

# Restaurant Rant 2

THE writer of the Restaurant Rant in the last issue of the Messenger reflected the views of many of us who would like to enjoy eating out locally but approach each occasion with some trepidation because we know we may well be disappointed.



**SPEAKERS' CORNER**

It enrages me when friends living in London speak of excellent two course lunches, including choices like mussels and swordfish, and a glass of wine for £16 in a stylish restaurant in the old Barkers/Derry and Toms building on Kensington High Street.

Any evening I can pay that for an often disappointing main course chosen from a formulaic menu, in a local pub, sitting on hard chairs with a paper napkin.

What are we actually paying these city prices for? The venue, ingredients, decor, staff wages, on-costs; yes, of course, but I think we are also servicing the debts of the entrepreneur who has seen an opportunity to make money from the rise of the much hyped fashion status of food.

Eating out, TV celebrity chefdom and life style articles in magazines encourage us to be aspirational in our eating. 'Pan fried Marlin steak and crisped potato batons?' Yes, please! I love fish and chips.

So, how about a bit more effort and quality assurance from our pub restaurants; good quality napkins and tableware,

spread the tables out a bit, train your staff to know about the food they are serving and how to serve it, adjust your prices to a realistic level, concentrate on a changing menu of fresh food, preferably using locally sourced ingredients, and we'll be happy to come again and again.

We, the punters, have got to stop being mealy mouthed;

'Everything all right Madam?' 'Yes, thank you'.

No, it often isn't all right! We'd complain at poor service and shoddy goods in any other retail situation; after all when it comes down to it, they're only selling us something to eat and it can't be that hard to get it right.

## Lack of A L and L in Wivey

I live in Wiveliscombe and would quite like to improve my computing skills.

I looked at the new Adult Learning and Leisure programme and this would be fine if I was prepared to drive to Taunton, Wellington or even Bishops Lydeard. But it is not possible to

find such a course in our town.

As with so many other services, and indeed attitudes, I find that we here in West Deane are being side-lined. We do not have the services which we ought to have, even though we are the third largest settlement in Taunton Deane.

We used to have a fine range of Adult Learning courses on offer here, but cutbacks have disadvantaged Wiveliscombe and 10 Parishes residents.

This lack of courses for us locals is not the fault of Kingsmead School, but is the fault of planners at county level and we should all make a fuss.

If you feel like I do, please write to SCC, County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY or call 0845 3459122.

## Noise blight

GLORIOUS summer days mean that we all love being outside; having supper, reading or just whiling the time away.

Why on earth do some people find it necessary to have their music on so loud, shriek and yell at the tops of their voices and generally make what should be a pleasurable time of year so uncomfortable for their neighbours?

OK, I know, get a life and all that; but that's what I'd like to do.

I'd like to enjoy my own space, rather than be forced to share it, at quite the volume, that my more considerate neighbours and I seem to have to at present.

# READERS' LETTERS

## Fond farewell to Wivey

## New homes are needed

Dear Messenger — We were fortunate enough to spend several weeks living in Wivey earlier this year and would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the community for welcoming us.

We left Ascension Island on a Saturday evening in late April on an eight hour plane journey to the UK. It was a long, hard trip, especially with a three-year-old in tow.

Anyway, we arrived safely and were picked up by a courteous and very understanding Taxi driver (Geoff from Quest Cars).

On the journey down to Wivey, along with reading Bob the Builder and Fifi to entertain Harley our three-year-old son, I was constantly thinking - what's it going to be like? Will we like it? Will I fit in at Kingsmead Community School? Will Harley be O.K.? Will Nicky be bored? Will the community accept us?

A tense time, and all unnecessary worries I'm glad to say. Our time in Wivey was brilliant!

School was very accommodating. The staff welcomed me into their 'space'; there were always friendly smiles and hearty welcomes. The students were inquisitive about the lady from the middle of the ocean - we had some fun times.

All in all my time spent at

Kingsmead was very rewarding, I came away reassured that I was doing a good job back at Two Boats and overflowing with new/different ideas for my classroom/teaching/school. Mission accomplished!

The experience of living in Wivey was surreal. It was like home away from home.

Harley got to know the place well and knew exactly where he was going/at most of the time. Nicky certainly knew where he was going/at all of the time.

Everyone at 'the Bear' was fantastic! Good food, good drink, good people! (Especially those from Grumpy Cottage! Lots of love Pete and Di. Special Thanks to the Bendall Family for settling us in. Harley still enjoying the Guinea pig Vicky!)

What more could a guy or gal ask for? We will treasure the memories for years to come.

And just in case there was anything we missed we will definitely be back. How can we not be - It's the most whole hearted welcome we have ever had in the UK (and we have been quite a few times and visited quite a bit of the country).

