

A tribute to Thelma Butcher

THELMA and Bob Butcher moved from Scotland to Wiveliscombe in 1966. They had travelled extensively looking for the perfect soil (not house!) to enable Bob to cultivate his lilies.

They eventually found the White House in the Somerset countryside; this over the many years became

a great success, and attracted visitors worldwide.

Their generosity was known to many and the acres of land on which they grew their lilies were open to all. It was not unusual to see many ladies travelling down their drive with armfuls of beautiful lilies and foliage of every description to represent the Flower Club or for a Church Festival.

They seldom, if ever, sold these, preferring to give

them to flower arrangers among their wide circle of friends.

Shortly after their arrival in Wiveliscombe. Thelma assembled a group of like-minded ladies for a meeting and together they founded the Wiveliscombe Floral Art Club.

The very first meeting was in October 1966. Our membership grew and has continued to the present day, for almost forty years.

Thelma was full of encouragement and enthusiasm and managed to cajole every member into believing that they too could be expert arrangers and everything was possible.

She was always generous with time and patience, helping with practice classes, teaching us how to mock up for shows, full of encouragement and remained so for all these years. She was very highly organised and efficient, never more so than when she was demonstrating.

Thelma was a judge, teacher, demonstrator and a pioneer in the art of flower arranging.

It is a great loss to Wiveliscombe Floral Art Club and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Thelma Butcher founder member and chairman of the Wiveliscombe Floral Art Club died on the 8th August 2005.

*Dilys Sandercock
On behalf of
Wiveliscombe Floral Art Club*

Speakers' Corner



Stop moaning!

ANYONE reading the Speakers Corner in the last two Messengers could be persuaded that our town is inhabited by a bunch of sad, old gits with no sense of hope or humour.

My advice to them is: "Lighten up. We live in a vibrant working town where things happen and anyone with an ounce of 'get up and go' can make a difference - for the good. So don't just moan, get involved."

For example, in the August edition, one complaint was about the surgery arranging for a commercial company to offer an Aortic Aneurism scan.

Having lost a good friend to this, very suddenly some years ago, I was delighted to take advantage of this, along with many others. My thanks to the surgery for making this possible.

In October another moan is about the town entrance: "Of what relevance are three badly constructed totem poles to the towns folk of Wivey?"

If you look on the town's website under 'Wiveliscombe marker posts' you can see how every feature represents a part of our history and then rejoice that the Arts Consortium had the foresight to employ a reputable artist to provide this visual opportunity.

Hopefully the editor will have space to reproduce his description, for the first time, in this edition of the Messenger.

Wiveliscombe has been a great place to live for a long time and recently it has been getting better. The last five years have seen:

- The Arts Trail - gates, plaques, totems, seats all living the scene in their different ways.

- Improvements to the main road roundabout.

- The number of specialist shops and galleries increasing sufficiently to warrant their own pamphlet.

- The residents of Wyndhams Flats getting their countryside view back.

- Both schools gaining excellent new facilities and first rate inspection reports e.g. The Primary School was rated 'Excellent with no issues to address' -one of only twenty in England in that year!

- WAP, the Wiveliscombe Area Partnership, setting up Wiveliscombe House, our Community Office, now a core facility. Out of it Wivey Link now provides an essential service for many.

- Despite foot and mouth, the surrounding parishes came together during the Market Town Initiative consultations to gain strength and identity, never more clearly shown than during the two 10 Parishes Arts Festivals

- The Messenger going from strength to strength.

- Our new play area on the Rec.

- Our own website informing all who care to look.

Now we look forward to:

- A children's centre for the area, providing full-time child care for the first time.

- Enhancements to Pulsford Lodge.

- Supported bungalows for the local elderly or disabled, due to be occupied by May.

- The completed History of Wiveliscombe due out in December.

- Much needed social housing in the near future.

- Business units.

Every thing that has been achieved has been the result of someone caring enough to draw others in and make it happen. Being negative achieves little so be thankful and get involved!

Sort it!

Well, it's happening already - all those lazy and "don't care" people who have got their plastic boxes from TDBC for recycling but can't be bothered to be part of the Sort It scheme.

Yes, there they are, still putting out their piles of black plastic sacks days before, or after, the other type of collection anyway!

The paths and roadsides are cluttered with stuff which people can't be bothered to take in or out of their yards or gardens.

Town Hill had a very nice display of old carpet and assorted bags for quite a few days before the last waste collection - nice.

A neighbour of mine has already put out a pile of waste sacks for the next time, I guess? 12 days away... Why are people such slobbs..?

Bah humbug

As I write, I'm looking forward to Christmas. Friends, family, glad tidings and all that.

As an atheist, I'm hardly celebrating the birth of Christ, but I am at least taking time to think about the relationships I have, what they mean, and how they can be enhanced.

But do I need to adorn myself with lights and baubles in order to make an impact? Nope. And do I need to start doing so in November? Nope. And bless, I'm not even referring to the Gods of capitalism and their retail worshippers.

No, here I am on November 10th, and there are already Christmas decorations in my street. Christmas lights even. November 10th! I mean, the bonfire has only just stopped smouldering!

Please, see some friends and family, get some perspective on life, save on electricity, do your bit to prevent global warming, and think for a change about what your neighbours might like for Christmas.

Susan Steward

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- This offer may expire at any time and without prior notice
- All descriptions of items must be truthful

The Town Gateway

IN the last edition of The Messenger, an item in 'Speaker's Corner' questioned the relevance of the marker posts to the town.

As a rejoinder we print the notes of Robert Koenig, the sculptor, who created the posts:

I carved three large oak columns or marker posts. The length of each above ground is 9ft. A variety of images relating to the town of Wiveliscombe were carved into the wood.

These images are a selection chosen from my initial research into the town's history, myths and traditions. The research included a site visit, studying the video produced by the Wiveliscombe Parish Map Group, and I also took into consideration suggestions by the Wiveliscombe Arts Consortium.

The images used are as follows:

Column 1:
1. The tower of St. Andrews Church, the top of which is just visible as one approaches the roundabout into the town.



Column 2:
2. A carved representation of a Roman silver coin from the King's Castle, Wiveliscombe hoard.
3. A beer barrel.
4. A row of bottles, all relating to the strong brewing tradition in the town.
5. Rugby balls.
6. Rugby players and a winged cat.

Column 3:
1. A wyvern, reportedly seen flying around the tower of St. Andrews Church.
2. An impression of the distinctive hanging slates/tiles on the gable walls on the High Street.
3. Two rolls of Pennis-tone cloth.
4. Skittles.

Column 4:
5. Hunting dogs.
Column 5:
1. A Green Man.
2. Relief carvings relating to those that exist on the facade of Court House.
3. A tractor.
4. Sheep.
5. A corn motif, all relating to the town's agricultural tradition.