

sid vale association



past • present • future

Magazine Number 88

Summer 2018

£2.50 – free to members



*The Association promotes conservation and heritage,
the museum, and facilities for recreational
and cultural activities in the Sid Valley*



www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk



A word from the Chair...

This is my first “Words from the Chair” and I thought that I would start by thanking all my colleagues for their support in asking me to undertake the role. It seems to be taking over my life though! My predecessor, Alan Darrant is certainly a tough act to follow.

The SVA logo contains the words “**Past, Present and Future**”.

We deal comfortably with the **Past** through several channels. The Museum, now admirably re-vitalised. The Publications team, who produce a wonderful series of books

and pamphlets. The History Group, which manages detailed research into local topics.

We also cater well for the **Present**. Our Conservation and Planning Team keep abreast of all Planning Applications and have exerted themselves over the past few years in their fight against the Knowle development and the Sidford employment site as well as a host of minor planning applications which affect the appearance of the valley. The Keith Owen Fund has funded numerous organisations needing money to improve their activities, and has at present sufficient funds to support organisations and activities which need money. The Events team organises the highly popular Walks, Talks and Visits. The Estates team maintains and improves our land, and we maintain an overview of the River Sid, all for the benefit of the public.

We could not manage any of these activities without our volunteers, too numerous to name, but who I thank very much for their time and efforts on our behalf.

It is the **Future** which particularly concerns me. It is clear that the Sid Valley faces unprecedented challenges over the next few years. Cut backs in Government and Local Government spending are now having their effect; you will have noticed the poor state of the infrastructure. Retail and the way we shop are changing; several banks and outlets will be closing soon and all shops are finding that the new business rates are having a detrimental effect on their profitability. To further the uncertainty, plans for regeneration of the Port Royal area have seemingly been abandoned, with EDDC now just wishing to sell the Drill Hall, and the results of the Beach Management Plan are still uncertain, with, we understand, proposals for a metre high wall along the Esplanade under consideration, and with little sign yet of a comprehensive plan for the protection of Pennington Point.

Amidst this uncertainty what should the SVA do? We cannot undertake work that should rightfully be done by Public Authorities but surely there must be ways that we can assist in maintaining the delights of the town and the valley.

So, we need your help.

Firstly, with this newsletter is a Questionnaire which we hope you will complete and which might give us a guidance as to how the SVA might be a catalyst for the future.

Secondly, we depend totally on Volunteers for all the work we do, and we are overstretched. We need volunteers, to help with all aspects from physical work on our land, to administration, to planning issues, through to meeting the public through help at the Museum.

So please complete the Questionnaire using the SAE, and also volunteer if you can.

As well as completing the Questionnaire we ask you to complete the General Data Protection Regulations form also included, since without your written consent, we, in law, cannot contact you.

And finally, we cannot contact you easily without your email address, so please once again let us have this if you have not already done so.

Richard Thurlow

The General Data Protection Regulations

A new Government regulation has dictated the need for us to ask members’ written agreement to holding their data. This is known as the General Data Protection Regulation. This is a good step, as it regulates companies’ ability to hold and use personal data.

Consequently, we are enclosing a form for you to sign and send back to us using the enclosed SAE, on which you can tell us whether you will allow us to hold your personal data, such as name, address, email address and telephone number.

We must stress that this is for the purpose of contacting you, advising you of events and enabling us to deliver your copies of the newsletter and other documents if necessary. It also enables us to let you know about membership renewal.

We also lack comprehensive email addresses for members and we would therefore ask you to insert or update your email address on the form.

We are also taking this opportunity to ask you to respond to a questionnaire about the SVA. We believe that it is important to know what you think about the things that we do on your behalf and what you feel you want us to do in the future.

And as always, we need volunteers for the many activities that we undertake, and anyone who wants to “do” something for the SVA will be most welcome!

Richard Thurlow

Editor’s Introduction

In this year to celebrate the 100 years of the Suffrage movement, we look back at some of Sidmouth’s remarkable women. The first five, Annie Leigh Browne, Lady Lockyer (née Mary Browne), Mary Stewart Kilgour, Ada Wright, Rosina Mary Pott were all politically active in the 1920s. Meanwhile, Arabella Buckley was busy writing her world renowned scientific books. Move on 40 years and we have Deidre Gibbens who, thanks to the actions of her suffrage predecessors went on to become a district councillor amongst her many other attributes.

Looking through all the articles submitted for this magazine, and coincidentally, quite a few written by women, I wonder how much we owe to these early remarkable ladies.

Val Huntington – news@sidvaleassociation.org.uk



Remarkable Women

In this year to celebrate the 100 years of the Suffrage movement, we look back at some of Sidmouth's remarkable women.

We, at the Museum, made the decision to celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Government Act which enabled some women (40%) to be allowed to vote. Although we knew that several women with close connections to Sidmouth were connected with the suffrage movement it soon became apparent that they were also major national figures. The suffragists believed in peaceful campaigning, whereas the suffragettes believed in direct action (violence and militancy). Suffragists outnumbered suffragettes about 10:1 and, for example, by 1914 the NUWSS (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) had 50,000 members whereas the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) had only 5,000. Our first three women were suffragists and the other two were suffragettes.

Annie Leigh Browne, (1851-1936,) is the most well-known. She and her younger sister Mary knew Sidmouth from childhood as their grandparents, the Carlsakes, lived in the town. Annie was a bookish child and never in robust health unlike Mary who enjoyed being outdoors and horse riding. They were brought up in Bristol where Annie attended her first Woman's Suffrage meeting in the home of the prominent campaigner Agnes Beddoe. The date, 1868, was exactly 50 years before the memorable commons vote in 1918. Later Annie lived in London but spent much time in Sidmouth, living at 'Hills' on Sid Road. In London she helped form the Women's Printing Society which, in turn, printed the Women's Penny Paper in 1888. We have on display a copy of the very first issue. It was the most



vigorous feminist paper of its time and uncompromisingly promoted women's suffrage.

Annie was a prominent member of suffrage societies and she took part in the 1907 London 'Mud March' organized by the NUWSS when 3000 women marched from Hyde Park to Exeter Hall in the Strand in atrocious weather conditions.

Her life's work focussed on the empowerment of women through education and welfare rather than militant protest.

Her sister Mary Browne (1852-1943) was a scientist by training and a student of the astronomer Norman Lockyer. Later, as **Lady Lockyer**, she helped him build the observatory at



the top of Salcombe Hill. They lived close by in Lockyer House, now Brownlands. She was involved in the suffrage movement from the 1890s and was honorary secretary of the Sidmouth & District Women's Suffrage Society which was a member of the South-Western Federation of the NUWSS. 21 members of the Sidmouth group participated in the 'Lands End to London Pilgrimage' in 1913. The Sidmouth members, mainly but not exclusively women, met other groups in Exeter and were joined by nurses and university women in cap and gown, all with their own banners. (The original Sidmouth suffrage banner was restored last year and a replica is in our display.)

Mary Stewart Kilgour (1851-1955) knew the Browne sisters in London and all shared a common interest in establishing a hostel for female students at London University. She, too, was committed to political equality of the sexes and, with her lifelong friend, Annie, they were largely instrumental in women becoming county councillors and we have several of her polemic articles on display. Her famous achievement was the 1907 act which permitted women to be represented in local government. She was a member of the Paddington Borough council from 1912 to 1919. When Annie Leigh Browne died in 1936, aged 84 years, she left management of her extensive Sidmouth estate to Mary Kilgour. Mary continued to live in Hills and ensured that Woolcombe House, part of the estate, became the town's first museum in 1950. She continued to astonish listeners by her mental mathematical agility and she lived until she was 103 years old.



Ada Wright (c1862-1939) was born in France but as a young woman lived in Sidmouth with her family. She worked in what she describes as a 'social centre' with a friend, a niece of Elizabeth Jane Barrett. This may have been the workhouse or a charitable



school. Whilst in Sidmouth she became interested in the suffrage movement, joining the local society and collecting signatures for a petition. She moved to London and, inspired by Christabel Pankhurst, became more militant and was arrested several times, enduring much hardship. On November 18 1910, during a demonstration, the Daily Mirror front page showed a photograph of her lying on the ground, a diminutive figure, with a policeman bending over her. The newspaper headline was 'Black Friday' and the government pulped the newspaper copies and destroyed the negative. However a poor quality photograph was preserved and is included in our display.

Rosina Mary Pott (1870-1955) was the daughter of a well-known Victorian painter, Edward Corbould, who was art tutor to Queen Victoria's children. She married a stockbroker and their main residence was in Kensington but their seaside home was 5 Fortfield Terrace.

The women's suffrage movement, including the suffragettes, came from all walks of life and Rosina was both very wealthy and clearly of independent mind. At the time of the 1911 Census she was staying in Fortfield Terrace and her 'spoiled' census form has fortunately been preserved and perfectly summarises her position.

VOTES FOR WOMEN. No vote, no information about my household - apply again when Women's Enfranchisement Act is passed - Rosina Mary Pott.

A year later she stood sureties to allow bail for the arrested Emmeline Pankhurst, the leader of the suffragette movement.

Ada Wright's photograph and Rosina Pott's census form are iconic images of the suffrage movement.

All five women are remembered with pride.

The exhibition continues until the end of October.

Nigel Hyman – museum@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Coburg Terrace's Other Famous Resident

Asked to name a famous author who lived in Coburg Terrace, many would think of Peter Orlando Hutchinson. However, the terrace was home to another author, who in her time, was far more widely known.

Arabella Buckley who lived at 3 Coburg Terrace from 1921 till her death in 1929 was the author of more than a dozen world renowned books. During her life time many of these were translated into German, Japanese, Polish and Swedish. Today it is still possible to buy, not only original editions, but also, modern paperback editions of her books.

These books include 'The Fairy Land of Science' and 'Through Magic Glasses' which may lead you to think her books are whimsical tales for children. They were indeed written for children; however, they are not whimsical tales but serious science books. They were written to acquaint children with aspects of nature, science and evolution and Ms Buckley knew much more about these subjects than the average person of her day.

