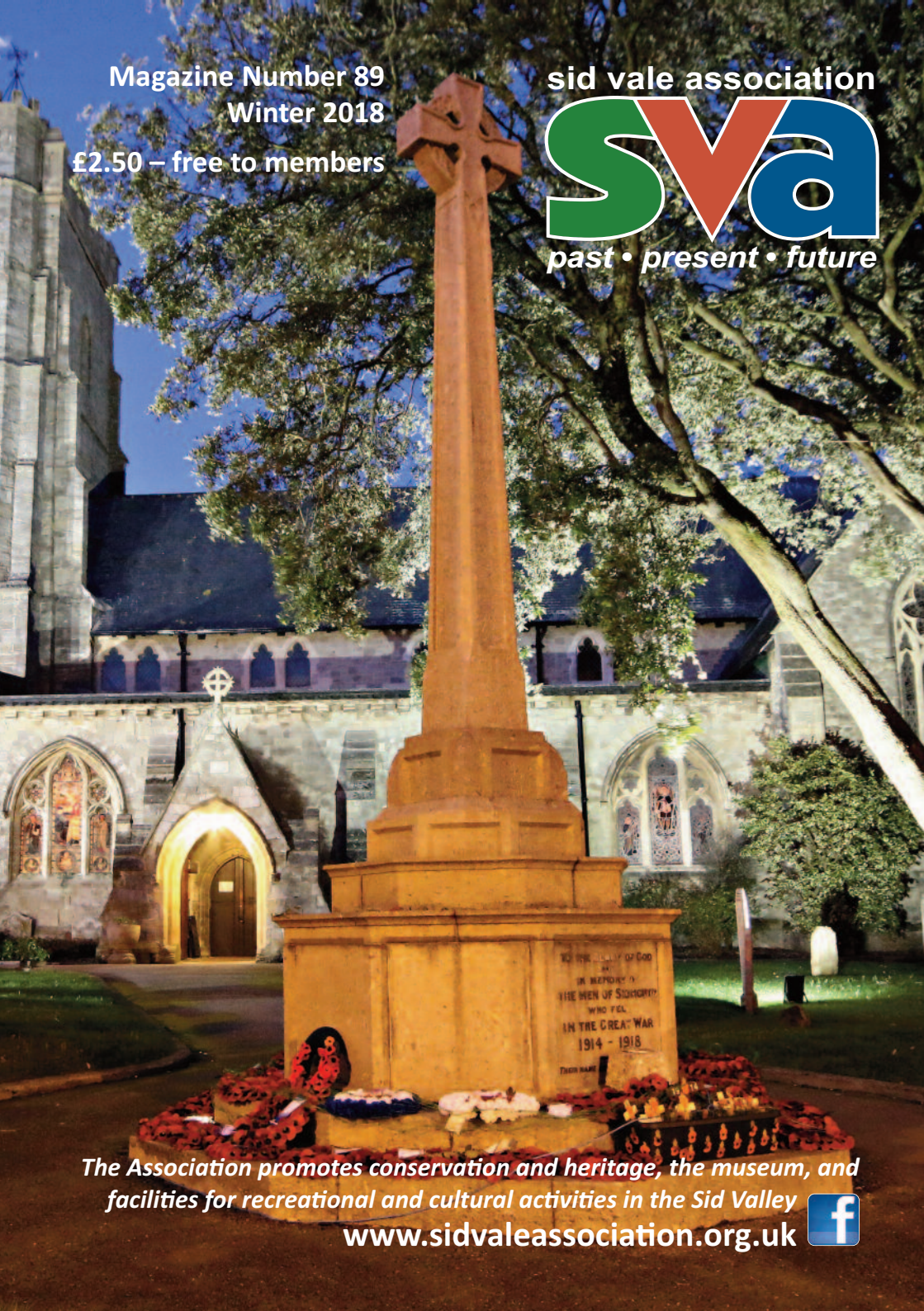


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sid vale association
sva
past • present • future



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...

I hope that you like this Magazine as much as you apparently enjoyed the last one. Val Huntingdon and John Dowell spend hours producing these and it's good to know that they are appreciated.

It seems that you enjoyed the recent Floods Exhibition, which Ann Tanner and Peter Brookes curated in conjunction with the Environment Agency, and that you would welcome more of these 'local' exhibitions. We will see what we can do.

The results of the recent questionnaire will be detailed in the next Magazine, but I thought that I'd bring out some early points here.

We sent out about 1300 packages, containing the last Magazine, a request to return a Member's details form and a questionnaire. About 750 were returned, although only about 550 returns included questionnaires. I have to say this was slightly disappointing, as an SAE was enclosed in the package, and this was a chance for you, the members, to

Editor's Note

This issue carries several articles to commemorate the end of WW1. Looking back through the newspapers from that date, no blaring headlines or action photos of wounded soldiers to which a modern day reader has become accustomed. Everyday life appeared to carry on much as normal in Sidmouth, far away from the fields of war. Those that did not return, remembered on the war memorials which would soon appear around the vale.

Interestingly, reported in 1918, there was a warning to keep away from crowded places. The start of the dreadful flu bug had been noted- a far greater killer than the war itself. It was responsible for the death of Stephen Reynolds whose work the museum will be celebrating next year, on the centenary of his death. You can read about his short but important life in Nigel Hyman's article. There is also a mention of Reynolds in the Keith Owen Fund article on the film 'Working the Sea'.

Do we face another far greater battle against plastic? The long term effect could be devastating. We must all do our bit to help in this one.

Looking back over the summer, the hot weather has been enjoyed by some but for agriculture it has mixed blessings. The hay crop in Soldier's Hill has been poor but on the other hand, heavy fruit crops in our gardens. Then heavy rain, unfortunately for the start of the walking festival which created a few problems for our footpath team who worked hard to get the paths restored in time.

We have a few members only events this year (See back page for details). We hope to see you all soon!

Val Huntington – news@sidvaleassociation.org.uk



give us your opinions on various topics. Nevertheless, we are working on the results.

It appears that 99.9% of you are happy that you get value for money, and in the way that we communicate with you. In this digital age it is very easy to assume that everybody is fully connected, and that we can transmit everything electronically but most of us still value getting a hard copy of the magazine. But do bear in mind though, that our web site does contain a great deal of information about forthcoming events, what we do, the land that we manage, and other useful stuff.

There were many who indicated that they would be prepared to volunteer. Thanks for that, as we can only operate through people volunteering, at the Museum, in work parties on our land and all the other myriad tasks that the SVA undertakes. We have not had time yet to contact you, but rest assured we WILL!

We are holding an open afternoon at Trumps on **Wednesday 28th November** 3-6pm. All the committee will be there to answer any questions and offer you a glass of festive cheer! On **Thursday, 21st March** 5-8pm, there is a members only evening reception at the Museum – drinks and nibbles. Come and view the new displays for 2019

Finally, Liz Cotton, who has led our walks for a number of years, is giving this up at the end of the year. Thanks to her for all the hard work she has put into this activity, in rain and shine.

Have a happy and joyous Christmas and New Year.

Richard Thurlow

Update on Blue Plaques

We have now applied for and obtained owner's and listed building consent for eleven listed buildings in Sidmouth. These are Aurora, Hunter's Moon Hotel, 9 and 10 Fortfield Terrace, the 1922 Club, Hope Cottage, Sidholme, Woolcombe House, Kennaway House, Banwell House, (Old Fore Street), and the Beacon. We have obtained owner's consent for a further fourteen – Old Jail, Western Field, Knowle, Sailing Club, Glenside, Downlands, Marycourt, the Observatory, Dove Cottage, the site of Blackmore Hall, Marino Lodge, 3 Coburg Terrace, Lusways, and the Fort building. Julia Creeke, John McCarthy, Nigel Hyman, and

Andrew Rugg-Gunn have drafted the texts for the plaques and for the new book which we are preparing. In addition, all the existing plaques will be renewed, and we are at present contacting the owners of the buildings to get their permission. Once we have all the permissions, the remaining work is to get the signs manufactured and organise the placing of them. We hope that this will be done by early next year, when we intend to hold an opening event

John Dowell is preparing the book, which will run to about 150 pages – in colour with numerous illustrations. A short 'walking guide' to the Plaques will hopefully follow.

This will be a major piece of work which will provide the definitive guide to the major buildings in Sidmouth and practically, will encompass a history of the town.

Richard Thurlow

Cover photo – Sidmouth's War Memorial © Richard Powell

World War One in Sidmouth

The Local History Group looks at WW1 in Sidmouth

Although a long way from the centres of the action, Sidmouth life was fundamentally changed by the events of the first World War. Some of these impacts have been the subjects of research by members of the history group and of displays in the museum. We are lucky to have two complete records of local events in the period 1914-18: the newspaper record and the parish magazine* record. While there is much overlap, there is much to be learned from looking at both, and this work is continuing.

At the start of the war, it was the immediate call up of the naval reserves that had the most direct effect, shortly followed by the first losses in the South Atlantic. With the departure of many men to the navy and the trenches, the women of Sidmouth mobilised to provide support, including through the Linen League. The museum display on suffragism in Sidmouth highlights the split between those for and against votes for women prior to the war. It is interesting that both the secretary of the Linen League and the widow of the pre-war vicar were leaders of the anti-suffragist group.

Sidmouth's relatively safe location led to its being a centre both for settlement of Belgian refugees and for treatment of wounded soldiers. The refugees mostly arrived in late 1914 and, as elsewhere, were given a very warm welcome, which seems to have cooled as their stay became longer. Peak House was the main military hospital in Sidmouth, receiving wounded direct from the south-east ports by train via Sidmouth railway station. Prior to the war, the Sidmouth baths were in their heyday – offering hot and cold, soft fresh water and salt water baths at what is now the Kingswood Hotel. During the war, this facility was taken over for the treatment of officers.

With the increasing need for the country to produce more food at home, the contribution of inshore fishing rose in importance and Stephen Reynolds, author of *A Poor Man's House*, took on the role of government oversight of inshore fishing in the South West from his base in Sidmouth. Amongst his achievements was the design of a motor that could safely be used on inshore fishing boats operated from beaches, as at Sidmouth.

The need for a place of quiet prayer for those with relatives away in the forces led to the creation of the chapel in the northwest corner of Sidmouth Parish Church in 1917. The original plans for the establishment of a small altar there are preserved in the Devon Record Office. Particular care had to be taken not to interfere with the Wood memorial window, placed there in 1904.

