuilding from ancillary residential storage to office (use Class E)
<a href="#">22/02317/CAN</a> Cobbe House, Station Road, Ide. T1, Tulip Tree: Fell
<a href="#">22/02335/HOU</a> 7 St Ida's Close, Ide. Single storey rear extension, including altered roof and front porch and internal alterations, raised deck patio to rear
<b>Current Applications awaiting a decision by Teignbridge District Council</b>
<a href="#">22/01884/HOU</a> , 12 High Street, Ide, Devon, EX2 9RN. Summerhouse to rear. <b>Supported.</b>
<a href="#">22/00826/FUL</a> Land At Ngr 290810, 090383, Ide, Devon - Round Field. Formation of yard for storage of machinery and construction materials and the siting of 14 secure storage containers and associated landscaping (retrospective). The planning committee <b>objected</b> . Their letter can be found on The Teignbridge District Council Planning website. <b>Awaiting Decision by TDC</b>



[21/02929/LBC](#) Drakes Farm, Fore Street, Ide EX2 9RL. External and internal works and alterations including regularisation of previously undertaken unauthorised works. **Supported. Awaiting decision by TDC.**

**Next meeting** of the **Planning Committee** - Wednesday March 22, 2023 at 6.30pm in the Hub. To view planning applications, go to [www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning) and search using the address or reference number.

Chair - planning committee, **Ben Ervine** [ben.ervine.ideparish@gmail.com](mailto:ben.ervine.ideparish@gmail.com)  
telephone 07980843120

## **CORONATION DAY, Saturday May 6, 2023**

Plans for a street party on Coronation Day are under discussion. Please contact Charlotte McGregor, The Old Mill, High Street

[charlotte.mcgregor@wollens.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.mcgregor@wollens.co.uk) if you would be willing to help in putting this on.

## **TEIGNBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN**

Teignbridge District Council published the latest version of the Local (ie District) Plan 2020-2040 in December. In their previous version, Markhams Farm was put forward as a potential site. It attracted strong objections, in particular from Ide Parish Council citing our own Neighbourhood Plan. The land is part of the County Farms Estate, and is very high quality agricultural land. Despite a petition with over 2,000 signatures to save the county farms, Markhams Farm has been selected for concept planning in the new version of the plan: 960 homes, with 20% affordable, called Markham Village; a green, a community building, a shop, allotments, a primary school, 12 hectares of open space, bus service. Vehicular access to the site will be from the Shillingford end of Markham Lane; and from Ide Village Road through a new access road emerging at Springwell Nursery. The full plan is on the village website or the Teignbridge DC website under Local Plan 2020-2040. Ide Parish Council will have discussed the plan on 25 January.

## **WAR MEMORIAL**

The Council has earmarked funding to re-instate low post and chain fencing around the War Memorial to protect the surrounding grass, and the fabric itself, from damage by vehicles encroaching on the Memorial.

**Next meeting** of Ide Parish Council is Wednesday March 22, 2023 at 7.30pm in Ide Memorial Hall

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Clerk – Mel Liversage 01392 259024 [ideparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ideparishclerk@gmail.com)  
Chair – Nick Bradley 01392 420616 [nickbradley.ideparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:nickbradley.ideparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## FROM YOUR DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The new Teignbridge local plan has been published. This is important and will shape development for the next 20 years. There have been consultations on policies and on sites put forward by landowners, site inspections to understand local factors, to help officers assess the merits and constraints of sites and write a plan with the best policies and choices to meet the required numbers.

The current plan is out of date and allocated sites are running out. TDC must provide 741 houses per year. Without an updated plan developers will soon be able to appeal refusals and build where they like.

Gove recently said housing numbers are 'advisory', but he has not changed the law. TDC cannot afford to wait but we don't want to lock-in these numbers, so we added a clause to review the plan if the law changes. The 741 houses include a 41% uplift over other areas, because Teignbridge prices are higher than salaries. This is supposed to bring down house prices, but it doesn't work. There are better ways to make housing more affordable.

