

Ernest Bevin - did you know he was a local boy?

I WONDER how many of us who enjoyed the enlightening talk by Bevin Boys Warwick Taylor and Ian Ferguson, described by Pauline Home-shaw in the last issue of The Messenger, realised that the eponymous Bevin was a local boy.

Ernest Bevin was born on 7th March 1881 in the Exmoor village of Winsford in a two-story cottage opposite the post-office. He was the seventh child of Diana Bevin, known as Mercy, who was separated from her husband by the time Ernest was born.

As a child, Ernest attended a chapel (de-consecrated and converted into a house several years ago) a few doors away from the post office on the way to Exton.

The earliest-known photograph of him was taken outside that chapel sometime in 1884, just before departure on a Sunday school outing. He also attended the village's Church of England school.

Diana provided for her family by working as a cleaner at the Royal Oak pub, but she died when Ernest was just eight, never having told the boy who his father was.

Ernest was then sent to Morchard Bishop in Devon, where he was brought up by a half-sister. The family later moved to Coplestone, near Exeter, and Ernest went to school at Colebrooke and then Crediton. He left at 11 and began work as a farm-labourer.

He took a variety of jobs over the next few years, both in Coplestone and Bristol, where he moved when he was 14.

It was in that city that he became a lay preacher and involved himself in politics, campaigning on behalf of the unemployed. In 1910 he became an official of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Labourers Union.

The rest, as the cliché goes, is history - father of the TGWU, its General Secretary from 1921 until 1940, when he was appointed to the War Cabinet as Minister of Labour and National Service, Foreign Secretary in the Labour Government of 1945-51, the year he died, and, of course, originator of the "Bevin Boys" scheme.

Barry Witherden



Work progresses on the Silver Street Centre

Dead people don't come back to life

DEAD people don't come back to life, but Jesus did.

It is this fact that Christians the world over celebrate each Sunday and especially on Easter Sunday.

Jesus Christ is alive never to die again, a fact attested to by more than 500 eye witnesses. And just in case you are wondering where he is now, 40 days after he conquered death and the grave he ascended to heaven, to the place of all authority at his Father's side.

Every week of the year, the Christians in Wiveliscombe meet on a Sunday as witnesses to the fact that it was on the 'first day of the week' that Jesus conquered death.

On Good Friday, the day on which we particularly mark Jesus' death, the various congregations (St Andrew's, St Richard's and the Congregational Church) will come together for a 'March of Witness'.

Then, on Easter Sunday, each con-

gregation will celebrate this amazing fact - Jesus is alive! It is the fact of Jesus' resurrection from the dead that is the ground of the Christian's great hope, both for the present and the future.

Meanwhile, the Congregational Church continues to meet on a Sunday in the Community Centre (11.00am and 6.00pm) due to the major building work in Silver Street. Work is progressing.

We are planning a celebration to mark the opening of the 'Silver Street Centre' on the weekend of the 9/10 September 2006. Watch this space for further details.

Happy Easter from Alan and Ursula Millar and the church family that meets in Silver Street.

Alan H. Millar
Pastor Wiveliscombe Evangelical Congregational Church.
Part of the Church in the town

