

Wivey is first for rural radio

COMMUNITY radio is coming to Wiveliscombe and the ten parishes area.

A band of local volunteers have been working hard for the last eight months to put together one of UK's first rural community radio stations.

Known as 10Radio, the station will be broadcasting on FM from 4th September to 1st October to coincide with the 10 Parishes Arts Festival. And it's looking for more people to get involved.

Asked where the idea came from, Julian Mellor, a local resident and one of the founding members of 10Radio, said: "Two of us sat on the beach last summer and thought it would be great fun to do.

"Community radio exists in many cities but we couldn't think of any rural communities that have their own station. The more we talked, the bigger the idea became."

The other person on the beach was Ben Elkins, Head of RE at Kingsmead School. He immediately saw the potential to involve his pupils and get them to explore all aspects of life in the wider community.

"I spoke to the head and he agreed to help with the funding, an early commitment that really made us believe 10Radio would happen," said Ben.

Since those early days there has been lots of work, meeting fortnightly to raise the rest of the money, apply for the broadcast licences,

find a transmitter site and studio and, not least, organise the training to help people make their own programmes.

"We were very lucky to find a number of local people who have all worked for BBC radio. They have been fantastic in helping us structure our ideas and develop the right skills" said Kim Cavanagh, another of the project organisers.

"We had 50 people come to our first meeting which meant that we could start running training courses in speech programmes, studio programmes and editing. They're professionally led and proving to be very successful and informative"

10Radio will broadcast a wide range of programmes from documentaries about life in the Ten Parishes to poetry readings, a soap opera, all types of music, an after-school show, chat shows and a host of other ideas, some of which are inspired by other radio programmes and others which are entirely original.

Ralph Matcham, a Parish Councillor and one of the project organisers, said: "This is the most amazing project. I really hope that more people get involved either making programmes or helping behind the scenes."

In particular, 10Radio needs 'Parish Correspondents' to report on local events, more programme makers and music presenters, people to work in the studio and people to help with marketing and fundraising. Or if you just have good ideas for programmes do get in touch.

You can get more details about 10Radio, the training courses and the programmes on the website www.10Radio.org, by calling Julian on 01984 623 197 or by dropping into Wiveliscombe House.

Up on the Farm



IT'S July 13th and the weather is glorious. In a few hours Mandy (our youngest) will be setting off on a trip of a lifetime when she will be going to Zambia on a Kingsmead student exchange.

There she will be experiencing the "lifestyle" of some of the poorest people in Africa and will know the real meaning behind the campaign to Make Poverty History.

The weather there at the moment is no hotter than here, being the Zambian winter. However, Mandy's exchange partner e-mailed her (on the one computer they have at a school of 1000 students) to say that it was raining which is unheard of at this time of year.

It seems that there are odd things happening with the weather somewhere in the world every day.

We have been busy lately, making small bale hay and big bale silage and by the time you read this we should have baled and hauled home all the straw we need for the winter.

There has been a good spell of weather for silaging and haymaking and crops have been quite heavy.

However, I have not seen a good crop of maize yet. Maize likes plenty of sunshine and rain, both of which have been in short supply until lately.

There is a saying that maize should be "knee high by the 4th of July" and it has been more like ankle height! Still it is a crop with a phenomenal growth rate so perhaps it will catch up before harvest time in October/November.

Both our neighbours, who we help with the odd difficult calving, and ourselves have finished for this year. Now it's over I can say it has been a very good year.

There have been few problems and those we have

had we have dealt with successfully. In farming it does not always go so well and there is another saying that is so true - "where there is livestock, there is dead stock".

Our last calf was born a couple of weeks ago and we called her Yasmine.

Archie and the cows and calves are enjoying the sunshine lounging under the trees when the sun gets too hot. We have sold all the bulls for this year. If you go to St.Austell in Cornwall, Studland in Dorset or the New Forest you may see some of them.

Of all the bulls that we have sold this summer the proudest moment for me was saying goodbye to Wivey Wonder. You remember him of course! Well, the ones who read my articles will remember two years ago when I told you of his birth.

His mother had a dead heifer calf and then 11 days later she had a tiny live bull calf, hence the name Wonder. He left for St Austell to live with some Friesian heifers. He has grown into a magnificent bull with a lovely temperament. You could say "a Wonder to behold" or is that too corny?!