The plan also specifies sites including Markhams and Attwells farms. We opposed these large sites with concerns about the roads and green space. We campaigned to save the county farms and we are disappointed better sites could not be found.

There are good policies in the plan including carbon neutral housing, sooner than national legislation. Specific policies encourage renewable energy. There is a chapter on climate change replacing a policy. There are improvements on environment and biodiversity and public green space. A new cut and fill policy encourages developers to minimise waste soils by accommodating on site. This will reduce the need for sites like Lower Hare and Lower Brenton.

The plan will soon start the final consultation until 13th March. The link to post feedback will appear on the TDC website. There is more information there and on our Kenn Valley Councillors website.

Please feel free to email us and respond to the consultation. Thank you.  
Andy Swain, Alison Foden, Charles Nuttall and Alan Connett





## IDE COMMUNITY SHOP & POST OFFICE

**Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Shop Location.** This month marks the special 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday of moving to our super-duper purpose-built shop.

We will be celebrating with a special 'do' or occasion later in the year. This does seem the time though to say a very very big and grateful thank you to each and every one of you who plays a part in shop life in so so many ways. The shop is about our wonderful people and would not be possible without all the hours and time put in by our various volunteers in many ways. Also a special thank you to our committee members who do so much behind the scenes to keep the wheels turning on the more 'official' things.

Whilst we are on thank yous a huge thank you to all the wonderful village folk who decorated paper chains to decorate the shop at Christmas. We loved each and every one of them and appreciated the hard work and time that went into producing them and it was lovely to have the shop decorated over Christmas with handmade decorations made by village individuals and organisations. We already have plans in foot for the same, but different for next Christmas.



Before we finish with thank yous we must say thank you to the volunteers who covered the bank holidays over the Christmas and New Year period for us – we appreciate you giving up your time at this very busy point for us.

The different and lovely Leaf Street lines have proved to be very popular, and we have an entirely new selection of stock in – ideal presents with Valentines and Mother's Day approaching. Their fluffy socks are now one of our top sellers and so many have been brought for presents – they are almost becoming Ide uniform. Don't forget we can order any specific bread, meat, cheese, fruit and veg lines from our local suppliers if there is something you need or would like that we don't carry as standard in the shop or you need something for an event etc.



Zetta King





## IDE MEMORIAL HALL

You may have noticed that the guttering along the roadside edge of the hall has been replaced. We hope this will prevent the damp patches which have been appearing inside the hall beside the windows.

The hall is in regular use and we were pleased that it was used by a group of village families for a new year's party. Our thanks go to Matthew and Carol who put up the Christmas tree and then took it down again in the New Year. It was enjoyed by a number of organisations using the hall over the Christmas period.

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. There is a flat charge of £25 for children's parties and payment is needed at time of booking (either on-line or by cheque).

Brenda Spivey

---

**Ide Community Lunch Club**

**Ide Village Hall**

**2nd Friday of every month**

**12.30 - 1.30pm**

Healthy lunch made with seasonal fruit and vegetables,  
and surplus food. All suitable for vegans.  
Pay what you can afford - £5-10 for 3 courses.  
NB We don't run in school holidays.

**Love Food**  
- CIC -

## IDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

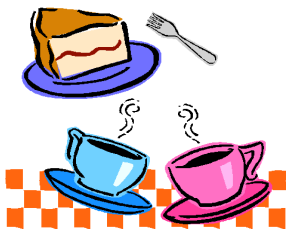
### What's happening this month?

**Sunday Services are held at 11am each week. Our speakers this month are:**

<b>February 2023</b>	<b>11am</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Terry Nott</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ken Harris</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev Caroline Stott</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maurice Hockridge</b>

### Other activities:

**It's back! On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February from 10am – 12pm we will be holding our first Coffee Morning of the New Year.**



If you've never joined us before, do come along to our Coffee Morning on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. It runs from 10am - 12pm, so just pop in any time.

