

Annual Report for 2013

including diary and excursion dates for 2014



The First Civic Society in Britain

Founded 1846

Promoting

Conservation & Protection of Heritage & Countryside
Recreational & Cultural Opportunities
Improvement of Amenities

www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk



Notice of AGM of the Sid Vale Association

to be held at the MANOR PAVILION
on WEDNESDAY, 30th APRIL, 2014 at 2.30 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of last AGM
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Presentation of Annual Accounts
- 5 Presentation of Annual Report and review of last year's activities
- 6 Re-election of President
- 7 Election of Officers
- 8 Confirmation of other executive committee members
- 9 Appointment of auditor
- 10 Special Resolution: questions, comments and voting
- 11 AOB (please notify Chair in advance of the meeting)

Tea and coffee available in the bar

MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

The Sid Vale Association is a body registered under the Charities Act 1960, under the designation Reg. No. 262514 – Civic Area, Sidmouth.

1. Membership shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the purpose of the Association. Details of subscription rates are shown in Membership Report. Those residing over 5 miles from Sidmouth front may be required to subscribe an additional sum to defray postal charges. Initial subscriptions for those joining after 30th September cover the following year.
2. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about the month of April, to receive the Executive Committee's report, the report of the Chairman of the Museum, and audited accounts. The Executive Committee, consisting of not more than 20 members, and the Officers of the Association, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Special General Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee, or by not less than 20 members of the Association whose subscriptions are not in arrears.
3. Nominations for membership of the Executive Committee should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Liz Warren, 43 Primley Road, Sidmouth, seven days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder, and the prior consent of the nominee must have been obtained.

Sid Vale Association

President

Revd. Handel H C Bennett

Vice President

Mr Brian L Callaway

OFFICERS FOR 2013

President	Rev Handel Bennett	514211	campsbay2@tiscali.co.uk
Chairman	Alan Darrant	519848	a.darrant@tiscali.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Ed Harrison	514430	egharrison12@yahoo.co.uk
Hon Treasurer	Neville Staddon	516158	septembertree@btinternet.com
Hon Secretary	Liz Warren	576998	ejw01@talktalk.net

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE April 2013

Communications (Newsletters/Annual Report/Website)

Felicity & Roger Carver 514860 sva@thetowerhouse.com

Publications

John Dowell 568681 jd@rockfordgraphics.co.uk

Team River Warden

Mike Flynn 741547 mikejohnflynn@hotmail.co.uk

Footpaths

Nick Keast

AONB

Brian Hall 515787 brianhallsidmouth@dsl.pipex.com

Woodlands and Estates Neville Homent

Conservation and Planning

Richard Thurlow 513171 r.j.thurlow@btinternet.com

Museum Chairman

Dr Nigel Hyman 579815 nigelhyman@live.co.uk

Museum Curator

Dr. Bob Symes, OBE 578114 bobcar37@btinternet.com

Conservation and Planning

Richard Thurlow 513171 thurlow@btinternet.com

SUB COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES

Conservation and Planning led by Richard Thurlow

Angela Bea	John Chew	Les Cotton	Tricia Cook
Robert Crick	Colin Essex	Brian Hall	Richard Huntingdon
Alan Weaver	Rodney Scott (trees).		

Footpaths led by Di Fuller

Philip Atkinson	Michael Brittain	Chris Brown	Kelvin Dent
Jenny Donnelly	John Dyson	Mary Howell	Nick Howell
Nick Keast	Margaret Moss	Peter Moss	Ian Radburn
Norma Self			

Keith Owen Investment led by Neville Staddon

Michel Brittain	Tina Day	John Dyson	Michael Newman
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Keith Owen Grants led by Handel Bennett

Barry Jones, Secretary	Felicity Carver	Alan Darrant
Ed Harrison	Peter Moss	Neville Staddon
John Townsend	Liz Warren	Chris Woodruff

Meetings led by Revd. Handel Bennett

Dr. Peter Fung	Tracey Cann	Brendan Lee	John Ridgley
Angela Drakes	John Foxell	Jill Burke	Sally Milward

Museum led by Bob Symes, Curator

Nigel Hyman, Chairman	Rita Bewes, Secretary	Ann Jones, Treasurer
Christine Barnard	Rab Barnard	Sarah Bennett
David Forward	Denise Grieg	Carol Griffiths
Roger Le Voir	Beryl McIndoe	Peter Soper
Ann Walsh	Tony Walsh	

Peaslands Knapp led by Kate Tobin

Jon Ball	Penny Ball	Caroline Ball	John Jones
Felicity Carver	Roger Carver	Nick Hall	Colin Seward
Diana East	Roger Trend	Sandra Trend	

Communications (Newsletter/Website) led by Felicity & Roger Carver

Publications led by John Dowell

Hilary Briers	Sylvia Brownlee	Carol Griffiths	Nigel Hyman
Andrew Rugg-Gunn			

Woodlands and Estates led by Ed Harrison

Phil Ashby	Michael Davies	Gerry Turner	Charles Berry
John Capel	John Foxwell	Bruce Thomas	Cliff Butlin
Graham Knapton	Joyce Stevenson	Michael Tilley	Alan Waters
Vivien Insull	Val Huntington	Richard Huntington	

River led by Mike Flynn

Social vacant

Membership Secretary and Newsletter Distribution Andrew Scott

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Representative Brian Hall

Countryside Walks led by Liz Cotton

Sid Vale Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2.30pm on 24th April 2013 at The Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth

Alan Darrant, Chair of the Association, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
50 people attended the meeting

- 1 **Apologies** Harry Jagger, Sir Jack Boles, Brian Calloway, Neville Homent, Edmund Harrison, Sylvia & Lawrie Brownlea, Dr Bob Symes, Hilary Briers, Nigel Hyman, Joan Bennett
- 2 **Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd April 2012** Agreed and signed
- 3 **Matters Arising** None
- 4 **Election of Officers**
 - 1 **President** Tributes were paid to Denzil Taylor, president of SVA, who had passed away. He was much missed.
A vacancy for president therefore existed and Alan proposed that Rev Handel Bennett be invited to take on this role: seconded by Brian Hall and agreed by the meeting.
 - 2 **Chair** Handel took the chair for this item and proposed that Alan Darrant continue as chairman: seconded by John Townsend and agreed by the meeting. Alan resumed the role.
 - 3 **Vice Chair** Previously held by Rev Handel Bennett, Alan proposed Edmund Harrison: seconded by Patrick Stubbs and agreed by the meeting.
 - 4 **Treasurer** Alan proposed Neville Staddon continue as Treasurer: seconded by Mike Flynn and agreed by the meeting.
 - 5 **Honorary Secretary** Alan proposed that Liz Warren continue as Hon Sec: seconded by Roger Carver and agreed by the meeting.
- 5 **Confirmation of Executive Committee members**

Alan proposed that the above officers plus the leaders/chairs of each of the SVA interest groups formed the Executive Committee. As Ed Harrison was now vice chair, he would relinquish the role of chair of the conservation and planning group which will be taken up by Richard Thurlow, current chair of the SOS group. Agreed by the meeting.

6 Review of SVA Activities

To complement and update the previously circulated Annual Report, Alan made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the work of each interest group and showing some of the many volunteers who form the backbone of the association. He reported that a newly formed History group was due to meet again on 13th May and new members would be welcome. Group Leaders agreed to take Questions and/or comment on their work.

