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PHOTO FORUM UPDATE

FOR the last six months the newly formed Photo Forum has been meeting once a month at the Chapel Gallery in South Street, Wiveliscombe.

We've enjoyed a range of talks and presentations from our more accomplished members, and enjoyed the opportunity to chat with like minded people on all manner of topics, and not always to do with photography!

Bev Blackmore was instrumental in getting the group up and running, but due to a recent injury has had to hand over the organisation of the group to others.

We wish Bev all the best for his recovery, and many thanks for all the hard work put into getting the group off the ground.

The group continues to meet at the Chapel Gallery on the last Friday of the month from 8pm till around 10pm (we are considering a change of evening however, suggestions please)

There are beverages available and we ask all attending the meeting to pay £1.50 each towards the cost of heat and light. The gallery is certainly a very welcoming and appropriate venue for our needs.

If you have an interest in photography, regardless of the tools and

techniques that you employ, all are welcome to come along and enjoy the company of other photobugs!

It is our intention for the future to have a monthly project or theme to inspire us to try different subjects and techniques, and then discuss the results amongst the group at the following meeting.

We are also planning some field trips that hopefully will also help to inspire everyone to create, learn and develop their interest.

If you need further information, please contact Dave Meehan on 01984 624544, or email to dave_meehan@replicated.co.uk

'Below Stairs' at Dunster Castle

MEMBERS of a party organized by Wiveliscombe Historical Society spent an enthralling afternoon on a conducted tour of the basements and attics of Dunster Castle.

Of the medieval castle little but the gatehouse remains. Most of the building is as it was rebuilt by Anthony Salvin around 1870, which makes it a Victorian country house rather than castle.

The attics and basements are now unfurnished and undecorated, but that does not prevent visitors getting some idea of what life there must have been like.

The main hive of activity at the basement level was the great kitchen, ruled over by the cook. Here were cast-iron cooking ranges and other items of kitchen equipment which were, no doubt, the last word in 1870, even if they look very antiquated now.

Adjacent to the kitchen was a network of sculleries and other rooms for food preparation, storage and the china pantry, where different sets of crockery were kept. The relative importance of the occasion dictated which set was used on any day.

Upstairs in the attics were the domains of the butler and the house-

keeper. The butler's pantry was a suite of rooms where food was brought from the kitchen for serving to the family and their guests in the dining room. The butler's own room was strategically placed so that he could see visitors arriving at the front door.

The housekeeper, traditionally no friend of the cook, was responsible for the management of the household, and the upkeep of the furniture and fabrics, with her staff of housemaids.

In these attic rooms were the sleeping quarters of the servants, including servants travelling with guests. There was a room allocated to the most junior-servant. One of his regular duties was to ring the large bell at 6.00 am to alert the house, and village, to the start of the working day; and again at 6.00 pm to signal its end.

One of the boy's occasional jobs was to climb out on to the roof after a fall of snow, and using wooden shovels kept handy for the purpose, clear the snow from the roof gutters while it was still soft, and before it had a chance to freeze. If this was not done there would be trouble from water leaking into the house.

In part of the butler's pantry there is a second kitchen, about which there is a story. In 1970, while the lady of the house was visiting her relatives in

Australia, her two sons decided it was time to replace the century-old cooking arrangements.

They went to the Ideal Home Exhibition and purchased a state-of-the-art Hygena fitted kitchen and had it installed as a surprise for their mother on her return. Mother was indeed surprised, and she did NOT approve. She flatly refused to use the new set-up.

In 1976 the Luttrell family left Dunster Castle after 600 years residence, and this kitchen remained unused. It is now listed.

Then it was back downstairs to the cellars where game brought home by the shooting parties was processed and hung. There was also space for drying their wet clothes.

We left by the door where supplies for the house were delivered, close to the gatehouse where we had started. The tour had lasted two and a half hours. It was fascinating from beginning to end.

Wiveliscombe Historical Society's 2005-06 season will begin in October with a change of meeting night. Most of the meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month. There will be fuller details in the next issue of Wiveliscombe Messenger.