Not much is known about her early life and education except that she was born in

Brighton in 1840 and her father was John Wall Buckley the vicar of St Mary's Paddington Green. She was one of 8 children and her younger brother Henry became Baron Wenbury, the Lord Justice of Appeal.

At the age of 24 she became secretary to Sir Charles Lyell who was the foremost geologist of his day. He was a close friend of Charles Darwin and is believed to have contributed significantly to Darwin's thinking on the processes involved in evolution. Lyell is also credited with helping to arrange the simultaneous publication in 1858 of the papers by Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace on natural selection. Arabella's title of secretary probably does not reflect the real role she played in Lyell's work. At this time female assistants often carried out important research work for which they were rarely credited. There is no doubt however that as Lyell's assistant she was very closely acquainted with Darwin and Wallace and their work.

She seems to have remained a close friend of Wallace and in 1879, when he was penniless, she persuaded Darwin to lobby the prime minister for a pension for him. In 1896 they were still in close touch and he sponsored her as a member of the Society for Psychical Research. This shared interest in spiritualism is perhaps surprising for two rational scientists.

After Lyell's death in 1875 she continued to work in the scientific world. She lectured on natural science, edited science books and in 1876 published her first book for adults, 'A Short History of Natural Science'. The aim of the book was "to give a modest amount of scientific information which everyone ought to possess, while at the same time ... form a useful groundwork for those who wish afterwards to study any special branch of science."

Two of her books for children, 'Life and Her Children' and 'Winners in Life's Race' show not only her deep knowledge of Darwin's theory of evolution but also her understanding that the development of moral qualities and mutual support in the animal kingdom were significant factors in the process of human evolution. In her books parental care for offspring is a central theme. This was an idea which Darwin had failed to develop and was only taken up by later writers.

Just as her interest in spiritualism did not conflict with her work as a scientist nor did her belief in evolution conflict with her Christian beliefs. In 'Life and her Children' she says, "There has been no halting in this work from the day when first into our planet from the bosom of the great creator was breathed the breath of life - the invisible mother ever taking shape in her children."

By 1884, when she married Dr Fisher, a widower 20 years her senior, she was already a very successful author and she continued to write during her married life and after the death of her husband in 1895. Unusually for the time she continued to publish her work under her maiden name.





After she was widowed she came to live at Beatlands in Sidmouth. She soon became involved in local life, riding around the town in a carriage drawn by a chestnut mare. In 1901 she spoke at a meeting on behalf of market traders who were objecting to the tolls they were forced to pay. She became secretary of the Cambridge Lectures society which organised a series lectures held at All Saints' room, and she strongly supported the idea of a free library in the town. However, in the words of her friend Lilius Cowan, "The march of civilisation on Salcombe Hill was too alarming" and she moved to Oxford. In 1921 she returned to Sidmouth. She had become almost blind but still played a part in Sidmouth life moving around the town in a bath chair pushed by a companion.

She died of influenza in February 1929 at the age of 88. Her fellow parishioners, aware of her importance as a children's author and a valued member of the community, placed a plaque in her memory on the south wall of the parish church.

Maureen Thurlow

Deirdre Gibbens: 1908-1973

Deirdre Gibbens and her husband, Gerald, a doctor, came to Sidmouth shortly after their marriage in 1934. Gerald became a partner in Sidmouth's newly-merged GP medical practice while Deirdre set up a substantial household which, when I first met her in 1943, included three dogs – an Irish Wolfhound among them – half-a-dozen cats and a civet cat, which lived in the garden. Her two sons, Barney and Declan, were born in 1935 and 1937 respectively and their daughter, Janie, followed in 1944. She cared deeply about wildlife and welcomed a constant flow of injured birds and other creatures to her garden (now Sidleigh). Later in her life, these included a badly-injured atlantic grey seal, which she nursed before it went to London Zoo for rehabilitation and a coatimundi (a furry little native of central Asia) which lived at Sidleigh until Deirdre became too ill to look after it.



Gerald had joined the Royal Navy shortly after the outbreak of WW II and spent the whole of the war overseas, as Ship's Surgeon. First, aboard a destroyer in the Atlantic, and later, aboard a cruiser in the Far East. As a keen photographer, he kept an illustrated record of his war – and subsequently, of Sidmouth.

With the absence of her husband overseas on medical duty, Deirdre became deeply involved with Sidmouth's war effort. In the Sidmouth Herald archives, there is a photograph of her leading a parade of women through the town to celebrate VE Day.

Deirdre Gibbens's activities in post-war Sidmouth included active membership of both Town and County Councils and she won a bitter struggle in 1948 to erect the "Gibbens Gallows". They formed the impressive line of teak standard lamps which graced the sea front from about 1950 until 2016, when they were replaced by the similar but somewhat smaller ones we see today.

Councillor Mrs. Gibbens, as she was by then, joined forces with her husband in the 1960s, to fight for – and win – the retention of Sidmouth's threatened Cottage Hospital and they worked together again in persuading HMS Heron (the RNAS at Yeovilton) to send a pair of helicopters on a training exercise to pick up the "frog stone" from the beach below and position it on Salcombe Hill as a footpath marker.

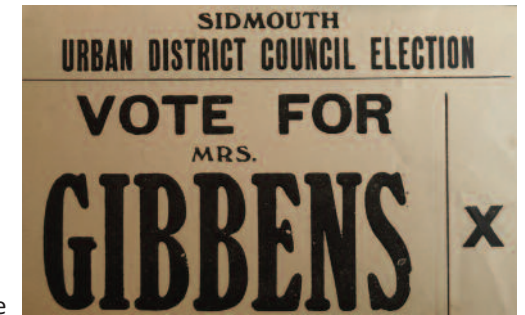
"Oh Mum – you are a 'doer'!" said her daughter Janie, and so indeed she was, right up to her death, from cancer, in 1973, shortly after re-election to the County Council. At Deirdre Gibbens' funeral on a sunny day in May that year, the Parish Church was full to overflowing.

Deirdre and Ronnie Delderfield were good friends, sharing a love of Devon and its ecology. Delderfield (better known as R.F. Delderfield) dedicated his book 'A Horseman Riding By' to her and another local friend. Ronnie Delderfield's father, William was the first Liberal to be elected to Bermondsey council. He was a great supporter of women's suffrage.

As a footnote, Dr. Gibbens continued in practice for three more years, before retiring to devote himself to the work of the Sid Vale Association, The 'History of Sidmouth', first published by the Museum in 1973 and still in print fifty years later, contains many of Dr. Gibbens' photographs, as well as two chapters written by him. He died peacefully, at home, in October 1990.

Roger Ford

Editor's note: when I informed Roger that some of the articles in this magazine would be celebrating 100 years of the suffrage movement and remarkable women in Sidmouth, he commented 'Deirdre would have been an activist/suffragette – she (almost) always wore trousers. They came in as a consequence of (I suspect) WW II fashion limitation'



Keith Owen Fund

In our tenth anniversary year of the Keith Owen Fund, we look back on a few more of the recipients and find out how funding has helped. For details of how to apply for funding, see the SVA website.



Sidvale Carnival Club

In 1983, Sidmouth Carnival started again after a break of some years. A group of friends got together and formed a club to build an entry. We called ourselves the 'Sidvale Carnival Club'. We used a shed in the old laundry at Sidford and built on the back of a lorry for the first two years. We then purchased our own



trailer. The club had a lot of success on the East Devon carnival circuit. We then started to venture into Somerset (Taunton and Bridgwater) also with good success. As years went on, families joined with their children, making us a very family orientated club. The children would help with building and fundraising – learning a lot on the way. As time went on, we purchased our own tractor and generator. This made the club complete. Success continued over the years, but with the closure of the Sidford laundry we had to find a new home. Fortunately, a new build site was found in Sidbury. The club has at present 30 Members and with help of ex-members and friends we still manage to raise funds with our regular coffee and breakfast mornings and jumble sales to continue with financing the building of the carnival entry. With the very much appreciated help from Sid Vale Association Keith Owen Fund, we managed to upgrade one of our tractors. The current Secretary of the Club, Marion Perry is the only founder member remaining, but we do have a number of up and coming younger members up with the skills needed to carry on the tradition. We hope this will continue for many years to come.

Thank you once again to the Keith Owen Fund for your help. **Kath Baker**



Sidmouth in Bloom

The present committee of Sidmouth in Bloom was formed in February 2012 under haste as the previous committee, which retired, had been nominated to enter the National Finals of Britain in Bloom. It was with a certain amount of urgency that the new SIB had to grasp the understanding of the rules and requirements that such an entry involved – a Portfolio,

show year-round commitment, volunteer work, and satisfying the marking scheme in the three sections: Horticulture, Community and the Environment. SIB soon realised that enough money needed to be raised to cover the many troughs and basket displays and, since then, to encourage young gardeners to participate. Many of the initial ideas from the past committee were retained: the Floral Competition, schools involvement at Connaught, the 'Secluded Gardens', coach trips and the Award Evening at Knowle Council Chambers. However SIB soon realised that the support of the Keith Owen Fund was a fundamental part of the campaign, especially for the Triangle 3-D maritime displays and working with children.

Coming into the sixth year of the 'In Bloom' campaign for this new committee (on top of the previous 40 years of the 'old' committee), the achievements for the town through its "In Your Neighbourhood" entries and the work presented in the thirty-page portfolio has been recognised with many awards for the Sidmouth in Bloom entry.

Over the past six years there has been consistent improvement in various areas of the town. The Blackmore corridor from the Library has been changed from a neglected site into one of woodland garden and floral display. The Library children's 'Chatterbook' club is keen to sow seeds and see sunflowers grow. Residents can be inspired by the ferns, epimediums, wood anemones and other plants growing in a dark, dry site, to then be cheered by the bold begonias, dahlias and mixed planting. The 3-D feature in Blackmore Garden is designed for the enjoyment of children to show that gardening is fun. The Library works closely with SIB and relates some of its story telling around this particular display. Also, schools are now planting troughs in Blackmore Gardens, and also the eight 'fish' urns by the Tourist Information Centre. The schools planting at Connaught Gardens continues, but SIB has also created the 'edible' Edwardian sunken garden, raising flowers from seed with volunteers maintaining this area.

