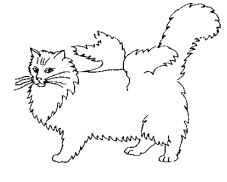


# Wiveliscombe Messenger



Serving the Wivey Area December 2006/January 2007 No 56

## A change at the top

**IN December 1996 a household survey across the Wiveliscombe/Ten Parishes area identified that many people would welcome a regular source of information about what was going on.**

concerned local people, Tim Nightingale, Hilary Miller and Brian Collingridge, set out to find an answer.

Clive Greenbeck, the editor of the occasional news sheet, The Bugle, was not interested in producing a regular paper, so the group negotiated with the West Somerset Free Press.

They agreed to print the paper, provide professional

expertise and manage the sale of advertising space if the local committee would take full responsibility for putting the paper's content together.

With support from Kingsmead Community Education, the Wiveliscombe Civic Society and with initial funding from CFIRS (Communities First in Rural Somerset) the first issue of the Wiveliscombe Messenger arrived in the town on October 8th 1997.

Critical to the paper's emergence were Hilary Miller and her husband Adam. Working part-time in the Kingsmead Community Education office, her love of the town, unwillingness to let anything get in the way and quality of vision brought a small editorial committee together, some of whom have worked with

her ever since.

Hilary was brought up in Wiveliscombe, the daughter of Marjory and Wilfrid Miller, a teacher at the Primary School. She has a great knowledge of its people and ways of "doing things".

Keeping the paper going may have been a labour of love, but it has meant regular meetings with the Free Press team, and every two months, editorial meetings, collection of articles, preparation of the next paper's content, writing the editorial and a wealth of decisions.

Under her guidance the paper has gained in quality and gone from strength to strength, acting as a record of events past, notifying the community of events to come and providing an outlet for a wide variety of opinions and reflections.

Copies are sent to most continents and many people, locally and far afield, look forward to each next issue.

In this paper, No 56, it is time to record our community's heartfelt thanks for all the time and effort Hilary has devoted to our paper. She is now stepping down from her role as co-ordinator and handing over to Avril Gadd.

Avril will be known by many of you, she has worked in Adult Education and at SCAT and is a member of a number of local groups.

The editorial team has changed over the past ten years, but we trust that with its new leader it will continue to serve and satisfy the needs of our communities for many more years.

BRC

## Deadline for next issue

**THE deadline for copy for the February/March issue is Thursday January 18th. All material can be sent or delivered to Wiveliscombe House or sent by email to: messenger@wiveliscombe.com**

**Our aim is to ensure that copies of the Messenger are delivered and available to the community soon after publication.**



Hilary Miller and Adam Hope

### EDITORIAL

LITTLE did I know, in 1996, when Brian Collingridge and Tim Nightingale, then Director of Community Education for the Wiveliscombe area, approached me to help co-ordinate a community newspaper that they were planning, in partnership with the West Somerset Free Press, that I would be still doing it ten years later.

However, it is time for a change and life without deadlines. I am delighted that Avril Gadd has agreed to become the new Messenger Co-ordinator; her undoubted skills will ensure the Messenger continues to flourish.

From the very beginning the Editorial Team has been a tremendous source of expertise and information, they give of their time freely and with great good humour even when asked to write 300 words to meet an impossible deadline.

Our record, so far, is copy emailed at 7am for a 10am handover to the West Somerset Free Press ready for publication.

David Tucker, Gareth Purcell and John Lockyer at the WSFP have been endlessly patient; their professionalism and always-

available advice ensures that the Messenger you receive is a quality newspaper.

We are unique in our partnership between a national media company, Tindle Newspapers, owners of the WSFP, and a community newspaper put together by an editorial team of local people.

Adam Hope has been responsible for much of the development of the Messenger's use of electronic media; few people emailed their articles or photographs in 1996, now nearly everyone does.

Our loyal advertisers, Pam Gaines, who co-ordinates the delivery to the town and 10 Parishes, her Scouts and the local neighbourhood deliverers, are all central to the Messenger's success.

This editorial is getting to sound like a night at the Oscars; I'll be thanking the cat, next, for not sitting on the Messenger every time we try to proof read it.

So, Good Wishes for Christmas and every Happiness in 2007 to everyone involved in producing the Messenger, our advertisers, deliverers, contributors and readers.

Hilary Miller

### Delivery dates

Wiveliscombe Messenger publication dates for 2007: 8th February, 5th April, 7th June, 2nd August, 4th October, 29th November

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Wishing the community of Wiveliscombe a Very Merry Christmas