

I'm sure you'll have noticed . . .

I'M sure you'll have noticed that the bollards by the fish and chip shop in Church Street have been put in place (aching to write "plaice" there but will resist) quite recently.

Perhaps, even, you remarked to yourself that, gracious, that didn't take all that long to achieve - in light, that is, of past experiences.

Currently, in fact and as this is written, for the old and weary and grubby town sign is still glowering at us as we arrive.

Given that planning permission was allowed for the new Wiveliscombe sign, surely it wouldn't be asking too much of those in high places to arrange, at the same planning meeting, for it to be removed, insisting "let's not hang about on this, fellers".

And, as we're on about it, why is it taking so long for the smashed window at the pharmacy to be replaced? The wrecking took place in January.

What you may not have noticed, unless you often walk from St Andrew's to Kingsmead via Rotton Row and Russels, is that much of the ancient stone wall to the church yard has now been repointed.

As we understand, this had to be done with the guidance and approval of English Heritage. The result is certainly very tidy and may well prevent seeds getting lodged and then giving birth to weeds.

Given that, what do the local residents think? They don't like it at all. The problem seems to be that the mortar is too light in colour and intrusive to the eyes.

Certainly it would look much better if it was closer to the general colour of the stone but it seems that the mix of cement and sand was dictated by EH. With whom locally did that body confer?

Jas was greatly encouraged by the contribution of the "grumpy woman" to Speakers' Corner in the last Messenger.

Tempted to discuss whether or not she is grumpy and, perhaps, if we should get together to found a Grumps Society. Not at all! We're not really grumpy; we see things in Wivey which upset us and because we

By our correspondent Jas

love the town we just wish to see them sorted.

Anyway, here and now we'll thank the lady for her good words and wouldn't it be splendid if those who can get things done would pay attention? And note that we haven't named that circular thing this time . . .

The last Jas column mumbled on about car and general vehicle parking and the attendant problems. Between writing that and it getting into print, it was pointed out that the parking of cars on the north side of Croft Way was suddenly increasing.

Yes, often the stretch beyond the double yellow lines is quite tightly packed of an evening. Overnight perhaps even more so.

This serves to underline the parking space shortage in the town but it also adds another stretch where rubbish accumulates.

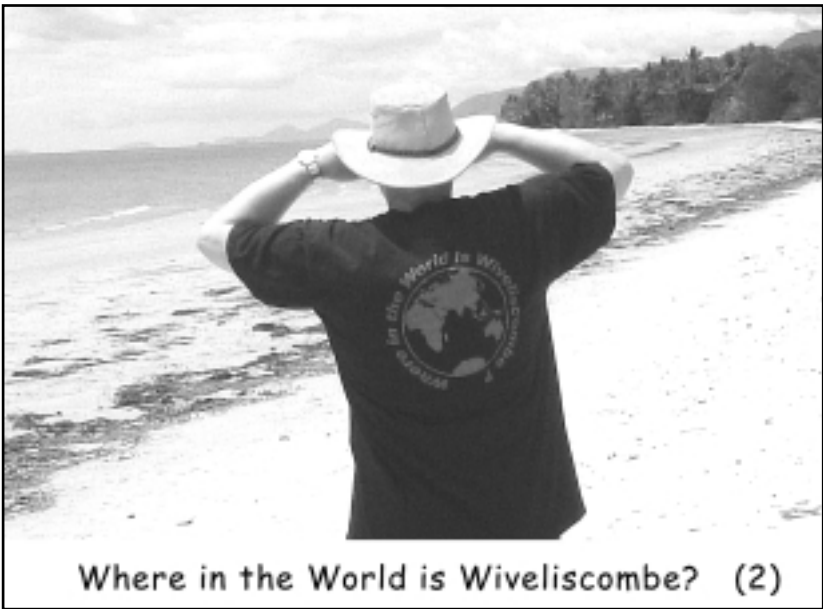
From time to time, a mechanical road sweeper collects debris from the gutters and this is welcome for two reasons - drains don't take just rainwater, they take whatever is swilled along and blockages can result, and the other reason is that our esteemed street cleaning executive is far too busy between breaks for chats with locals to cope with everything.

Neither machine nor man can clean gutters when they're cluttered with parked cars. What's the answer? More parking spaces, of course.

But where? A thought would be to ban commercial vehicles from the Croft Way space. The forthcoming 11 acre business park could be the place for the vans and artics.

Finally, this time, here's something for our historians to ponder. What can they tell us about this man, noted in an old reference - Wiveliscombe, the Rt Hon The Earl of: Ferdinand James Delamere Spettisbury, 6th Earl, Resides at Wiveliscombe Court, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire. Hobbies: cenology, the standing placekick, and spiritual matters.