There are a number of smaller beds around the town, from the tiny 'Tilleys Corner' opposite the toilets at Sidford cross to the Police Station garden.

The largest project to date has been the work done on the Sensory Garden, opened this year on Saturday 2nd March by Anne Swithinbank.

The 3-D floral sculptures are an integral part of Sidmouth itself, with John Govier instigating the first three fish in the Triangle in 2003. SIB realised the heavy cost of having these iconic creatures and have cut costs by doing some of the planting themselves, including designing and calculating the plant orders to avoid wastage, including the raised-bed design.

Sections of the Floral Competitions have been added such as the 'Children's Patch' and 'Gardening with a Disability', and also a Spring competition.

However SIB is in two major competitions this year – the SW in Bloom Champion of Champions (over 6 counties) and the RHS National Champion of Champions which includes Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England and the Channel Isles. To achieve a gold in both these requires the input of all the town to ensure weed-free streets, clean pavements and an inviting floral display.

SIB also recognises and presents other voluntary groups that include horticulture in their work such as the SVA as it is a town campaign.

SIB also encourages people to look outside the box to help get the town clean, weed-free and welcoming. 'Grey sites' are still being identified for improvement such as the little garden near the Volunteer Inn in Temple Street. Clean-up days have been organised with the Sidmouth Town Council as well as SIB own tidy-days. SIB also runs the Sidcombers that clean the beach fortnightly and the Sidbashers who remove Himalayan balsam from the valley. Even painting of Street furniture is done to assist EDDC Streetscene when required. There is a close working relationship between SIB, EDDC and the STC. However, the Keith Owen Fund has enabled SIB to achieve its goals, and SIB have achieved its aim to match fund this sponsorship.

For those who can help; the next Town Clean-Up is on 2nd August. Meet at the Post Box in the Market Place at 9.30am. See Sidmouth Herald diary for final details.

To sum up, it is the town working together that gives Sidmouth its uniqueness both to residents and visitors alike. The RHS 'In Bloom' campaigns are directed to encourage people, authorities and groups to work together to present their town in the best possible manner. The Keith Owen Fund has enabled this to happen and this may well be the way forward in the future year on year.

**Lynette Talbot, Chair
Sidmouth in Bloom**



Sidmouth Science Festival and KOF funding

The idea for a Festival was first raised in the Vision Group for Sidmouth in 2012 when looking for different ways to engage the public in decision-making around difficult local, national and international issues, such as Climate Change and its impact. It was felt that having a better understanding of the relevance of science to people's daily lives would help us all to understand how these issues impact upon our lives. With the SVA museum, the Norman Lockyer Observatory, four historic fellows of the Royal Society, as well as a great position on the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, it was an ideal place to start a science festival.

The first festival took place over a few days and was run by volunteers. It is grateful to the Keith Owen Fund for its initial financial support. Since then, eight years later, it has grown to over 100 individual events running over 10 days. It is still run entirely by volunteers and relies on grant funding and donations from attendees, as well as the goodwill of many supporting organisations, both local and national.

From serious scientific talks by experts in their fields to easy hands-on activities, all the events reflect the festival theme of 'Science in our Lives'. This aims to show us how important the subjects of Science, Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) are to everything we do both now and in the future, and that science is not a specialist subject, but something that happens all around us, and is approachable to everyone, depending on how it is presented. We aim to promote curiosity in the young to encourage them to consider a STEM career in a rapidly changing employment market to fill those new jobs which we have not yet heard of in areas such as in artificial intelligence, personalised medicine, gaming, communications and virtual reality.

The Festival hopes to reach all sections of the community, so most events are free. It also includes art, drama, comedy and music to highlight and help with the understanding of difficult subjects. We are very proud of our schools' programme which aims to bring science to the classroom and is growing year on year. We are very grateful to the Keith Owen Fund for having funded this part of the Festival. It allows students to participate in experiments and events which would not be possible wholly within the school. In 2017 students from Sidmouth College programmed a weather balloon which was released from the Norman Lockyer Observatory and tracked – see the *Sidmouth Herald* report and photos on the following page.

This year's Sidmouth Science Festival runs from Friday 5th until Sunday 14th October. So come along for hours of entertaining and thought-provoking events including talks and workshops. Learn about fossils, stars, energy, light, weather, rockets and much more. Meet and eat some bugs, race a jet car, get involved in a voice workshop and visit the gallery of schools' art. There will also be a 'Celebrate Ada Lovelace Day' with female speakers.

A whole week of family friendly events which are educational as well as fun. For more information and how to book for some events nearer the time visit our website at

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

Liz Bramley

Sidmouth College show students the edge of Space

Sidmouth College students launched two weather balloons into space during the Sidmouth Science Festival, and went to Sidmouth Primary School on 31st January to talk about the mission and what they discovered.

Two balloons were launched from the Norman Lockyer Observatory during last year's Sidmouth Science Festival carrying experiments designed by Sidmouth College and Sidmouth Primary School students. The College students have been analysing the results and last week presented these back to the Primary School with the help of the Science Education company 2 Times Do.

One of the white weather balloons carried a partially inflated red party balloon and syringe of water that the Primary School students had designed. There were other instruments and cameras in the payload that Sidmouth College students had designed.

After the launch, the balloons reached a height of over 23km before bursting. At that height with the lower pressure, the party balloon fully inflated and the water froze as can be seen on the picture. The clouds way below can be clearly seen in the photo. The Sidmouth College students experiments tracked the decrease in temperature and pressure as the balloons rose using a small computer. They were able to show these results to the Year 5/6 Primary School students

At 23km the white weather balloons burst and came back to earth on a parachute landing near Frome in Somerset.

From an article in the Sidmouth Herald



Girl Guides and the Keith Owen Fund



There has been a girl guide unit in Sidmouth since the 1920s. When I became involved in 1979, a committee was formed, including myself, to help fund the building of a new girl guide HQ. Numerous events from sponsored walks to 'gang shows' involving all the girls, plus flag days, coffee mornings, jumble sales, summer fetes and Christmas Fairs were organised to raise money. We were well supported by the Sidmouth community and the HQ was finally opened in 1986. By 2009 the facilities at the HQ were becoming somewhat

worn and a little dated so with the very generous support of the Keith Owen Fund we extended and refurbished the kitchen and the toilet and washroom areas. In the kitchen we installed a large range cooker, a freezer and additional storage space. The improved kitchen was a great success both with the girls who always enjoy cooking (and eating the end results!) and leaders of pack holidays. We were also able to add a second shower, a third basin and a more user friendly disabled toilet and an automatic mains installed fire alarm system to meet fire safety regulations.

In 2014 The Keith Owen fund also kindly helped us buy much needed new heaters for the HQ – the old ones could no longer be repaired as spare parts were unobtainable. The new heaters have proved to be extremely efficient and much more economical to use. The HQ is also 'home' to Sidmouth Steppers, Sidmouth Stickers and a local art and a local ballet group. For a number of years it was also the home of Sidmouth playgroup, so it is a very well used building which has benefited enormously from Keith Owen funding. The HQ is also used by local guiding groups and provides a venue for pack holidays for guiding groups from Devon and beyond.

Currently there is a Rainbow unit, Brownie packs and a Ranger group thus catering for girls from 5 up to adulthood when they can remain in Guiding as Leaders. When they retire from being a Leader they can join the local Trefoil group who meet once a month, also at the Guide HQ.

These days the girls can and will do anything in Guiding. We are a very active group. One of our activities this year was collaborating with the museum with the 100 years celebration of women getting the vote and thus enabling the suffrage banner to be restored (See separate article, page 30). Over the last year we've experienced climbing, walking on Dartmoor (in the thick fog!), bat





The work the girl guides did as part of their suffrage activity on display at an event held by the museum at the Darlington rooms.

Mums with hand massages, tackled assault courses and taken our Dads out for a walk with local llamas plus many more events too numerous to mention! This is just the tip of the iceberg on what we do – every week is different and we have more residential planned for the year including going to PGL in Torquay, and a sleepover at the Parish church. To be able to run all these events we are always looking for more volunteers to help with either our Rainbow unit (5-7 year olds), Brownies (7-10 year olds) or Guides (10-14 year olds). If you would be interested in finding out more, either email firstsidmouthguides@gmail.com or use the girlguiding website <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer>

Jane Bell



All Saints' Sidmouth is grateful for support from the Keith Owen Fund

All Saints' Church, on All Saints' Road in Sidmouth is fortunate to have been a recipient of a Keith Owen grant for three separate causes.

Back in 2009, All Saints' Church began its long-awaited refurbishment (or "reordering" as it is known within the Church). Finally, after ten years of planning, praying and fundraising, the work began.

This Victorian church building was completely gutted (having passed planning and

talks, night hikes, made bird seed cakes, tasting evenings, been to a Regional event in Bristol with hundreds of other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, African drumming, held a Harry Potter residential weekend, science evenings, handled exotic animals, had a Mexican International evening celebrating our World Centre called Our Cabana, pampered our

historical preservation permissions). Gone was the cold, stone floor and in went the underfloor heating topped with carpet. Gone were the narrow, hard, wooden pews and in came comfortable, moveable red chairs. Down came the balconies, allowing the space to be filled with light. And sadly, out went the pipe organ, housed on the West balcony. The church now had a modern, clean, fresh and flexible space. Visitors have been amazed to see – and feel – such a difference.

All Saints' Church is fortunate to be able to offer a variety of worship services; traditional Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion Service, Morning Worship Service and lively, family services, with band leading worship and youth activities.

