



November 2008

A JUBILEE DRIVE

Dear Members,

The season for field walking is at hand and a small group of members investigated a plot at Eastdon Farm at the request of Richard Weeks where the foundations for a new barn were shortly to be laid. A small collection of finds included many pieces of broken pantile roof tiles, a few fragments of old slate, a large broken plough blade and one worked flake of black flint. Most of these items appear to have come from a nearby wall and probable shed. Other than the flint no traces of any ancient civilization were uncovered but we can hope can't we !

Our Hon. Treasurer, Paul de Lusignan, wishes me to remind members that this year's subscription of £5 was due by 30th September. Payment by cheques should be made payable to Dawlish Local History Group and sent to him at 4 Empson's Close, Dawlish EX7 9BG.

I am sorry to have to report the sad demise of Mrs Janet Crawford, one of our original members.

Have you been to St. Gregory's churchyard recently?. As you should know, on the last Saturday of every month, a small party of DLHG members, led by Derek and Sheila Wain, assembles there to clear the bush from around the graves and to make the inscriptions legible once again. The work is hard but very rewarding and I think you would be very impressed by what has been achieved. I hope I am not giving you the impression that the work is finished ... There will always be other areas to be cleared and of course the bush has a habit of growing back. Nevertheless the churchyard now looks far better than it has for many years and Derek and Sheila are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and achievement. Extra hands are always welcome.

Bob Thompson

Next Meeting : December 1st at the Manor House commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Christmas Social with Quiz

"Quick, Martha, fasten my fur. I know it is May and the sun is shining but the wind can still be chilly and it could be quite cold in an open carriage. And where are my mauve kid gloves? Go find them, girl! I must not be late for Lady Lea. She is collecting me in her carriage for the Hospital Ladies Committee. Oh, you have them - good. And I can hear the horses. Oh but where is Lady Lea? There is only a young lady....! Thank you, Baker, my ankle is still painful from the sprain, and what's this?" - as the groom from Sea Grove handed her a note. "Ah I see." The note read, 'I regret that I must miss our meeting as my husband has been taken ill but I have sent the carriage as I promised to take you. I have sent my apologies separately to the McCaslands. In my absence may I introduce you to your companion, Miss Davidson, the daughter of my dear friend who is residing in Holcombe for a few months and wishes to see at firsthand how things are done in Dawlish. Please call on me next week when I shall be 'At Home' on Thursday to inform me of the outcome of the meeting.'

"Ah Miss Davidson, how nice to meet you. Your stay is pleasant I hope? You wish to know about the running of our Cottage Hospital? Well, I shall tell you as we go along to Stonelands to our meeting. We have to travel along one of our oldest roads and have to pass five public houses so you may wish to avert your eyes. Here is our Town Hall...you can see our fire engine being cleaned as I believe there was a fire yesterday at an old thatched cottage - quite ruined I hear. And here on the right is our Institute founded by Mr Cosens next door to the police station.

Our Cottage Hospital was built in 1880 for the benefit of the local poor, with money given, it is believed, by Dr. Cann of Sefton in Plantation Terrace or who certainly provided most of it, on land given by a very generous lady. There are 10 beds for patients, the nurses and the matron, who receives £40 a year, live in, . However, we also have an Infirmary in the High Street set up following a disagreement between some doctors, but there is talk of it amalgamating with the Cottage Hospital. We also have a Dispensary in Queen Street, just opposite the entrance to Haldon Terrace where we left my house, that provides spectacles, bandages and other items to the poor. Patients are admitted to the hospital on a referral basis - that is certain people around the town - I am one as my husband was a surgeon, retired now of course, can refer a suitable applicant for treatment. The hospital only takes certain cases, no children under two, no maternity cases, no tuberculosis, mental or chronic illnesses. My previous cook had to be admitted some years ago for treatment and although she improved was not able to continue working.

The Hospital is funded by private donations and run by a General Committee whilst the Ladies' Committee (to which we are going now) helps with arranging fund-raising fetes and concerts, one of the reasons for today's meeting..... Local people kindly donate vegetables and eggs on a regular basis and even newspapers and books.

Oh the noise! That's the little children running around in the schoolyard - the boys' school up the hill is even noisier! And here is the Manor House where we go in to collect Miss Jackson. There is her Jack Russell and her famous clumber spaniels that have won prizes. Good morning Miss Jackson, I hope you are well. Lady Lea is indisposed but may I introduce her friend Miss Davidson. We shall soon be at Stonelands. Oh

dear, perhaps not Here comes farmer Hext along Church Street with his cows, it will take some time for them to get to his farm at the end of Weech.....and they shall leave such a mess. I am so sorry for the delay..oh dear, oh dear, yes I know it is not my fault but we shall be late... perhaps we can go up the hill past Oaklands and down over the stream at Aller.....at least we will arrive clean. That's better. This is better than driving behind the cows although it is a little farther.....and there are some lovely views of the Aller valley and Luscombe woods...

