

## More than 200 attend the Wiveliscombe Book launch

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**Wiveliscombe Book Group: back row, Bob Croft, Hilary Miller, Barbara Weston, Graham Mark, David Bond; front row, Veronica Cole, Sue Farrington, Bernadette Rowe, Frankie Dransfield (Brian Collingridge, Brian MacKinlay and Dixon Luxton are missing from this photograph)**

WIVELISCOMBE - A History of a Somerset Market Town was launched on Saturday afternoon 17 December 2005 in the Sports and Arts Hall of Wiveliscombe Primary School, an appropriate venue since many of the 200-plus who attended had begun their schooling in the adjacent buildings.

The Head Teacher and his staff are warmly thanked for facilitating this unique occasion in Wiveliscombe's history.

Dixon Luxton, Chairman of the Parish Council, introduced Tom Mayberry, County Heritage Officer, who praised the book's thorough historical approach, well researched detail and wealth of exciting information about the town. Jane Hawkins, whose own family and that of her late husband had been involved with business and farming in the town for several generations, then unveiled the first copy of the handsome book for all to see.

Sue Farrington, co-ordinating editor, thanked

everyone for all their contributions, interviews, photographs and support throughout the very rewarding project, which had taken the members of the Wiveliscombe Book Group nearly four years to compile.

The first copy, signed by the twelve members of the Group, was won in the lucky draw by young Victoria Hawkins.

The event has been described by some as the biggest social occasion in the town since the 1945 victory parties. Townspeople and guests from farther afield enjoyed drinks and seasonal fare, while old acquaintances were renewed and many took the opportunity to acquire their copies.

In the week up to Christmas, over 1,000 copies were either sold or reserved. Orders have been received from around the country and overseas, and details may be found, with an order form, on [www.wiveliscombe.com](http://www.wiveliscombe.com).

Members of the Wiveliscombe Book Group acknowledge that regrettably, but inevitably, in a publication of this complexity and nature, a few inaccuracies have crept in. These have been discussed with the people concerned who have graciously accept-

ed that the errors were unintentional and will be amended if a second impression is printed.

The launch was supported by the Coteleigh Brewery. Financial assistance for the book came from the Local Heritage Initiative, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and administered by the Countryside Agency, and two anonymous donations.

Many long hours were contributed voluntarily by the members of the Book Group, who feel privileged to have been entrusted with the writing of this splendid history of which the town can be justifiably proud.

Photographs: Reg Taylor

● *Wiveliscombe - A History of a Somerset Market Town (Colden Publications, 2005) ISBN 0-9540992-1-4. 342 pages, A4 hardback and dust-jacket, 715 illustrations, including 9 colour plates and accompanying CD of maps and documents. Available from Tucker's News, Wiveliscombe Post Office, Brendon Books in Taunton and Wellington Bookshop, or by post (plus postage and packing, inland £6) from P O Box 22, Wiveliscombe TA4 2ZH.*



Clarice and Jim Watts



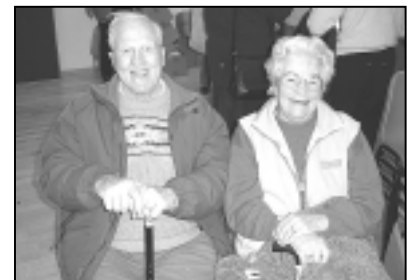
Tom Mayberry, Sue Farrington, Jane Hawkins and Dixon Luxton



Judy Millett and Hilary Miller



Justin Shepherd and Danny Clarke-Lowes



Sid Woodbury and Joan Broom



Don, Diane and Gordon White



Sue Farrington, William Hancock and Bernadette Rowe



Wivey residents await the book launch

## Thank you to everyone

Dear Editor — For those unable to attend the highly successful and enjoyable launch on 17 December and the very many who did, on behalf of the members of the Wiveliscombe Book Group I am writing to acknowledge the support we have had for our Wiveliscombe - A History of a Somerset Market Town.

The patience everyone has shown in waiting for us to

complete it has been complemented by the great welcome the book has been given since publication.

It is not just Harry Potter which flies off the shelves, as the Post Office and Tucker's News will testify! Thank you everyone, and happy reading.

Yours sincerely  
 S M Farrington