Although we had a good Yamaha Clavinova for music, we missed the organ, especially for weddings, funerals and concerts. Our first application to The Keith Owen Fund was for a contribution towards a dual-keyboard Allen Organ. Our application was successful and we were thrilled to take receipt of a wonderful instrument. Allen use the latest technology in their organs yet they sound like pipe organs (without needing the space or all those pipes!). We are fortunate to have a handful of organists who play for services and it has been used by others for concerts. It has become a great asset to the church and those who use it.

A few years later, a new parent and toddler initiative called Happy Feet was started. This has proved to be a huge success, with around 51 families coming to enjoy company, fun and support each Tuesday morning during term times. We wanted to provide a top-notch service so parents/grandparents are offered "proper" coffee (with syrups), a choice of teas and homemade cakes whilst the children enjoy healthy snacks. We wanted to be able to offer a wide range of new and safe toys and play facilities for the children. A second application was made to the Keith Owen Fund, who very generously gave £1500 to buy a wonderful selection of good quality toys and equipment. Everyone who comes has been impressed with the offering at Happy Feet and it is a key part of our service in the community.

The Church Hall is used regularly by many different groups in the Sid Valley, from photography classes to Zumba and Pilates, from dance classes to group AGM's and birthday parties. The stackable chairs we had were at least 20 years old, very uncomfortable with a few becoming unsafe. Although we had already received two grants from the Keith Owen Fund, we were advised by their Committee that there was no limit on the number of applications that could be made and that each one was assessed on their merit. And so we applied again, for a match-funded grant, to replace our ageing chairs. Amazingly, we were successful and we have been able to purchase a supply of much smarter (and comfortable!) stackable chairs for all hall users.

As a town, Sidmouth is in a remarkable position to have a charity that gives money away, rather than asking for donations. We are all very grateful to Keith Owen for his legacy to the town, and to the benefits that we can all enjoy from his generosity. The Keith Owen Committee are very approachable and will help you make your application, so if you have a group that needs some help, do contact them! All Saints' Church is hugely grateful for their support.

Felicity Carver, Churchwarden, All Saints' Church, Sidmouth



Dinghy Sailing at Sidmouth

Recreational sailing at Sidmouth began in the 1920s, initially using sail-powered inshore fishing boats. Some of the fishing families then built wooden dinghies, called Redwings, which were designed to meet the particular challenges of launching from and landing on an open beach. These boats were used for racing as well as leisure purposes and their owners formed the Sidmouth Sailing Club in 1936 and the Club moved to its current Port Royal premises in the 1970s.

Dinghy sailing in the UK grew rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s and the Club's adopted some of the new dinghy classes which were being developed at that time, including the 420 (which was the forerunner to the Olympic 470 class), the single handed Laser dinghy (as sailed by Ben Ainslee in the Olympics), the Mirror Class dinghy (in which the Club had a world champion in the 1980s), the Scorpion dinghy (in which the Club has had several national champions as either crew or helm) and the Topper dinghy which has been used extensively for youth training.

Sailing at Sidmouth has its own mix of challenges and rewards. The main challenge, of course, is launching and retrieving boats on an exposed shingle beach which requires a higher level of seamanship than doing so on inland or estuary waters. Members of the Club are now well versed in this practice and new sailors soon learn how to manage this safely. The sight of dinghies landing in rough seas has long provided a good spectator sport for the promenaders!



experience is quite special. Lyme bay is one of the best sailing areas in the UK, with little other marine traffic, true winds and spectacular scenery. For these reasons it is a popular destination for dinghy classes when holding their major events, especially their national championships which usually last for a whole week. The Club has, under the leadership of John Keast, who is a qualified national race officer, established a highly competent race management team for large events of up to 100 boats or more. Running these events involves a huge volunteer effort and the Club usually does one event every two or three years. Our next event is this August, when the Lark dinghy class is holding its national championship here.

Most sea based sailing clubs have both dinghy and keel boat sections, which provides a larger membership and more funding for club activities. With no natural or man-made harbourage, Sidmouth does not have any keel boat sailing and our Club is smaller as a result. Our emphasis is very much on family friendly sailing and providing a mix of traditional dinghy racing with other more informal sailing opportunities. Sailing takes place twice a week, on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings between Easter and November. We have close links with the Beer, Axe and Lyme Regis Clubs and have a joint commitment to promote the sport in Lyme Bay.

The Club has for many years focused on introducing young people to sailing, initially through a mixture of taster sessions and informal training. Just over ten years ago we decided to apply to the Royal Yachting Association (the sport's governing body in the UK) to become an RYA accredited training centre. This meant that we had to achieve and maintain defined standards for the teaching and ongoing support of sailing activities. This we did, and have maintained our accredited training centre status since then through annual inspections and other checks. This means that we can run RYA training courses for those first starting to sail and for those improving their skills. We now do these courses for both adults and young people and also run development days throughout the season.

We have always endeavoured to keep our membership fees as low as possible and they remain among the lowest in Devon. The cost of individual membership



is £80 pa and the cost for a family membership with two or more sailors is only £105 pa. We have achieved this through a combination of very high voluntary input from members and financial support from grant giving organisations. Our relationship with the Sid Vale Association has been critical in this regard. We first approached the SVA in 2009 and have been awarded 4 grants since then. These have enabled us to achieve two key goals: firstly, to ensure that we always have safety equipment of the highest standard. We need to have three safety boats available at all times and a new boat and engine costs in the region of £10,000. Our second key goal has been to build up a fleet of Club owned dinghies available for training purposes and for sessional hire by Club members. We now have a varied training fleet of 18 boats suitable for both adults and young people. These are available for hire for just £4-5 per session and this has enabled people to pursue their interest in sailing if they are not able to purchase their own boat.

As well as supporting us in maintaining our safety boats and acquiring Club dinghies, the SVA has also provided financial support to enable us to improve boat storage on our dinghy park at Port Royal and also to help establish a popular kayak section within the Club. We have found the SVA to be a very professional charity to work with. We have always had a link officer from the charity who has taken a particular interest in the Club and advised us on grant applications. We worked initially with the late Denzil Taylor, who was very helpful to us, and more recently with Handel Bennet, Alan Darrant and Chris Woodruff and others. We are grateful to you all. With your help we have been able to maintain Sidmouth's long tradition of dinghy sailing and enable many people to enjoy this unique experience. For anyone wanting more information about sailing at Sidmouth, then please visit the Club's website: sidmouthsailing.org.uk

Miles Hannaford



Arboretum News

The Arboretum is not part of the SVA but has received KOF funding in the past for their tree trail leaflets and the SVA and the Arboretum continue to work closely together.

Under the leadership of new Chairman, Jon Ball, Sidmouth Arboretum is branching out.

Their spring events began with a TREE WEEK: walks and talks and visits to trees in private gardens and parks, not usually included in guided walks. This was successful, and with a few alterations and additions, is planned to take place again in spring 2019.

The Town Council are keen on promoting Sidmouth as a Festival town, and a spring Tree

Festival is just the thing! We met a new tree in flower in early May – new because we weren't sure what it was. See the photo, an ash tree in flower but not the usual ash. It is *Fraxinus ornus* or manna ash which is not susceptible to the ash dieback which is attacking our native *Fraxinus excelsior*.

Together with Ed Dolphin, our Treasurer, Jon is working with St John's primary school children based at Sidholme Hotel and at Newton Poppleford primary school. The activities encourage the children out into the open, to see mature trees and to begin learning about tree leaf identification.

During the summer we will be busy with distributing our Tree Trail leaflets and maintaining the trees under our care throughout the valley. Then we look forward to a guided walk or two in the autumn months, when the colours can be most attractive and berries and fruits of trees help our bird populations to stock up for the winter.

This year we are hoping to arrange a Tree Dressing ceremony prior to our annual Tree Celebration – this year on November 30 – at the start of National Tree Planting week. This event combines short talks from those deeply involved with woods such as John Wilding of Clinton Devon Estates, with an opportunity see craft workers and learn more about the work of local groups such as Friends of the Bays, the SVA, and Devon Wildlife Trust.

Hope to see you there!

Diana East

Daffodil Day

The Daffodil Society is not part of the SVA but the content of the article is of interest to the SVA.

The newly formed Daffodil Society acquired two new daffodil varieties, which they named 'Sidmouth' and 'Keith Owen'. The precious bulbs were offered for sale in the autumn, and were snapped up by eager locals.

Fortunately, they have turned out well, as the accompanying photo illustrates. 'Sidmouth' is a very distinctive double-headed variety with attractive curled petals and a strong and pleasant scent, whereas 'Keith Owen' is a clear white flower with a pale trumpet that turns salmon-coloured as it develops. Both varieties seem to be healthy, and have strong stems suited to our windy coastal conditions. All those who purchased the bulbs have been asked to particularly cherish these lovely new additions to Sidmouth's gardens, and



'Sidmouth' (rear) and 'Keith Owen' (front)

over time to increase the local stock and make these two very distinctive varieties a recognised feature of the town.' A new event – 'Sidmouth Daffodil Day' – in April, organised by Sally Blyth, Chairman of the Sidmouth Daffodil Society, was considered by organisers and visitors alike as a great success, with large numbers attending, and brisk business throughout the day at the many nursery stalls that offered a wide variety of plants and related goods at Kennaway House. Displays of local art, which often featured daffodils, were especially popular, with all those attending remarking especially on the quality of work by local schoolchildren. A series of talks, including a description by retiring president of the SVA, Handel Bennett of the Keith Owen fund, of the planting of a million bulbs, were very well attended. Daffodil Day is destined to become a permanent feature of the Sidmouth calendar as the town seems now to be permanently associated with daffodils, following the KOF inspired planting programme. It was particularly pleasing that the event received widespread media coverage, which gave a very positive impression of our beautiful valley.