Members of the public queried:

1. the state of the river banks following the recent floods and who held responsibility for repairs. Many individuals owned sections of the banks and a proposed survey by Devon Wildlife Trust in partnership with SVA hoped to establish an up to date list. SVA shared concerns re repairs and was in conversation with the relevant authorities.
 2. costs for maintenance and care of the burial ground in Winslade Road – this is outside the remit of SVA.
- Handel reported on the progress of the Keith Owen Fund Million Bulbs project which so far includes 50 sites and 22 voluntary groups, and commented on the success of the Schools competition and inspiring ideas they had on how to improve the valley.
 - Volunteers are needed to help the Social Group who deal with refreshments at SVA events, for someone with expertise in preparing digital presentations.
 - Richard Thurlow explained that following the battle to save The Knowle, SOS wants to work with EDDC to ensure future development plans are more in keeping with the locality.
 - New exhibitions at the museum this summer include the suffragettes, the Long Picture and Peter Orlando Hutchison.
 - Mike Flynn sought volunteers to work with himself and Devon Wildlife Trust for help with the river survey and subsequent removal of Himalayan Balsam etc.
 - Articles for the next newsletter to Roger & Floss Carver by 29th May.
- 7 **CIO status**

Alan explained the need to change the constitution of SVA and to apply for Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status to protect the liability for charity trustees and to broaden the objects of the association to be able to fulfil the wishes of Keith Owen with regard to his trust fund. He sought members' approval to proceed with making such an application. An EGM would then be called with proposals to adopt the proposed new constitution and to transfer assets across. This was agreed on a show of hands.
 - 8 **Annual Accounts**

The Annual Accounts for 2012 were approved and John Mullins was thanked for his prompt attention in carrying out the last audit. Neville proposed and Alan seconded that he be appointed as auditor for the current year. Agreed by the meeting.
 - 9 **AOB** None
- The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Chairman's Report 2013

2013 was a year with much going on of interest to our members.

Much progress was made in our application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and we were granted that status at the end of the year. This means that currently the SVA is TWO charities, with the intention that the two should merge in due time, with all the assets of the older charity being transferred to the newer. Elsewhere in this report, you will find a resolution on the matter, which will be put to the AGM.



The 'million bulbs' project gained the Association national and international celebrity, with widespread applause, along with a little misunderstanding. The thought that we could have spent two million pounds on bulbs was patently unthinkable, but still gained some currency, even on national TV: the real figure was barely £25,000. Handel Bennett writes of the project in the item on the Keith Owen Fund, and refers to the invaluable help given by key members of the KOF Grants Committee (including Handel himself!), and the Woodlands and Estates Committee. The whole project required a lot of time and organisation, and it is a credit to ALL involved that it ran so smoothly.

In 2013, the Museum gained renewed accreditation status, which recognises its value through rigorous examination of its work and practice.

Neville Homent, having taken on the mantle of Woodlands and Estates supremo from Patrick Stubbs, sadly had to move out of the area, and Ed Harrison has temporarily stepped into the breach.

The Local History Group is now meeting regularly in the Darlington Room. The next meeting will be on Monday 12th May at 7 pm.

I write elsewhere about Save Our Sidmouth. It will be late summer before we are likely to know what the inspector decides is the fate of the Local Plan. However, it is not just for that reason that I look forward to seeing what 2014 holds in store for us: there are many activities of the Association, and I hope they combine to make it a significant and successful year for the SVA. I wish the same for all of you!

Alan Darrant

Membership

Despite the favourable publicity resulting from the continuing work of the Keith Owen Fund, we have been unable to maintain our membership figures at last year's levels. At the time of writing (late February 2014), our total numbers stood at 2354, comprising 2195 life members and 159 annual members.

Our annual New Members' Meeting was held at Kennaway House in September for those who had joined in the previous 12 months. A PowerPoint presentation was made giving details of the Association's work and a visual display was assembled. Details of the 2014 meeting will be advised and circulated shortly.

As always, I should like to express my thanks to our team of distributors and helpers who unfailingly ensure that members' copies of the AGM and newsletters are delivered by hand to all our members residing in the Sid Valley. I am truly grateful to them all, as I could not do this job without their support.

My contact details are andrewscott@sidford.orangehome.co.uk or by telephone between 9am and 6pm on weekdays: 01395 519797.

Data Protection Act

Members' names and addresses, together with the type of membership they hold (Life or Annual), are held on computer file. No details of subscription payments are held on file. This information continues to be held on a cardex system. Whilst there is no requirement for us to register under the Data Protection Act, we are required to notify all members of any information held on computer file, and to give them the opportunity to have such details erased. This note is therefore published to meet this requirement, and will be published annually in the Annual Report. Should any member not be prepared to have his/her name held on computer, will they please write and inform the Membership Secretary accordingly.

Andrew Scott

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

<i>Life Membership:</i>	<i>£30 (£40 for 2 persons living at the same address)</i>
<i>Annual Membership:</i>	<i>£5 (£7 for 2 persons at same address)</i>
<i>UK Postal Delivery:</i>	<i>add £20 per address for Life Members</i>
	<i>add £2 per annum for Annual Members</i>

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR BECAME DUE ON 1st JANUARY 2014

If you have not already paid, please do so at the AGM, or remit to the Membership Secretary, or pay at the Museum, Hope Cottage, Church Street, Sidmouth.

Special Resolution for Sid Vale Association AGM on 30th April 2014

Preamble

The Sid Vale Association (SVA) is the oldest Civic Society in England. It was originally founded in 1846 and has grown and adapted over the years to meet the prevailing legislation and local conditions. It is an unincorporated registered charity and as such its trustees can be held personally responsible for the liabilities of the charity. In recognition of such daunting responsibilities the Government introduced the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in the Charities Act 2011. Under this legislation trustees of a CIO have limited liability akin to directors of a limited company. The SVA CIO will also be able to execute legal documents in its own name rather than that of individual trustees.

Trustees of SVA sought to change the charity to CIO status to protect themselves and to attract new trustees. Members were consulted at the AGM in April 2013 and voted that trustees should pursue this course of action. In accordance with these wishes, the Sid Vale Association CIO has been set up and registered with the Charity Commission, with the following objects which conform to the requirements of the Charity Commission:

In the Valley of the River Sid in East Devon and its environs:

- 1) *To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.*
- 2) *To advance the education of the public by the establishment and maintenance of a museum and a local history group.*
- 3) *To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.*

A copy of the constitution is available from the Secretary and on the SVA website.

It now falls to members to agree that the assets and liabilities of the existing charity should be transferred to the new CIO. The legal way is to dissolve charity number 262514 and transfer all assets and liabilities to the new CIO Charity number 1154749

The most straightforward way of doing this is to merge the 2 charities in the first place, then once all the formalities are complete and at a later date, to wind up charity number 262514. This merger would be registered with the Charity Commissioners.

We therefore urge your support for the following Special Resolution:

Special Resolution

That pursuant to Clause 25 of the 1999 constitution the Association Charity number 262514 shall be dissolved and that, when able, the Executive Committee implement the transfer to the new CIO Charity number 1154749 (subject to ensuring that this would not lead to the loss of the Keith Owen Trust Fund):§

- 1 all the assets, liabilities and activities of the charity
- 2 the Keith Owen Endowment.

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

You will be familiar with these words from the SVA logo. In the Sid Valley, we re-call the **PAST** which is all around us. We cherish it, we value it, and we have been pleased to remember notable residents and their achievements, through our Blue Plaque scheme.

The **PRESENT** is something we enjoy now, quite often because of what can be achieved through the generosity of our benefactors. We are deeply thankful for all who choose to give of their time and money, to the conservation of the heritage we see, and the countryside around us. In the past year we re-call with gratitude, the generous bequests of £10,000 from Gillian Beatty of Redwood Road; £5,091 from L.M. Whitaker; £3,094 a balance of legacy from Miss J.F. Tucker of Sidbury, (making a total of £31,665); £500 from Miss A.M. Wylie, and £450 from Mrs Gibbons for a seat in memory of her husband.

In the **FUTURE** we want the SVA to be able to continue to play its part in the conservation and protection of our natural environment. We continue to be deeply grateful for the thoughtfulness of those who, in the past, and also in the present, make provision in their wills for our future work. Your help is, and will be, much appreciated.