We provide free teas, coffees and cakes with a lot of friendly chatter. Everyone welcome.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February** at 7pm – it's time for Coffee Chat and Challenge  
On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm we will be meeting together for Coffee, Chat and Challenge



A time for discussions and reflections relating to the Christian faith.

Everyone welcome, and there's always food!

## THE CHURCHYARD

Our thanks to Adrian Butland and Peter Cloke for clearing the mass of brambles and other vegetation around the church shed in the churchyard. Old trestle tables and plastic chairs are stored in the shed and get used for events on the Green. There are plans to get some rather more modern lighter weight tables for such events, which will make life a lot easier.





## SAINT IDA'S CHURCH

Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am	Morning Praise
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am	Holy Communion
<b>Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 7.30pm Holy Communion</b>		
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	8am	Holy Communion



**Thank you** to all who helped organise the Christmas Festive Tea on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, which was a great success, especially as Father Christmas was able to come along. Thank you too to those who organised and helped with the Christmas wreath making the following day. We were able to admire the wreaths hanging on various front doors around the village.

Our thanks go to those who did the flower arrangements in Church for Christmas and to Matthew for putting up the Christmas tree. The Church looked very festive – although we did discover that the wise men never arrived at the crib scene this year!

**Christingle Service** – Due to the grass on the Green being very wet and slippery, it was decided to hold the Service in Church rather than in the open air. The Church was very full and we do hope that not too many germs were passed around. There were three kings at this Service though, with crowns.

**Lent Course.** This will be held at Alphington Church on Thursday evenings in March, starting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 7pm for refreshments, the course will be from 7.30-9.00pm. The course will last for five weeks, the last session being on the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Mothers' Union.** The festive season is well and truly over now, but the days are getting longer. Unfortunately two of our members had Covid over Christmas, but are better now. In January we had a shared lunch, a social occasion. We will meet in February, but still have to decide when and where to meet. Do keep in touch.  
Sue Campbell

Various members of our congregation have been unwell over the Christmas period but we are pleased that most seem to be fully recovered now. We remember in our prayers those who are still unwell and those struggling with the cold weather.

**Baptisms, Weddings, etc.** - for enquiries about these please contact [christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org](mailto:christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org) or [weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org](mailto:weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org)  
Or ring the Revd Mike Partridge on 01392 491476.

## THE JUBILEE CLUB

Yes I know icy roads and pavements are hazardous but it is January and well maybe its nostalgia but a bit of me rather enjoys the snowy scene ,only for a short time I hasten to add! Well that is the scene as I write this.



Much to report, going back to a meeting at the end of November when Jill Oakey delighted us with a demonstration of Christmas wreaths and arrangements using unusual props, and it is surprising what can be achieved with a few flowers and foliage just from the hedgerow. Some lucky members went home very happy with their winnings.

Sadly I report the death of Cliff Brimblecombe.

It was good to welcome Ann Burridge a new member.

December 13th was party time and the joy of welcoming the smiling faces of the Ide Schoolchildren. They put such enthusiasm into their singing I feel certain instilled by Sue their teacher. We were entertained by a selection of songs some with a modern twist, such as Joseph was a Carpenter and Just no room at the Inn. They went happily back to school with little treats.

Brian then entertained us playing his guitar and a selection of songs.

Time for tea Christmas cake and sherry.

I had the pleasure of presenting medals from the R.V.S to Diane and Liz in recognition of 5 years volunteering.

I will take this opportunity of extending my thanks to the many helpers who each meeting are busy with a variety of jobs, in the kitchen, selling draw tickets, manning the stall, bingo calling, helping put the chairs away and giving lifts, and just joining in, it gives me much pleasure each meeting.

Into another year and we met on January 9th for a quiz and chat. I felt it was a fun afternoon, there were some queries about the answers of some of the questions?? Nora our very own poet entertained with some words of wisdom.

### DIARY DATES

February 6th Ellen from the police talking about scams and fraud

February 20th Gentle Fun Seated Exercise Stephanie Hall

MARCH 6th Niel Finnemore will be talking about his work as a Chiropractor

March 20th. Music for Mothering Sunday by the Ide Schoolchildren.