Here we are at Stonelands. Good afternoon Miss McCasland I trust you are well. So kind of you to accommodate our meeting. I believe you are also opening your garden for the fete which will be wonderful, such lovely flowers, the daffodils are mostly over but the rhododendrons and azaleas are beautiful at the moment. I understand the gardens were originally planned by Henry Repton. We used to have the meetings at Luscombe Castle when Mr Hoare was the President but he died four years ago and the Castle is let this year and young Mr Hoare is living at Fairfield at present.

Before we go in I'll point out some of our committee - I see Mrs Alford, the vicar's wife, Mrs Bayldon from Oaklands and Mrs Collis, the Treasurer's wife, have arrived already and I believe Miss Dick from Brook House, Mrs Whidborne, Miss Plenderleath, daughter of the Rev. Plenderleath of Mamhead and Miss Pennell who now lives in Lawn Terrace, are definitely attending.

The meeting is to arrange this year's fete and the concert and usually takes two hours. Afterwards the McCaslands will give us one of their wonderful teas with splits and....have you tried our Devon clotted cream? It is something delicious.....taken in small doses. Shall we go in?"

Tricia Whiteaway

Silverton Outing

When 18 members of the DLHG met outside Silverton Village Hall on the afternoon of September 1st it was just a name on the map for most of us. Two members of Silverton Local History Society met us and after a brief introductory talk led us to the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin which dates back to the mid fifteenth century (although records are listed as far back as 1272. In the churchyard there is a yew tree reputed to be 1000 years old , and a preaching cross allegedly damaged by Cromwell's troops.



Leaving the church, we divided into two groups for tours of the village. There were many thatched cottages some of which had been 'half houses', ie. with a central fireplace with smoke escaping through the thatch. These of course have been updated over the years with chimneys showing on the outside of the walls. Several houses have burned down, an on-going process as the latest fire mentioned was only a few years ago. Luckily there has always been a conduit running down the High Street which even in times of drought has never dried up though

the modern fire service may not need to take advantage of this facility. There is no village green but there is a square which came about when a whole row of houses burned down creating a wide open area. The ancient school and a field used as a playground for the children in the past are situated here and , rather poignantly, the war memorial is in a corner of the playing field bearing the names of those killed in the first world war who would have played there as boys. The village had seen King Charles pass through, Cromwell's army stationed there before their assault on Exeter, and American troops prior to D-day.

There was so much more to see and learn so Silverton is much more than a name on the map. Both groups met to enjoy a delicious cream tea at The Lamb, one of the local pubs. Our thanks to all the drivers and as usual to Tricia for arranging it all.

Mavis Stuckey

Violent Assault in Dawlish A Smack in the Face with a Frying Pan

At the Dawlish Vestry Hall on Thursday - before Captain W.C. Strickland and Mr M.G. Brown - Susannah Price of Preston St. Exeter was brought up in custody on a charge of assaulting Chas.Richards, lodging house keeper, on Wednesday and also with maliciously breaking two panes of glass at the prosecutor's house. The assault case was first heard. The prisoner admitted the assault but said the prosecutor struck her first. The prosecutor deposed that just after nine o'clock in the night the prisoner with her husband and sister came into his house to lodge for the night. About a quarter after ten witness refused an application by prisoner for some fuel for a fire to cook her supper, Prisoner then became violent and deliberately took up the frying pan and struck prosecutor in the face with the result that he received a severe cut in the left eye lid.. Daniel Sullivan, labourer, also gave evidence of the assault. - P.C. Braund. arrested the prisoner in Alexandra Terrace the same night. She denied breaking the glass. There was no evidence given as to anyone seeing the prisoner break the glass, no person being near at the same time. The witness Sullivan said he heard prisoner use threats to break the glass. - The chairman said the Bench were disposed to deal leniently with the prisoner and she would be fined 6d and 2s 4d costs and would have to pay 3s, the cost of the glass.. - Prisoner was allowed until Saturday for payment.. - The chairman remarked that in consequence of the large number of tramps coming to the town the Bench would in future impose the highest penalty on those who. came before them as they were a great nuisance to the place.

The 1891 census shows Charles Richards to have been aged 38 and born in Ashcombe, as was his wife Mary A(nn?). His occupation is listed as 'general dealer' and his address as Common Lodging House which he presumably kept, as he is head of the household.

The lodging house was next door to 2 Williams Cottages and just down the road from Golden Terrace, presumably off Town Tree Hill

*Contributed by Angela Marks.
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