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Another sighting of the world-famous Wivey tee-shirt

The Jim Laker Fund

WE have been a bit quiet since the Auction of Promises a month or so back. Not much in the public eye of late but things have been going well behind the scenes.

We have had some very worthy applications for funding. We have made donations to Wiveliscombe Ladies Rugby Team and the Wiveliscombe Colts Rugby Team. In both cases we have enabled them to buy new team shirts.

We have also made a donation to Fitzhead Cricket Club to enable them to buy equipment to bring on youngsters. The Ashes victory last year has persuaded a lot of young lads to take up the game and Fitzhead are giving them every encouragement.

For those of you who always like to be seen as a picture of sartorial elegance, we now have available to buy JLF tee-shirts. They are black with our logo on the front and the famous "Where in the world is Wiveliscombe?" globe on the back. Logo and Globe are in yellow.

They come in M,L and XL sizes and are ready to buy now for just £7.50. Can you really afford to be without one? Ask any committee member where you can get them.

If you don't know one call in at The Bear and someone will point you in the right direction. Our thanks go to Sam Nash who did all the donkey work in getting them produced.

We had some fun at Kingsmead School on 4th July where a country fete was being held for some visiting youngsters from Birmingham.

We manned a stall which involved some poor soul sitting on a stool whilst others through balls at a target where a direct hit meant the guys on the stool got a bucket of water over them. Sophisticated or what?

Thanks go to the lads who got drenched and who assured me that "Mum wouldn't mind". I have my doubts on that one but I also got drenched as did Lynne Adams who helped out on the day. I think a good time was had by all! RO

DIARY DATES

AUGUST

Tuesday 15th: Veterans Awareness Day plus Dinner and Dance, Hestercombe Gardens, Taunton. Details: 01823 413923

Saturday 19th: Wiveliscombe Flower Show, Kingsmead Sports Hall

Sunday 20th: Open Garden, Hartwood House, Crowcombe Heathfield, Nr Taunton. In aid of SSAFA Forces Help. 2 - 5.30pm £2.50 per person. Teas. Plants. Details: 01984 624564

20th - 26th: Red Hat Co-operative Exhibition and Sale at Dulverton Heritage Centre, 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Saturday 26th: Clatworthy Village Fete, 2.30pm

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 2nd: Huish Champflower Fete, Produce and Fun Dog Show, 2pm on the village hall sports field

Saturday 9th: Opening celebrations of The Silver Street Centre, 2pm. 7.30pm Barn Dance with 'Tease the Cat' in The Silver Street Centre

Sat 9th and Sun 10th: Heritage Open Days - Silver Street Congregational Church open

Saturday 9th - Sunday 24th: Somerset Art Weeks

Sunday 10th: Silver Street Centre Dedication Service, Congregational Church, 11am

Sunday 17th - Saturday 14th October: 10 Radio Returns

Wednesday 20th: Wiveliscombe Civic Society Annual General Meeting, Community Centre, at 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th and 27th: Day workshops (linked) on the Art of Living at Peace, 10am-4pm at Little Brimley Apley. Contact Fran for details 01823 333846

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th: "Silents in the Hills" - Wiveliscombe's First Silent Film Festival, Primary School Hall

Saturday 23rd: Day Workshop on principals and practices Permaculture, Ashbrittle Village Hall, 10am-4pm. Tess/Richard for details 01823 672543

Sunday 24th: Cinema Obscura New Season starts - Bread and Tulips showing 7.30pm, Wiveliscombe Primary School Hall

Friday 29th: Minehead Male Voice Choir and Ladies Handbell Ringers, St Peter's Church, Huish Champflower, 7.30pm. £6 includes wine and refreshments

The wheel turns again for Wivey Rotary's new president



WIVELISCOMBE and District Rotary Club in July installed Adrian Kellett as their President for 2006-7.

London-born Adrian and his wife Lorna moved to Wivey in 2002 on retirement after 30 years in Norfolk, where he was Chief Executive of South Norfolk Council and Founder-President of Norwich St Edmund (not Edmunds!) Rotary Club.

Lorna's grandparents were Taunton residents, so the move here was to familiar territory.