Richard Eley

River Report

DIPPERS

Sidmouth has many stunning walks with sea and coastal views often utilising our 60 miles of footpath which the SVA monitors, but one of the most rewarding for me is the relatively short walk from the north end of Gilchrist's Field – adjacent to the Gilchrist's pond, then down to the river 's west bank. From here walk down-stream along the "rugged" footpath to the gate opposite the Golden Copse in Margaret's Meadow. Please be careful as the path has been eroded by the winter storms but can be carefully negotiated and is well worth the effort, being rewarded by the numerous wild flowers and if you are lucky a glimpse of two or three of the native river birds which frequent this length of water.

The wagtails and the incandescent flash of colour which is a passing kingfisher can occasionally be glimpsed, but you may also witness the industry of small and stout bird with a stubby tail known a dipper.

When I started to write this article I decided a good starting reference point would be to try to be all modern and "Google" it. Something I have never done before. To my



Photo © Bogdan Boev

amazement and surprise I was supplied with a whole range of "Dippers". From Big dippers – the largest in the UK is at Blackpool pleasure beach – woow! to skinny dippers – the less said about these the better! to various swimming clubs and eventually I found, to my mind, the humble but beautiful white-throated dipper.

The dipper, classified as *cinclus cinclus*, has a blackbird sized slightly rotund body with a short wren type tail, a dark brown back, and light brown abdomen with a brilliant white chest. It has quite long but strong legs with three claws forward and one back which help it grip the river bed and its prey. Their short wings give them an undulating flight between rocks, but the wings act as fins when they are underwater.

The dipper is on the RSPB's amber list (the second of the conservation categories behind red) and is protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. They have the unique ability among passerines (perching birds) because of their ability to "swim" underwater. They do not have any webbing on the feet, but strangely have solid – not hollow bones which help reduce buoyancy.

We are fortunate in that our River Sid is not particularly acidic – which is often caused by the run off from conifer plantations etc. The flow is swift, shallow, clean and clear which all favour the bird along with numerous boulders from which they do their characteristic dipping or bobbing – which gives them their name.

They are resident in our river all year round, which means there is an adequate supply of small aquatic invertebrates, small fish, molluscs and crustaceans. This year they have again given birth to several chicks.

Unfortunately little seems to be known about their longevity as ringing of the dipper's leg, would seriously inhibit its "swimming", but it is thought that they may live up to 10 years. A dippers territory varies in length dependant on the supply of food, and nesting sites, and pairs of birds vigorously defend their domains. Having seen several pairs along the length of the river from the bottom of the Byes to the top of Gilchrist's Field, I am sure that the river is has all the many necessary "qualities" for their successful residency. Long may it continue.

OTTER SPOTTER

Over a number of years, otters have been noted in the lower lengths of the Byes, and also near Packhorse at Sidford. Of late the "Byes" family seem to have left their traditional haunts. It may be that the sow (Mrs. Otter) has moved away to give birth to her pups in a quieter part of the river where she will be less disturbed by people and dogs.

If you do spot an otter, please do not alarm them – but I would appreciate a contact and a photo if possible.



Peter Brookes, River Warden – river@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

ROYAL AIR FORCE SIDMOUTH

In this 100th year since the foundation of the Royal Air Force, Sidmouth can look back with great pride at its contribution to the 'war effort'. It may not be widely known that the town played such a significant military-related role during WWII. In that period of national emergency, our 'little town in the country, by the seaside', as it has sometimes been referred to, was 'invaded' by servicemen and women in 'light blue' uniform; the Royal Air Force had arrived. Although there was no



airfield, the great attraction for the Air Ministry planners was the extensive hotel accommodation that could be put to good use as classrooms and barracks for Service personnel under training. Almost all the hotels were requisitioned.

Below is a short summary of the four key units that came to the town. Much more material is available to view in Sidmouth Museum, which has marked the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force with a exhibition that includes memorabilia and personal stories.

Air Ministry Experimental Station Sidmouth

The story of Royal Air Force Sidmouth begins with the construction of a Radio Direction Finding (RDF) unit just east of Salcombe Regis on the site of what is now Oakdown Caravan Park. RDF would eventually be known as 'radar'. This was the first RAF unit to form in the local area and was initially known as 'Air Ministry Experimental Station Sidmouth (or the short version – A.M.E.S Sidmouth), then for a time it was referred to as 'RAF Sidmouth' and eventually A.M.E.S. Branscombe! Construction began early in 1940 and progressed rapidly. Accommodation for personnel was either in fabricated huts on the site, or at Weston, a short distance away. Old accommodation huts still flank the A3052, near the site.

Although highly visible due to the large aerial arrays, this was a highly secret unit. The radar was one of a large network, known as Chain Home (CH), that went on to play a critical role through the Battle of Britain and beyond. A 'sister site' at Beer Head was part of Chain Home Low (CHL).

The CH/CHL radar stations around the UK coastline acted as a defensive shield. They were part of the 'Dowding system', named after the Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding. In essence, the radars would 'report' the direction, range and height of enemy aircraft to the 'filter room' at HQ Fighter Command, at Stanmore, Middlesex. From there, correlated information would be 'told' to Group and Sector operations rooms. Thereafter, 'fighters' would be 'scrambled'. Spitfires and Hurricanes would then 'engage' the enemy!

A great deal of material has been obtained from The National Archives, Kew, that shows 'RAF Sidmouth (Branscombe) tracked countless formations of enemy bombers

during the struggle that was WWII, including one in which 30+ bombers were reported overhead Sidmouth on their way to Exeter and Cardiff! The unit remained operational until shortly after VE Day, 8 May 1945.

Medical Training Depot

The RAF's Medical Training Depot (MTD) was originally co-located with the Medical Training Establishment (MTE) in Harrogate, Yorkshire, and was then known as the MTE&D. The MTD was responsible for the intake and training of medical and dental officers and orderlies.

The first hint that the organisation was to move to Sidmouth came on 18 February 1942. The Commandant of the MTE&D was rather disgruntled that his organisation would be on the move again, having only recently arrived in Harrogate. The following two months involved much preparation for the move, including the requisitioning and modification of hotel accommodation.

The advance party, including the Medical and Dental Officers Schools of Instruction commenced training in the Elizabeth Hotel on May 1942. The MTD formally moved from Harrogate on 17 July 1942. The MTE remained in Harrogate, including the Commandant, albeit he would visit Sidmouth regularly.

Of great historical significance within the dental profession was the establishment the first School of Dental Hygiene in the UK, which formed at Glenside, Manor Road. The new 'trade' of Dental Hygienist was created. The initial course commenced in January 1943.

The MTD eventually moved from Sidmouth in early 1945 and was reunited with the MTE at RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire.

RAF Regiment Officer Cadet Training Unit

The RAF Regiment formed on 1 February 1942 to take on responsibility for the defence of airfields within the UK and abroad. Sidmouth was chosen to host an Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) for the newly formed organisation. The Headquarters for the OCTU was in the Knowle Hotel, with other hotels being used for accommodation for the various 'squadrons' of trainees. Training involved 'soldiering' skills, including ground defence skills, physical training and drill. Many of the skills were practised on Muttons Moor, just west of Sidmouth Golf Club.

The OCTU became the 'senior' unit in the town and the term 'RAF Sidmouth' was adopted, however, it remained in the town for only 12 months and then moved to RAF Cosford, Shropshire.



Aircrew Officers School

Although there was no airfield associated with the town, an Aircrew Officers School (AOS) was established in Sidmouth in April 1943, with its headquarters in The Knowle Hotel. The Aircrew Officers School moved into accommodation vacated by the OCTU and the Commanding Officer of AOS assumed overall responsibility for RAF Sidmouth. All other units in the town were subordinate.

The aim of the AOS was to provide 'general duties' training to newly commissioned officers soon after their induction into the Royal Air Force. As a minimum, officers were expected to attend AOS before going on to Advanced Flying Training. There was a similar school of instruction at Filey, Yorkshire, for Non-Commissioned Officer Aircrew. Courses of instruction at the AOS included such things as 'administration and organisation', leadership exercises and ground defence training. Other topics of instruction included morale, welfare and discipline.

The strength of the AOS, including permanent staff and trainees, was in the region of 700. In addition to Royal Air Force personnel, training courses included large contingents of the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal New Zealand Air Force students. The unit eventually moved to Hereford in April 1944 and became No 1 Aircrew Officers School.

Aftermath and Return to Normal

The town got back to normal quite quickly after VE Day. With military use of the hotels ended, they were returned to their former state ready for an influx of visitors. It is not clear how busy they were in the late summer of 1945 but in time, the draw of the seaside was irresistible.

Alistair Watson

A Morrish family story

September 1945 saw the end of WWII and British service-men and women returned home. In Sidmouth, Norman Morrish (later my father) returned home from Egypt, where he had served in the Military Police. His brother Douglas, who had been in the Army in Europe also returned. Sadly, their brother Bill, who was in the Navy, had been lost in the Mediterranean.

Also in Sidmouth, the hotels returned to being hotels, after being requisitioned for RAF personnel during WWII. RAF Sidmouth had taken over the town, "servicemen and women had invaded the town and many RAF personnel were billeted with local families as well as in



the hotels. The hotels were used to house the Medical Training Depot. The Victoria Hotel was the Depot's HQ and the Torbay Hotel was the Sergeants' Mess" (1). The Knowle Hotel was also requisitioned for use as a training school for aircrew officers in 1942 (2). In 1945 the Knowle Hotel had returned to being a hotel and was later bought by Southern Railway in 1947 (2). It was quoted "To have one of the best ballroom dance floors, in the West of England" (3).

In 1947 Nellie Fleming (later my mother) and her sister Violet Fleming (later my aunt Vi Parsons) embarked on the long journey from County Tyrone Northern Ireland to Sidmouth. They travelled for employment with Mrs Sanders the owner of the Torbay Hotel.