Rev. Handel Bennett, President

Sid Vale Association

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2013

SID VALE ASSOCIATION GENERAL FUND			
2012		2013	
£	£	£	£
Income			
	2,624		2,189
641		825	
321	319	1,029	(-204)
	890		890
2,826		2,443	
2,454	372	2,144	299
	125		465
	4,331		3,639
Expenditure			
329		445	
928		551	
2,941		2,603	
778			
1,404		492	
766		740	
216		506	
100		100	
255		125	
		330	
	7,717		5,891
	3,202		2,253
	744		0
	2,458		2,253
	0		0

TRUST FUND			
2012		2013	
Income			
1,860		5,868	
100		80	
334			
38,594		18,686	
	40,888		24,634
Expenditure			
	7,755		
	7,755		
	33,133		23,082
	855		2,253
	3,412		25,770
	145,517		174,384
	174,384		169,443
KEITH OWEN – ENDOWMENT			
Income			
	1,995		26,207
	2,266,592		2,264,597
	2,264,597		2,290,804
KEITH OWEN – REVENUE ACCOUNT			
Income			
		133,176	
124,263			
	750	125,013	
	60,412		92,334
	3,617		1,673
	9,023		12,930
	80		2,967
	799	73,932	110,296
	51,081		25,880
	59,605		110,686
	110,686		136,566

SOS DONATIONS

2012		2013	
	Income		
11,372	Donations received	390	
	Gift aid	1,834	
		<u>2,224</u>	
<u>11,372</u>	SVA contributions Keith Owen Fund	1,673	
22,744	Trust Fund	<u>551</u>	4,448
	Expenditure		
4,950	Consultant – HSBC	6,640	
	CAF	2,625	
<u>3,617</u>	Publicity etc	<u>1,673</u>	10,938
	Balance B/F		<u>14,177</u>
<u>14,177</u>	Balance C/F		<u>7,687</u>

WOODLANDS AND ESTATES

	Expenditure		
4,813	Tools equipment etc.	1,315	
	EDDC maintenance	152	
	Seats Margret's Meadow/Gilchrist	786	
	Conservation mowing	2,157	
	Trees routine maintenance & inspection	<u>3,024</u>	7,434
	Peasland Knapp		
4,210	Fencing/water trough	1,852	
	Maintenance/events	61	
	Tree works and survey	1,940	
	Steps and ramp to path	<u>952</u>	4,805
<u>9,023</u>	Total expenditure to be met from KO		<u>12,239</u>

SIDMOUTH LANDSCAPE FUND

	Income		
3,908	Sales of calendars, postcards etc	3,941	
<u>2,285</u>	Less expenditure	<u>1,863</u>	2,078
710	Interest		<u>1,560</u>
<u>2,333</u>			<u>3,638</u>
74,387	Balance as at 1st January		76,720
<u>76,720</u>	Balance as at 31st December		<u>80,358</u>

SIDMOUTH MUSEUM

2012		2013	
	Income		
21	Bank interest		15
6,882	Sales shop		7,172
	Sales online		448
4,531	Donations/public		4,600
	over £20		157
475	other		392
71	Gift Aid		63
10			
<u>11,990</u>			<u>12,846</u>
	Expenditure		
122	S W Water		137
2,474	Electricity		1,928
779	Telephone		830
1,488	Cleaning		1,511
206	Subscriptions		720
964	Exhibits		1,310
339	Conservation		118
	Acquisitions		545
1,727	Advertising		1,604
708	Helpers/refreshments		580
674	Printing/postage/stationery		682
182	Travel		214
479	Equipment		402
205	Miscellaneous		651
3,727	Stock purchases		4,929
3,671	Property		4,151
31	IT		539
	Youth		<u>34</u>
<u>17,777</u>	Running expenditure		20,883
	Special items from Trust fund		
1,062	Insurance		1,090
755	Binding Observer & Heralds		
	External redecoration and repair		16,159
	Publications		3,651
1,115	Radiators		1,871
	Picture		691
480	Valuation		<u>23,462</u>
<u>21,189</u>	Total Expenditure		<u>44,345</u>
	Excess of income over expenditure		
9,199	expenditure over income		31,499
18,246	Balance brought forward		12,459
3,412	Transfer from Trust Fund		25,770
	Keith Owen Fund		691
<u>12,459</u>	Balance carried forward		<u>7,421</u>

Mrs A Jones Hon. Treasurer

SID VALE ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2013

2,012	ASSETS	2013	
	Cash		
842	HSBC Treasurer's Account	2,376	
92	HSBC Landscape Account	58	
<u>16,826</u>	CAF Bank	<u>18,537</u>	20,971
55,912	Notice deposits CAF 30 day	0	
50,000	Principality 12 month bond	50,000	
<u>158,971</u>	Scottish Widows 90 day	<u>16,698</u>	66,698
	Virgin Money		
49,662	COIF Deposit Accounts Trust Fund	123,407	
<u>37,013</u>	COIF	<u>1,111</u>	124,518
6,651	Hargreaves Lansdown cash account		6,866
	Museum		
60	Cash in hand	60	
4,399	HSBC current account	7,361	
<u>8,000</u>	Money Market account	<u>0</u>	7,421
2,264,594	Investments		2,465,805
<u>2,653,023</u>			<u>2,692,279</u>
	REPRESENTED BY		
174,383	Trust Fund	169,443	
12,459	Museum General Account	7,421	
76,721	Landscape Fund	80,358	
14,177	SOS donations	7,687	
110,686	Keith Owen revenue	136,566	
<u>2,264,597</u>	Keith Owen Permanent Endowment	<u>2,290,804</u>	
<u>2,653,023</u>		<u>2,692,279</u>	

A Darrant
Chairman

P N Staddon
Treasurer

NOTES

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.
The Investments are in UK listed companies and Funds, and are shown in the Balance Sheet at cost. The market value of the investments at 31st December 2013 was £3,120,899 (31st December 2012 £2,474,378).
In addition to the Assets in the Balance Sheet the Association owns approximately 20 acres of land on Salcombe Hill known as the James Cornish Field, 2 acres known as Combe Head, 2 acres at Highfield Bickwell Valley, over 19 acres in the Byes comprising Livonia Field, Gilchrist Field, Margaret's Meadow, 1.6 acres at Peaslands Knapp, and Trow pump house Salcombe Regis.
The Association also rents about 2 acres known as Allotment Field Wood on Soldiers Hill Salcombe Regis. At 31st December 2013 the Executive Committee had agreed to pay grants due in 2014 from the Keith Owen Fund totalling £107,657.

Funds	Purpose
Unrestricted	
General	The general running of the Association
Trust	The acquisition of land and or property Carrying out special projects or work in furtherance of the Aims of the SVA
Restricted	
Museum	Exclusively to cover the Museum running and capital expenditure
Landscape	Held jointly with the National Trust for the purchase of land
SOS	Donations received to make representations regarding the Local Development Plan
Keith Owen Revenue	Income from investments to be used in accordance with the Memorandum of Intention to support and encourage the aims of the SVA
Endowment	
Keith Owen	To be invested in UK equities/funds

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Sid Vale Association

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2013, which are set out on pages 1 to 6 Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R. J. D. Mullins A. I. B. Kings Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8DU

14th January 2014

Keith Owen Fund Grants Committee

It is now some six years since Keith Owen passed away in Sidmouth. Having travelled much of the world, he was always pleased to be back here again. He regarded it as a place and a community that valued its history and heritage, and found great enjoyment in its coast and countryside. As a member of the SVA, he particularly wanted to see voluntary action continuing locally. His legacy was provided to sustain the conservation of our coast, countryside and community. The SVA has been pleased to have the privilege of administering his philanthropic intentions.

In the last 6 years, the Fund has paid or pledged, 101 Awards totalling £478,429 to local beneficiaries and additional sums have been used to support SVA projects within the Sid Valley and Salcombe Regis.

In 2013 (see opposite page) the committee recommended 23 Awards totalling £118,442, (28% up on 2012). These went to voluntary organisations and projects in the Sid Valley, principally for aspects of conservation and heritage. I am very grateful for the hours of time given by all members of my committee, and the conscientious way in which each has contributed.

In 2007, only weeks before Keith died, he suggested the Valley would be a great place to plant a million bulbs. This was a major undertaking. Sites in public view were chosen within the valley; land owners and managers were contacted for permission (DCC, EDDC, STC, churches, etc.); bulb types and quantities selected; logistics of supply, handling storage, and distribution arranged, ('Thank you' Sidmouth Garden Centre!), and the community encouraged to take part. Sports clubs, churches, scouts, guides, cubs and brownies, teenagers and pensioners, Friends of the Byes, and our own Woodlands and Estates committee on SVA land, together planted 178,000 bulbs, during September to November, at a cost of £25,264! (Additional to totals shown above.)