Jas



Where in the World is Wiveliscombe? (2)



Maurice Sandford is pictured receiving his Royal Humane Society Bravery Award from Lady Gass for saving Gerald Pulsford from a raging bull

The Flying P*ssy

THE editorial team of this newspaper became aware, some months ago, that a rival publisher proposed to set up in direct competition with the Messenger.

The newcomers, apparently, intended to mock Wiveliscombe's emblem, which is displayed on this newspaper's banner, by calling the alternative publication 'The Flying P*ssy'.

It is not clear whether or not this was a hoax, but to be on the safe side the Messenger has decided to anticipate the use of this bizarre title, and to usurp whatever plans Muffett Publications may have for its use (Actually, Simon, it was Tuffett Publications - Ed.)

Accordingly, the Messenger intends to inaugurate a column under 'The Flying P*ssy' heading, and will experiment therein with the oddities and eccentricities of the Wiveliscombe area, should there be any.

It is sad to report that Muffett (Tuffett! - Ed.), from the start, proved themselves to be rather unpleasant.

Witness, for example, what they said about the writer of the 'Murmurs': '...[his] combination of pomposity and con- volution will make a useful contrast to the straightforward style we would [otherwise] encourage.' This may smack of the truth, but it also smacks painfully on the sensitivities of the person concerned (namely me).

Furthermore, if anyone knows the whereabouts of an artefact described as 'Wyfla's Buckle', please contact the Messenger. It seems that Muffett (It's Tuff...oh, why do I bother! - Ed.) concocted this apocryphal item to encourage a countywide search for it, with prizes, in a proposed scam to publicise their new venture.

Wyfla, the brigand, according to Muffett (You're doing this deliberately! - Ed.) fixed his massive buckle to a tree, high on the Brendons, and declared that all the land, from which the bright article was visible, would, in perpetuity, belong, on pain of death, to him and his successors.

Local historians consider this to be a calumny, and to be unworthy of our great history.

We all know that Wyfla founded this Town. It was, for a while, called Wyflascombe in his honour.

Should any resident wishing to protest to Muffett Publications ('*' - Ed.) they are welcome to try on ancillary04@yahoo.com. However, I have seldom received an intelligent reply from them.

Alternatively, any reports on Oddities and Eccentricities in Wiveliscombe, should be directed, in the first instance, to messenger@wiveliscombe.com, at which address you will find that intelligence is in plentiful supply (So kind! Ed.)

Simon Turbull

Rugby kick-off

WIVELISCOMBE Rugby Club is looking forward to the coming season.

The 1st XV kick off their first home league match at 3pm on September 3rd in the Rec. The opposition is Martock and your support will be very much appreciated.

READERS' LETTERS

Honoured by honour

Dear Messenger — My first thought on receiving a letter from Downing Street was that it was yet another election communication (although the quality of paper was rather too good for that!)

It was a complete surprise to find that it was a letter informing me that it was likely that I would be awarded an MBE. I am sure I was not the only recipient to think 'why me?'

The distribution of honours is a mysterious business - I do not know the exact workings of the system but I do know that your name has to be put forward by several people. I don't know who to thank for making that effort on my behalf.

I do know that people who receive honours are merely representatives of a much bigger body of people who go that extra mile for the community they serve, often for no financial reward and little acknowledgement.

The citation of my award was 'for administration of justice in Somerset and

Avon'. This is related to my work as a magistrate on various committees including the Magistrates' Courts Committee which was like a company board for all the courts in Avon and Somerset.

The result from that committee which was most satisfactory to me was our decision to keep Minehead Court House open in the face of pressure from efficiency drives.

I am also involved in the national body which is responsible for magistrates' training - to ensure that we do provide high quality justice.

Nearly all magistrates carry out a lot of work behind the scenes as well as their public role in court, including getting out into schools and explaining the way justice operates in this country and what is likely to happen should laws be flouted. They do all of this without any pay.

There are many whom I would like to include in my visit to Buckingham Palace if only I could.

Julie Richardson

Anyone know Joseph

Dear Messenger — It would appear my great grandfather, Joseph Jones, was born in Wiveliscombe around 1836 and married in 1864 to an Emma, born 1843, in Stowey, Somerset.

And that's it - I can find no other mention of them anywhere.

I came across your web site today and thought, if I was to ask you nicely, maybe you would run a couple of lines in your publication, hopefully putting me in touch with someone with local knowledge of the Jones family please.

I would appreciate any help I can get. Many thanks.

David T. Jones,
1515 - 40th Street,
Vernon,
B.C.,
Canada,
V1T 8J6.

davidmaureen@shaw.ca

Thanks for return

Dear Messenger — Thank you to the lady that returned my brother's mobile phone.

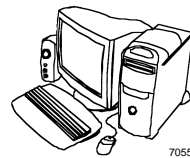
Vanessa Armitage

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