As losses mounted in the trenches, an appropriate way of recognising the sacrifice of those at the front was needed, and Sidmouth wholeheartedly followed other towns in establishing street shrines commemorating both those who had signed up and those who had been killed. These shrines consisted of tablets with names, surrounded by inspirational pictures, flags and flowers, normally placed on the home that had sent the most recruits. By the end of the war, there were shrines in sixteen districts of Sidmouth. Each one was dedicated by the vicar, accompanied by the church choir and members of the Church Lads Brigade.

The Rev'd Griffiths arrived in 1916 to be curate of Sidmouth Parish Church, but soon signed up to become an army chaplain, serving in northern France and Belgium for a year, and providing the people of Sidmouth with a monthly account of his experiences. In 1918, the vicar, himself, also became a chaplain, leaving the church in the hands of a deputy. He didn't get to France, but was away at army camp when the armistice was signed. It was thus his deputy and curate who were called out to lead a spontaneous service of thanksgiving when the bells rang and the population of Sidmouth converged on the church on the morning of November 11th, 1918. A more formal and solemn service in the evening was attended by so many people that they filled the churchyard as well as the church. The preacher was the Rev'd Griffiths.

Following the armistice, plans were prepared for a permanent memorial to those who lost their lives. Designed by R. W. Sampson, it consists of the churchyard cross, around which the sacrifice of those who died is commemorated at the act of remembrance each year, and the stone plaques inside the west door of the church, listing the names of all those who died. A total of 118 names are commemorated.

Brian Golding

** Edited extracts from the wartime parish magazines have been published in 'Sidmouth's War', available from the Friends' Table inside Sidmouth Parish Church.*

11 November 1918 Sidmouth

The Sidmouth Observer, November 16, carried a Pictorial Supplement. Photographs were unusual in the weekly paper and rarely, if ever, related to local events. Sadly we have not been able to find any photographs of events in the town on this memorable day. The supplement included the heading 'Peace Breaks Out', which to modern eyes seems to be unusual wording. There were 10 photographs including a young, bare foot woman in a Lancashire glucose factory. Due to rationing there was an item on meat-free recipes such as spiced sprats and Norfolk dumplings with treacle.

Sidmouth news was almost entirely devoted to the events of the previous Monday. There had been rumours of the war ending for several days. A bonfire in Woolbrook was thought by some to be a celebration but hopes were dashed. The Monday morning mist cleared, the sun came out and the hours passed by. Anxiety mounted and people gathered on the streets. Then bell-ringers were spotted walking to the Parish Church and the news, apparently by telephone arrived. The 'ghastly struggle of the past four years was over'. There was a frantic rush to spread the information. People congratulated one another – 'Beautiful news', 'Glorious'.



Sympathy was immediately extended to those who had lost husbands, sons and brothers. The church bells started to ring and continued through the day.

Shops closed at 1 pm and a holiday was announced. Streamers were placed across the streets. Everybody seemed to be either holding flags or hanging them from windows.



Almost the entire population spilled out onto the streets. At 4.30 a procession formed on the Esplanade outside the Royal York Hotel. The Old Comrades Association marched with the Church Lads Brigade, the Bugle Band and the Boy Scouts. At the very front was the familiar figure of the Town Crier, Theophilus Mortimer on his tricycle and holding the British Ensign on a long pole.

In the evening all the places of worship had thanksgiving services and were filled.

The Council had earlier in the day decided that bonfires should be lit in the evening and the ruling concerning blinds and curtains being closed should be relaxed. However it was pointed out that the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) was still in place and the Council, being law abiding citizens, reluctantly reversed their earlier decision.

Nigel Hyman

Sidmouth in 1918

I knew that my paternal grandmother Gertrude Morrish was helping the war effort as a munitionette in Birmingham and that my paternal grandfather Arthur Morrish was serving abroad but what was Sidmouth like then? The Sidmouth Herald and Directory had recorded local news about life in 1918 Sidmouth and it would be my guide.

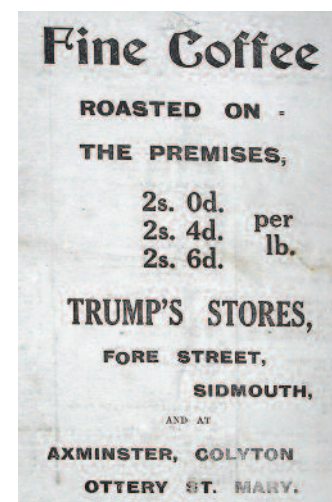
The front page of the 1918 Sidmouth Herald and Directory had a timeless picture of Sidmouth, from Salcombe Hill, as well as large boxed adverts for local businesses. With shop names that I remember from my 1950's childhood, such as Bickwell Valley Dairy, Veales grocers, Hinton Lake and Son:Chemists, Trumps grocers and John Field and Son. Inside the newspaper there was a list of residents and visitors for the town -centre streets, rather like a directory. The town appeared to be functioning as normal yet there were small columns of print which listed the Military and their exercise orders for that week, these took place in the drill hall, for example the 5th Volunteer Battalion's Company parade on Thursday 17th January. However the Roll of Honour, printed within a large box, respectfully showed the names of the soldiers and sailors of Sidmouth who had given their lives in the WWI. Another reminder of war was a letter from Mr A C Drewe, Chairman Stanley S Selley, to the Clerk of the Council informing the Clerk that

"Butcher shops would close Monday and Tuesday of next week (21st and 23rd January) due to restrictions". In another box was printed the Railway Timetable and in a large column of print was information on allotment guidance. The allotment information was often illustrated and mentioned prizes for allotment growers.

Information of National news was printed in a column titled 'The War and Westminster' by A Soldier MP, an example was an article titled "A Great Speaker and his Qualities". Printed nearby was an article concerned with clothes for discharged men.

Another article relating to the war was about Sidmouth's Red Cross V A D Hospital at Peak House. "The hospital gratefully acknowledged gifts and loans from Mrs Coleridge, Mrs Blake Bardekin and Mrs Page". Also an article which mentioned the National Egg Collection by Mr G Page, in Tipton, Sidbury, Sidford, Salcombe Regis and Branscombe. In another article relating to the war "Sidmouth and Salcombe Regis War Workroom" with the names of Mrs Tindall and Miss Barber, Mrs Gray, Miss Foudripler, Mrs Ward (Sidford) and Sir John Dunn mentioned.

An article which demonstrated that times in Sidmouth were different, was a Notice of Audit by the Sidmouth Food Control Committee, which stated that "The accounts were to be examined and audited at the Council Offices, Castle House on Thursday 26th September at 10am. Copies of the said accounts, bills, vouchers and receipts would be deposited at the Council Offices and be open for inspection during office hours. Also mentioned was the Household Fuel and Lighting Order 1918.



The people of Sidmouth were going about their lives by keeping to their norm and the newspaper supported this. For example the works of Stephen Reynolds the author, were advertised on the front page of the Sidmouth Herald and Directory. These books were obtainable from Culverwells Library. The Bickwell Valley Dairy advertised Devonshire Cream, Honey and Butter, local produce for tea-time treats. The people of Sidmouth also managed to donate gifts of fresh fruit, vegetables and fish to the Victoria Cottage Hospital.

Entertainments were being advertised to keep spirits high, as seen in the Sid Vale Association advert for a lecture by the Rev Cornish titled 'Land Holding in Olden Times'. The Cinema was showing films, some with military themes such as 'The Red Ace' and 'The





Submarine Eye’ as well as dramas such as ‘Sally Bishop’. There were however warnings about catching ‘Flu in crowded places such as cinemas

On 11th November came the news of the armistice. There were thanksgiving services in all of the churches in Sidmouth. An article by ‘A soldier MP’ spoke of “the news which thrilled the heart of the nation”.

On 23rd November a public meeting was held regarding a War Memorial. A society named ‘Comrades of the Great War’ suggested that the returning servicemen should decide on the Memorial.

Finally in December was an advert from the Navy, for fisherman which stated “Start Bay closed”. This information had been classified and secret four weeks earlier.

Peace had returned.

Norma Cox

Sidmouth's First World War Memorials

The architect Robert William Sampson came to Sidmouth in 1891 and lived here until his death in 1950. He designed much of what we see in the town today – not only housing developments, but also commercial and other development within the town centre.

Sidmouth’s WW1 memorials have recently been identified as the work of Sampson.

He designed two memorials – one to record the fallen (the town memorial in the churchyard) and the other to assist servicemen returning from the front (the War Memorial Club, now renamed the 1922 Club).

A temporary war memorial was established after the war on the Three Cornered Plot whilst ideas for a permanent monument were formulated. Robert Sampson put forward a suggestion that a Celtic cross should be erected in the churchyard. His first sketch was published in the Sidmouth Herald on 24th May 1919 and showed the memorial located alongside the church tower, to the right of the church entrance.

Although a different location in the churchyard was eventually chosen,



Opening of the War Memorial Club by General Sir John Hart Dunne

Sampson’s original design was maintained. The completed memorial occupies a far more prominent site than originally intended, very much a focal point when viewed from Church Street.

It was almost 2 years before the memorial was erected. In reporting the unveiling ceremony on 20th February 1921, the Sidmouth Herald remarked that the monument comprised “...a magnificent granite column on a most substantial base, from designs prepared by Mr. Sampson, carried out by Messrs. Easton & Co of Exeter”.

The idea of a war memorial club for returning servicemen was also promoted by the Sidmouth Herald. On 20th March 1920 the Herald published Sampson’s sketch proposals for a Servicemen’s Institute. The site chosen was on Church Street, occupied by a building known as the Retreat and Sampson proposed extensions to incorporate reading, recreation and billiard rooms.

There was a great deal of fund raising to get the scheme off the ground. The existing building was acquired in August 1920 for £1,000, and Sampson’s alterations were to cost a further £478. The final opening ceremony took place on 22nd June 1922 (hence the present name of the 1922 Club). In offering opening remarks at the ceremony, William Hastings said “great praise was due to Mr. R. W. Sampson for the splendid work he has done in connection with the alterations to the building and the interest he has taken in the matter”.

Sampson’s preliminary sketch shows a rather grand design for the building. It featured a Venetian window set in a gable facing Church Street and towers surmounted with cupolas were to define each corner of the building. In the event, this elaborate detailing was omitted, probably as a result of economy measures. The completed building is more restrained in character, incorporating a single eaves line with a simple parapet wall detail.

The two memorials are both classed as listed buildings because of their architectural and historic interest. The formal listing description for the town war memorial states that it was designed by Robert William Sampson, describing him as a prominent local architect.