Take care out there if Jack Frost has been about.

Jean Hoskin



## Learning about different faiths at Ide

Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. Although for each faith it marks different historical events and stories, the festival always represents, the same symbolic victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.



Rehkha from Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre came to visit Apple and Oak Class (Pre-school and Foundation) to help them learn about the festival of Diwali. The children enjoyed making salt dough diva lamps, trying some different foods and finding out about how the festival is celebrated in Exeter.



Apple Class (pre-school) would love to have some help with updating their outdoor areas. If you have any outdoor paint to donate and/or could spare any time to help with painting, please contact [appleclass@ide.devon.sch.uk](mailto:appleclass@ide.devon.sch.uk)

We would also welcome donation of any pots and pans to help develop our music area in Apple Class.

## Local History at Ide

Ide Primary School is developing its history curriculum to include as much local community history as possible. Whilst touring the village last week with a special visitor (a nationally recognised primary geography and history specialist ) we came across the commonwealth war graves in the church yard.



We were intrigued by the address on the grave of Jack Bate Jewell, the school house. We have since found out that his father, William Jewell, was a previous headmaster at the school, and we have also discovered some extremely moving records of the related events made in the school log book (included below). We are hoping to focus one of our history projects on this man and his family as a way of showing the impact of World War One on families.

If you or anyone you know has any information about the Jewell family, or the other 2 men buried in the commonwealth graves, we would be incredibly grateful to hear from you. We would really like to share the information gathered with anyone interested at school later in the year over

some tea and cake.

Contact: Alice Purcell (Headteacher) via a note through the school door or by email [admin@ide.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ide.devon.sch.uk)

*Extracts from the School Log for 1917, written we believe by William Jewell himself.*

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1917

*The master was absent this morning from 11 to 12 o'clock in order to see his son off at St David's station*

March 21<sup>st</sup> 1917

*The master was called away last night by an urgent telegram from Birmingham Hospital summoning him to the bedside of his son Jack who is dangerously ill.*

*A later note the same day records*

*My dear boy Jack passed away this morning. R.I.P.*

March 26<sup>th</sup> 1917

*The master resumed duties this morning.*



## COMMUNITY ORCHARD NEWS

In November volunteers planted 50 kg of naturalising daffodils and crocus bulbs in the Orchard which will look stunning in the Spring. We also completed the cutting of the hedges and removal of two intrusive clumps of bramble.



The Orchard has looked spectacular during this very cold snap. There are still some wonderful apples to pick from one or two of the mature trees but most of the unpicked crop is now on the ground and being enjoyed by the migrating winter birds. There are many many field fares and increasing numbers of lapwing dropping in.