Mrs Sanders met them at Sidmouth railway station and took them to the Torbay Hotel, where they would live. It was the first time that Nellie, who was seventeen, had ever left her farmstead home. Violet, who was eighteen, had already worked in the Coates factory in Paisley, Scotland. At the Torbay Hotel, Nellie and Violet settled into their work, Nellie as a chambermaid and Violet as a cook. They also worked at the Knowle Hotel and it was while walking along Station Road that Nellie first saw Norman. He lived in the South Lodge of the Manor, with his father Arthur (Head Gardener to Colonel Balfour), his mother Gertrude and his youngest brother John,

Nellie and Norman courted and enjoyed walks up the paths above Alma Bridge, out to the seats overlooking the Ham. They were married on 23rd October 1948 in Sidmouth Parish church. My sister was told by our mother "On my Wedding day, Mrs Saunders was fussing over me as I was being dressed at the Knowle Hotel, for my wedding in the church".

After their honeymoon in Torquay, Nellie and Norman returned to Sidmouth. They lived in lodgings in the town and one address in Cotmaton Road was perfect, where they lodged with 'Auntie' Kitley. Norman worked as a gardener at Glen Close House, Glen Road. In 1950 however, Norman's mother Gertrude died suddenly and Nellie and Norman had to move into the South Lodge, to help Norman's father and brother.

In 1951 I was born at the South Lodge and my sister was born there in 1953. Later in 1953 there was a gas explosion in the South Lodge. My father with a candle for light, had pulled back the heavy, velvet back- door curtain where unbeknown to him there had been a slow gas leak at the meter. Fortunately, my mother, who had had a 'feeling' earlier that night, had pulled the curtain across. She had saved our lives. The trapped town-gas had exploded and burned my father and fortunately he was not killed. The leaded windows in the lodge had buckled. Later in 1953, Nellie, Norman, my sister and I and Arthur, moved to a council house in Lymebourne Park Sidmouth, as Colonel Balfour, the owner of the manor had died in 1952 and his estate was sold. John had emigrated to Canada and Douglas had moved into Exeter. My father continued to work as a gardener and my mother as a waitress at the Windsor Café, Old Fore Street and as a cleaner at the Radway cinema. At one time our parents both worked for Miss Marriott of 6 Fortfield Terrace, who had a B & B business there.



Norman and Nellie Morrish

In 1955 I started at Manstone Infant School, my sister followed two years later. We moved to St Nicholas' School for our primary school education and to the King's School, Ottery St Mary for our secondary education.

My father was still a gardener up until the 1990s. As land was needed for building, so the large gardens disappeared, so my father needed to work for more employers and do smaller jobs to make up his working week as he was self-employed. He died on 9th April 1994. My mother continued to work as a home-help and as a volunteer Red Cross worker. She died in 2005.

Norma Cox

References

- (1) www.40thcosford.org.uk/worddocs/raf-sidmouth.doc.
- (2) www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/knowledge-from-4-star-hotel-to-council-offices-1-3982411.
- (3) www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/knowledge-is-part-of-our-heritage-1-1533090.

Volunteers

There are many things you can do to volunteer for the SVA, covering a wide range of interests. For example, Liz Warren, our secretary could do with some help with paperwork, preparing documents etc. The museum needs stewards (full training given) or there is a lot of research to be done with the archives now that everything is filed at our headquarters. Woodlands and estates need help on their working party at Margaret's Meadow or Peaslands Knapp if you fancy outdoor, physical work.

A volunteer's tale

I have always been interested in history and when living in in Suffolk, researched and wrote about several subjects including; a relative's family who had an agricultural engineering business from 1825 until 1964, a house we restored, 'The Old Mill Snape', built 1797, which Benjamin Britten converted from a working post mill into a house in 1936 and various articles relating to the history of local parishes.

My wife Jane and I moved to Sidmouth from Suffolk in early 2014, during a very wet winter. We purchased a house and spent about 12 months having building works carried out and then decorating throughout ourselves. During that time we had an opportunity to look at the many organisations in Sidmouth.

I was aware of the SVA and was very interested to see it is the oldest Civic Society in the country. It was a logical progression for my wife and I to join this society to help preserve the beautiful Sid Valley. The acquisition of Trumps and conversion to a headquarters and home for the extensive library and archive is a very exciting move too for the SVA.

Once we had completed the work on the house in Sidmouth, I volunteered as a Steward at the museum to learn more about the history of Sidmouth. I found this most rewarding, for as well as learning about the town we also meet some very interesting visitors. Many of whom comment favourably on our museum compared to others in the country. Fellow stewards are also worth chatting to, as many of them have extensive knowledge of the town. One positive aspect is that the museum collections are not static, with many displays changing each year. I also do try to encourage Sidmouthians to visit the museum as some have never been, whilst others have not been for many years.

After we joined the SVA, I was talking to Richard Thurlow who invited me onto the planning committee when he learnt I was a retired Chartered Building Surveyor. I look forward to having the opportunity to comment upon the future development proposals affecting the Sid Valley.

I enjoy working with the members of the museum and SVA, and find it so rewarding to assist whenever I can.

Roger Horton

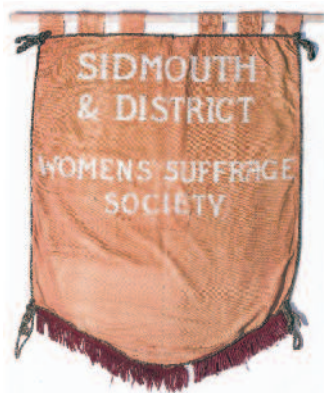
Children's activities at the Museum – Tuamor and the War against plastic

'Tuamor the turtle' story follows the impact of plastic and litter in our oceans upon our sea life. A Tuamor day was held at the museum when the author of the recently published book, Jo Earlam and the artist Mark Hannon gave children an insight into the damage done.



Seven year old Maddie thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities offered and was totally absorbed – particularly with the artist who demonstrated how to draw 'Sea-Life' scenes Grandad Colin who accompanied his grand daughter said she was so enthused she wanted to go back in the afternoon. There was a lovely inclusive atmosphere and the range of activities and themes were carefully planned and well thought out.

See Tuamor again on Wednesday 1st August at the museum for another fun packed day.



Suffrage Banner

The Sidmouth suffrage banner has now been restored and is on display in the museum. The funding for the restoration came from the Heritage lottery fund. In order to qualify for the funding, the museum was required to involve a cross section of the community in a variety of activities that would be of mutual interest and benefit to all concerned. It was necessary to produce an educational resource that could be used by local schools.

Members of the the 1st Sidmouth girl guides produced a suffrage story bag. Amongst other things, it contained three rag dolls appropriately dressed in costume of the suffrage era. The girls learned sewing and sewing

machine skills and an understanding of what the women who were involved in the suffrage campaign went through to achieve the right to vote.

The museum also has a replica banner on display which was made by the ladies of the Sidmouth Patchers and Quilters society.

Lace display in the Museum



The museum has a new walk in display representing Miss Barnard's lace shop which was in Old Fore Street. It includes an exhibition of old and new lace. (There are lace making displays every Thursday morning)

The display of 'Sidmouth' the steam engine remains one of the most popular in the museum. Its restoration progress is updated by Nick Thompson.

Restoration of 34010 Sidmouth

The long task of gathering parts for the restoration of the 1946-built Southern Railway loco number 34010 *Sidmouth* continues in the Swanage workshop used by Southern Locomotives Ltd (SLL).

Sidmouth resident Nick Thompson works as a volunteer in the workshop, where sister loco *Eddystone* is currently being overhauled. He writes:

One of my recent tasks was to check *Eddystone's* reversing screw for wear, and to look at whether there was a set suitable for *Sidmouth*. The screw is about three inches diameter and two feet long, with a 'three start' thread. This screw runs in a die block which converts the rotation of the screw into a forward-and-back motion which sets the position of the radius link in the motion of each of the loco's three cylinders, in effect the loco's gear box.

I found three screws and two die blocks and checked each combination for wear. The allowable tolerance is 70 thousandths of an inch. That's about a fifth of a millimetre in new money. Given that all these parts were made in the late 1940's it came as no great surprise that every component was worn beyond tolerance. SLL will need to make or buy two new sets, one for *Eddystone* and one for *Sidmouth*, and probably one for *Sir Keith Park* when its overhaul becomes due around 2022. Each set will cost around £1,100. Would anyone like to sponsor *Sidmouth's*?

For more details of the loco and its restoration please visit www.southern-locomotives.co.uk or email Nick Thompson at nicksidmouth@gmail.com and see the display in the Museum.

The reverser screw in place on Eddystone. It will need to be replaced, and Sidmouth will also need a new set.



The die block and screw cleaned up and secured to the bench to test for wear. After 70 years these parts will need to be replaced.



Nick Thompson

A reminder about the invasive nature of the Three Cornered Leek or Garlic (*Allium Triquetrum*)

This invasive plant is a threat to all shade loving plants because of its nature. It multiplies by seed and bulblets and grows more densely than other shade loving plants such as bluebell.

The consequence is that bluebells are crowded out and replaced by the leek. On SVA land we are trying to avoid its occurrence but elsewhere it is increasingly prevalent, especially in the Byes and Bickwell Valley.

This species is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in England and Wales therefore, it is also an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow these species in the wild.

It can be identified by its three cornered flower stem and smell like an onion when picked. Some people eat it, but I cannot see us eating our way out of this problem, and there is the danger of picking other leaves with it which may not be so edible or indeed may be poisonous.

If you let it grow in your garden please control it. My best advice is to carefully uproot, trying to remove all the numerous tiny bulblets, or spray it with weedkiller after bruising the leaves. Do not let it form a seed head.



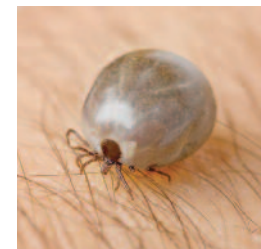
A warning about ticks and Lyme disease on Sid Vale Association Land

With the spread of wild deer in the area comes the increased threat of ticks. These tiny little creatures, which look like tiny spiders 1mm across, can spread Lyme Disease and attention should be paid to the possibility of ticks attaching themselves to humans and pets that walk in areas that are shared with any other animals but particularly deer. As the deer increase in numbers they are becoming more prevalent on our land and know no boundaries. They can travel over large areas, particularly at night so people may not be aware of their presence.