So once again from the bottom of our hearts - The Andrews family say 'Thank you Wivey!' See you all in 2007.

Nicky, Isabel and Harley Andrews

Dear Messenger — I was sorry to read the letter from Christine Rose in the last Messenger complaining about the planning application for 20 dwellings on land north of Plain Pond.

She clearly did not know of, or had forgotten, the Housing Needs Survey conducted for the Parish Council by the Community Council in March 2005.

From the 67 survey forms returned, 61 Wiveliscombe households were deemed to be "in affordable housing need".

It is for these, local people that the mixture of affordable flats, 2 and 3 bedroom houses and a bungalow for a disabled person are approaching the stage where Magna Housing Association will start building soon.

Not everyone can afford to buy a house in Wiveliscombe and with an ever decreasing stock of council houses to rent, we need more houses to rent for local people who wish to live

here. As a working town our businesses need workers.

When building starts later this year, this paper will let interested families and individuals know how to apply.

Brian Collingridge

## Water waste

Dear Messenger — How crazy is it to flush two gallons of good hard-won drinking water down the pan everytime we pee less than half a pint?

In the last 1976 shortage we were encouraged to flush the loo with bathwater but mostly 'don't flush the loo unless you poo'.

Now that water is no longer cheap and freely available, perhaps we should have a simple filter system to recycle bath and shower water for the WC.

Meanwhile, a bathful of used 'grey' water and a large plastic jug can be used for lots of 'mini' flushes if the loo is handy.

Keith Brooker

## A lifetime of faithful service

IT is 1932 and we are in the North East of Brazil. A young missionary is facing a hostile crowd summoned to stop him preaching.

A voice calls out "What bishop ordained the preacher?" The firm reply comes back, "The Lord Jesus Christ who said, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel'."

In response stones begin to fly, forcing the missionary, together with his Brazilian colleagues, to leave town.

William Bannister Forsyth was that young missionary. Born on 30th July 1906, he had been in Brazil for just four years, but he was to remain there another 42. Many speak with great affection of his time in that country.

In 1933 he began what would become his ministry for the rest of his time in Brazil, that of training Brazilian men and women for the work of sharing



Jesus Christ with others.

In 1974 Ban returned to the UK to retire. It might be imagined that retirement would mean a well-earned rest, but Ban never had this in mind. He became pastor of Wiveliscombe Congregational Chapel, serving for eight years.

On 30 July Ban celebrated his 100th birthday. A special service was held at the Congregational Church, with family, friends and former colleagues joining him from all over the world.

Go back to 1932 and you will find among the crowd a young man unmoved by the day's events.

Questions have arisen in his mind - Why have these people come? What is there about their message that makes it worth risking injury?

Thus began a search for answers. He found faith and became a preacher of God's Good News.

How do we know this? Fast forward 42 years and this same man heard that the preacher he had once attacked is in town, taking one last service before leaving Brazil for retirement, so he went to meet him and tell him that one day's seemingly useless work had not been in vain.

**MEMBERS of the Tiverton Civic Society, hosted by our own Civic Society, being given a walking tour of Wiveliscombe by Bob Croft, County Archaeologist, on their recent visit.**

The visitors were most taken with Wiveliscombe's hidden treasures and also with the vibrancy of the community's activities.

The evening's visit was most pleasantly rounded off with a supper at The Chapel Gallery and a promise to repeat the visit in future.



## More useful hints

- ❑ Did you know that Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns?
- ❑ Achy muscles from a bout of the flu? Mix one tablespoon of horseradish in one cup of olive oil. Let the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then apply it as a massage oil, for instant relief for aching muscles.
- ❑ Sore throat? Just mix ¼ cup of vinegar with ¼ cup of honey and take one tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.
- ❑ Honey remedy for skin blemishes - cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a plaster over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.
- ❑ Listerine for toenail fungus - get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.
- ❑ Balm for broken blisters - to disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine, a powerful antiseptic.
- ❑ Easy spectacles protection - to prevent the screws in specs from loosening, apply a small drop of clear nail varnish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.
- ❑ Coca-Cola cure for rust - forget those expensive rust removers. Just saturate an abrasive sponge with Coca Cola and scrub the rust stain. The phosphoric acid in the coke is what gets the job done.
- ❑ Vinegar to heal bruises - soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for one hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.
- ❑ Quaker Oats for fast pain relief - it's not just for breakfast anymore! Mix two cups of Quaker Oats and one cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for one minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.

## You must be joking!

A PIPE burst in a stockbroker's house, and he called a plumber. The plumber arrived, unpacked his tools, did mysterious plumber-type things for a while, and handed the broker a bill for £600.

The broker exclaimed: "This is ridiculous! Even I don't make that much as a broker!"

The plumber waited for him to finish and quietly said, "Neither did I when I was a broker."

*Helena Trump*

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