The press from London, Berlin, Ottawa and Toronto published articles, and Sidmouth appeared on several TV channels, and was featured on radio. Oct. 26 offered a great day out planting bulbs on Peak Hill and in Jacob's Ladder Chine. Bulb-planters included local residents, and former evacuees and holidaymakers who came from the Lake District, Bristol, London and elsewhere! (Heard in a hairdressers months later: "It was such fun! All of us laughing and sharing in a wonderful community event. And now we have the bulbs to look forward to!" Somehow I feel Keith would have smiled and approved.

As I write, bulbs are just about to burst open and will bring a splash of colour to our eyes. Springtime in Sidmouth could be changed forever, if we continue to create the Valley of a Million Bulbs! If you know of an area within the valley you think might need a little colour, please let us know (via our website).

Organisation

Award

Purpose or Reason

Friends, Salcombe Regis Church	£2,000	Refurbishment of Lynch-Gate Roof.
	£2,204	(1) Developmental costs.
Civic Arboretum	£3,000	(2) Sidbury Tree Trail. Restoration of FP.
	£3,930	(3) Survey, planting trees, printing, events.
Sidmouth Rugby Club	£20,000*	Improve drainage and playing pitch surfaces.
Sidford Methodist Church	£4,750*	Car parking plot.
Science Festival	£4,000*	Science awareness in daily life.
Folk Festival	£8,000	Circus skills, mini-melodeon experience, Creative skills, family work-shop
Sidmouth Life Saving Club	£3,000	New equipment for training
Sidmouth Folk Week	£6,000	Assessment feasibility of alternative sites
Sidmouth Scouts Assoc.	£16,000	Phase 1: Power provision and legal costs.
Sidbury Primary School	£5,000	Outdoor Learning
Sidmouth College	£12,000*	Keith Owen Media Suite
Sailing Club	£2,950*	Development plan
College Gardening	£200	Project to stimulate self-confidence
Sidmouth Independent Lifeboat	£7,100*	To help provide a 'back-up boat.
Red Lion Inn, Sidbury	£3,000*	To discover alternatives for community use.
Sidford Pre-School	£906	To enhance community facility
Primley URC Hall	£4,707*	Windows and fire door refurbishment.
All Saints Church Hall	£1,500*	Improvement of seating
Sidmouth Majorettes	£4,000*	New facility for training young people.
Sid Vale Sharks Swimming Club	£695*	iPad, stop watches and equipment for training.
Countryside Apprentice	£3,500	Bursary for training (with the National Trust.)
Valley of a Million Bulbs	£25,264	Cost of bulbs, tools, seminars
TOTAL	£143,706	

KEY: * Matched funding up to a maximum

Have YOU applied for funding yet? You will find terms, conditions and an Application Form for a grant, on our website www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk

*Handel H C Bennett
Chairman, Keith Owen Fund Grants*

Save Our Sidmouth

It is surprisingly nearly two years since Save Our Sidmouth was created as an informal alliance of the SVA, the Chamber of Commerce, the Hospitality Association, and the Vision Group. There was a fantastic response to a public appeal for funds to fight the excessive development proposed within EDDC's Local Plan. Over £13,000 came flooding in, and the SVA matched that sum. The fund has been used to pay for meeting venues, press advertising, and the printing of leaflets publicising the threats to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and to the jobs and gardens at Knowle. It has also allowed us to commission professional reports on traffic, sustainability and flooding at Sidford, and to engage Charlie Hopkins, a barrister and planning consultant, who has spent much time in arguing our case. We are greatly indebted to all those who contributed to the fund, virtually all £27,000 of which has now been invested in the campaign.

Save Our Sidmouth is not arguing against houses or jobs, both of which we support: it is the sheer scale of developers' plans, and the sites they wish to build on which is of concern. As I have said before, EDDC paid consultants for advice on how much land was needed for extra employment. That advice was based on what was, at the time, the latest information on population growth in this area, and their answer was 30 to 32 hectares (75 to 80 acres) across the district – not including all that at Skypark and Science Park near Cranbrook. Since then, the 2011 census figures have become available, indicating a slower rate of growth! The EDDC Local Plan ignores the consultants' advice, and has decided to more than DOUBLE the allocation to 65.5 hectares, or over 160 acres. The twelve and a half acre industrial site in the AONB at Sidford is particularly ill advised.

Early in the 2013, after much pressure from SOS, very ably led by Richard Thurlow, chairman of our Conservation and Planning Committee, the East Devon Development Management Committee refused EDDC's own planning application to build across much of the Knowle site. The DMC specifically could not support building on the southern gardens, and on the lowest car park. East Devon have, however, since announced plans to sell the whole site and build a new headquarters at Skypark, a very expensive commitment, funded by taxpayers, which we continue to challenge.

As we go to press, the Inspector is coming to the end of his public examination of the plan, a whole day of which was devoted to Sidmouth, while each other town had half a day. In the event, one day was not enough, and Sidmouth spilt over into a second day. The inspector has been fair and thorough, but it will be several months before we hear his decision on the Plan. Let us hope it brings us some welcome news.

Alan Darrant

Keith Owen Fund Investment Committee

The stock market showed some recovery in 2013 with the FTSE 100 increasing by 14.4%. By sticking to the policy recommended by Keith Owen, the portfolio continued to outperform this benchmark. Interest rates on cash deposits remained very low and in view of the return being achieved by the Investment Committee it was agreed to transfer £175,000 of other funds into the portfolio, making the total amount invested £2.432m with a market value at 31st December 2013 of £3.120m. Income from dividends totalled £138,343 achieving a return on the current market value of 4.43% compared to the FTSE 100 average of 3.46%. The dividends were split £133,176 to the Keith Owen Fund which was available to the grants committee, and £5,267 to other SVA funds. The actual return on the cost of the investments was 5.7%. Income for 2013 benefited from a number of companies in the portfolio declaring special dividends amounting to £13,900, although these will not be repeated in 2014 other companies have declared special dividends which will more than make up for the 2013 special dividend, Vodafone has declared a special dividend from which nearly £20,000 will be received so income for 2014 is expected to be greater than that received in 2013.

Neville Staddon

Communications

During 2013 the Annual Report for 2012 and the July and November 2013 Newsletters were produced and distributed to each member of the SVA.

Please consider submitting an article for one of the 2014 Newsletters – we'd love to hear your Sid Vale-related stories or concerns. Articles should be no longer than 800 words and an accompanying photograph or illustration would be most welcome.

The deadline for entries for the July 2014 edition is Saturday 31 May, and the deadline for the November issue is Saturday 13 September. Please email your item to sva@thetowerhouse.com or post it to Felicity Carver at 8 West Park Road, Sidmouth, EX10 9DH.

The website is a great source of information about the SVA and the Events page is regularly updated with dates for your diary.

Visit us at www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Felicity Carver, Editor

Excursions 2013

We have operated two excursions once again this year, and both were well filled. The June excursion was fully booked by the end of April! This took place on a beautiful sunny day, travelling via the Jamaica Inn on Dartmoor, (made famous by Daphne Du Maurier). Then through Bodmin to Padstow on Cornwall's Atlantic coast. Here our trip included a guided tour of famous Prideaux Place by the owners. In Padstow, we sampled Rick Stein's fish and chips, and enjoyed a stroll around the harbour and town. Then returned to Prideaux Place for a Devon cream tea and a visit to the gardens, and home before 7 pm.

In September, a full coach to Dorset, scene of Thomas Hardy's Wessex novels. Then to the five hundred-year-old Athelhampton House, on the banks of the River Piddle. We had a guided tour, and a wander through the 20 acres of formal gardens. The house has been the back drop to several films, notably 'Sleuth' with Sir Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine, in 1972. We continued, viewing the Tolpuddle Martyrs' tree. Today this is an iconic symbol of how beneath its branches, six labourers in 1834 formed the first trades union. On Moreton Heath we recalled the life and sudden death of Lawrence of Arabia who lived nearby. We arrived on the Jurassic Coast, at Lulworth Cove, and marvelled at the torturous geological strata. With lowering clouds, we decided to bring forward the time of our Dorset cream tea with scones and strawberries! Then home through Weymouth, and along the coast, viewing Abbotsbury and Chesil Beach.

Over a hundred happy trippers! See the flap at the back of this Annual Report for details of the next excursion.

Handel Bennett

Social Committee

This once very active committee in recent years, is now defunct. The team of volunteers which provides refreshments after our Autumn/Spring meetings in the Manor Pavilion theatre, will continue to do so. We are very grateful for their help, but they now see themselves as part of the Meetings Committee.

