

**READERS' LETTERS**

**Who is creating the age gap?**

Dear Messenger — I write this letter in the hope that certain people may read it and, just maybe, learn from it.

I have read countless times about young hoodlums and their anti-social behaviour in our village. Well I am a 30 year old father of two

and I am shocked at the behaviour of some of our older residents.

I have always believed in the age old saying "respect your elders" and I was bought up with a good set of manners and a decent amount of courtesy. While walking on the pave-

ment with a single pushchair with my two year old son in it, and my five year old daughter holding on to it, I came across two elderly people who were blocking the pathway, chatting.

I said "Excuse me please" to be met with a 2 inch shuffle from the gentleman and an annoyed tut! I squeezed the pushchair by, with two wheels off the pavement and my 5 year old daughter having to walk on the road.

I said "Thank you", only to be met with a reply of "Bloody pushchairs!"

It does not stop there. I work in the village and whilst working on a local house I had to park my van outside on the road.

I started working and before long I heard some foul language, things that couldn't be repeated or printed in this newspaper!

I turned to see a 90-something year old gentleman in a motorized wheelchair/ car coming down the pavement, wagging his finger and calling me allsorts of names, turning the air blue. I am still unaware of what I did to deserve such treatment.

So I conclude with a statement: Please treat and respect younger members of the village as you would like to be treated and respected. Then, just maybe, the age gap divide may be bridged!

*A concerned younger member of the community (name and address supplied)*

Dear Messenger — Not long ago I went for an X ray and on entering the room noticed it had taken on an air of minimalism.

The radiographer explained that it had been recently 100 per cent computerised and all the equipment had been reduced and mostly the patient now stands instead of laying down.

The operator only has to position the patient and switch on and all the adjustment is taken into account.

When I said that it was a pity that all those years training and experience were going to waste, she said, "Oh no - I have to override the computer by +1 or +2 to compensate for your belly" - it seems +1 was OK for me.

*Keith Brooker  
Lower Langley*

**Treat us with respect - or else!**

Dear Messenger — I recently read an article in a national newspaper which stated that two exhibits in an Oxford museum were a bullock's heart and a toad which had been found up the chimney of a Chipstable farmhouse in 1892.

These two items were pierced with nails and thorns and were apparently used to cast evil spells on local inhabitants.

I contacted the museum curator and he informed me that in 1892 a Mr Parkman found 30 to 40 specimens of animal body parts whilst cleaning out his chimney. Two were taken by a Dr Taylor and another by a Mr Fox, the remainder being destroyed by the farm people.

The farmhouse, which is

still occupied although the present occupants prefer it to remain anonymous, was built in early 1600 so it is difficult to determine just how long these animal parts had been up the chimney.

An article in the May 1892 edition of the Wellington Weekly states "A most curious discovery was made the other day at \_\_\_\_\_ Farm in Chipstable by Mr. Parkman who, on cleaning out his chimney came across 30 to 40 hearts of animals.

"Some of the hearts were thickly covered with prickles. How they came to be in the chimney is not yet known."

The moral of this tale is that we folk in Chipstable should be treated with respect, or else!

*John Roberts*

**Letter from Nepal**

THIS month data from two daily newspapers shows that the Maoists killed 48 security personnel and 5 general public, while security personnel killed 41 Maoists.

Endless cases of abductions and bombings by the Maoists are also reported.

The historical city of Tansen in Palpa district and Panuti in the Kathmandu valley is still shuddering after the horrific attacks by the Maoists which bombed and razed to the ground the historical palace in Tansen and virtually all government and security infrastructures.

The week long strike called by the Maoists around the municipal polls, although called off after 4 days, did its damage as did the heightened security and the stands taken by all 3 contending parties.

The government is saying that they will go with the elections anyway, the politi-

cal parties saying they would boycott and ask the co-operation of all to do so, and the Maoists saying they would not allow it to happen.

It was a huge relief that nothing drastic happened during those days! Such an eerie environment as one can expect!

The public suffered tremendously and continues to do so. The price of kerosene and diesel shot up this last week, doubling transport costs and inflating the prices of utility goods.

Demonstrations and strikes continue to disrupt daily lives. Nepal is still making up those lost days as much as they can.

On the order of the Supreme Court, the corruption commission was disbanded and the late PM and congress leaders, jailed for over 9 months, released.

**10Radio Wants You - Tuesday 25th April**

DID you enjoy listening to Wiveliscombe's own radio station last September? And did you say to yourself 'I could do that!'

Well, now's your chance. 10Radio, the community station for Wiveliscombe and the surrounding parishes, wants to go back on the air from Sunday 17 September to Saturday 14 October 2006 - and we need your help and participation.

10Radio organisers are holding an open meeting at the Community Centre on Tuesday April 25th at 7.30pm. Come along, meet some of the people involved and you'll soon want to join in with one of the best com-

munity initiatives for years.

Experience is absolutely not necessary! You'll meet people who always dreamt of presenting radio programmes, or have a passion for music, or wanted to help our youngsters become DJs, or just wanted to answer the phone and help out. We did this last year, and all of us were fresh to radio.

So come along to the evening, get involved, and we can guarantee you'll have a great time with a great bunch of people from your local community.

For more information contact Derek Skeavington 01984 624133 or Eddie Gaines 01984 624657.



Ralph Matcham prepares to broadcast



**SPEAKERS' CORNER**

**'Little Boxes ...' (Pete Seeger)**

MY heart sinks at the news of more houses being built in Wiveliscombe.

The town certainly isn't chocolate box pretty but it has a shape and integrity which has evolved, in the past, in a fairly harmonious way.

However, any reference to vernacular style and materials has been abandoned in recent developments and the dolly mixture housing of Anytown UK is only too evident.

It would seem that our local planners really have lost any sense of place and appropriateness to the existing built environment, as demonstrated by their acceptance of liver coloured building blocks and purple red roofs.

If we have to have more houses, and some might question whether the town infrastructure can support more than a few affordable homes for local people who earn local, fairly modest wages, then at least look at the surroundings and design with a view to locality.

Do we really want more of these bland, uninspiring, inappropriate boxes to be our contribution to the architectural heritage of Wiveliscombe? I don't.

**Smile**

As I walked across The Square a few days ago, I smiled at someone whom I had not seen before. This person looked at me for a moment, gave it some thought, then smiled back.

Well, just think about that! - two people, without putting too much effort into it - had just made a friend in a very short time. I just might have to go around with a smile on my face a bit more often.

**Turd Festival?**

I'm so pleased to see that Wiveliscombe is having yet another festival this year. The 10 Parishes was so much fun, some of our dog owners appear to have taken it upon themselves to start their own festival.

The signs haven't gone up yet, but there is 'turd bunting' all over the place. I think it really adds something to the town. Turds on the footpath are so 1985, it's good to see people being so inventive.

The skill is second only to the deft wrist flick required to get the moist parcel into the carrier bag in the first place - Bravo! I wonder, is the technique over arm or under arm for getting the stuff so artistically hung from a tree branch?

Oh do please let us know when the festival week is; I'm so looking forward to the celebrations on the Recreation Ground.

Fancy a go on the Bouncy Turd, anyone?



Quantocks in December by Ian Rice, a member of Wiveliscombe Photo Forum

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