If you are out walking in the country or on SVA land around Sidmouth then please check yourself for ticks. The tick may carry the disease from biting another infected animal. Part of the life cycle of the tick involves climbing tall plants that may be brushed against by suitable hosts- us- for example, and they then jump off and attach themselves and make their way to a suitable spot on your body. The tick cannot be felt when it bites and attaches itself to the skin. Later the immediate area starts to itch. They suck your

blood and that is when the bacteria that causes Lyme's Disease can be transferred. If not found they suck your blood and increase in size from pinhead to 5mm before dropping off to lay eggs and repeat the cycle. Remove them with tweezers or a tick removint tool (from chemists/vets) as soon as you spot them and crush them. I flush them down the loo. They have a hard exoskeleton so make sure it is dead. If the area of the bite looks red and a large circle resembling a bull's eye starts forming around it, seek medical treatment immediately as this could be the signs of an infection. Full blown Lyme disease can be difficult to get rid of if allowed to go untreated. Check your dog and cat regularly and if you are concerned your vet will advise you about tick treatments that can be given. Wear long trousers if walking in areas with long grass or bracken in woodland or heath, the less flesh exposed the better. Ticks are active throughout spring summer and autumn and sometimes on warmer winter days.

For more information there are NHS sites online which can tell you more and according to a site called the Bigtickproject we are in a high risk area.



Fully engorged tick

It's not a snake!

Having moved from rural Warwickshire to the outskirts of Sidmouth and started gardening in earnest, I came across my first small snake when I was about to remove some compost from our compost bin. On removing the old carpet on top I saw what I thought was a small snake lying on the grass cuttings.

It was as surprised as I was and quickly shot down below the compost. I immediately went indoors and looked it up in my reference book and discovered it was a Slow-worm.

The Slow-worm is not a snake, but a legless lizard. Why this creature should have evolved by losing its legs and resorting to slithering as a better means of survival beats me.

It is protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Slow-worms are quite common in Devon – perhaps it's because it's a lizard and needs the warmer climes found in the South West.

The similarities with a lizard start with its skeleton, where there are vestiges of shoulder and hips which show that its ancestors moved on four legs. Then there are its eyelids like other lizards and its lower jaw is joined in front in the same way and its tongue is notched and not forked.

The average size is about 30 cms and the female is usually a bronze colour with a stripe down its side or back and the male is usually plain bronze or covered in grey/blue spots.

They eat slugs, snails and other garden pests as well as worms so they are a great friend to the gardener. They are preyed on by cats, birds, hedgehogs, badgers and foxes they have a particularly tough time. They can be found in most habitats but spend a lot of time under ground or under stones. If you put down some weed suppressant material or old carpet or corrugated iron and leave for a few weeks, you may find, upon lifting that

there are slow-worms underneath or even lizards, newt and toads. The best way to encourage them is with a compost bin, but as for most reptiles, slug pellets are really bad news, so if you want to encourage these creatures, try to restrict your use of pellets to areas that are not so easily accessed by them or use an organic method with nematodes or slug traps.



Another fascinating fact about slow-worms is that they give birth to their young rather than laying eggs.

The young are about 7-9cms long and are conceived in May and June. Birth takes place from August onwards so remember if you are thinking of turning your compost bin during August and September to keep a look out and try and avoid disturbing them.

The young are able to fend for themselves from day one, eating small slugs and insects. The slow-worm can live for up to 20 years. When caught, it is often by the tail, which it is able to shed at a moment's notice as an escape mechanism. The severed tail continues to wiggle for some time and this can be quite disconcerting if you grab one by the tail – so I suggest you don't! The tail does grow back, but as a blunt replacement and if you do see a slow-worm it is quite likely to have a blunt tail for this reason.

If you find one in the garden or on your walks, treat it as a good sign that the environment is well in the area you are in and don't be scared. If you must pick it up then do so near its head and move it quickly so that it doesn't shed its tail.

Richard Huntington – estates@sidvaleassociation.org.uk



Sid Vale Calendar 2019

Sold to raise money for the Sidmouth Landscape Fund, for the conservation of land in the Valley, ensuring it remains unspoilt for future generations to enjoy. The Fund has contributed to the acquisition of land on Peak Hill, Salcombe Hill, woodland in Salcombe Regis, Peaslands Knapp, and fields in the Byes containing Margaret's

Meadow and General Hunt's Pond. On sale now from the Museum, our website, and several shops in the town.

SVA Excursion 2nd May 2018

With a full coach we set off in the rain. By the time we had reached our first destination, the well known cheese producer Wyke Farm, the rain had stopped and we enjoyed a really beautiful day of sun shine. Many SVA members on the trip have had contact with farming, and some even with cheese-making. We had a presentation and video of their cheese-making process followed by some samples and a tour around the 100% sustainable cheese-making plant. It is the largest Independent cheese making producer in Britain exporting to 160 countries. After lunch we headed to Dorset to Minterne House and Gardens. The new Lord Henry Digby (an accountant – like many SVA members!) spoke to us about the House and family history. We were shown around part of the house, had some time looking around the gardens and then enjoyed a cream tea in the dining room at Minterne House. Our journey home took us past the Cerne Abbas Giant just outside Magna Parva and along the coastal road with views out across Lyme Bay.

On September 12th we go to Padstow and Pencarrow House. We look forward to seeing you all then!

Stephen Pemberton – excursions@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Viv Longhorn, who went on the excursion writes:

"I enjoyed the recent SVA coach trip. It's a chance to visit places I have never previously heard of and to learn something of their history. The group leaders gave interesting facts on the outward and return journeys. I would probably never normally venture as far away for a day trip if I were to drive myself, but the journeys, without the pressure of driving, seemed much quicker and there is also a chance to snooze on the return journey! Sitting higher up in the coach, it was possible, and far more enjoyable, to see all the countryside."

Sidmouth's River

Storms, floods, droughts, landslides and river blockages are not new to Sidmouth: records go back for centuries. What causes these natural events? Will they become more extreme or frequent in the future? What can we learn about them by looking at the landscape around us?

Roger Trend's new book *Sidmouth's River*, published by the SVA, tells the story of the River Sid.

On sale at Sidmouth Museum and online from our website www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk



Blue Plaques

Following the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme in 1998, (prepared by Devon County Council and East Devon District Council), the SVA was asked to make a specific contribution to the town by the placing of 'Blue Plaques' in the Conservation area. Blue Plaques are of course widely known in the UK for the commemoration of noteworthy buildings, or previous occupants of a building.

We were responsible for the placing of all Blue Plaques in the town in 1992 and 1993, This involved researching the history of likely buildings and occupants, obtaining owners permissions, getting Listed Building Consent from the Planning Authority and getting the plaques manufactured. Eventually some 32 plaques were placed.

A Blue Plaque booklet was produced which gave greater information than the plaques itself could contain, together with rather quirky line drawings of the buildings. A second edition was produced a few years later.

The plaques have certainly enhanced the town and have proved a tourist attraction. Other town have copied the elliptical shape of our plaques.

Again in 2013, a few new locations were identified and plaques erected.

In 2017, it became clear that not only were some of the existing plaques deteriorating but that there were a number of other buildings that could be considered to be worthy of a plaque, some outside the Conservation area. Consequently, a group, (Julia Creeke, Nigel Hyman, Andrew Rugg-Gunn, John McCarthy, Jeremy Woodward, Kelvin Dent, (Sidmouth Town Council) and Richard Thurlow), was formed in late 2017 to identify locations worthy of plaques and to implement their erection and review the existing plaques. It is probable that there will be 27 new plaques and 35 existing plaques will be renewed. The booklet will also be revised and expanded.

The texts for the new locations for the Booklet have largely been written, and the summary for the plaques themselves is underway. We are contacting the owners of the nominated locations to seek their approval, following which we will apply for LBC for those affixed to listed buildings.

Richard Thurlow



SVA Excursion – Wednesday 12th September 2018

Padstow and Pencarrow House and Gardens and Cream Tea

Padstow: we will have free time around the picturesque town and harbour, maybe taking lunch in one of the many fish restaurants.

One of the greatest attractions of Padstow is its harbour. Pleasure craft rub shoulders with working fishing boats and both boat trips and the Rock ferry carry passengers and day trippers out of Padstow. This is a great place to find a bench and take a moment to watch life go by. There are no shortage of cafes and shops.

Padstow was already a bustling little port of fishermen and boat-builders in the time of Elizabeth 1st. Nowadays the local fisherman supply the many fish restaurants which have recently become a major feature of the town. Padstow is often referred to as Padstein!

Pencarrow House and Gardens: We will have a tour of the house and see the Gardens. This has been the home of the Molesworth family since the late 1500s.

The interior of the house boasts many fine features including ornate wood panelling, a rococo ceiling, cantilever stone staircase and handsome stained glass. Pencarrow boasts a fine collection of paintings, china and porcelain.

Pencarrow's gardens are a combination of formal landscaping and woodland walks.

Points of interest include an Iron Age hill fort, sunken Italian Garden with a quatrefoil fountain, ice house, palm house, ancient Cornish cross, and a grotto, believed to have been a secret meeting place. Much of their collection came from botanical explorers such as Douglas, Lobb, and Wallich.

The Memorial Garden provides a summer display, followed by hydrangeas, fuchsias and azaleas into the autumn.

We will take our Cream Tea here.

This tour will be escorted by Stephen Pemberton and Rev'd Handel Bennett.

Booking form overleaf.



Padstow Harbour



- **Tour includes:** Coach, House and Garden entrance, Cream Tea, Drivers Gratuity. Cost **£29.95**
- **Booking Form:** Please send to Stephen Pemberton, 7 Glenisla Terrace, Sidmouth, EX10 8BP Tel. 07810 496566.
- **Bookings:** Will be confirmed from 1st August and remain open until filled.
- **Payment:** Please make cheques payable to “SID VALE ASSOCIATION CIO.”
- **Envelope:** Please enclose s.a.e. postage paid, to receive tickets.
- **Limitation:** Tickets cannot be ‘reserved’. Tickets can be refunded if re-sold.