A number of new members indicate on their Membership Application Forms a readiness to do 'social activities'. In response, I am inviting their help to launch a new Social Activities committee. We are open to ideas. Perhaps doing the things that groups of friends might enjoy doing. We are a Civic Society at heart, and it is natural that we should try to be actively engaged in the local community. To initiate social engagement through activities and events. There are many people who have lived active lives, and now find themselves at home on their own.

We know of a group that already meets once a month to share memories; and another that meets every week for a pub dinner. In the past we have hosted

skittles evenings; wine-tasting and moth trapping (the SVA already has a moth trap of its own). Why not arrange Collectors evenings when you might share a great variety of pursuits. Such as collections of postcards, Valentines, model railways, vintage cars, historic lace, glass paperweights, and more! Evenings (or any time) might be good for games, quizzes, skittles, wine tasting, or anniversary luncheons. Welcome incomers and neighbours, and invite them to become SVA members. Our current Excursions programme could also be incorporated into a programme of social activity!

So much available to be enjoyed – not all at once – but quite sufficient to make a start. So are there several of our members willing to get things moving? If so, please give me a call (01395 514211) and we'll find a date to meet! It would be great to be able to report at the end of 2014, on the "**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP**".

Handel Bennett

SVA Countryside Walks

New Year's Day provided sunshine and fresh air, a good way to start the year, then a splendid February walk in spite of the extraordinary mix of mud and snow, sleet, rain, hail and sunshine!

In March we enjoyed fine views from Aylesbeare Common and admired a glorious field of sunbathed snowdrops. In April we were on home territory in the Sid Valley and in May back to Newton Poppleford for one of Haylor's walks, which was full of historical interest.

This year's ramble in June was much enjoyed as we met at the Ham on a sunny evening and ended at a local hostelry after some energetic climbing. July saw the group exploring the Colyton area and August in Budleigh Salterton. September brought what has become an 'Annual Special', a trip to Dartmoor led by Cliff and Pam. This time we had fantastic views from Black Hill.

Winding ways on Woodbury Common in October were followed the next month by an exploration of the East Budleigh to Otterton area. We were back in Otterton to celebrate Christmas with our traditional early December Christmas pub lunch following a brisk walk along part of the coast path.

My thanks, as always, to the enthusiastic and supportive walk leaders and also to those who have turned up rain or shine in order to participate in the enjoyment of both our local and slightly wider areas.

It has been my pleasure to be Walks Organiser since 2006. From January 2014 the role will be taken over by Liz Cotton who has spent this last year getting to know the regulars and planning ahead.

Bettina Wilson

Meetings Programme 2013

The following programme of meetings were arranged in the Manor Pavilion Theatre in 2013, for the enjoyment of our members and the wider public. While numbers fluctuated, it was gratifying to see the theatre almost full on some occasions.

January 16. Due to renovations at the theatre, our meeting was – quite appropriately – held in the Music Room of Sidholme Hotel. Roger Carver spoke of his personal interest in forms of recorded mechanical music (over 300 years), from “Snuff box to MP3”, with entertaining demonstrations.

February 27. The ‘Wag from Widecombe’, BBC Radio Devon’s presenter Tony Beard was on hand to give an enjoyable talk, to a full house, about “Dartmoor the Land I love”, with excellent illustrations.

March 20. Our Museum talk this year celebrated the 50th birthday of the AONB and received a short talk from Chris Woodruff (ED-AONB) about our local AONB. This was followed by Philippe Planel (AONB) who spoke on discoveries made by the Peter Orlando Hutchinson Footsteps 3-year project, which operated in conjunction with the Sidmouth Museum.

April 24. At the AGM we produced again, an illustrated view of the work of all the SVA Officers and committees entitled: “Through 2012 with the SVA in pictures”.

October 16. Once again, in conjunction with the Sidmouth Science festival, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Mark Baldwin, the national authority on the Enigma machine. He was warmly received by a full audience.

November 20. Dr. Letta Jones made her way to us from London, to speak on “400 years of Garden History”, and well worthy of a larger audience!

The last meeting was chaired by two new members of the Meetings Committee, Brendan Lee and John Ridgley, who are now taking over responsibility for our regular programme. Their new ideas and energies are very welcome, and I wish them every success as they plan for 2014-2015. We are also grateful for the faithful support of Dr Peter Fung (posters and P/A), Tracey Cann (Poster distribution), and the faithful Refreshments Team of Angela Drakes, John Foxell, Jill Burke, and Sally Milward.

Handel Bennett

Woodlands and Estates

The enthusiastic band of volunteers had another busy year both in The Byes and up on Salcombe Hill.

In The Byes works were carried out to realign the riverside path following storm damage. A programme of bramble clearance was carried out in this area to encourage the snowdrops. Further work was carried out in The Gilchrist Pond. Logs have been removed from the immediate area to deter them being thrown back in by unwelcome visitors. Hopefully we can progress the water supply this year.

We have installed a bench in The Golden Copse and two further benches in Gilchrist Meadow. The dog owners make daily use of our Byes Estate in ever increasing numbers but this, in turn, causes us problems. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, a minority think it is not necessary to remove their dogs’ excrement. We are disappointed at the amount of litter we have to pick up.

The volunteers currently meet every Monday morning and carry out regular maintenance of grassed areas, trimming of brambles, repairing fences, removing the smaller fallen trees, etc. The list is endless. A continuous programme of improvements is carried out including creating wood bark areas in front of benches and also laying bark in gateways. The exceptional rain this winter has been challenging as well as the tree damage caused by the relentless gales.

Despite the weather work has been completed erecting posts and handrails on a steep section of Combe Head Wood at Salcombe Regis. A small bridge has been constructed and a considerable amount of bramble removed. We very much hope to see a large improvement in the bluebell display.

We have also carried out bramble clearance at Soldiers Hill and again hope to see an improvement in the Bluebell display.

We have purchased a sturdy grass cutter to facilitate grass cutting in the Byes and this has necessitated a small extension to our store to house it

Neville Homent took over the running of the committee in January and did sterling work. He organised a contractor to mechanically cut back bramble growth around field edges. This was not without its critics but is essential to carry out from time to time to prevent encroachment. Ed Rhodes again cut the fields late in the season and arranged for the bales to go to Bicton College.

We were sad to say farewell to Neville who decided to move away from Devon at the end of the year. As vice-chairman and like Neville a retired surveyor, I took over as caretaker chairman. I was given a very warm welcome and I remain impressed at the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers, not all of whom are in their first flush of youth!!

Mike Davies has volunteered to co-ordinate the group. Richard Huntington has been elected as Chairman of the committee. He lives in Salcombe Regis and will co-ordinate work on our land there. A management plan is under consideration.

With better access we hope to bring forward proposals to encourage wildlife and flora and fauna.

Gerry Turner has built 17 new bird boxes for the Byes and is now building a number of boxes for Salcombe Regis

I have enjoyed working in the Byes and up at Salcombe Regis and I intend to continue this work. I thoroughly recommend this activity and if you would like to join the working party please do contact Richard Huntington tel 519350. Coffee and biscuits are provided! For the avoidance of doubt, there is no age limit and ladies are most welcome!

Edmund Harrison

River Report

This year SVA KOF funding has enabled a River Sid catchment enhancement project to take place. Fisheries and education specialists within Devon Wildlife Trust have been very active within the valley carrying out biodiversity, water quality, and habitat survey work. In addition awareness /education events have been carried out involving local schools as reported throughout the year via the SVA Newsletter. The resultant catchment report will be issued prior to the AGM and, if all goes to plan, will be available via the SVA Website.

Two interesting conclusions of this survey indicate that the Snod brook has the best water quality in the valley and that there is very good scope for improving water quality in the main river upstream of Sidbury.

Conditions were not ideal for Fish Rescue netting activities in October and November; however, the team ventured forth on three occasions with the following result:

Brown Trout – 27 (up to 1.5 lb)
Sea Trout – 1 (3 lb plus)
Salmon – 1 (5lb)

All these fish were released unharmed above School Weir to continue their journey up the valley.