Martin Mallinson (Sampson Society)

(More can be found out about the grand opening of the 1922 club by General Sir John Hart Dunne in the museum exhibit.)

The other War memorials in the Sid Vale (not Sampson design) are at Salcombe Regis and Sidbury whilst the church in Sidford has tablets inside commemorating the fallen.



A few notes from the museum

People volunteer to help at the museum in all sorts of roles. Here are a few examples of what they do. If you can help, please get in touch either by email to museum@sidvaleassociation.org or call into the museum.

Why I work as a museum steward volunteer

Life in Sidmouth took an unexpected turn when in May 2017, my neighbour (Sylvia G) spoke of the pleasure she receives from her long serving role as a steward at the Museum. After my initial meeting with Christine whom I shadowed for the day (or rather half day) I was hooked as it fulfilled my wishes; to learn more about the history of Sidmouth, to meet new people and to engage in conversation with visitors to our lovely town and valley.

- Meeting people, introducing them to the delights of the Museum and giving them as much or as little information as they care to have are the delights of being a volunteer steward at the museum. The challenge for me is to recall information when required and not after the visitor has long departed. (Although when asked more obscure questions be it from the Triassic Period, 1850s or indeed the present day I should find the answer in our excellent books, pamphlets or photograph section.)
- Listening to visitors stories about what motivated them to visit the museum, their pleasure in the displays is intriguing; whilst learning the history of Sidmouth from informative experienced stewards gives me enormous personal satisfaction.
- Working with our well-informed stewards adds to my enjoyment of volunteering at the museum. Thank you all for your warm welcome and support, not to mention the welcome cup of tea and biscuit; it really is a delight to be part of such a team of kind and considerate people.

Marian Gadian

How I became a volunteer

Eight years ago, I decided that it was time to downsize and relocate to Sidmouth, a town with which I had become slightly familiar. I spent the winter settling into my house and exploring the area, but by the following spring I knew that if I was to become part of the community I should become a volunteer. The only Sidmouth resident known to me from early days was an active member of the Museum, so I decided to follow his example. One of my neighbours I discovered, was also a volunteer, so she arranged for me to be shown around and told what would be expected of me as a steward. My name was added to the list of relief stewards and as the season progressed, I steadily became more confident and competent as I was asked to fill gaps in the rota more regularly. I enjoyed the opportunities these sessions gave me, to meet and talk to both local residents and visitors, and by listening to experienced stewards to find out more about the history of the town and its many interesting buildings. The next year, I progressed to being a regular

on the stewards' rota and at the end of that season offered my services as Treasurer. I'm still there, still, among other things, a volunteer and the treasurer, and still enjoying the experience. Of course, I also joined the SVA and indicated that I would be willing to deliver magazines on a regular basis, so I can now add the magazine to my list of activities.

As a newcomer to the town, becoming a Museum and SVA volunteer, was, for me, the perfect way to meet people and feel part of the community.

Ann Jones

Work at the Young Adults Area of the Museum

I was delighted to discover this forward thinking museum has a hands-on experience for our young visitors. This has been provided over the years by a diligent, though small, team of volunteers guided by Tony, Ann T, Dorothy, Des and previously Jane (of the marvellous origami work.) The Young Visitors Team offer Saturday morning craft alongside those talented volunteers who deliver our special events throughout the summer holidays and half term holiday weeks. Thank you all for allowing me to join in.

We have had an extremely productive year both in terms of the young people who attended the all day events and those willing volunteers who expertly offered a high quality informative and enjoyable museum experience for both the children and their parents and grandparents.

The Range of Activities on offer supported by our Volunteers

These have included a wide range of exciting and educational events; learning more about ecology, as in Tuamor the turtle, playing with 1950s Toys and Board Games, the Red Rock Day experience where children developed their understand of the Triassic Period, constructed model volcanoes, explored and produced fossils, followed our dinosaur quizzes and "hatched" a mock dinosaur; on our Beach Day they made model rock pools, with a follow up Bees, Birds and Butterfly craft day.

Supplementing these all day events were a number of afterhours visits from local Beavers, Brownies and Cubs groups to learn about the Suffragette movement and the role of Sidmouth within it.



Examples of work created by our young visitors

All these events were enormous fun, delivered with great care and professionalism by our stalwart volunteers Tony, Des, Ann T, Ann J, Dorothy, Norma, Jane, Roger, Roger, Jackie, Monica and Rita. They were accompanied by two young Duke of Edinburgh students who worked quietly in the background preparing the material for the day as well as our two 6th formers who interviewed the children on their visit to our museum.

The importance of Outreach

We continue to visit the local primary schools in our outreach programme to inform local children about the purpose and educational value of the museum, its natural link to their school topic work and the important contribution the museum makes to life of Sidmouth and the Sid Valley.



In-school work with Museum input for Year 5's Victorian Sidmouth ice houses topic work

The programme of events included Victorian style dressing up costumes, Edwardian spinning tops or peg dolls to make, drawing Sidmouth's ice house (pre-electricity) and again for their topic on Electricity the children each made a lighthouse collage with the help of museum volunteers.

All this work enhances the children's learning experience. We are extremely grateful to Mrs

Fegan (Head of Teaching and Learning) Mrs Leah Crawford (Year 5/6) and the staff for accommodating us during our visits to the school. We look forward to working closely with the children in the coming months. Thank you all.

Sadly after many years of organising the Saturday Morning Activities, Tony has decided to take a less active role. We are incredibly grateful to Tony for all his work and wish to thank him for his enthusiasm and creativity over the years – his input will be missed.

In the interim Dorothy and I shall continue to run the Saturday morning club and also to organise the winter programme of events for the children.

A plea for volunteers to work with children in the Young People's Area

However we shall need volunteers to join us to help to run the mid week school holiday events (Wednesday of October half-term holiday) and again in the Easter school holidays. It is great fun and very rewarding. Once you start you will not want to stop!

If you do join us you will find we are very friendly and welcoming. We are open to new creative ideas and suggestions to enhance the knowledge and participation of young visitors who come to our museum. (You are also welcome to pop over for a quick chat when you see us in the Young People's Area.) Here's to a very successful year in 2019 with your support.

Marian Gadian

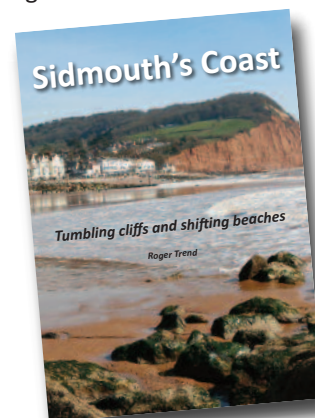
Volunteering for Museum Geo-things

I started to get involved in geology activities at the Museum when I moved to Sidmouth in 2011. Previously I had spent 20 years teaching, followed by another 20 years as an Earth science specialist in university education departments. I had known Bob Symes for 10 years, since we had worked together on a project concerned with geological time. Needless to say, Bob enthusiastically invited me to get involved. So I did, starting with some of the Wednesday afternoon geology walks.

I soon realised that the Museum allowed me to indulge my interests in Earth science education in other ways. I enjoy researching and writing on Earth science matters, so I proposed to SVA a short booklet on Sidmouth's geological past to accompany the geo-walk: they kindly let me write *Sidmouth Rocks*. I also developed some geo-activities to engage Museum young visitors in "gold" panning and in building and erupting their own volcanoes. Great fun.

I have been coming to the folk festival for over 40 years so I could see ways in which the museum could get involved. I suggested to my daughter, a professional musician, that we combine local geology and folk music: Sidrocks Project was the result, now in its sixth year. Emma wrote 6 brilliant geo-songs with very catchy tunes, now kindly published by SVA as *Sidrocks Songbook*. It's a one-day event on the Wednesday of Folk Week. Participants spend the morning learning the geo-songs, with an optional ukulele workshop. In the afternoon we do the geo-walk, stopping at 6 points along the Esplanade and singing the appropriate geo-song.

I have had an interest in hydrology ever since I did 2 years hydrological research ages ago. The River Sid has a distinctive hydrological story to tell: it's of manageable size,



familiar to many and is very flashy (it rises quickly after a rainstorm). So I proposed a booklet. Again, SVA generously allowed me to write *Sidmouth's River*, launched in July this year on the 50th anniversary of the 1968 floods and selling nearly half the print run in 2 days! The hydrological behaviour of the Sid is influenced by climate, geology, slopes, soils and land-use of the catchment, so I researched all these aspects and more: most enjoyable. Many people were generous in their time and expertise, providing photographs, anecdotes, technical information and all-round sound advice.

Sidmouth's Coast, my next booklet, is due out soon. I recommend geo-volunteering at the Museum.

Roger Trend

(Roger will be presenting 'Rocks, Rivers and Coast: selected episodes from Sidmouth's deep past', with a subtitle of... 'Pivotal events of the past 500 million years which have created Sidmouth's landscapes' on March 13th as the Bob Symes memorial lecture at 2.30pm at the Manor Pavilion.

Conservation and Planning

The group does not meet often, but corresponds regularly to maintain an overview of planning applications or other issues which might affect the Valley. We have commented on, or objected to a few smaller applications, but there are two issues which still concern us.

Sidford Employment Site

At the time of writing in late September, EDDC had still not decided on the planning application by Fords for a new employment site in Sidford. As you will perhaps remember, the land is allocated in the Local Plan for such a use, as a result of an Inspector accepting its need despite overwhelming opposition from nearby residents, Sidmouth Town Council and the SVA, amongst others. Fords submitted an application last year, which was rejected. But they submitted a revised application earlier this year with slightly amended "Use" criteria, and a smaller footprint. Again, there were numerous objections, and East Devon District Council have yet to decide the outcome. We objected strongly. There continues to be considerable opposition to Ford's application

Drill Hall

East Devon District Council have given notice that they intend to seek tenders for the Drill Hall and its site. The submission date for Tenders is 4th February 2018. They have given any Community Interest Groups three months advance notice so that any such groups can start to prepare early, (started late July). From the recently sent out questionnaires asking for member's views on the future of the Drill Hall of the 550 questionnaires returned so far, about 290 had of these had no view on its future, and the remainder were split about equally between those who wished to retain it and those who wished to demolish it. The Conservation and Planning Committee deliberated at some length on the issue as did the SVA Management Committee. This is our considered view:

The SVA continues to be in favour of a whole-scale plan that develops the Port Royal area in its entirety. In the absence of such a way forward and of any other proposals regarding the Drill Hall site, the SVA favours the refurbishment of the Drill Hall and prefers its retention for primarily community use. The SVA will continue to monitor the developing situation closely.