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.

Padstow and Pencarrow House and Gardens, Wednesday 12th September 2018

Please supply ticket(s) at **£29.95** per person

PLEASE ☒ **BOX** Joining at The Triangle 8.15am ☐ Radway 8.20am* ☐
Approx. timings Exeter X 8.27am ☐ Green Close 8.30am* ☐

1. TITLE FIRST NAME SURNAME OF EACH PERSON BOOKING
2.
3.

Address

*E-mail Post Code

*Will not be disclosed to third parties.

CONTACT TEL. NO. OF PERSON BOOKING

Have you enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope? Yes/No

Membership Application Form

Please send completed form, with payment if applicable, to The Membership Secretary (SVA)
67 Malden Road, Sidmouth EX10 9LZ



I/We wish to become Member(s) of the Sid Vale Association

Title Surname (BLOCK LETTERS please)
First name(s) 1
Second member
Address
Post Code Phone
E-Mail Address

EITHER I/We enclose my/our Annual/Life Membership subscription of £
Please delete as appropriate and make cheques payable to *The Sid Vale Association*

OR I/We have completed the standing order mandate overleaf (Please ✓)

GIFT AID SCHEME

I wish to make payments under the Gift Aid Scheme. I want the Charity to treat as Gift Aid ALL donations and subscriptions I make to the Association, from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise. I confirm that I pay an annual amount of Income Tax which is not less than the amount of tax which may be redeemed by the Sid Vale Association.

Signature Date
The Sid Vale Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number 1154749

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By cheque or cash – or cheaper by standing order!

		Outside the Sid Valley including postage		Within the Sid Valley	
		Cheque/ cash	Standing order	Cheque/ cash	Standing order
ANNUAL MEMBER	an individual	£12	£10	£10	£8
	2 at same address	£18	£16	£16	£14
LIFE MEMBER	an individual	£120	-	£100	-
	2 at same address	£180	-	£160	-

Area Date Receipt Memb.Card WG NMM GA

Help us – and make new friends at the same time!

Thank you for joining the SVA. Your membership is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to become more involved or know more about all the work we do, there are many areas where we need help, whether it be on a regular basis or just a few hours. See the point of contact list for the relevant person (inside the back cover) who will be happy to hear from you, or ✓ any of the following and your interest will be passed on for you.

Membership ☐ Local delivery of magazines to members

Museum ☐ Stewards ☐ Archivists

Website ☐ Updating of content ☐ Technical management

River/Woodlands and Estates ☐ 'Hands-on' managing grass, hedging, trees, wild-life

Conservation and Planning Team ☐ Monitoring planning applications

Privacy Policy

The Sid Vale Association will only collect and use your personal information which is needed in order for us to provide you with the benefits of membership. We collect this information to enable us to send you quarterly newsletters and email reminders about walks/talks/special events. You have the right to unsubscribe from communications at any time by contacting us via membership@sidvaleassociation.org

More information about the SVA's Privacy Policy and Cookie Policy is available on the website. By signing this form, you agree to the SVA using this information.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To The Manager Bank

Branch Address

Post Code

Please set up the following Standing Order from my/our account:

Name(s) of account

Sort Code - Account Number

Recipient Sid Vale Association CIO

Recipient's Bank CAF Bank (Charities Aid Foundation)

25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Sort Code 40 - 52 - 40 Account Number 00016416

Please pay the sum of £ First payment date

And annually thereafter until further notice

Quoting SVA reference (please leave blank for SVA use)

Signature Date



Photo © Val Huntington

Are you a cloud spotter?

Living on the top of a hill looking out to sea as well as spending a lot of time on the sea and also a keen walker, I am always very aware of the weather. In particular, cloud formations and clouds of all shapes and sizes. I know there are a lot of cloud watchers about even if we don't admit to it! If you would like to e mail me any interesting photos of formations or shapes, I will publish the best one(s) and hopefully can start a cloud watchers page in future editions of this magazine. Professor Brian Golding from the met office has offered his help in identifying weather conditions etc. and will write a few lines where possible on formations. The photo shown is one of my own which I took in the very early morning in July a few years ago over Salcombe Regis.

Professor Golding comments: This fine photograph shows a layer of low cloud (around 500m cloud base) with a marked wave structure. It is an example of Asperitus, the latest cloud type to be given a name, which is a variety of stratocumulus cloud. The 'strato-' bit of the name signifies cloud that forms in a layer – in this case due to active mixing into the atmosphere of moisture evaporated from the sea surface. As the rising air cooled, the (invisible) moisture condensed into (visible) cloud, while warmer temperatures higher up stopped the mixing from going any higher. The 'cumulus' bit of the name signifies 'lumpy' cloud. This is not so evident from the photo, but the upper side of the cloud layer almost certainly had that 'cauliflower' look. The curiosity of this variety of stratocumulus is its waviness – which usually indicates that there is a thunderstorm nearby. So next time you see this cloud, remember to take your umbrella, just in case the storm is coming your way.

Email me at news@sidvaleassociation.org.uk with your pics – Val Huntington



Can you persuade a friend to join us?

Throughout this magazine there are articles about the many projects that the Keith Owen Fund has contributed to in its first ten years. But we have to remember that the Fund cannot be used for the day-to-day running of the SVA. So running the Museum, maintaining over 40 acres of land and nearly 60 miles of footpaths in the Valley, helping to keep the River Sid free from litter and pollution, and everything else we do, has to be done by volunteers, and funded by our membership subscriptions – which is why we need more members and volunteers!

It's only £8 per year if you pay by standing order – the price of two pints of beer at most pubs in the town, so please try and get a friend to join us. And as you know, volunteering isn't necessary, but help in running things is very welcome if it can be offered.

Please talk to your friends and use the membership application form in this magazine to get them signed up. Both the SVA and the Museum have pages on Facebook, and the more "likes" we get, the more people will know about us and what we do.



Fancy Writing an Article?

The November magazine will be featuring the anniversary to commemorate the ending of the first World War. Articles/photos from readers relating to Sidmouth and WW1 would be gratefully received (end of September deadline).

This magazine is published twice a year in July and November and articles are required two months prior to publication. We cannot guarantee that all articles submitted will be published.

Send your articles to Val Huntington: news@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Editor's apology

The editor apologises for an entry in the calendar in the AGM report which stated there would be a model railway exhibition in August. This unfortunately was an error. The railway exhibition was in August last year and there will NOT be another one this year.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure dates/times/venues are correct, please always check the web page for details if you are planning on coming to an event.

Sid Vale Association – points of contact

President

Alan Darrant president@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Chairman

*Richard Thurlow chairman@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Vice Chairman

*Ed G. Harrison vicechair@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Honorary Treasurer

*Gary Turner treasurer@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Secretary

*Liz Warren secretary@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Conservation and Planning

*Richard Thurlow conservation@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Footpaths

Phil Bradbury footpaths@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Museum Curator

*Nigel Hyman museum@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

History Group

Prof. Brian Golding OBE history@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Keith Owen Fund Grants

Kate Tobin kof@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Meetings

John Ridgley talks@sidvaleassociation.org.uk
Brendan Lee talks@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Membership

Andrew Scott membership@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Publicity and Magazine Editor

*Val Huntington publicity@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Publications

John Dowell publications@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

River Warden

*Peter Brookes river@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Walks

Elizabeth Cotton walks@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Woodlands and Estates

*Richard Huntington estates@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Brian Hall aonb@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Excursions

*Steve Pemberton excursions@sidvaleassociation.org.uk

*Trustees

Dates for your Diary

Whilst we make every effort to ensure dates and times are correct at the time of going to press, please check the web page for the latest details and any updates.

Museum

Young Visitor Summer Holiday Activity Days

Wednesday 25th July – The Dinosaurs are back

Wednesday 1st August – Tuamor and Friends

Wednesday 15th August – Red Rocks children's activities

Wednesday 22nd August – The Beach

Wednesday 29th August – Bees, Birds and Butterflies

Family Activity Days

Wednesday 8th August – Singing the Rocks

Geology walk with a difference. 10am learn the songs. 2pm walk and sing along.

Wednesday 15th August – Red Rocks Day

Special rocks, fossils and minerals day

Wednesday 24th October Big Draw Day local artist, suffragette theme.

Saturday 27th October Museum closes for the winter. (see web page for Christmas shopping details)

NB AUGUST NO MODEL RAILWAY EVENT

Talks

Wednesday 10th October 7.30pm Manor Pavilion Theatre – Talk by Prof Iain Stewart
Title tbc (NB evening talk as this is part of Science Week.)

Wednesday 14th November 2.30pm Manor Pavilion 'Cottages Ornés' by Roger White

Walks

Tuesday 7th August Meet: 10am at Rawridge – roadside parking Grid Ref: ST 200 063
Leaders: John & Naomi Tel: 01395 512973 5 miles. Ascent 758 ft.

Tuesday 4th September Meet: 10am at Newton Poppleford playing field carpark. Grid Ref: SY 088 899 Leader: Haylor Tel: 01395 568786 A walk round Newton Pop.

Tuesday 2nd October Meet: 10am at Bowd lay-by (West of pub on A3052) Grid Ref: SY 104 898 Leaders: Cliff & Pam Tel: 01395 578699 A moderate 5.5 mile walk.

Outings

Wednesday 12th September (see inside magazine for details) Coach excursion to Padstow and Pencarrow.

History Group

7pm Trumps SVA HQ, 36a Fore St, Sidmouth

9th July, 10th September and 2nd Monday of every other month after.

The Sid Vale Association CIO, 36a Fore Street, Sidmouth EX10 8AQ

The Sid Vale Association CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number 1154749. The Association promotes conservation and heritage, the museum, and facilities for recreational and cultural activities in the Sid Valley

© 2017 Designed and published by the Sid Vale Association