Mike Flynn – River Warden

Peaslands Knapp

A quiet winter for Peaslands Knapp after the excitement of having the sheep in the meadow in late autumn. The main path through the site is so steep that in this extremely wet weather only the hardest of walkers tend to brave it and the site is only lightly used in winter.

The bulbs planted last year are beginning to come up but no great shows of snowdrops and wood anemones yet. However the robust Spanish Bluebells that were there when we bought the land are pushing their leaves up already.

In the adjacent orchard, an emergency intervention was staged by our volunteers with chicken wire and tree guards to protect fruit trees which were suddenly attacked over the Christmas period. The culprits were probably rabbits which were looking for extra nutrients at a thin time of year. A few of the trees were nearly ring barked within a few days, but with luck they will recover, and most were protected before too much damage was done.

The EDDC rangers have been coppicing and creating glades within their woodland at the Knapp. This should encourage wildflowers, butterflies and other invertebrates within the woodland, as well as giving the path a chance to dry out.

Once the weather dries out, we will remove some of the saplings and brambles in the centre of the meadow to encourage the wildflowers and we will look forward to surveying the wildflowers and butterflies that we hope will thrive following last year's grazing. We are also looking into a beehive in a secure place on the meadow, to encourage bees and pollination on the meadow.

With many thanks once again to the volunteers who quietly help to conserve the meadow and make it enjoyable to visit – you know who you are!

Kate Tobin

Rural Footpaths

There are almost 60 miles of Public Rights of Way in the Sid Valley parish. A group of volunteers spend time each month monitoring these footpaths looking at signposts, fences, stiles, gateposts and the general condition of the path. Any urgent work that needs to be undertaken is reported to the relevant authorities. This team also carries out an Annual Survey of all Public Rights of Way in the Sid Valley. Our parish has one of the largest amounts of Public Rights of Way in the county and we are fortunate to have the South West Coast Path and the East Devon Way passing through our Parish.

The team of volunteer wardens have a co-ordinator, Di Fuller, who liaises with the County Council, land owners and other agencies, who have the ultimate responsibility for path maintenance. Some maintenance of paths is carried out by

working groups, but heavier work is undertaken by contractors. The annual survey this year has shown a large amount of damage to paths through heavy rainfall and also the loss of a large number of trees that have fallen across rights of way.

The SVA is represented by the co-ordinator on the Parish Paths Partnership, where it is involved with local Councillors, the County footpaths warden for our area, members of the Ramblers Association and the Pony Club. This group is chaired by a Town Councillor. There are over 300 parishes in Devon and 160 are involved in the Parish Paths Partnership scheme. Funding is allocated to each parish annually by the county according to maintenance needs and the amount of footpaths. However, the level of funding has been reduced by £100 million in the last 4 years and is being reduced by another £110 million over the next 3 years from 2014 to 2017. Our funding for the last 2 years was £1790, but allocations for 2014/15 have not yet been confirmed. Winter damage to paths may overstretch budgets for future years.

Each year Sidmouth Town Council and the Parish Paths Partnership hosts an annual event for all stakeholders and those interested in rural footpaths. This year's speaker was Kenton Rogers, a Forestry consultant, who spoke about the benefits of trees to the Sid Valley and outlined the tree survey being planned for the summer of 2014.

Di Fuller

Landscape Fund

The Fund jointly owned with the National Trust for the acquisition of land was not used during 2013, but benefited from the Landscape Calendar for 2014 which was published again by Sue Harrod. Sue has had now relinquished the publication of the calendar but John Dowell and John Warren have taken over. The Landscape Fund now stands at £80,358 having received the surplus on the sale of the calendars £2,078 and interest on the balance of £1,560

Neville Staddon

Publications

The publications team have had a busy year. We started by publishing a series of four *Town Walks* booklets, prepared by Andrew Rugg-Gunn, which have proved a top seller through both the Museum and the Tourist Information Centre. These were followed by a long-awaited revised edition of the popular *Blue Plaques* book, which includes three new properties and updates to others, and Sylvia Brownlee's booklet *The Sampson Heritage Trail*, which features a walk around Sidmouth looking at buildings designed in the early 19th century by the architect R W Sampson.

Sidmouth Rocks – or Why are Sidmouth's rocks red – is an easy to read introduction to Sidmouth's geology, prepared by Roger Trend, with lots of explanatory photos and charts, and the little-known fact that, although we're part of the Jurassic Coast, there are no Jurassic rocks in Sidmouth!

The Knowle – a house and its history, compiled by Christine and Rab Barnard, tells the story of one of Sidmouth's most important buildings from its early days as one of the country's first zoos, through its time as the 'Friendly Hotel' to its present use as East Devon Council's offices, and its uncertain future.

Julia Creeke's *Story of Sidmouth's Long Print* is a lavishly illustrated book charting the fascinating history of the famous 1815 Panorama Print of Sidmouth's Seafront and the families associated with the print over 200 years. Both the original watercolour and a first edition print can be seen in Sidmouth Museum.

A booklet, *Sidmouth Museum's Long Picture – What's it all about?* – prepared by Nigel Hyman, gives an insight into items in the picture which may not be so familiar to people today, such as Bath chairs and bathing machines.

And finally, we produced a revised edition of *A Case of Murder*, the story of Sidmouth's association with the Kent family and the brutal murder of their three year old boy in 1860, compiled by Rab and Christine Barnard.

Remember that you can buy these publications, and more, from the online shop on the SVA website, www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk as well as from the Museum.

John Dowell

Museum Report

2013 was an excellent year with visitor figures of 13079, a slight increase over 2012, of which 1243 were children.

There were a number of new exhibitions including a popular one concerned with the Sidmouth Suffrage movement in which Annie Leigh Browne was prominent. There was a Long Picture exhibition including a very fine cross stitch embroidery of the picture which created much interest. It is on loan but fortunately will remain on display through 2014. The AONB had a display to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The East Devon AONB had been particularly supportive to us as it funded a major loan of Peter Orlando Hutchinson's own collection which had been in store in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter. This consisted of archaeology and geology pieces and also an old cannon. We had a Hutchinson Day which included Bob Symes unveiling a new POH figure outside the Museum and a special POH town walk.

It was a year of renovation including new dormer windows and external painting and repair. The scaffolding was a nuisance but the outside appearance has never looked better. Inside there are new radiators on all 3 floors and the Costume Collection area was refurbished. The East Devon AONB generously funded a large display case for the Land and Man room.

In collaboration with NADFAS two dolls were restored and in September both of them, with an additional doll from the Victorian Cabinet, were taken to the Antiques Road Show and examined by Hilary Kay. Hopefully there will be a screening in 2014.

Thanks go to the Walk Leaders who had a good season with 695 people joining them for either the town or geology strolls. There were additional "specials" including two popular Long Picture walks.

There was a first in Folk Festival week when Emma, Roger Trend's daughter, sang geology related songs with a ukulele accompaniment. This was hugely successful and there are plans for an even greater contribution in 2014.

The shop had a good year and sales included prints of the sketches of the Long Picture (the originals are on display) which pre-date the actual painting. These are not available elsewhere.

Museum related publications included a new edition of Julia Creeke's so called "Blue Plaque" book and Roger Trend's Sidmouth Rocks. There was a book signing to mark the publication of Rab and Christine Barnard's highly researched and lavishly illustrated book "The Knowle, Sidmouth: A Stately Pleasure Dome".

Children Activity days included the always popular Red Rock Jamboree. The Dinosaur Day was well attended and the local artist Margaret Adams supervised Big Draw Day with a collaborative painting of the old Knowle, which remains on display. There was again Museum involvement during the Science Festival. We remain keen to recruit willing helpers for the activity days.

The death of our treasurer David Raistrick was a cause of great sadness but we are happy and grateful to welcome Ann Jones into the post.

We have re-applied for Accreditation and are grateful to Sue Eddisford (based at RAMM) who is our mentor and invaluable advisor. The Town Council has kindly agreed to pay £800/year which allows us to participate in the SW Museum Development Programme in Jurassic Coast Museums as well as apply for higher grants.

Thanks go to all the "behind the scene" staff who work throughout the 12 months not just the season. Thanks also to the dedicated stewards. A visitors' survey is being assessed by a department at the University of Exeter but provisional feedback highlighted the helpfulness of our stewards.

