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Ian Rees in print

FORMER Wiveliscombe resident Ian Rees has gone into print - his book 'Faith in the Furnace' was launched in the UK on 14th September, just after the opening of Wiveliscombe's newest venue 'The Silver Street Centre'.

Ian took part in the special dedication service held on Sunday the 10th September to mark the opening of the 'Silver Street Centre'.

Converted from solid atheism, he became a Christian at university. A former pastor of the Congregational Church in Silver Street, he subsequently worked with the European Christian Mission, and is now associate pastor of a church near

Northampton, England.

"Faith in the Furnace" sensitively addresses the question, "Is it possible for us today to rejoice when we face disappointments, tragedies, persecutions, bereavements and setbacks?"

In an engaging and highly readable style, Ian shows the reader that suffering is a normal part of the Christian experience, and that Christians down the ages, from believers in Old Testament times right up to the present day, have often had the experience of their faith being put through the furnace, and that there is a plan and a purpose in our trials, even when we feel God has forgotten us.

Another former Wivey resident, Chris Kelly, senior minister of Lansdown Baptist Church, Bournemouth, recommends Ian's book saying, "Those who read this book will thank God for it." 'Faith in the Furnace' (price £8.00) is available from the Good News Book Shop in Eastreach, Taunton and the Silver Street Centre, Wiveliscombe. [ISBN 978-1-84625-044-6]

Alan H. Millar
Wiveliscombe Evangelical
Congregational Church

1st August 2007

HOW many of you know what you will be doing on 1st August 2007 at 8am yet?

Well if you are a current Scout Group member or have been in the past, then you should be joining your local group in renewing your Scouting Promise.

As part of the 2007 Scouting Centenary celebrations, it was decided that it would be a good idea to link as many people as possible together by having simultaneous ceremonies across the country.

The initial idea was to have the ceremony at sunrise but 8am seemed a little more appropriate time.

The date marks the commencement of the first Scout camp on Brownsea Island in 1907.

We will tell you more about the local meeting point nearer the date but please make a note in your diaries of this important date.

To mark the centenary, Wiveliscombe Scout Group are intending to open the HQ so that everyone has the opportunity to look at the old records of the group as well as look at all the old photos.

If you have any old Scouting tales or articles and/or photos that you can lend the group please, contact Pam Gaines on 01984 624657.

A modern fable on Power

AN eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing. A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him: "Can I also sit like you and do nothing?"

The eagle answered: "Sure, why not?" So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested.

All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

And the lesson is - To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

A death in another century

THIS is an extract from 'Somerset and Dorset Family History' submitted to the Messenger by Mr Peter Langdon, who lives in the town.

He found the item in his garage where, apparently, he keeps the family archive.

From the Annual Register for 1821
Dated 24 January

Deaths; Aged 70, by falling down stairs, Moses LANGDON esq. of Upton near Wiveliscombe.

In order to save expenses, he has been frequently known to pick, dress and eat crows or magpies found dead in the fields by boys.

He never kept any servant but in order to save wages, he gave an old woman from the workhouse her victuals.

He was in the habit of frequenting Wiveliscombe and put up in a small inn where they dressed tripe, which he generally took for his dinner, and if any person sitting near him left any on their plates, he always ate it up with great eagerness, saying it was a pity to waste anything.

When at home he wore the coarsest shirts but kept fine Holland ones which he wore when he went for a journey, and if he slept out, he invariably took the shirt off and lay without one, to prevent it being worn out.

He died intestate and his landed property, to a considerable amount, falls to John Langdon, a second cousin, heretofore a day labourer.

Use it or lose it

HOW many times have you heard "There is nothing for the teenagers, in Wivey, to do"?

Have they not considered the Explorer Scouts? This is a group of young people from 14 to 18 years old who meet every other Tuesday 7.15 - 9.15 pm in the Scout HQ, but once they become an Explorer Scout then they can join in all the other activities across Taunton Deane.

The range of activities undertaken is vast, the young people are expected to put forward their ideas about what activities they have access to. The Leaders are there to help facilitate and to maintain Scouting principles. However the majority of the Wivey Explorer Scouts have moved on as they have now left school, so unless we have more young people come forward to join in with the fun and activities then the Leader will move onto another location and Wivey Youth will lose out.

If any young people are interested please contact Pam Gaines on 01984 624657.

Get fit get folk

WHAT better way of keeping fit and healthy than dancing? No Lycra. No tanned, toned, testosterone bodies to make you feel inferior. No strict fitness regime to follow.

Autumn sees the start of a new season of Wivey Folk Dance Club - October 10th and 24th, November 14th, 28th, December 12th Xmas Dance.

We are now into our 13th year and always welcome new members. We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at The Community Centre at 8pm for a lively evening of dancing to live music with instruction from experienced callers. £3 including refreshments.

Even if you have never danced before or have just enjoyed the occasional barn dance, come along and try an evening with us.

The emphasis is on fun and enjoyment.

Look forward to seeing you. Sue 01984 623 495

Up on the Farm

IT is the 16th August and overnight we have had some rain.... at last, though not nearly enough.

If you have been careful with your water then your lawn will look like mine, brown, dry and dead. Imagine that multiplied across the farm land around Wivey and you will realise what is facing farm animals.

Most farmers are having to feed their stock some of the winter silage already. Our neighbours are feeding both their cattle and sheep as there is no grass for them. This does not bode well for the winter stocks.

Now the heat seems to have gone and we seem to be in for an early autumn, perhaps we will have a good quantity of rain.

Our cows are all right for grass at the moment, but they come to the gate every time we see them in the hope that we will move them to where the grass is not so brown and dry.

Our cow that was so late getting in calf calved last week, giving us a lively white bull calf. She has gone back with Archie and the others in the hope



that she will catch up a bit and get back in calf soon.

Seeing the new little calf with all the others makes me realise how much they have grown over the summer.

We bought four heifers in Hampshire and three of them will calve next month. The fourth has already had hers, named Zapper by Victoria from Kingsmead and she will get a photo as soon as I get the film processed!

At the beginning of August we sold two cows and their calves to someone

in Devon and they went to join the bull we sold there last year.

The owners are very pleased with the calves they have had from our bull and came back for more stock to increase their herd.

We sold two bulls to one farmer in Cornwall and they have gone to a Friesian herd and will run together. We have also heard from Northern Ireland where the heifers we sold have calved and some have moved on again to neighbouring farmers.

It is very interesting following the movement of cattle around the country and knowing the very varied reasons for their movement.

Lately we have been travelling around with Mandy looking at universities and with Penny, who is going to work in Harlow, Essex, for a year and I have come to two conclusions.

Firstly, sadly, there is far less livestock up and down the country than there used to be. Secondly, there are many beautiful places around but Somerset is the best! I am not biased... honestly.

Gill Turner