There is a Community Interest Group, (the Sidmouth Sunrise Community Interest Company) who we understand are promoting a bid to refurbish the Drill Hall, but the SVA are playing no practical part in this.

Richard Thurlow

Notes from Soldiers Hill

A very poor year for grass. The hot summer and very low rainfall meant yield was low. The tenant farmer managed to get one cut of poor quality hay. Not only that the badgers in their quest for worms have dug up large swathes of grass which will have to be rolled and possibly replanted.

Although owned by the SVA, these fields are rented out and as such, should be regarded as private land. We would ask again that all walkers stay on the official footpath. Dog poo should be bagged and taken

away. (There is a bin in the adjoining Recreation field).

Plastic bags and rubbish left in the field create major problems if they become harvested with the grass. It can be ingested by cattle in the hay and create major veterinary problems and expense.

One of the more interesting trees in the central hedge is the silver birch tree. It has a very artistic display of "witches' brooms", dense masses of shoots which are most commonly caused when the tree is stressed either by pest, disease or fungal attack. This upsets the hormone balance and bundles of twigs appear from one central point giving a broom like appearance. Interestingly, there seem to be several ways of spelling before you all leap to your dictionaries!

Richard Huntington

Wow! That's a big wasp!

Out in the garden, in late spring, I decided to do some work in a part that we don't use very often. Whilst working by the hedge I was buzzed by a flying creature with black and yellow stripes and a noise like a Lancaster bomber.

It must be a queen wasp I thought, but when I looked closer it was brown around its middle and larger. It was a European hornet.

I watched it and it cruised around seemingly watching me and then went into the hedge and into a hole at the base of a tree stump. It was forming a nest.

I know that hornets have a nasty sting but it didn't seem to mind my presence so I left it alone and continued with my work. Live and let live.

It is a very large relative of the Common Wasp and



The European Hornet which is common in the UK

lives mostly in woodland, parkland and gardens. Queen Hornets emerge from hibernation in spring and start to build their nests by chewing up wood – these ‘paper’ nests are often made in hollow trees, or in cavities in buildings. Inside the nest, sterile workers hatch and look after the new young produced by the queen. At the end of summer, reproductive males and queens develop and leave the nest to mate. The males and previous queen die, and the new females hibernate, ready to emerge next spring and start the cycle again. Hornets catch a wide variety of invertebrates, mainly to feed to their larvae; they feed themselves on high-energy substances like nectar and sap.

This has been a very good year for them and they have been seen everywhere. Certainly here in Salcombe Regis, despite attempts to reduce their numbers, there are plenty around. It is fascinating to watch them hunt, both at night and in the daytime. In our garden, which we have planted for insects, I have watched them hover around large clumps of flowers checking out all the insects also feasting on the nectar. When a suitable one is noticed it is seized upon and taken away to be consumed or fed to its brood in the nest.

I have concluded that they are a bit short sighted as they seem to have to get up quite close in order to see properly. Hence the stooping around when they spotted me. I have also seen them in Allotment Field Woods feeding on sap leaking from an oak tree and sitting on the railings of our decking and scraping slivers of wood to construct the nest. They are beautiful creatures but unfortunately not to be trusted, since it is their decision whether to sting or not and that is based on whether you are perceived by them to be aggressive.

A colleague of mine was running down his garden and accidentally ran into one, which perceived this as an act of aggression and stung him.

Watch out if you are planning to pick up fallen fruit, as in Autumn the queens stock up on sugar from rotten fruit as well as nectar from plants, prior to hibernation. However they are useful garden pest killers and very handsome creatures.

A word of warning about the Asian Hornet

The Asian Hornet has been seen in this country in several places in the South West.

It is a little smaller than its native cousin the European Hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. But it does pose a very serious risk to honey bees.

If spotted it should be reported to Defra. It is more aggressive than the native hornet and thrives on honeybees and other insects. It is a bit smaller than the native hornet with blacker rather than brown markings and distinctive yellow legs. For excellent identification information, please visit the British Beekeepers Association website at bbka.org.uk where you can download or view a leaflet that shows the easily identified features of the Asian Hornet.



Asian Hornet

Richard Huntington

A garden in the Sid Valley – four years on

(A continuation of an article that first appeared in 2014)

The last few years have been spent completely re-landscaping our garden, a difficult site on a steep slope but we persevered in this Herculean task. This year however, has been extremely challenging. After a terribly wet winter we had a cold spring and now a hot and very dry summer. We’ve had the usual battles with insects that all gardeners must deal with. Caterpillars from the Cabbage White Butterfly have been a problem and we pick them off when we see them. They seem to have a liking for rose leaves this year. Last year it was the Japonica but the long hot summer has also shown us that we have not always put plants in the best situation. Our hydrangeas, so lovely last year, have just died, even though they were in the front garden, which is north-east facing. We will move them to another part of the shadier front garden for protection next year. When we returned from a week away in July our potted fig trees were very distressed-shrunk fruits and withering leaves but we have saved them, and they are now rapidly growing new figs. Our summer is not long enough for these to mature.



Heavy plum crop

They will go in the ground next winter, but we will restrict their roots with sunken slabs to ensure that they put their energies into figs not leaves. Soft fruit has been abundant apart from the raspberries, normally an easy fruit to grow, they have died on us twice, probably because of the heavy clay despite the compost we gave them. We have had bumper crops of plums. One of the great pleasures of summer is picking Victoria plums. Any doubts I had about our second plum tree-Jubilee- have gone. The fruits, darker than Victoria, are large and incredibly sweetly succulent. The plum was developed in Sweden some years ago and is perfect for our variable climate. As they are still young we have watered them well during the dry weather. The apples and pears are looking good at the time of writing. Our garden in the beautiful Sid Valley continues to give us pleasure all year round. As with all gardens it is gradually evolving and that is part of the joy of gardening.

Sheridan Ralph

Blue Plaque Syndrome: A new disorder

Richard Thurlow has mentioned the subcommittee’s task on page 3. Our meetings have been frequent and long, although surprisingly good natured. Most have been in Julia’s delightful house on the front, Connaught House, with spectacular views seawards.

John McCarthy has reminded us on several occasions that a Mr and Mrs Scroggins, who are on holiday and know little of our local history, should find the plaques to be of general interest and pass the ‘so what? test. I’m fairly certain that I don’t know the couple but they are constantly in my mind and it may be possible, such is their undoubted importance, for them to unveil one of the new plaques.

The constant exposure to the task has unfortunately taken its toll. We have started to hallucinate about Blue Plaques in the day and to dream about them at night. We bore those closest to us with obscure questions such as whether 'nefarious' is a comprehensible word for a plaque text. Our speech patterns have changed and we talk in short bursts lasting only 115 words – the maximum allowed for the plaque.

A number of new words are necessary to describe this unusual new psychological syndrome.

Plaquate *Verb* An apologetic response to an angry resident whose request for a plaque has been turned down. It should be noted that the SVA HQ, despite the building having been a famous general store, does not have a plaque. It has been agreed to consider one in 2044, assuming the process is every 26 years.

Plaquelustre *Adjective* Used to describe the dull worn surface on the old plaques. Some had a crazed appearance, an apt description of those emerging from a three hour subcommittee meeting.

Plaquerout *Noun* A temporary loss of consciousness due to prolonged discussion about a plaque text. Generally, on recovery, another plaque is now being discussed.

Plaquadaisical *Adjective* Careless or indifferent about the word count or grammar on the plaque.

Fortunately our chairperson is not plaquadaisical.

Plaqued off *Adjective* Tired, fagged out.

Generally follows reading all 63 plaque texts and chapters.

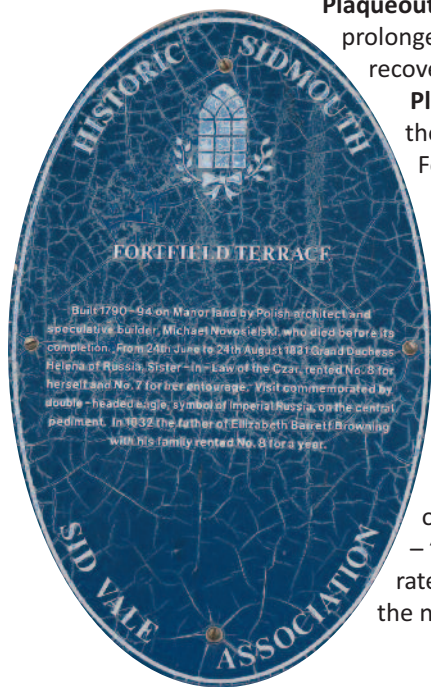
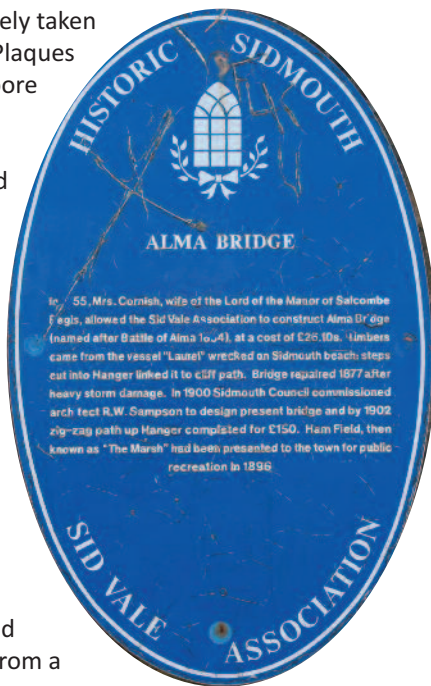
Plaquid *Adjective* Feeling peaceful and calm after reading all 63 plaques texts and chapters.

No definite example known.

Implaquable *Adjective* When member of committee refuses to change mind about his or her wording on the text. Almost never occurs.

'A plaque on all your houses' *Phrase* Origin obscure and thought to derive from *Romeo and Juliet* – 'A plague on both your houses'. It means that if the rate of blue plaques continues to increase then within the next century no house in the town will be plaqueless.

Nigel Hyman



The War on Plastic

One hundred years after the end of WW1, we find ourselves facing a war of a completely different kind. One that has been self created and one that we will probably not see the end of in our lifetime. The SVA is only too aware of the excessive use of plastic and its disposal. Living by the sea, we can see the direct result of discarded plastic and rubbish on the beach, relentlessly washing up and left day after day. The museum runs childrens events on plastic awareness and hold projects in conjunction with the Tuamor the Turtle book. Sidmouth in Bloom organise their Beach Combers.