Bob Symes has planned the 2014 season with new exhibitions including the Connaught Connection, WW1 Home Front and Conan Doyle in Sidmouth.

The Museum's aim is to increase our knowledge of local heritage and to be a focus for both residents and tourists. We encourage research into any aspect of local history or natural history through illustrated talks, town walks, publications and the exhibitions. The Museum will continue to play a major part in the interpretation of the World Heritage Coast.

Nigel Hyman

Sidmouth Folk Festival

I feel I should clear up a misconception which was circulating before Christmas.

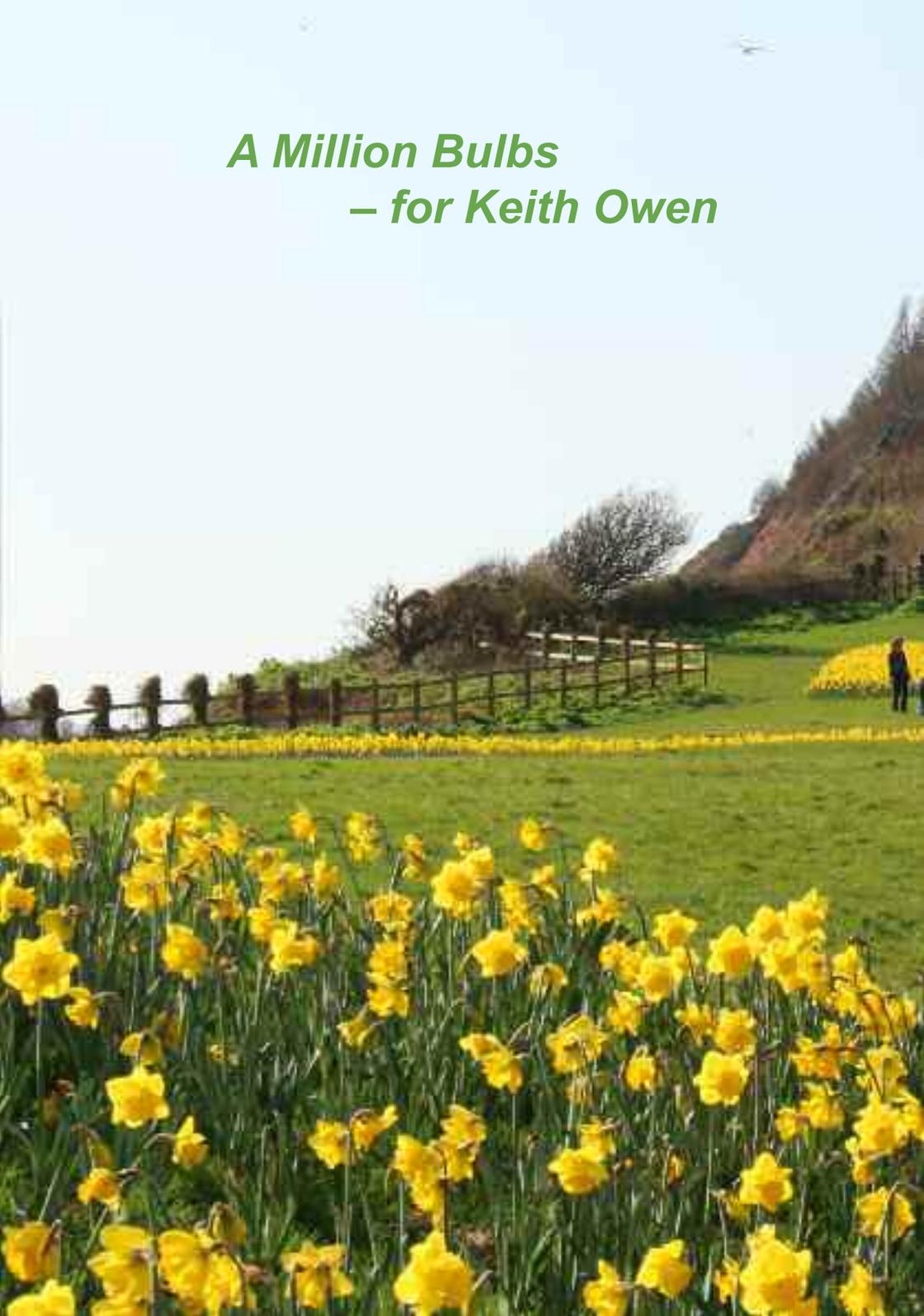
A letter and email was widely distributed which claimed that the SVA was one of a number of bodies 'working towards a successful relocation of the Folk week main campsite to Salcombe Hill and now appear to all approve'.

The truth is simply this: the Festival organisers had reached the decision that they wished to move from the sloping site on Bulverton, with a watercourse running across it, for a flatter site. They approached our Keith Owen Fund for a grant to support a feasibility study, which went on to look at five different sites around the area (I do not know which five sites these are, though one was at Sidford and I believe there may have been two different sites on Salcombe Hill). One of the things they needed to do was to provide an hour by hour traffic count into and out of the camp site during the 10 days of the 2013 Festival. The Fund committee agreed to make the grant, which left the Festival organisers to contact landowners of the various sites, the police, the highways authority (who, I understand, ruled out at least one site), and the Environment Agency. There were also requirements to apply for licensing and planning approval. The Sid Vale Association only learned which site was the preferred one at the same time as the rest of the public did, and, far from 'appearing to approve', the chairman of our Conservation and Planning Committee and I met with the organisers to express our concerns. Although they did reassure us on some points, we made it clear that we still had concerns about the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in and out of the site and along that difficult road.

More recently, it has emerged that the Festival will still be at the Bulverton site in 2014, and we await news of 2015. I am aware that amongst our members there are widely different opinions about the Festival, but I feel it is correct for the Association to remain neutral. We were happy to help the feasibility study; it was then up to the organisers to negotiate with the professionals in the police, highways and so on to identify a suitable solution.

I hope this brings clarity to a fog of misinformation!

Alan Darrant



A Million Bulbs – for Keith Owen

One Man set down his last bequest,
A unique gift simply expressed.
For love of Sidmouth proved his worth
And ploughed his wealth in Devon earth.

Tread softly where you chance to pass
By path and bank, among the grass.
Here bulb by bulb lies buried treasure
Awaiting springtime and our pleasure.

From Sidbury through old Sidford's lanes,
Along the Byes to Sidmouth's plains,
On grassy hill, in chine or verge
The time shall come when they emerge.

Already ranks of papery sheaths,
All wrapped around in sea mist wreaths,
Are thrusting rows of fresh green spears,
Their clustered patterns have appeared.

And where the river winds at will,
As on the slopes of old Peak Hill,
A multitude of spring tide flowers
Await mild air and quenching showers.

Bluebells and scilla in swathes of blue
Shall tremble in the morning dew.
Wood anemones, snowdrops and aconites
Shall bloom in turn for our delight.

While daffodils of varying size
In bursts shall bring their own surprise,
And clouds of perfume they shall spill
And flood with colour at their will

The chosen sites of Sidmouth town
And nestled villages around,
As we await with breath on hold
To view this legacy of gold.

Please bring this report with you to the meeting on April 30th

The Sid Vale Association

is affiliated to the following:

The South West Association of Civic Societies

Civic Voice

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (Headquarters)

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (Devon Branch)

The Open Spaces Society

The Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art

The Devon Conservation Forum

The Tree Foundation

I don't think the Annual Report should miss out on an acknowledgement, with huge thanks, to Bettina Wilson for organising the walks since 2006 (if I've got that right?). Despite a hospital appointment later in the day, she turned out for the start of the last walk of the year, and the last organised by her, to 'wave us on our way'. We missed her presence at the pre-Christmas lunch which followed the walk. Also thanks due to Liz Cotton, who has taken over the role and is well on the way to finalising the walks for 2014. The photo above shows Bettina (left) handing over to Liz (right) on the forecourt of the Kings Arms at Otterton just before the start of the walk.



Haylor Lass



www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk



Photo: Devon Wildlife Trust

Electrofishing sampling on the Sid in October.

SVA Coach Excursion to Wilton House & Gardens Wednesday 11th June 2014

Price Includes:

- Coach
- Admission to Wilton House and Gardens
- Somerset Cream Tea
- Driver's gratuity.