Peter Cloke



Field fares in the Community Orchard

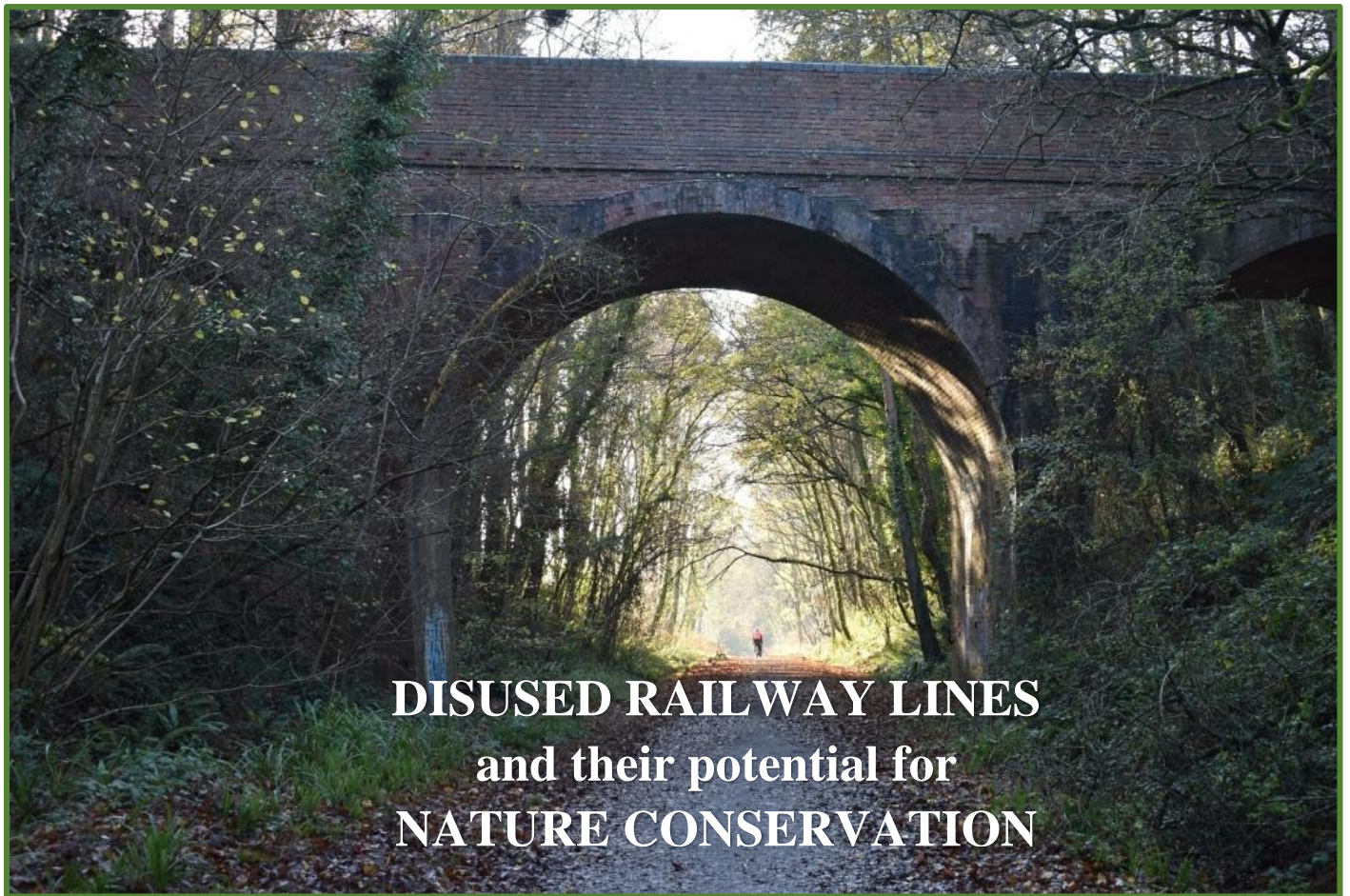
We will be waking up the fruit trees in the Community Orchard with our first ever **Wassail** on **Sunday February 5th at 5 pm.**

The idea is to create as much noise and light as possible so bring along musical instruments, torches, lanterns etc, as well as some cider or apple juice to enjoy and to splash over the roots of the tree we choose. Around this tree we will carry out traditional Wassail chanting, singing and recitations - so do bring along a favourite song, poem or piece of prose to share.



A couple of invitations from our neighbours in Shillingford:

## SHILLINGFORD St GEORGE WILDLIFE GROUP



Railway/road bridge between Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton – photo by treksandtors



**A Talk by John Davidson**  
Geographer and Ecologist

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - 7.30 pm.**

**Shillingford St George Village Hall (EX2 9QL)**

**EVERYBODY WELCOME - £3 at door**



### **Provisional Dates for forthcoming concerts at St George's Church Shillingford**

After 3 years of lack of activity during the Covid pandemic, we are hoping to return to our occasional Concerts in Shillingford Church – we are hoping to have an hour's concert on

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Flute and Piano by **PianoFlaute** at 7pm £5 entry on door

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 2 Harps by **Harpe Noirs** (also at 7pm and £5 entry)

We hope you will look out in the March edition for more details about these 2 events.