Although the SVA is not involved with the following, it seems appropriate to show one person's mission to clean up all the rubbish and help keep our beautiful valley plastic free. Local resident Denise Bickley writes:

Sidmouth Plastic Warriors urge residents to 'Adopt A Spot'

Our local band of Plastic Warriors have started a new scheme in order to get local people to take ownership of a small area of Sidmouth. The idea has been dreamt up by the Chair of the Warriors, (myself!) who has created an online map to show which areas have been 'adopted'.

"The aim is to fill up the map and make it look like a patchwork – in that way the whole of Sidmouth and the local area will be kept free of plastic pollution, which, in a coastal community like ours, can easily end up blowing into a drain or river and leading to the sea. If it doesn't get that far, and if no-one picks it up, it will be covered by leaves and mud very soon, and leach pollution into our ground water over time, damaging humans and wildlife for generations to come. This is a simple way to get everyone to just do a little bit which seems less daunting than the whole town."

There is no responsibility on anyone to maintain the area they adopt – it is purely a voluntary scheme to ask people to walk the local area and litter pick maybe once a fortnight, to keep on top of it. Litter breeds litter and a neglected area soon gathers more rubbish than ever.

Sidmouth Plastic Warriors was founded in January of this year and so far has 368 members on Facebook, with another hundred or so non-Facebookers who have turned up for at least one of the monthly beach or street cleans that have been organised. Denise is also the Regional Representative for Surfers Against Sewage, and along with her committee have obtained 'Plastic Free Status' for Sidmouth. "This is just a baseline accreditation for us – we are pushing to achieve a lot more in the town, to avoid our



beautiful coastline being polluted. We believe in acting locally to make changes globally and are starting to see real progress. Any new members are very welcome.”

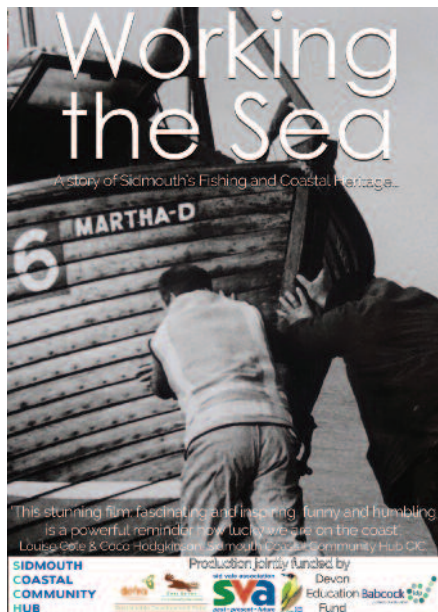
Other plans in the pipeline for the Warriors are assisting local schools to obtain Plastic Free School status and raising awareness of the plastic pollution within cigarette butts. Tossed on the ground, they end up in drains and inevitably end up in the sea.

Join up by emailing Denise on info@sidmouthplasticwarriors.org or visiting the website sidmouthplasticwarriors.org/adopt-a-spot/ or search for Sidmouth Plastic Warriors on Facebook.

Denise Bickley

Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub

Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub is a community social enterprise who work in the community to bring ideas and innovation through projects and events. Sidmouth Sea Fest is an example of our collaborative working with a wide range of local organisations, producers and groups who are or want to celebrate and share their connections with the sea. One of our aims is to bring alive the fishing heritage of Sidmouth and its surrounds through engaging people through stories. We wanted to contribute to the telling of our fishing heritage through a film. Film is such an open way to connect with people of all ages and in many ways. With the help of funding received from the Sid Vale Association we were able to produce “Working the Sea”, a film about Sidmouth’s fishing heritage from between the wars. It includes the role of writer and social commentator Stephen Reynolds, until the present day. Through personal stories, it touches on the changes in fishing and the coastal



landscape and brings us up to date as we meet some contemporary users of the beach. ‘Working the Sea’ tells the story of Sidmouth’s fishing heritage by following one resilient family, the Bagwells, from the war years onwards through romance and tragedy. As the women in the family pick up the pieces, it also weaves contemporary users of the coast (from the lifeboat to the sailing club) into the narrative. Ultimately this is a film about community spirit and how a mutual love of and respect for the sea draws people together. ‘This stunning film: fascinating and inspiring, funny and humbling is a powerful reminder how lucky we are on the coast’ We were lucky to work with Butterfly Effects Film and their Director of Photography Simon Vacher, Narrator Tara Griefenberg, Editor Simon Vacher, the film was written, directed &

produced by Jo Stewart-Smith.

We have received lots of very positive comments about the integrity, quality and powerful storytelling people have enjoyed watching the film. Many have commented that they didn’t realise the fisher heritage of Sidmouth previously. The impact has been to make local history accessible and to connect many more people to the coast positively. We were very conscious that we wanted lots of organisations to take part – watch the film to see how the role of the Lifeboat and the Surf Life Saving club for example connect young people to this story.

“Working the Sea” is available to everyone via SCCH’s YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hydX8ojVJMg> as we wanted it to be shared by the community, we have also produced a DVD of the film (available to buy from the museum). Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub are grateful for the visionary support we received from the SVA Keith Owen Fund and East Devon AONB, without whose grants we would not have been able to make this film.

Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub Directors are Coco Hodgkinson, Kay Davies, Mary Bagwell and Louise Cole. More information about SCCH can be found via the website <http://sidmouthcoastalcommunityhub.org/>

Louise Cole, Director Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub

Sidmouth Arboretum

Although not part of the SVA, the work of the arboretum is of interest as the Keith Owen has part funded their tree trail leaflets.

A visitor wrote to me “My husband and I visited Sidmouth last week and followed the Tree Trail Guide for a second time (first done in August 2016). Walking southwards through The Knowle we think we identified an Indian Horse Chestnut, this was on the left of the main drive, just above the car park. Are we correct? It is disappointing that none of the fine trees around the town are labelled, and lots of them don’t get a mention in the guide. Is there a group within the town that would take this task in hand? We feel this it is a missed opportunity.”

An opportunity we will take up this winter: starting with the mature trees in Knowle Park, Blackmore Gardens, (with the agreement of the District Council) before moving on to work with Friends of the Bays to label some the trees mentioned in the Tree Trail leaflet, and also, the nearby magnificent holm oaks and sweet chestnut near Hunters Moon Hotel.

The labels will state common name, Latin name, tree number, and QR code for link to website with notes and photos of the tree and its history. Each will be attached with a single hole for metal nail and washer/spring which allows the tree to expand while retaining the label in place, positioned at eye level so easy to read. You are welcome to come to our **CELEBRATION OF TREES** on Friday 30 November at 6.30pm in the cellar bar at Kennaway House.



Diana East

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 opposite (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 magazines, annual reports 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

Sidford Social Hall

The Sidford Social Hall originated as a rifle range prior to the Great War. It is fortunate that all the minutes taken from past committee meetings still exist; they make fascinating reading.

The hall has been extended and improved over the years always being run by members of the community for the benefit of the whole community. The hall now offers a large multi-function area with a stage, kitchen and toilet facilities, storage and car-parking.



Further details of the hall can be found by visiting www.devonvillagehalls.co.uk and searching for "Sidford".

Nowadays the hall is used extensively on weekdays by regular groups which hire it for their activities, including pre-school, badminton, W.I., short-mat bowls, whist, folk dance, table tennis, carnival club, zumba and model railway group. At weekends, the hall may be hired for private functions.

It has been run as a registered charity since 2003 and the present committee are keen to ensure that it offers a clean, safe, pleasant and up-to-date facility for the residents of Sidford and the surrounding area.

Over the last three years, the ladies, gents and disabled toilets have been refurbished to a high standard. Bouyed up by the success of those three projects, the committee decided it was time to refurbish the kitchen, which was last done about 30 years ago. The furniture and fittings were in obvious need of replacement.

The hall committee drew up plans and sought quotes from local contractors. It was soon realised that the cost of the refurbishment would seriously deplete the hall's available funds, leaving little for emergencies, and so applications for grants were made.

After successfully applying to the Keith Owen fund and with added financial help from Sidmouth Town Council there was less than half of the cost to find from its own funds. The committee was then able to ask the chosen contractor to carry out the work.

The completed project was handed back by the contractor on Friday 10th August 2018, several days earlier than planned. Everyone involved is very pleased with the end result. The hall committee thanked the SVA and Sidmouth Town Council for their much-needed help. Alan Clarke, from the KOF, pictured presenting the cheque said: "The SVA's Keith Owen Fund takes much pleasure in supporting local voluntary organisations to reach their goals."



Alan Clarke, from the KOF, in the new kitchen

Peter Eagles



The Sidholme Organ Restoration

Question – What do a cardboard crown, a railway worker's cap, a trilby hat and an empty (shame) Smartie tube have in common?

Answer – The 1855 Gray & Davison pipe organ (finger and barrel) installed in the Ballroom of Richmond Lodge by the 6th Earl of Buckinghamshire for the Countess Maria Isabella.

These various items were discovered during the renovation of this fine instrument that took place over 2014/2015. Small wonder that it didn't work very well!



There were quite a few repairs needed; metal, wood and leather work as well as a few improvements. As the organ was to be used by schools, it was felt that internal lighting and perspex panels to enable the 'action' to be viewed would be beneficial. Sadly, all trace of the barrels had disappeared, apart from the fixing points.

The Sidholme Organ Friends was set up to raise funds to restore the organ. Many concerts were held to raise funds to pay for the repairs. Local instrumentalists, singers, choirs, school musicians readily agreed to share their talents and audiences gathered for a series of concerts – Sunday afternoons proving to be popular.

Bucket collections and donations provided the £15,000 required, including a generous grant from the Keith Owen Fund. The work to restore the organ to its former glory was carried out by Michael Farley of Colyton Raleigh.

The story doesn't end here, though.

During the work it was discovered that the front pipes had not always been painted beige.

Originally the pipes had been Lapiz Lazuli blue with decorative patterns in red, white and gold (leaf).

Show of hands polls at concerts indicated a desire to restore the original. Fundraising continued and an additional £4,700 was raised; a specialist artist – Alison Henham from Ottery St. Mary being employed.

There is still some work to be done on the decorative freezes but research is needed to ensure that the appropriate colours are used.

The result, speaks for itself. Many readers will have already viewed and some will have played the Organ but if not, walk up Elysian Fields and visit Sidholme's treasures.