We start at 9am from the Three Cornered Plot, arriving at Wilton House at 11am. We will break our homeward journey for a Somerset cream tea (included), provided by the ladies of Kingsdon Church in Somerset.

Tickets are available by post, from

- Handel Bennett, 2 Victoria Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8TZ.
- Telephone (01395) 514211.

YOU MAY APPLY AT ONCE by completing the form below, but **BOOKINGS WILL NOT COMMENCE BEFORE APRIL 14th.**

We regret that the Association cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or injury that may be suffered by anyone taking part in this event. Tickets cannot be 'reserved'. Refunds will only be given if tickets can be re-sold.



SVA Excursion – Wednesday 11th June 2014

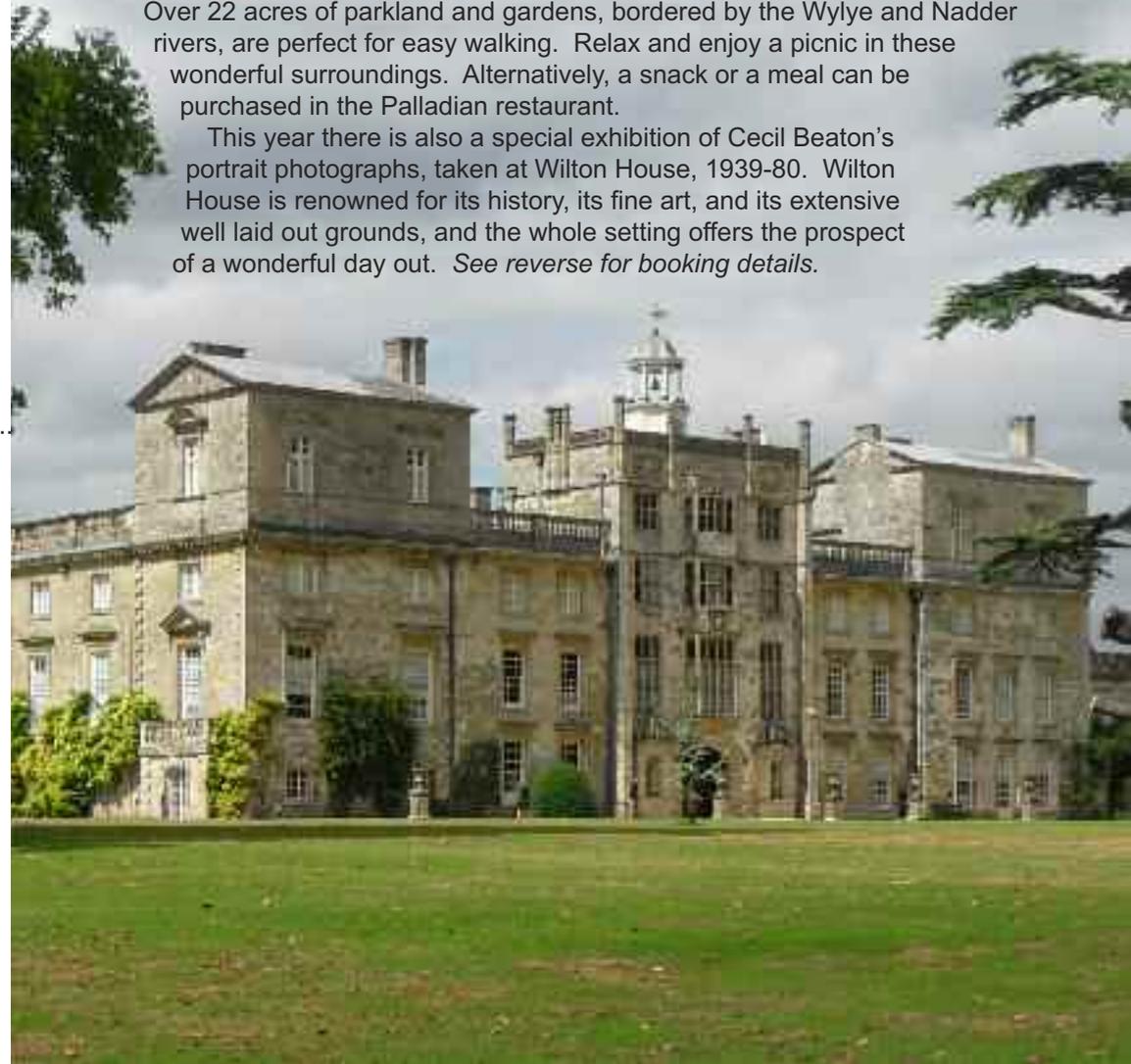
Visit to Wilton House, Wiltshire

Standing in the beautiful Wiltshire countryside, this glorious house is the family home of the Earls of Pembroke since 1544. It is still a family home, yet linked to political and artistic circles of England, whilst at the same time providing employment and homes for estate workers. The work of restoration (inside and out), continues with family attention to detail. This includes several new gardens, the renovation of the Inigo Jones South Front, and all the state rooms.

The restoration of the Dining Room and Wyatt Cloisters, received the HHA/Sotheby's Restoration Award in 2010. Stroll through the richly decorated 17th century interior and admire the world famous paintings by renowned artists – Van Dyck, Pieter Brueghel, Rembrandt and Richard Wilson.

Over 22 acres of parkland and gardens, bordered by the Wylde and Nadder rivers, are perfect for easy walking. Relax and enjoy a picnic in these wonderful surroundings. Alternatively, a snack or a meal can be purchased in the Palladian restaurant.

This year there is also a special exhibition of Cecil Beaton's portrait photographs, taken at Wilton House, 1939-80. Wilton House is renowned for its history, its fine art, and its extensive well laid out grounds, and the whole setting offers the prospect of a wonderful day out. *See reverse for booking details.*



Please supply ticket(s) at £30 per person for coach tour to Wilton House and Gardens, Wiltshire on Wednesday June 11th

Joining at ✓ The Triangle 9.00am Radway 9.03am
 Exeter X 9.06am Green Close 9.08am

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss Tel. No.....

Address

..... Post Code

Please make cheques payable to the *SID VALE ASSOCIATION*
Have you enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope?

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 30th April 2.30pm – Annual General Meeting – Manor Pavilion .
Open to all. Review of 2013 & Election of Officers. *(Please bring Annual Report)*

Tuesday 6th May – SVA Countryside Walk 10am

Meet at the Donkey Sanctuary bus stop on A3052 – Leader: Haylor Tel: 01395 568786

Tuesday 3rd June – SVA Countryside Evening Walk. 6pm

Meet at Seaton Tower. Grid Ref: SY 233 915 – Leader: Norma Tel: 01395 513974

Wednesday 11th June – Coach Excursion to Wiltshire – See flap for details.

Tuesday 1st July – SVA Countryside Walk. 10am

Meet at Trinity Hall Nature Reserve. Grid Ref: SY 307 958 – Leaders: Vivian and Pauline
Tel: 01395 578749

Tuesday 5th August – SVA Countryside Walk 10am

Meet: East Budleigh carpark. Grid Ref: SY 066 848 – Leader: Graham Tel: 01395 445872

Sidmouth Museum – 2014

Having undergone the usual winter repairs and spruce up, the Museum will open on 29th March with a range of new displays for the season alongside our permanent exhibits.

We're very pleased to have the Long Picture Tapestry again, particularly in this 200th anniversary year of the original painting.

'On the home front' is the title of our contribution to the commemoration of WW1 this year. Assembled by Beryl McIndoe, this depicts the ways in which life at home continued.

Two displays have local connections. 'From Fortfield to Sanditon' relives the story of one of Sidmouth's iconic buildings. 'Conan Doyle in Devon', assembled by Sarah Bennett, provides a fascinating glimpse of this famous literary figure and the times he spent in Devon, including Sidmouth.

Production of the VW Caravenette ceased this year in Brazil, so Pat Mitchell's story of its origination in Sidmouth makes this display even more topical.

Museum Dates

March 29th	Museum opens for the season
May 8th	Lace Day
May 28th	Young People's craft activity day
July 31st	Family activity day based on natural history
August 13th	Red Rocks Day
August 27th	Young and other peoples Jurassic Coast Dinosaur Day
October 29th	Big Draw Day – come and help paint a picture.
November 1st	Museum closes