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**READERS' LETTERS**  
**New homes are ugly carbuncle**

Dear Messenger — An ugly carbuncle has grown on the friendly face of Wiveliscombe (to coin a phrase). I am pleased to read that Christine Griffiths is so happy with her bungalow in Tuckers Meadow and I hope that all the other residents are equally happy. But the effect of this development's architecture is appalling. The County Council must have spent a lot of money extending the Primary School, replicating the fine Victorian elevations, even the patterns in the roof tiles. I congratulate Mike Stacey on his most admirable work (he was not asked to tender for Tuckers Meadow). It has given real pleasure to us passers by, but a large part of it is shielded from view now by the bungalows whose shed-like elevations with ugly little pipes sticking out of the roofs clash so starkly. The reconstructed stone used is quite unsuitable to this site. All the walls along North Street are built with lovely local red sandstone. The tall retaining wall of Tuckers Meadow is in terrible contrast with its stepped toppers giving an essentially suburban effect out of keeping with our handsome town. The double row of ugly fencing with sheds on this frontage finally adds the Guantanamo Bay effect. I believe the original intention of our council to provide this housing as a result of its survey was admirable but from a purely aesthetic point of view they have, together with WAP, rendered a grave dis-service to Wiveliscombe, and where, I wonder, was the Civic Society, one of whose objectives is to promote high standards of planning and architecture. They must all do better in future.  
 Christopher Airey

**Isn't it time we had a museum?**

Dear Messenger — I think it is about time we had a museum for Wiveliscombe. Am I the only one? I know we have had several attempts to get the necessary exhibits together over the past thirty years. In the 1970s Mr Wallace appealed for items for a museum to be located at Bourmes. Some of the items he got are even now re-emerging. Some of us will remember Mr Batey and his pamphlets on the town; his materials were lost by executors from afar. In the 1980s George Potter appealed for items on behalf of the Historical Society and used his photographic skills to copy old photos and postcards and make films of Wiveliscombe events from 1971 onwards. Fortunately these all still exist. Over the past four years the Wiveliscombe Book research unearthed many more artifacts and documents alongside all of the narratives. Should they remain in private hands? Can we guarantee their continuing existence after the death of the owners? I think not! If Wellington, even Watchet, can manage a museum, where is ours? Does anyone else think as I do? Has the Historical Society an opinion on this? One thing is certain, nothing will happen unless some enthusiasts get started. I think we need a debate and hopefully some action before this town's heritage is lost by neglect.  
 Brian Collingridge

**A question of timing**

Dear Messenger — The 25 mile slog to Wiveliscombe Square for 09.01 while the bus comes along almost empty. The next bus from Langley is two hours later which really excludes morning appointments. Perhaps in the Milverton re-arrangements they'll find five minutes in the timetable to get us on or have a 'Wivey Waiver'.  
 Keith Brooker,  
 Lower Langley

**Help!**

The rubbish has eaten in to my time. There's so much to sort there' no time to rhyme, Food should be sealed in a little brown box So there's no supper for badger or fox. Beer cans go flat like a field that's been mowed or there'll be so many they won't take the load. Paper goes here and the cardboard goes there. Bottles need rinsing, and then there's my hair. My hair falls in handfuls, it's all of this worry. Do I hear the trash men? Oh, I'd better hurry.  
 Pam Redmond  
 Hillcommon



**Short mat bowls**

**KINGSMEAD Short Mat Bowls Club held a Triples Tournament on Saturday 7th October at Kingsmead School.** The Club wishes to express its thanks to everyone who helped in making it such a successful day. Grateful thanks go to all the businesses who kindly contributed to our charity fundraising raffle. Pictured are the winning players from Kingscliffe Short Mat Bowls Club with the Cotleigh Trophy - from the left, Nick Prince, Jill Sellick and Grace Hucker with Fred Domellof from Cotleigh Brewery. Anyone interested in playing short mat bowls with the local club can contact the captain, Doreen Orton, on 01984 400731.

**Play cricket for Wivey CC**

THE cricket season has come and gone. 2006 was a good season, with fine weather. The 1st X1 did well, finishing equal third. D Sharland and Dennis Quick shared the captain's role. Thanks to the ladies who do the all-important teas - their scones are the best in the west. A mixture of young and experienced players blended well; Jake Sharland, Matthew Parsons and Grant Sharland all bowled well. D Sharland made 138 against Bagborough - a real highlight supported by an excellent team effort. The club ran a youth section with U11s on a Friday and U13s and U15s on a Sunday morning. Thanks to parents for transport and refreshments. Currently more help is needed with coaching on practice nights and on match days. We hope to carry on our success in 2007. Thanks go to Ralph Matcham, Rob Burston and the Committee. I am hoping to arrange nets next season in March and April, and any help would be greatly appreciated. It would be really nice if we could have kit sponsored by a local business or organisation in the area. Please contact me on 01823 323376.  
 Chris Burston,  
 Vice-Chairman,  
 Wiveliscombe Cricket Club.



**White Chocolate Panna Cotta**

A DELICIOUS pudding recipe from Joanna Oldman of The Rock Inn, Waterrow, who suggests that this would be an excellent alternative for those of us who find Christmas Pudding too much to cope with after the traditional roast turkey or goose. Joanna and her team are well known for their good food and use of quality ingredients. You need: 600ml double cream 150ml milk 60grms castor sugar 3 sheets gelatine 200grms white chocolate broken into small pieces (must be good quality) Put the cream, milk and sugar into a heavy based saucepan and melt over a low heat stirring occasionally. Soak gelatine sheets in water in a jug or small dish; they must be totally submerged for a few minutes. When the cream mixture begins to bubble up the sides of the pan take it off the heat and stir in the white chocolate until melted. Squeeze out the excess water from the gelatine leaves and add them to the warm mixture, stir well until dissolved. Pour mixture into individual moulds, lined with cling film which makes turning out easier. Leave to set for 5-6 hours. At The Rock these Panna Cottas are being served with fresh local autumn raspberries. Cranberries poached with orange slices, spiced poached apricots with honey and cinnamon would also be good.  
 Gill Turner

**Up on the Farm**

IT is a miserable, foggy, dark day in November and I should not be complaining. Why? Because for the last month I have moaned (and admit it I'm not the only one) that the weather has been too mild and not a bit like October should be. So I should be pleased with a typical November day. People say that farmers are never happy with whatever the weather throws our way. I suppose that is true, but in our defence I must say that no other industry has to rely so heavily on the weather and try to adapt on a daily basis to survive. While I am in the mood . . . we had our last calf born the other day. It was a smart red bull calf but it was really hard work thinking of yet another "Z" name. I will be so glad to get to "A" next year. Although most of the leaves are down now there has been a lovely display of autumn colours that has brightened the ever shorter days before the winter sets in. We have just heard from Mandy's pen pal in Germany and there it has just started snowing! I wonder if we will get any this winter? I hope we do, although that will mean getting in the cows that should stay out most of the winter. Snow makes a lot of hard work for farmers as most will have their sheep out and they will need extra feed and looking after if the weather is bad. We have had several new people join our south west beef shorthorn club and this weekend we will have the presentation of the winners in our annual herd competition. It should be a good night catching up with everyone. We will be able to check up on some of our bulls that have gone to different parts and hear how they have been doing. We entered Archie but he may not have won anything this time as he was up against some very strong competition, but it was still fun to have a go. To end on a cheerful note, we have been married for 30 years this October and although farming has got tougher and more bogged down by paperwork and petty minded officials who know nothing about the countryside, I would not have changed a day of it!(or my husband, but don't tell him I said so!!). See you next year.  
 Gill Turner