JRB

**A Ruby Celebration for
Wiveliscombe Floral Art Club**

IN 2006 Wiveliscombe Floral Art Club will be 40 years old and the present committee is planning a variety of celebrations.

The club founder, 97-year-old Mrs. Thelma Butcher, is at present recovering from a bad fall, but hopefully she will be well enough to participate in the festivities.

When she formed the club there were 20 members; the number at present is 25 plus a small core of visitors who regularly attend the annual Christmas demonstration.

Although it is a small club it is nonetheless very active. It has been involved in some prestigious events, including a festival at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Every year members arrange a pedestal in the knave of Wells Cathedral and are frequently involved in events at St. Andrew's Church.

Members regularly compete at Taunton Show and have won first prize several times in the club section. Another event that the club is involved in is Wiveliscombe Horticultural Show. Not only do members compete, but the committee is responsible for planning the titles in the floral art section, staging the niches and for producing the two pedestals that grace the stage or foyer.

Club meetings take the form of a demonstration (arrangements being raffled at the end of the evening), occasional talks with slides and practical evenings.

Much can be learnt at these meetings as people in the floral art world are always ready to share their knowledge and give tips and advice.

There is an outing arranged at least once a year (this year to the absolutely delightful Vellacott Gardens), and members often open their own gardens to help raise funds to cover the ever increasing costs of demonstrations.

Due to renovations at the Congregational Church rooms, the club is at present meeting at either the Scout Hut at 7.45pm or the Junior School Hall at 7.30pm, every second Tuesday in the month.

In September David Martin will be demonstrating at the latter. His title for the evening is "Let Me Entertain You" and as always the arrangements he produces will be raffled.



Visitors are always welcome and on this occasion entry will be free. Why not come along and enjoy an hour and a half's relaxing entertainment that will both delight and inspire you?

For information of other events during our "Nomadic Period", telephone the Secretary, Andrea Ridley, on 01984 623630.

**Stella raises
£600 by
ballooning for
Lymphoedema**

MY Mum, Stella Furneaux, who lives with us at Richard Beadon Close in Wivey, is 76 and terrified of heights, did a sponsored balloon trip to raise money for the Lymphoedema Support Group.

Many people in Wivey have supported her and she has raised something like £600. She was meant to do it last June but poor weather meant it was cancelled 10 times, so she actually got up in the air on the 7th June this year.

I have Lymphoedema in my legs and receive treatment at St Margaret's Hospice in Taunton. I have been very lucky to get the treatment as the clinic is not provided with much funding, and I now run the local support group to raise awareness of the condition, which can be very disabling.

For more info on lymphoedema and its effects on those born with it and those who find they are afflicted with it after treatment for cancer, see www.lsn.org.uk

I would like to thank those in Wivey who supported my mum and at the same time raise awareness of the condition which I know other people in Wivey have to live with. For further information telephone: 01984 624299

Suzanne Grogan



**Creme
Asphodèle**

THIS recipe comes from Joanna Oldman of the Rock at Waterrow.

Those of us who have eaten at The Rock know that Joanna cooks a varied menu of delicious dishes and always uses as many locally sourced ingredients as possible.

"Creme Asphodèle" is a long-standing favourite pudding of Joanna's and as you can see not difficult to make. Once you've enjoyed this you'll be tempted to go to The Rock and try all of Joanna's other puddings.

For 4-5 people:
3 lemons
5.5oz castor sugar
2 leaves gelatine
3 eggs
2-3 tablespoons of hot water

Separate the eggs. Put the gelatine to soften in a little cold water. Dissolve it in the hot water. Cool slightly.

Work sugar and egg yolks together until light and fluffy then add the grated rind of two lemons and the juice of all three. Mix in the gelatine, stirring well.

Put aside in a cold place, stirring from time to time. When it begins to set whisk the egg whites stiffly and fold them in lightly.

Pour into a serving dish and place in the fridge to set completely then pipe with cream if desired.