Ken Law SSG



## IDE TIMES PAST

It is sometimes said that “there is nothing new under the sun”. In light of the recent chimney fire in the Hams and attacks by dogs, this saying would certainly seem to be borne out in this article by Francis Moore, a regular contributor to the Ide Times in the late 1980s through to the mid 1990s.

### MEMORIES OF OLD IDE

Your correspondent, Bill Rowland, with his mention of Locks Cottages, which stood on the site of the school canteen, revived memories of the fire which caused their destruction. In 1933, I was a schoolboy at Ide Council School as it was then called. Playing cricket in the playground one hot summer’s afternoon I remember hearing a Mrs Pope, one of the occupants of Lock’s Cottages, screaming “the thatch is on fire!”. Sure enough it was, and burning quite fiercely. We older boys, twelve to fourteen year old, under the direction of the deputy headmaster, Mr Shapland, formed human chains and managed to pass a lot of items of furniture from the cottages to the safety of the road. Sadly, by the time the fire engines arrived the cottages were almost gutted. The cause of the fire was a hot cinder, blown from the tall chimney of one of the several steam engines which ran regularly through the village, carrying stone from the then busy working Dunchideock quarry.



Another memorable steam engine of those days was the one with massive iron wheels which hauled the big threshing machine to the local farms. Ide High Street was more easily negotiated in those days.

I have followed the remarks of the residents of the College, regarding their battle with nuisance dogs, with some sympathy and also humour.

Up until a few years ago it was quite a regular thing for a photo to appear in the local paper, usually headed “Delightful rural scene at Ide”, of a herd of some 20 to 30 cows making their slow headway through the College. This was a regular occurrence, twice a day, seven days a week, on their way to and from the fields, to be milked at the now extinct Drakes Farm. As to be expected, not all wanted to walk through the water, they preferred to use the pathway. There was no “Scoot”, or “Scram”, or “Pepper Dust” available then and naturally, after the progress of the cows, there is always quite a lot of mess. For any conscientious College resident this was the time for the hard broom and few well directed buckets of water to be brought into operation. Yes, in those days, the College not only had a “Rural Charm”, but a rural smell as well!

Francis Moore Nov 1987

*The steam engine pictured is not the one from Dunchideock but was used by another quarry (editor)*

## WEST TOWN FARM NEWS

Local, Organic, Sustainable



### Dog Walkers on the Farm - A Warning



Puppy with  
fixated leg caused  
by infection with  
Neospora

We ask that dog owners be extra careful to pick up poo while walking the farm trail this year. There is a disease, Neospora, which affects both cattle and dogs. Cattle can pick it up from dog faeces and dogs can pick it up from eating placental material.

We have no Neospora on the farm currently and we'd like to keep it that way. So vigilance around picking up poo is kindly requested. There is a risk that dogs could bring it onto the farm from elsewhere as the disease is on the rise in the UK. The disease causes abortion in cattle and muscle paralysis in dogs. Let's keep our animals safe. Many thanks for your consideration.

### Tree Planting

On a snowy day in January we had a team tree planting morning. West Town Farm is part of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme which rewards farms for their contribution to positive environmental outcomes for biodiversity & nature. Tree planting has always been part of the plan and every year we add some to the farm, while also protecting our species rich grassland. This year we planted sweet chestnut in the small paddock which is at the start of the farm trail. This will eventually grow into a small woodland for all to enjoy.

### New Apprentice & The Apricot Centre

We welcomed James to the farm at the beginning of the year, our new apprentice in Regenerative Agriculture Level 3. He will be here for a year and he has really settled in well. The scheme is run by the Apricot Centre near Totnes which recognises that there is a fundamental link between the wellbeing of the soil, food and habitat, and the mental and physical health of the people in and around the farm, making for a wonderful environment for a warm and effective mental health/wellbeing service for children and families. [www.apricotcentre.co.uk](http://www.apricotcentre.co.uk)

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