

Changing times for the Busy Bees

ANOTHER summer has gone whizzing by and as parents' and carers' lives start to get back to some sort of normality, we at Busy Bees are welcoming new faces and are sad that old ones have left.

At the end of our summer term we said a very sad and sorry goodbye to our play leader Jacky Brannam and our play supervisor Gill Milton.

Jacky has retired to sort out her garden she assures us, not to put her feet up as we believe she deserves to, and Gill has left to follow other pursuits. She too deserves some time to herself after all these years looking after other people's children, no easy task some days.

So now Lisa Bedding has taken over as play leader with the new face of Allison

Giles to help her, and we also have Angela Crump who has, to all our relief, decided to stay on as playgroup assistant.

With any change comes new and exciting times which Lisa and her new team look forward to. They are also keen to emphasise the most important thing from Jacky and Gill's time at Busy Bees, that play is precious and the best way for children to learn and achieve.

We now offer free grant sessions and are open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 - 11.30am and in September are introducing a lunch-time session which will run from 9 - 1.00pm where your child can bring a packed lunch and stay a while longer to have even more fun.

For more details contact Lisa on 01984 624979 or pop in and see us at the Scout Hut in Wiveliscombe.



Messenger helped business grow

FIVE years ago, after being made redundant, Richard Buckingham decided to go it alone - with the support of his wife, Claire, he set up his gardening and property maintenance business.

He had developed building and maintenance skills through experience with local companies and, as with many people from the Wiveliscombe area, ac-

quired his gardening knowledge from his father, who was a keen gardener.

After advertising in the Messenger the calls began to come in. As business developed Richard found that he was also being asked to build garden structures; pergolas, patios, trelliswork and larger projects.

Over the last five years Richard has built up a local clientele who can rely on him to regularly maintain their gardens and properties.

Regular customers have got to the stage of not even having to think if the hedge or lawn needs cutting; Richard anticipates that crucial time between lush growth and uncontrollable untidiness and sorts it out.

Many of Wiveliscombe's gardens look good because of Richard's care.

Richard Buckingham 01984 629156; mobile 07971747938

From the Post Office

ON Monday August 21st Royal Mail will be introducing a new way of calculating the cost of postage.

At present the cost of postage is calculated on the weight of the item alone within broad size limits.

Under the new system, called 'Pricing in Proportion', the size of the item will play a major role in determining the cost of postage.

There will be three size formats. 'Letter' for up to 240 x 165 x 5mm (approximately A5) and up to 100g in weight, these will cost 23p for second class and 32p for first class.

'Large Letter' will be for up to 353 x 250 x 25 mm (approximately A4) and up to 750g in weight and will cost from 37p for second class and from 44p for first class.

'Packet' is for larger items. So, a couple of sheets of A4 paper sent flat in a C4 envelope will be classed as a large letter, but if folded in two and sent in a C5 envelope would be classed as a letter and cost less to post.

The reason for the changes is to bring in a system of pricing that more accurately reflects the cost of delivering mail with bulky packets costing more to deliver than small letters which are more suitable for automated sorting and mechanical handling.

For more information on 'Pricing in Proportion' visit www.royalmail.com/size, call a dedicated helpline on

0456 113 113 or ask at your local Post Office.

With the holiday season being upon us, don't forget that you can get travel insurance on demand and order foreign currency for collection on the next working day at most Post Offices.

You can also arrange for mail to be held at the local sorting office through the Royal Mail 'Keepsafe' service.

On the savings front, the new Post Office Instant Saver Account paying 4.75% interest at the time of writing is proving to be very popular.

Information on this and the other Post Office/Bank of Ireland joint venture financial services products is available at your local Post Office.

Following the retirement of long serving Milverton Subpostmaster Keith Gibbons, Milverton Post Office has temporarily come under the wing of Wiveliscombe Post Office with former Wiveliscombe Subpostmaster Robert Bond running the Milverton Office for three months to give The Post Office time to find a permanent replacement.

A big thank you



WE would just like to say thank you to those of you who sponsored us for the Cancer Research UK Race for Life 2006. We estimate our combined total raised to be in the region of £400, which is fantastic!

So, if you owe us money, beware because we'll send the heavies round if you don't pay up!

This year, we took part in the race at Killerton House, near Exeter on Sunday 2nd July.

For those of you who don't remember, this was the day of the big storm - thunder, lightning, heavy rain - you

name it, we had it.

Fortunately for us, the weather was kind to us once we got to Killerton but the ground was pretty boggy in places. It was more like a cross-country course than a gentle run for charity but I'm pleased to say that we all made it round safe and sound, along with 2,445 others.

Our picture shows us before the race - we were considerably cleaner at this stage!

Once again, thanks to our kind sponsors.

Judith, Val, Cat, Becky and Kayleigh

Brompton Ralph's Rural Revival Fayre

SEPTEMBER 9th is the date for what promises to be the largest country fayre in the history of Brompton Ralph.

It began when Karen Smith, manager of the community-run village shop, filled in an application form from the Plunkett Foundation, which supports rural initiatives, and Brompton Ralph was one of the four villages selected. Since then the Fayre seems to have just kept on growing.

It starts at 12 noon and will incorporate the normal annual art show and flower festival in the church, but outside there will be a wide range of activities and entertainments.

The main arena will host John Whiteley with a sheepdog demonstration, a falconry

display, and a Pony Club musical ride. Quantock Staghounds will parade, with the Cotleigh Brewery dray and its shire horses and vintage cars and tractors.

You will be able to try your hand at have-a-go archery, watch ferret and terrier racing, a gun dog scurry, and enjoy a mummies' play. There will be a special children's play area with a bouncy castle, face-painting and other activities.

The two marquees will house displays of locally produced food and crafts and antiques.

Through the afternoon, music will be supplied by a local jazz band and lunches, cream teas, soft drinks, beer, ice cream will be served.

Wiveliscombe Live Music Association (WMLA)

LOONALOOP are an Australian, drum and bass, trance techno band who we are lucky enough to have playing for us at Kingsmead on Friday 1st September.

The event run by WMLA is going to be something quite different to what we usually do, so please come and support it!

Loonaloop offer a fantastic stage show and really get the crowd going, they have been doing the festivals all summer so should be nicely warmed up! Bar and food will be available.

Tickets £8 available from Martian Records in Taunton, Ted Turner Music in Wellington and Wilkies in Wiveliscombe - buy them soon as its guaranteed this will be a sell out gig not to be missed. <http://www.loonaloop.net/menu.htm>

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Starting 11th September

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Karen Patterson on 01823 400122

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