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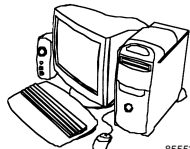
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Lest we forget . . . Wiveliscombe's Remembrance Day parade

Silver Street Centre up and running



BACK in September, hundreds of people came to the grand opening of the Silver Street Centre, enticed by the

fine, sunny afternoon, the melodies of the Town Band drifting through the air, the fete stalls and games and, of course, the teas!

All ages came to have a look around the buildings (built by local builders Barratt and Canniford) and the exhibitions of church history and activities.

Freestyle football champion Daniel Magness attracted many youngsters keen to learn the secrets of his amazing football tricks.

The Sporty Art Competition was won by Adam Martin who received an MP3 player and a football signed by Daniel. Runners-up who also received signed footballs were Charlie Mitchell, Vanessa Hastings, Jessica Weetch, Jake Farmer, Katherine Hall and Jack Mitchell.

Daniel Magness was interviewed by local journalist James Hastings, and chatted about his life and career and how he recently became a Christian. The listed chapel was open during the weekend under the Heritage Open Days initia-

tive and attracted visitors from as far away as Southern Australia.

The Saturday evening was rounded off by a barn dance with Tease the Cat and on Sunday the new buildings were dedicated at a special service - former pastor the Rev Ian Rees preached and 100-year-old former pastor and church member the Rev Ban Forsyth unveiled a plaque, after which the church family enjoyed a ploughman's lunch in the new hall.

The centre's fully accessible complex of meeting rooms and halls is already attracting bookings for meetings, classes, etc and in November it hosted the popular, monthly "Wivey Praise", which brings people together from the town and its three churches.

For further information on hiring the rooms, see www.silver-street-centre.org.uk or ring 01984 623107.

For further information about the church and its many activities, see www.wiveliscombe-congregational.org.uk or ring 01984 623487.

Wiveliscombe Historical Society

THE October meeting of Wiveliscombe Historical Society was treated to a very informative account of the Fox Brothers' mills in action.

Tony Milton showed us his excellent video of the development, the heyday and eventual decline of the mills in Wellington.

Richard Fox, whose knowledge of the technical detail and of the history of Fox Brothers can hardly be bettered, gave an enlightening commentary. People in the audience added their experiences of working in the mills in both Wellington and Wiveliscombe.

After a talkative tea break the meeting closed with a DVD of the working wool museum at Coldharbour Mill at Uffculme.

The January meeting will be on Tuesday the 16th when Bob Croft, the County Archaeologist, will describe recent discoveries in Somerset.

Milverton Concert Society celebrates 20th season

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed pianist Melvyn Tan returns to Milverton this December to mark the Gala Season celebrating the 20th year of Milverton Concert Society. He first played in the village in 1988 and returned three times in 1990, 1994 and 2002.

Said Milverton Concert Society concert programme organiser Julie Richardson: "His fifth visit coincides with his 50th birthday and our 20th anniversary. A celebration indeed which will also be marked by a special reception."

Recalling one of Melvyn Tan's earlier appearances in Milverton, co-founder of the society, Gill Lumby, said: "It was quite amusing. The legs of the forte piano were left in London by Melvyn's agent. A van was dispatched to Bristol where we collected them. Melvyn missed his rehearsal and, of course, his important pre-concert rest! Needless to say, it won't happen this time . . ."

After moving to the UK from Singapore in 1978, Melvyn Tan studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and at the Royal College of Music. He rapidly built a formidable international reputation for piano performances and his exclusive contract with EMI Classics produced a series of groundbreaking recordings. His numerous recitals and recordings continue to receive great critical acclaim.

His latest concert in Milverton will be on 8th December at 8pm in the village Parish Church. The first half of the programme will consist of alternating works by the 19th century Spanish composer Albeniz with the 17th century Italian composer Scarlatti. After the interval, Melvyn will play Schubert's Sonata in G major.

Tickets for the concert at £15 and £10 (limited visibility seats) can be booked on 01823 400200.

The Jim Laker Fund

THERE'S not too much to write about at the moment but things have been happening.

The sales of T-shirts have been very encouraging and we are hoping to order some more for next year which will be our 10th anniversary. We may even do them in another colour should there be sufficient interest.

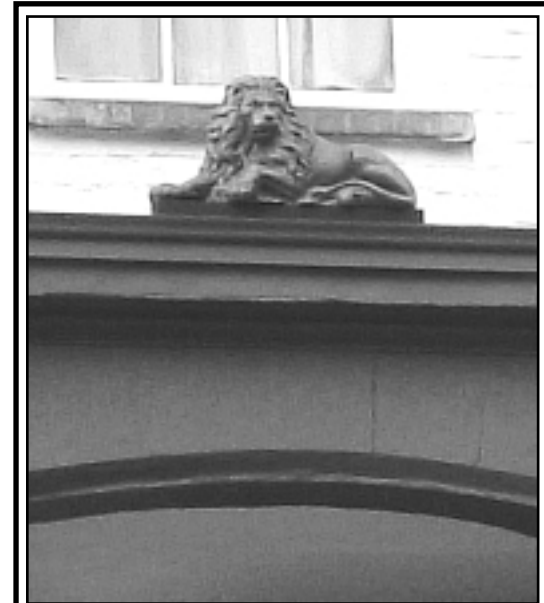
Next year is also the 200th anniversary of brewing in the town so, in conjunction with the two breweries, we are hoping to organise something to celebrate both events.

10Radio was a success again this year and we were pleased to have supported it with a donation from the fund. The social event of the year will be taking place on 17th December at The Bear Inn. This of course is our grand Christmas Quiz.

We didn't do a summer quiz this year so those of you who have been suffering withdrawal symptoms can get it all together then. As usual there will be some great raffle prizes. It starts at 7.30 but please get there early to be sure of a table.

On behalf of the JLF committee I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a great new year.

Richard Oliver



John Alder cast this proud beast, who now sits above the entrance to the former Lion Hotel on Town Hill, from an old original cast iron lion.



SPEAKERS' CORNER

We received an article in support of dogs and dog lovers - unfortunately this cannot be published as the writer did not give a name or address. It is a legal requirement that the newspaper co-ordinator knows the identity of all contributors even if the article appears in Speakers' Corner or under a nom de plume.