Nigel Hyman, the SVA museum curator has researched and written a history of the



property – *From Richmond House to Sidholme* which is available from Sidholme Reception desk and Sidmouth museum.

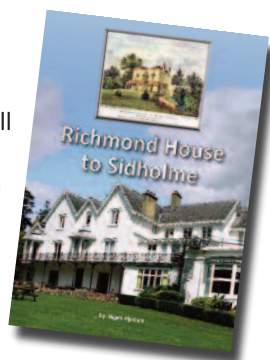
Sidholme is open to the public. Its brand new Yamaha Conservatoire grand piano is available for practise sessions as well as concerts. This also applies to the Organ.

The beautiful gardens offer a haven around which the Museum conducts 'history walks' and Sidmouth Arboretum do the occasional tour as there are many fine trees.

Do consider becoming one of the 'Friends of Sidholme Music Room' and/or join the 'Lost Garden in Elysian Fields' team.

For the second year running Sidholme has taken part in the national 'Heritage Open Days' programme, resulting in numerous new visitors to the Sid Valley. Sidholme is listed within Simon Jenkins book 'England's Best 1,000 Houses'.

It is the intention to ensure that the general public have maximum access to the gardens both during and after the restoration programme. It is also the aim for registration to be made with the Devon Gardens Trust. Similarly, as chandeliers in the Music Room are dismantled and subsequently re-assembled, there will be public viewing of the processes and an opportunity to meet David Wilkinson, who heads the team and holds a Royal Warrant for Glass Restoration.



John McGregor

Chairman – Friends of Sidholme Music Room

An Unexpected Gift

As the person who deals with on-line book orders for the Museum, I have occasionally received orders from overseas. One of these orders was from a former Sidmouthian called Mike, who emigrated to Australia many years ago, but who has returned to the town for holidays from time to time and who clearly holds happy memories of life in Sidmouth. The item he ordered from the Museum was one of the Long Print books, and we entered into email correspondence on the best way for him to pay for the postage costs a matter which we resolved quickly. Subsequently, he emailed a copy of a print of Sidmouth which a neighbour had given to him as a leaving gift. It was one I hadn't seen



before, but I wrote back and told him that he should treasure it as a reminder of his boyhood home and also as an interesting piece of social history – the picture showed cows grazing on what is now the triangle, with the church clearly recognisable in the background as well as other buildings. A very rural scene.

Mike recently visited the town as part

of a holiday during which he, with a friend, was visiting family members both in the south west and in other parts of the country and Scotland, perhaps for the last time. We arranged to meet at the Museum. To my surprise, after greeting me he told me had brought me a gift and that he was pleased to be able to add that it had survived the trip from Australia unscathed. I opened it immediately, of course, and inside the package was the print. He said he wanted it to come back to its home. So almost two hundred years after it first appeared, the print is now hanging in my Victorian home over the fire place, where it will remain and be treasured by me. I was relieved to learn that before setting out on his holiday, Mike had had the print copied, and the copy framed, and that is now hanging in his home in Australia. I hope it will continue to give him the pleasure that his gift has given me. He will be back home again soon, and I shall send him a photo of the original in its new home. I hope he approves. While in the museum, the item which Mike was determined not to miss was, of course, the original long print. I was delighted to be able to show it to someone who already knew so much about it and who, I knew, had read Julia Creeke's books very thoroughly.

Ann Jones

'Sidmouth' The Steam Train

I visited the SVA's new HQ in Fore Street during the Open Day in July, and was impressed by the quality of the refitting which had been undertaken and facilities it now offers the SVA. While I was checking out the white wine and cream teas on the second floor my eyes fell on the archives of the Sidmouth Observer. I was familiar with the Sidmouth Herald, which we all know and love, but I was not aware that back in the 40s and 50s Sidmouth had another weekly newspaper.

My interest lies in the restoration of the steam loco named Sidmouth which is being restored by Southern Locomotives Ltd in Swanage. I knew that the loco had been named when it visited our local station in 1946; would there be a report in the Observer, and would it tell me any more about the occasion than the Herald's report?

A few days later I arrived at 09:30 prompt to be led to the archives by Richard Barratt. Knowing the date of the naming event meant we could home in on the right volume and, low and behold, the 3rd July 1946 edition had a big feature on the "Powerful New Locomotive Named After Town".

I read the report and carefully took photographs of the article, which included more details than the Herald's. The massed ranks of Sidmouth's big-wigs were there, and



The only known photo of the naming ceremony; we can recognise the vicar, and we know that the driver was a loco man, Mr W E Dunn. You can just see the 'OU' on the loco's nameplate. The train which the loco hauled into the station included a restaurant car in which lunch was served to the guests.

likewise senior officers of the Southern Railway had come to town for the event.

The naming was performed by Mr Lancaster Smith, a senior councillor of the UDC. The vicar, Prebendary E F Ball, Colonel Balfour, Lt Col E C Cox, and many other well known residents were present. The railway was represented by Mr C Grasemann (Public Relations and Advertising Officer – the Southern Railway was a leader in corporate PR, e.g. the advertisement of the small boy talking to the engine driver with the slogan “I am talking an early holiday cos I know summer comes soonest in the south”), Mr A Turbett, Assistant Chief Mechanical Engineer, and several other senior officers. Sadly the loco’s designer, Oliver Bulleid, was not present; His father was from Devon but he had left the railway after nationalisation, which he opposed staunchly. Mr Bulleid subsequently retired to Exmouth where he was interviewed by Colyton resident Sean Day-Lewis, who was a journalist on the Telegraph. Sean later wrote a biography, “Bulleid – last giant of steam”.

Mr Turbett explained that 21C110 Sidmouth was an express locomotive designed to haul heavier trains between Waterloo and Exeter, which tells us why it never again ventured down the branch to Sidmouth station.

The General Manager of the Southern Railway was Sir Eustace Missenden, who sent a message of greetings to those present. The message was read by Lt Col E C Cox, who as well as being a local resident had retired from the railway where he was deputy to the previous General Manager Sir Herbert Walker.

Warm words were expressed by the railway and the town, who then adjourned for lunch in a restaurant car which Sidmouth had hauled into the station.

I was struck by the coincidence of E C Cox retiring to Sidmouth with another retired railwaymen, Mr E S Cox. The latter was deputy to Sir William Stanier, the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London Midland & Scottish Railway. He wrote a number of books on steam loco development; in the frontispiece of one he gives his address as Stoneleigh, Redwood Road. Did the Coxes ever meet? I don’t know, but if I find out I will let you know.

You can find out more about the restoration of Sidmouth at www.southern-locomotives.co.uk or by contacting me at nicksidmouth@gmail.com

Nick Thompson



34010 Sidmouth never returned to Sidmouth station though it ran through Sidmouth Junction (now called Feniton) many times. This photo was taken around noon on Saturday 11th July 1964 as it arrives in the junction station with a summer relief service. Several coaches from the rear of the train would then be detached by the tank engine on the right, and taken on to Sidmouth.

Photo: Neil Harvey collection

The View From The Attic

Attic: *a space or room under the roof of a house often used for storing things:*

But what sort of things? A load of old junk which hasn’t seen the light of day for years, trunks full of treasure, or, as in Jayne Eyre, a mad woman with unkempt hair and bloodshot eyes? The attic of Hope Cottage, the home of Sidmouth Museum, has all of this, except I don’t admit to the bloodshot eyes.

The acquisition of an office for the SVA in Fore Street and the transfer in 2017 of the newspaper archive, library and pictures from Hope Cottage to the new space meant a lot more room for the rest of the museum collection. The collection could be spread out, sorted, reorganised and made more accessible. As part of this grand plan I was assigned to organise the part of the attic which houses the Social History and Archaeology Collection. Consequently on two mornings a week, I am the woman in the attic.



The Albatross foot tobacco pouch

Social History and archaeology cover a multitude of things: teapots, toys, truncheons, canon balls, coins and coronation mugs all belong in there. The shelves are covered with cardboard boxes of assorted sizes. Some are labelled neatly with helpful words like ‘spectacles’, ‘shoe stretchers’, ‘swords’, while others are more vague with titles like ‘world of work’. Everything in there has a number and its details recorded on the computer but still it isn’t always easy to find things or even to know what is hidden in there.

Reorganising the collection has offered an opportunity to look at things which haven’t seen the light of day for many years and has provided many surprises.

One of the first boxes I opened was titled “Smoking”. It contained a collection of pipes, tobacco tins, cigarette packets, lighters and ashtrays and a strange leathery bag. Checking the details of this ‘bag’ on the computer I found it was an albatross’s foot believed to have been used as a tobacco pouch. Where it came from and why we have it in Sidmouth remains a mystery.

“Why on earth have we got this?” has become a familiar question in the attic. A china donkey decorated with “A Present from Whitley Bay”, an old horseshoe and a candle stick in the shape of a boy climbing a lamppost are just some of the many items which have found their way into the museum in the past. Today we are much more selective in what we accept. Items must be of real historical interest and relevant to Sidmouth and the surrounding area. Even some local items are of limited interest without their accompanying history. For instance this plaque (see photo) commemorates somewhere in Sidmouth.

Does anyone know where?



Not all the items are small enough to be packed in a box. Radios, model ships, tool boxes and oil lamps adorn some of the shelves. They are easy to see and identify. Other larger items hide their origins and worth. A rather scruffy worm eaten piece of roughly carved oak turned out to be a piece of panelling from St Peter's chapel which stood on the site of what is now Duke's Hotel. It probably dates from the 14th century and was displayed on the wall of the then Marlborough Hotel for many years. We hope that after some tender loving care we will be able to put it back on display. We know that many items in our care will never go on display but we hope that by organising them in an accessible way and changing our displays regularly you will be able to see more of our treasures.

Maureen Thurlow

Stephen Reynolds, a 100 year anniversary

February next year is the centenary of the death of this supremely talented but complicated man. For not much longer than a decade he was well-known locally and nationally as both an author and spokesman for the fishermen. It was an extraordinary but, sadly, short life. By the end of the 1920s he was largely forgotten except to those whom he had known personally. Born in Devizes in 1881 into a middle class family, his mother died when he was a small child and his father, who was a local alderman, remarried. His second wife had a holiday home in Sidmouth, Barrington Villa on Salcombe Road, and Reynolds came on summer visits. After leaving school he read chemistry in Manchester although his first love was literature, both reading and writing. His subsequent psychological problems, anxiety and depression, relate in part to his desire to leave his middle class background and, above all, his controlling unsympathetic father. Additionally he was aware of his homosexuality in an intolerant Edwardian age. In 1903 he came, penniless, to Sidmouth with vague ideas of a literary career. He was befriended by the Woolley fishing family and he learned to fish and mend nets. He spent the next two years dividing his time between Devizes and Sidmouth but in 1906 he made the final break and walked the 100 miles back to the Devon coast with his recently acquired Great Dane, Margot. He was offered accommodation in Bob Woolley's house in Bedford Square, behind the Bedford Hotel, and effectively became a member of the family.