I cannot believe that we have had the longest day but I am determined to enjoy the countryside while the summer lasts. I hope you do too. See you in the autumn.

Gill Turner

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DIARY DATES

- August**
- Friday 5th:** WMLA Jamming, The Bear, 8pm. Fortnightly
- Saturday 20th:** Wiveliscombe Flower Show, Kingsmead, 2.00pm. See article
- Sunday 21st:** Farewell Service for Sue and Adam Green, St. Andrew's Church, 10.30am
- Saturday 27th:** Clatworthy Village Fete, Village Hall, 2.30pm. Admission 50p. Children free
- September**
- Saturday 3rd:** Huish Champflower Fete and Produce Show, Village Hall, 2.00pm. Phone 624452 or 623857. Free
- Saturday 3rd:** Rugby - Wivey 1st XV play Martock, The Rec, 3pm
- Sunday 4th:** Ten Parishes Radio Broadcasting begins
- Wednesday 7th:** 10 Parishes Forum, Appley Pavilion, 7.30pm
- Thursday 8th:** Wivey Bridge Club, Community Centre, 7pm
- Saturday 10th:** 10 Parishes Festival Launch, The Square, 10.30am. See articles
- Tuesday 13th:** Wivey Folk Dancing, Community Centre, 8pm. See article
- Friday 16th:** 'Amici' in Concert, St. Andrew's Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £8 at PO
- Saturday 17th:** 10 Parishes Festival Finale. See article
- Tuesday 20th:** Wiveliscombe Civic Society AGM, Community Centre, 7.30pm
- Sunday 25th:** Harvest Festival, St. Andrew's Church, 11am
- October**
- Tuesday 4th:** Wiveliscombe Garden Club, Community Centre, 7.30pm
- If you are organising an event please schedule it in the Town Diary at Wiveliscombe House.*

POETRY

GEOFFREY Godbert, poet and literary critic, who lives in Milverton is organising a poetry event for the 10 Parishes Festival and details will be included in the Festival Programme. All would-be poetry readers and writers take note.

Geoffrey would also like to have a regular poetry feature in The Messenger. Anyone wishing to share their own poems with the readership should contact him, via the paper, in the usual way.

In the meantime here's a poem by Jessie Blackwell, prizewinner in the WI poetry competition.

WIVELISCOMBE PAST AND PRESENT

I came to Wivey in '55
The town back then was very alive
Plenty of shops for all to see
Definitely then it was the place to be

County Stores, Ellerton Stores and the Co-op
All delivered groceries from their shop
Two surgeries and three schools
Shops selling everything from clothes to tools

Two cobblers here we also had
Mending shoes for children and mum and dad
Not one butcher but three instead
So all can see how well we fed

When we lost our railway
That proved for all a very sad day
Twelve minutes to Taunton that is all it took
Why didn't they take another look?

The hustle and bustle of market day
Cattle and sheep would sometimes stray
No parking problems back in those days
More horses and carts on our byways

No vandals, litter and little crime
Youngsters found things to fill their time
Policemen were here to enforce the law
Sadly they don't live here anymore

Two bakeries delivered all around
Delicious bread and cakes could always be found
Dobbs' big store catered for all
They certainly answered to every call

Now we have a different scene
No Wellington RDC but Taunton Deane
Wiveliscombe House is in the square
With helpful people who really care

The Wivey Link brings folk to town
Where they can shop, chat and sit down
Just pick up the phone and give them a call
It may be your chance to talk to all

The shops have changed but have a great stock
Art and craft, a long skirt or frock
Antiques too are here to be bought
That special gift can easily be sought

In the rec we have the swimming pool
So if it is hot dive in to cool
With plenty of activities for everyone
So just relax when the work is done

Country sports are well catered for
Riding, shooting, fishing and lots more
Churches we have for our spiritual needs
With excellent clergy who sow the seeds

We still have a bank to look after our cash
If it is nearly three you had better dash
With excellent shops all down West Street
That's definitely the place for all to meet

With the Civic Society, Yoga, W.I. and other clubs
To say nothing of the numerous pubs
So get your friends to come here to stay
They will certainly be back for another day.

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