WIVELISCOMBE BUSINESS OPENING TIMES

BUSINESS	WEEKDAYS	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Co-op	8.00-22.00	8.00-22.00	8.00-22.00
The Larder	8.00-17.00 (17.30 summer)	8.00-13.00	-
Spar	8.00-22.00	8.00-22.00	9.00-18.00
-			
Thome's Butchers	8.00-17.00	8.00-12.45	-
Whelan's Café & Bistro	8.30-15.30 (17.00 summer)	8.30-14.30	-
Kingfisher Chippy	12.00-14.00 & 17.15-21.00 (Tue-Thu) (17.15-21.30 Fri)	17.15-21.30	-
Golden Ocean	17.30-23.00 (M/W/Th/F)	17.30-23.00	18.00-23.00
Carousel Pig	10.00-13.00, 14.00-17.30	10.00-17.00	-
Chapel Gallery	10.00-16.30 (Tue-Sat)	10.00-16.30	-
Country Guns	9.00-17.30 (20.00 Fri)	9.00-16.00	-
Comer Antiques	10.00-15.30	10.00-15.30	-
Courthouse	10.00-17.00	10.00-17.00	-
Little Acorns	9.30-17.00 (closed Thurs)	9.30-17.00	-
N Street Garden Shop	08.00-17.00 (M), 9.00-17.00 (Tu) 9.00-17.00 (W), 8.00-13.00 (Th)	9.00-13.00	-
Post Office	8.00-17.30	9.00-12.30	-
The Pharmacy	9.00-13.00, 14.00-17.30	9.00-13.00	-
Tuckers Newsagents	3.30-17.00	3.30-16.00	3.30-12.00
Wivey Hardware	9.00-17.30	9.00-16.00	-
Yew Tree Antiques	10.00-16.30 (Tue-Sat)	10.00-17.00	-
Four Square	9.00-17.00 (T), 9.00-20.00 (W) 9.00-19.00 (T), 9.00-17.00 (F)	-	-
Stevens Hairstylist	9.00-17.30 (Tue & Wed) 9.00-19.00 (Thu & Fri)	9.00-13.00	-
London House Podiatry	9.00-17.00 (Tue-Fri)	9.00-14.00	-
Webber	9.00-17.00	9.00-13.00	-
Wilkie, May and Tuckwood	9.00-17.30	9.00-13.00	-
Nat West Bank	9.30-15.00 (Mon & Fri) 10.00-15.00 (Wed)	-	-
The Library	9.00-12.30, 14.30-18.00 (Tue) 9.30-12.30, 14.30-18.00 (Fri)	9.30-12.00	-
RGB	7.30-17.00	8.00-12.00	-
Little Angels Plain Pond	10.00-15.00 (Tue) 10.00-15.00 (Thu)	-	-
Wiveliscombe House	9.00-13.00	10.00-13.00	-

Local medical student Rebecca Hewitt to visit Zambia with SKIP charity

REBECCA Hewitt, of Wiveliscombe, is preparing to return to a small rural area of Zambia, southern Africa with a charity called Students for Kids International Projects (SKIP).

The organisation is student-led and aims to give children living in distressing situations around the world the love, care and attention they deserve.

She worked with the project in Zambia last August and is currently fundraising so that she can return and carry on the work this summer.

The charity provides free education and medical attention to orphaned and/or street children living in desperately poor conditions in rural villages in the Kanakantapa region.

The charity is collecting educational equipment for primary age children and medical equipment that is so desperately needed. This includes basic items such as alcorub gel, plasters, antiseptic cream and gloves that will enable the children's health needs to be met.

If anyone would be interested in helping gather such items together or would like to make a financial donation towards the costs, they can contact Rebecca on 07966 518987 or by email (rjh476@bham.ac.uk).

Rebecca, 19, will be travelling with other healthcare students from the University of Birmingham Medical School in her capacity as Assistant Project Coordinator to spend a month supervising new volunteers and developing a new HIV/AIDS educational programme.

Last year, the charity fundraised money for two boreholes following widespread drought and famine in Zambia, which will provide safe water supply to hundreds of people living in Kanakantapa.

Zambia is one of the countries worst hit by AIDS, with over 200 people dying every day from the disease, and leaving behind more and more orphans.

Since their involvement began four years ago, SKIP has helped the community develop two community schools giving free education to all children, and by promoting simple hygiene and health care messages, the rate of illness and death in Kanakantapa has significantly fallen, accompanied by a massive increase in the quality of life.

To find out more and get involved, contact Rebecca directly or visit SKIP's new website: www.skipkids.org.uk.

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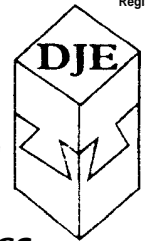
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