

# I'm Sure You'll Have Noticed . . .

by our columnist *Jas*

I'M sure you'll have noticed that there can be problems when contributing to The Messenger and you want to have a moan about something.

By the time your words are on the printed page the something has disappeared, happened, is being attended to. Well, not always but it does happen. Anyway, it's because the copy deadline is a good month before the paper is ready and in distribution.

It's happened often for this column's grumbling paragraphs and perhaps it's a touch embarrassing. But consolation comes when another contributor comes up with something grouch-worthy and it's already appeared under Jas's by-line. Good - not everyone reads Jas, after all!

Speakers' Corner last

time read as being by just one (anonymous) writer who had a bash at several of our betes noires and at least a couple of those have been picked up meantime.

Jas is sure you'll have noticed that the grubby and rusty old "Wiveliscombe" sign had gone and the Pharmacy window was and still is being restored. Completed, even, by the time you're all (and all of you are, aren't you?) reading this.

So, yes, it's a tough life writing a column. But, as ever, one thing leads to another and readers will recall (or be reminded!) that we joined the discussion of apostrophes raised by Herbie Best. Is that groans we hear? Do be patient in the back row!

Time and again, when to-ing and fro-ing between

Wiveliscombe and Taunton, we see the sign directing travellers up the little lane to "Frys" and "Quaker House" and we momentarily ponder. Should that be "Fries"? As in chips, you know, being more than one such. Or as in third person singular: "he/she fries the eggs". Somehow that seems a little unlikely.

So is it the name of several people called "Fry"? Well you wouldn't refer to them as the "Fries" now, would you?

Irritatingly perhaps, but then Jas is that way inclined, we consulted the Somerset Archives above the public library in Taunton.

We'd been thinking, occasionally and as no doubt you have, of Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer and Quaker (the way the mind works is astonishing!) but, no, there's no real connection.

The references in the Archives are pre World War 2 and tell of there being two farms in that area between Wivey and Milverton - one was known as Quaker Farm and the other as Fry's Farm.

So there's a spot of history on which readers may care to enlarge. There are plenty of people with the Fry name in the Taunton area phone book - two or three hereabouts - who

might just have some connection. How about it?

Note how that was carefully worded so that we didn't have to pluralise the name. And note too, Herbie, the use of the apostrophe in "Fry's Farm". Want to volunteer to quietly stop by and paint it in place on the signs?

A little way south and quite a few twisty bits in the road out of Wiveliscombe you pass Fernicaps (no apostrophe) and then, just a couple of hundred yards on, there's a dirt road off to the right. No doubt providing access to farm buildings, this was organised not too long ago having been accepted by the usual planning gurus.

This access is off a gentle curve in the road and Jas is sure you'll have often thought, "Wouldn't it be a useful improvement if that side could be made straight with some proper, tarmac-style road surface?" Yes, of course it would and much better than venturing on to the rough stuff if you have to avoid a big tractor, cattle transporter or milk tanker.

This has been done here before but again let's ask: when the planners agreed the job couldn't they have added doing the road bit at the same meeting?

Enjoy Christmas and the new year!

## Renovation of village hall



**THE renovation of Bathealton village hall was a dream which Hugh de Fonblanque had until his untimely death two years ago.**

This dream was kept alive by a group of villagers, including Fiona de Fonblanque, and led by Graham Berthon.

Their hard work and single minded commitment to the project was all made worthwhile on 26th October when a party was held for everyone to see the refurbishments and appreciate how satisfying it is when a community

works together.

A plaque was unveiled in memory of Hugh and visitors were able to see the beautifully renovated old school with its sparkling new servery and a roof that does not leak!

Graham Berthon was presented with a map, centred on his farm at Bathealton.

Everyone enjoyed a piece of beautifully made and decorated cake from Doreen Orton and a toast was drunk to the memory of Hugh, to the new village hall and the community spirit which makes Bathealton the special place it is.

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# What about all those old mobile phones and forgotten tools?

THE Wiveliscombe Rotary Club is organising a collection of unwanted mobiles - with or without chargers etc, working or not.

These will be passed to a central collection point to be assessed for either reusing - some go to the third world if suitable or to reclaim materials used in their construction.

Rotary will be credited with a nominal sum, and it saves these phones from just going to landfill. Do not forget to take your Sim card out before you pass the phone over.

The Rotary is also seeking out redundant hand tools which can be utilised in Africa on behalf of the Tools for Self Reliance Charity.

### What is Tools for Self Reliance?

They support grassroots development in Africa by providing refurbished tools and the training to use the tools.

Working closely with partner organisations in Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Ghana deliver effective aid to artisans in poor communities.

Refurbished tools and sewing machines worth more than £600,000 are each year shipped to support the poverty fighting programmes organised by partners organisations.

To promote local tool production, they have supported blacksmith training programmes in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone.

They send tools which people ask for. The village development groups we help have specific projects in mind when they request tools. We try to meet their requests because they know best what they need. This ensures that every tool we refurbish and send to Africa is used by someone who needs it.

These are the tools most requested:

- Woodworking
- Blacksmithing
- Building and Plumbing
- Shoemaking and leather working
- Car and bicycle repairing
- Metal working and Tinsmithing

Sewing Machines? Maybe. They only send machines that can be repaired and will have a long life. Spares for round bobbin manual Singer sewing machines are the only ones commonly available in Africa. Our partners in Africa need hand or treadle machines which must be round bobbin Singers.

Any make of modern electric machine is useful but old electric machines should be round bobbin Singers. Please, no shuttle, boat bobbin or non-Singer

manual sewing machines.

Electrical equipment? No thanks. We can't send electrical equipment. They don't have enough qualified electricians to make required safety checks.

Garden Tools? No thanks! We never send garden tools to Africa. We need quality not quantity. We refurbish top quality second hand tools to a first class standard.

There's no DIY store down the road for our partners to replace a broken tool. Shipping costs are the same for good tools or bad tools so we only send the best.

**A tool and 20 pence.** This is a good slogan if you want to organise your own tool collection. Then you will collect some funds to pay for the shipping and refurbishing costs. It cost about £30 to ship a full kit of tools to Africa.

Tools for self reliance web site [www.tfsr.org/](http://www.tfsr.org/) need good quality used tools

Contact Dave Edwards of the Wiveliscombe Rotary Club on 01984 623 188 if you have mobiles or tools to donate - also Bruce Keay at Wilkie May and Tuckwood will be happy to act as a collection point for both mobiles and tools.

## Charity stamps

THANKS to everybody for keeping me supplied with all types of stamps throughout the year. St. Margaret's Hospice has benefited greatly.

I am still accepting them so don't throw your Christmas stamps in the bin.

Save them and contact me or put them in an envelope marked "stamps" and leave them at the Community Office.

Ken Hughes  
01984 624213

**White Hart Hotel**

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