In 1908 his book, *A Poor Man's House*, was published and was an immediate critical success and it remains in print. Suddenly Reynolds was a literary name known nationally. The book, written in the first person, describes his life with a fishing family and, although names are changed, there is no doubt he is writing about Sidmouth and the Woolleys. It is a moving testimony to the hardships and humour of the lives of local fishermen a



*Stephen Reynolds portrait
by Henry Lamb*

century ago. The following year he published another very fine book, *Alongshore*.

At much the same time he established himself as a spokesman for the local fishing community and was largely responsible in preventing the Manor from taking shingle from the beach. In the absence of a harbour a well maintained shingle beach was essential for the fishing vessels. He also designed a fishing boat with an inboard engine which, amongst other uses, could tow drifters to fishing fields. He was now writing informed and readable articles in the national press about the problems facing inshore fisheries. The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries recognized his potential and he headed an influential survey of fisheries in Devon and Cornwall and the subsequent report was to influence national policy for the next decade.

The outbreak of war in 1914 hastened implementation of many of the recommendations of the earlier report. Fear of a U-boat blockade meant that fish, so called 'free' food, were now a high priority. Ironically many fishermen were in the Royal Naval Reserve and were immediately called up. The remainder included some able bodied but also the very young, the older and the less fit. Reynolds became the Fisheries Inspector on SW Naval Command, responsible for a coastline of 750 miles. Devon and Cornwall were the two most important counties for inshore fishing and, combined with the extensive coastline, his post was the most onerous of all the Inspectors. His base was initially in his rooms in Bedford Square but from November 1916 he moved, with the Woolleys, to Hope Cottage (the present Museum) where he worked and lived on the first



Reynolds with Margot



*Reynolds and Woolley family group
(Reynolds second from right)*

floor. He had two loyal and excellent colleagues, Harold Wright and Harry Paynter; the latter became his partner. His wartime role was especially difficult as he had to enforce the Royal Naval regulations with respect to restricted fishing grounds and at the same time support the fishermen and do everything he could to prevent conscription after early 1916. His success was reflected in different ways. Fish, unlike meat, was never rationed. The Devon fishing industry survived the war years and,

importantly, flourished despite the loss of manpower. He was offered an OBE, a new award for Home Front contribution to the war effort, but politely turned it down.

In February 1919 Reynolds caught 'Spanish' influenza and died shortly afterwards. His granite gravestone is in the cemetery. He was only 37 years old.

A plaque suggested and funded by 'Devon Remembers WW1 Heritage' will be unveiled in November. He is included in an exhibition at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter; 'Devon Voices 1914-1918, Home Front Stories' which runs until January 6.

A new Reynolds exhibition will be part of the 2019 Museum programme. Also, early in the New Year, a fuller account of his life and work will be available: 'Stephen Reynolds, Author, Fisherman and Home Front Hero'.

One of Sidmouth's most significant former residents is belatedly achieving the recognition he deserves.



Nigel Hyman

Footpaths and Bridleways

The process of maintaining the footpaths and bridleways in the Sid Valley is on going. The last surveyors' reports identified 58 issues on paths of which 21 have been rectified. The range of work is varied from replacing waymarkers, repairing path surfaces, gates and stiles as well as clearing overgrowth

We also get requests from members of the public. One example was clearing the overgrowth in Laundry Lane Sidford. The photograph shows some of the team who carried out the clearing this included the P3 team and members of the Trail Bikers Federation. It took 9 volunteers just one hour to do the work. Laundry lane is a UCR

(unclassified road) and has now been surfaced and is a good link between Two Bridges Lane and England's Close Sidford although care has to taken because it is shared by all uses.

The surveyors will undertake their next inspections from October this year and their findings will be collated into next year's programme in January 2019.



This year the emphasis has been on accessibility especially for those with disabilities. In February 2018 a new British Standard was introduced for new paths which took account of The Disability Discrimination Act 2001, The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Equalities Act 2010, other Acts and also the views of interested organisations. The Byes is a good example of unrestricted access for all users from Sidford to Sidmouth town and coast.

The new path proposed between Sidford and Sidbury will need to comply with these regulations.

The first cut of the year to clear overgrowth has been carried out by the groundwork contractors and any additional work will undertaken by the P3 work party.

The Walking Festival took place in September and although started in rather heavy rain, there was a good response from both locals and visitors. A big thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it successful.

A recent job was the clearing of UCR Wootton Lane, Sidbury and the bridleway to and through Core Copse in preparation for the Sidbury Fair Equestrian Fun Ride which was held on Sunday 16th September. Much overgrowth to clear, a large pine tree to cut up and remove and removal of lower overhanging branches to a safe height for horse riders to pass under. The work continues.

Phil Bradbury

A New Footpath for the Sid Valley

Well known Sidmouth resident Richard Eley has come up with the idea of a new signed footpath for the Sid Valley. The intention is to provide a 13 mile route which encompasses all the best scenery and villages in the Sid Valley. Although making use of existing paths, some new fingerposts and signage will be needed.

It would not be new in the sense that it would create new rights of way, but would delineate a route which brings together some of the existing paths to give a new signed route through the valley. Starting at Port Royal, it takes a route along the Esplanade, up through Bickwell valley to East Hill Strips, through Sidbury on to Harcombe and back towards Trow, and the coast via Salcombe Regis before dropping down to Port Royal.

Richard has obtained the financial support of Sidmouth Town Council, and the Keith Owen Fund have agreed to match fund it. A small group has be formed to plan and organise the work consisting of Richard Eley, Jeff Turner of Sidmouth Town Council, Phil Bradbury of the SVA and Richard Thurlow. Jeff and Phil are already part of Parish Paths Partnership (P3) which looks after the paths in the valley for Devon County Council. The route and map will be available shortly.

Richard Thurlow

Patrick John Maxwell Stubbs, 1934-2018

Patrick was born in London, and moved with his family to South Africa in 1942. He developed a great love for the outdoors. A tall man, he often wore a happy smile. He returned to England in 1953, and entered the Royal Britannia Naval College as an officer cadet. On graduation, he saw service in the Royal Navy. In 1957 he married Anne, and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the mid-sixties.

Patrick went into teaching, his speciality being maths, and he enjoyed teaching secondary school pupils in Surrey. He was a great walker in the school holidays and recharged his 'batteries' along Offa's Dyke, or the South Downs Way, or in the Pennines.

Before coming to Sidmouth, Patrick and Ann had previously been involved with the Hindhead Residents Association, which made an impassioned protest against a planning proposal to drive an A3 dual carriageway across Hindhead Commons, and through the dramatic scenery of the Devil's Punch Bowl (NT). Patrick's appetite for conservation was sharpened, and he pressed for an alternative to be adopted. The HRA suggested a road tunnel diversion, thus ensuring the conservation of the AONB. (Patrick also stood as a candidate for the Green Party in Haslemere local council).

After arriving in Sidmouth in 1999 Patrick and Ann were quick to join the SVA. Patrick became Chairman of the SVA Woodlands and Estates team of volunteers from 2002, and a member of the Executive. He showed great care and concern for the natural world. He built up the working parties, which responded with enthusiasm. Together they did much in the SVA estates, conserving plants, trees, wild life - from bats and birds to butterflies, encouraging hedging and haymaking, sowing wild flowers, sheep grazing, pond restoration, and the maintenance of rural pathways and stairways in the Byes, in Salcombe Regis, and elsewhere.

Patrick resigned his leadership in 2012, to spend more time assisting Ann in domestic duties. They both regularly attended Sidmouth Parish Church and enjoyed family reunions with their children - James, Jeremy and Charlotte, and six grandchildren.

Patrick's funeral took place in Sidmouth Parish Church on August 1st. We remain deeply grateful for Patrick's personal care for the environment, assisted by the support he received from Ann, and his working groups. As a result, Sidmouth is a happier place for all to enjoy today. Thank you Patrick. Rest in peace.

Handel Bennett

As we go to press we learn that Anne Stubbs, Patrick's wife passed away on October 4th.



Patrick with Kate Tobin, planning conservation of Peaslands Knapp, after acquisition by SVA in 2010

Cottages Ornés

Despite the rather French name, the cottage orné is an architectural genre invented in England in the middle years of the 18th century. It spread rapidly to other parts of the British Isles and then to the Continent before arriving on distant shores such as Cape Colony, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Uniquely, it spans the entire social spectrum, from little cottages for members of the working class right up to large and elaborate examples for royalty. The heyday was the late-Georgian period, and Sidmouth is arguably now the best place in which to sample this delightful episode in Georgian taste. Roger White is a professional architectural historian specialising in the Georgian period, and his definitive book on cottages ornés was published in 2017 to uniformly warm reviews.



Wednesday 14th November 2018 – a two part event

Guided Walk by Nigel Hyman, Museum Curator, at 11am starting from the Sidmouth Museum, Church Street, followed at 2.30pm at the Manor Pavilion with a talk by Roger White on the cottages ornés of Sidmouth. Cost £5

SVA Excursions 2019

Excursion ticket costs were retained at £29.95pp for 2018. For 2019 this will now need to be slightly increased. The aim is to break even, or to make a small profit for the SVA.

Members have been very helpful in providing ideas for further Excursions for 2019, and beyond. Excursions for 2019 will be: please put them in your diaries!

May 15th – Abbotsbury Swannery and Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens (Bookings from 1st April – see booking form)

July 10th – Haynes Motor Museum and Mapperton House and Gardens. (Bookings from 1st June – the booking form will be in the Annual Report)

September 11th – Athelhampton House and Gardens and Langham Estate Vineyard with Wine Tastings (please bring sturdy footwear!)

We have been asked to think of 5 Year Plans at the SVA. For SVA Excursions I have said: To continue to provide and improve Excursions for those who enjoy them; seek further ways to gain the views of members as to future locations; to consider a broad range of Excursions and locations to meet members interests and expectations. I hope that is ok!

Look forward to seeing you on an Excursion, or two, in 2019.