Adrian is keen to maintain the Wivey Club's traditions of service to the local community, but also to see some new developments during his term of office: "Our effectiveness will be even greater if we can attract women as Club members, expand the range of leadership opportunities we offer young people and establish partnership links with a Rotary Club abroad.

"Above all, I hope we can give Rotary a higher profile by developing

links with local businesses and organisations as well as making people more aware of how much Rotary does to help others.

"The Tsunami crisis showed what can be achieved with generous public support, and we want to build up that support again so that we can be ready to make a real difference when the need arises."

One of our completed projects saw nine Aquaboxes being despatched for future disaster relief support. Our thanks to all who made this possible and for help in supplying and filling these boxes.

Wivey businesses and residents via Rotary have proved again that they can respond when the need is there - our Aquaboxes and Shelterboxes were helping the Tsunami victims within 48 hours of that disaster.

Pictured are the next three years' presidents - from the left, Peter Welsh, Adrian Kellett and Ollie Donnelly

Jubilee Gardens Tree

THERE has been much toing and froing over our Jubilee Gardens Tree.

Positions became somewhat hardened with the Parish Council adopting the stance that the tree should be felled and that a public debate was not required.

Our band of defenders collected over 60 signatures of concerned locals who wanted the tree to stay.

David Galley of TDBC together with his own arboriculturalist, met with us to discuss the situation. The bulk of his report below clearly and fairly sums up what has occurred and the decisions made.

It is clear that none of the reasons cited by the Parish Council were good reasons to chop down the tree; however we have been persuaded that there are in fact significant safety factors.

Mr Galley confirmed that the tree was rare and that usually he would never authorise its removal however in this instance he thought it justified.

As shown below he agreed that the best course of action was to replace the tree with one of the same species and with some reasonable growth. The Parish Council amended their proposal to this effect. Mr Galley wrote:

Proposal. Wiveliscombe Parish Council has applied to fell one southern beech tree (Nothofagus obliqua) at Jubilee Gardens in Wiveliscombe, and (as confirmed by email dated 26/06/06) to replace it with another tree of the same species. The reason stated in the application is that the tree is

outgrowing its situation, and shading the grass and adjacent shrubs and borders.

Consultations and representations. 7 letters of objection and a petition with 66 signatures raising the following issues:- the tree is healthy, not diseased and not dangerous; because of its age (30 years) and size, it provides an attractive centre-piece to Jubilee Gardens and is the largest tree in this part of town; it provides shade in the summer; it would take another 30 years for a replacement tree to have the same amenity value; its retention should take priority over the health of the shrubs and other plants in the surrounding borders; it has become part of the town scene over 30 years and has sentimental value; Some of the objectors suggested that the tree was pruned rather than felled; earlier this year the parish council arranged for a tree surgeon to remove the tree (without making a notification to Taunton Deane).

When the tree surgeon arrived, a number of residents prevented him from carrying out the work. **Assessment.** The tree has been very severely and poorly pruned in the past (within the last 10 to 15 years and without notification to Taunton Deane) and as a result is showing signs of stress (splitting bark) and developing structural weak points which will make the tree unsafe in the near future. The main problems are:-

The re-growth after the pruning has been rapid and produced long, whippy branches which have weaker unions at their base than naturally formed branches.

These would need reducing in length significantly to prevent them splitting off in high winds.

Two of the largest re-grown vertical branches are forked at their base. This will be a weak point as they increase in thickness and push each other apart.

The main trunk of the tree has, at about 3 to 4 m height, grown horizontally and has a number of vertical branches growing from it. The weight of these branches is causing stress to the main horizontal stem and would need to be reduced significantly in length to make safe.

The tree is in a well-used public open space. Because of its structural weaknesses it is liable to become unsafe in the near future. If pruning/pollarding was carried out, it would require such an amount of the canopy to be removed (almost all of it) that it would look unsightly in this situation, and would require regular re-pruning/pollarding for the rest of its life.

A new tree could, in the long-term, provide a more attractive, healthy and safe amenity if it was properly managed. Crown-raising and thinning, which is not possible with the current tree, would also allow enough light for shrubs and other plants to grow around it.

Recommendation. Permission be approved to fell the tree, and that it is replaced by another of the same species, of good size stock (3 - 4 m) and in the area of the existing tree (having removed a significant amount of the old roots and prepared the ground).