Stephen Pemberton

A note from a happy traveller on the last SVA excursion to Pencarrow. Join us on the next one to Abbotsbury

Postcard from Padstow

A pleasant drive with lots of information on what the day would bring and then we were there!

Yes we were in Padstow, an attractive small town clustered beside an interesting harbour on the Camel Estuary.

And opportunities galore to explore and stretch our legs or shop or feast at one (of the many) Rick Stein establishments. Some managed to do a bit of everything. I explored to my heart's content then, armed with a takeaway latte, sat on a bench and observed the world of fellow travellers and natives. In true English fashion we tried hard not to crowd our neighbours or observe too closely as the full gamut of seaside cuisine was being consumed with enthusiasm – fish & chips, Cornish pasty, ice cream, biscuits (locally sold but locally made?) and low fat yogurt with a corner portion of brightly coloured stuff being eaten by a middle aged couple stoically making an effort. A number of dogs of different varieties displayed some lack of reserve but were kept well in check by their owners. After the interlude we were back on the coach and off to Pencarrow House. There our excellent guide, Mandy, showed us around while sharing its most interesting history. And you will never guess but the *history of the naming of the monkey puzzle tree was retold and attributed to Pencarrow House on the very next Gardeners' Question Time! So it must be true.

A cream tree was included (of course!) and there followed a stroll around the beautiful grounds before we were back to the coach again for a gentle drive home.

A lovely day out indeed.

**A friend of the family was being shown the grounds. They came upon a tree then thought to be a Chilean pine. "Goodness me!" said the guest "A monkey would be puzzled to climb that tree!"*

Paula Hughes

Otters spotted!

In the Summer Magazine, I asked for information on the family of otters which we are lucky enough to have on our river. I am pleased to have had reports that otters have been seen at Fortescue and also near the Sidcliffe areas.

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

Any news of anything unusual spotted on the river, please contact me.

The flood exhibition held at Kennaway, commemorating 50 years since the great flood of Sidmouth was a great success. There will be an account of this +photos in the AGM report.

*Peter Brookes river warden
river@sidvaleassociation.org.uk*

Gala Concerts for SVA Members in the Sidholme Music Room for 2019

Sid Vale Association in Collaboration with Sidholme

Recital by Lorraine Low, John Brindley, with Dorothy Worthington at the piano

Tuesday 7th May – 2.30-4.30pm

Tuesday 8th October – 2.30-4.30pm

These are Fund Raising Gala Concerts for the Sid Vale Association. Lorraine Low is a professionally trained classical singer (Mezzo Soprano) and has taken part in the Oxford Lieder festival in a master class for top level amateurs. She has previously sung at Sidholme. John Brindley (Baritone) and Dorothy Worthington (Piano) are renowned local performers.

The Gala Concerts will be themed evenings – spring (May) and Autumn (October) Refreshments will be available at Sidholme before and during the Interval. Tickets £5 available in advance (from 1st April 2019) from Stephen Pemberton, SVA Events. For programme and ticket please send cheque and SAE to 7, Glenisla Terrace, Sidmouth EX10 8BP.



Thank You to Liz Cotton

Liz Cotton ends her 6 year role as SVA Walks Coordinator in December. These successful Walks have been enjoyed and appreciated by many SVA members during Liz's Walks coordination and leadership.

On behalf of the SVA Trustees and all SVA members we wish to thank Liz for all her efforts in her role this past 6 years and wish her all the best.

Liz has said: "The SVA Countryside Walking Group needs someone to take over the coordination of walks next year. This involves asking members to plan and lead a walk each month. The list of walks for a 6 month period must be prepared in advance to be ready for inclusion in the next SVA Magazine. An SVA report of the group's activities in the previous year is submitted in February of the next year to be included in the SVA Annual Report. As the current coordinator, I try to go on most of the walks but this is not essential if other commitments get in the way.

Fancy Writing an Article?

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

SVA Excursion – Spring 2019

Abbotsbury Swannery and Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens and Cream Tea: Wednesday May 15th 2019

We will visit **Abbotsbury Swannery** in the morning and the **Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens** in the afternoon. Both are close together at Abbotsbury in Dorset, near Weymouth.

This is the start of the hatching season and we will hope to see new born cygnets. Hundreds of Cygnets hatch around the pathways. The feeding of the swans takes place twice a day. We can witness the 12 noon feeding of the Swans, and hopefully, the cygnets.

The **Swannery** was established by Benedictine Monks who built the monastery at Abbotsbury during the 1040s and farmed the swans to produce food for their lavish Dorset banquets. The monastery was destroyed in 1539, during the dissolution, but the Swannery has survived.

The **Sub Tropical Gardens** is a mixture of formal and informal flowers, world famous for it's camellia groves and magnolias. Noted in Dorset for its Rhododendron and Hydrangea collections and the charming Victorian Garden.

The camellias and magnolias are particularly colourful at this time of year, such as Magnolia x cylindrica 'John Bond' with its creamy white clusters of petals. Scarlet red Rhododendron barbatum in the woodland and Pieris japonica laden with white laces of flower. Not to be outdone are the pretty ground cover plants like Cardamine trifolia, with small white flowers standing above their spreading carpet of tiny three trifoliate leaflets.

We will have our **Cream Tea** at the Sub Tropical Gardens. A light lunch will be able to be obtained at the Swannery or please bring a packed lunch.



SVA EXCURSIONS 2019
10th July – Haynes Motor Museum and
Mapperton House and Gardens
11th September – Athelhampton House
& Gardens and Langham Estate Winery

This tour will be escorted by Stephen Pemberton.

- **Tour includes:** Coach, Entrance Fees, 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 April 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.

Abbotsbury Swannery and Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens and Cream Tea, Wednesday 15th May 2019

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

PLEASE ✓ BOX Joining at

The Triangle 8.30am ☐

Radway 8.40am* ☐

*Approx. timings

Exeter X 8.45am* ☐

Green Close 8.50am* ☐

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

Mass feeding at Abbotsbury Swannery



Late Night Shopping in Sidmouth Friday 7th December – 10am-8pm

Don't forget to call in at the Museum for your calendars, books to suit every member of the family, and a great variety of stocking fillers!

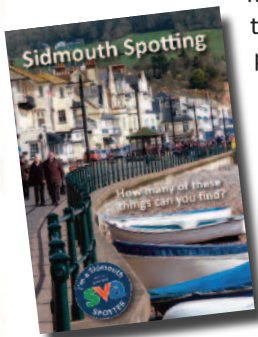
Come and join us for carol singing and some festive refreshments!

The 2019 Sid Vale Calendar

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, our calendar contains 14 stunning new pictures by local photographers. Complete with envelope for posting.



Sidmouth Spotting

Great fun for kids – see how many of the things in this book you can spot in Sidmouth and qualify for a Sidmouth Spotter badge.



Online Sales

When the Museum is closed, many of the SVA's publications and other items are available to buy online from our website

www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk

Museum opening times

The museum has extended its season this year and will be open from 29th October until 8th December, Monday-Saturday 10am-1pm

Saturdays-young visitors day 10am-12.30pm up to and including 8th December

Late night Christmas shopping evening Friday 7th December – museum open all day.

20% off all items plus special sale priced items and a lucky £1 dip!

The Museum would like to invite SVA Members to an evening reception

Thursday, 21st March 5pm until 8pm, drinks and nibbles. Come and view the new displays for 2019:

- Opening of the new Peter Orlando Hutchinson Room with many POH Artefacts
- We will hopefully have two fireplaces from the Knowle on display. (Depending on EDDC plans)
- The main exhibit in the Gallery will be marking the 100th Anniversary of the death of Stephen Reynolds (see Nigel Hyman's article).
- Also 'The Journey Home' 1919 – happiness as the troops arrived home and sadness for the families of those who did not make it back but only discovered their loss when Prisoners of War were released.
- Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Queen Victoria.
- And much more...



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.



Do you like meeting people? Come and join the publicity team

We are planning a calendar of events where we will have our gazebo with various displays from the museum, children's quizzes, selling our books etc. to promote the SVA. We hope to hold more major events like the museum flood display at Kennaway House held earlier this year. We need your help.

if you are interested, please email publicity@sidvaleassociation.org.uk or come along to the open afternoon on November 28th.



Keep the weather photos coming in – storm clouds over Soldiers Hill

Sid Vale Association – points of contact

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*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 – New opening times

October 29th-December 8th Monday-Saturday 10am-1pm (Closed Sunday)

Friday 7th December – Late night Christmas shopping (Museum open all day. Carol singing, mince pies etc.)

Thursday 21st March – SVA members evening – preview of the new exhibits 5-8pm

Talks

Wednesday 14th November 2.30pm Manor Pavilion ‘Cottages Ornés’ by professional architectural historian Roger White. Associated walk around Sidmouth at 11am from the Museum with Nigel Hyman

Wednesday 9th January 2.30pm Manor Pavilion ‘History of the Cinema in Sidmouth’ by Dr Rosalind Leveridge

Wednesday 13th February 2.30pm Manor Pavilion ‘History of Sidmouth Rugby Club’ by Terry O’Brien

Wednesday 13th March 2.30pm Manor Pavilion ‘Rocks, Rivers and Coast: selected episodes from Sidmouth's deep past’, with a subtitle of ‘Pivotal events of the past 500 million years which have created Sidmouth's landscapes’ by Roger Trend

Wednesday 22nd May SVA AGM 2.30 (NB later date)

Walks

Tuesday 6th November Meet: The Triangle, Sidmouth at 10.30am, to give you time to travel by bus. Leader: Liz Tel: 01395 514690 We will take a walk along the Sidmouth Tree Trail, stopping for refreshments before catching the bus home.

4th December Meet: Blue Ball Inn, Sidford carpark at 10.00am Grid Ref: SY 138 899 Leaders: Jackie and Roger Tel: 01395 577651. As in previous years we will welcome walkers and friends to lunch at the Blue Ball after the walk. I will get copies of the menu on the day to let people make a pre-walk choice.

Excursions

Wednesday 15th May Abbotsbury Swannery and Abbotsbury gardens (see page 38 for details)

Wednesday 10th July Haynes Motor museum and Mapperton House

Events

Wednesday 28th November 3-6pm Open afternoon at Trumps SVA HQ (Fore Street) Come and meet the trustees/team leaders/discuss volunteering/KOF applications. All members welcome for a glass of wine and mince pie.

Tuesday 7th May Gala concert at Sidholme (see page 37 for details)

History Group

14th January and second Monday of every other month after – 7pm Trumps SVA HQ, 36a Fore St, Sidmouth

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

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