



DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter

September 2013

Website: www.dawlishhistory.org.uk

Dear Members,

We have just heard that Angela Marks, our Treasurer and Speaker Finder has a buyer for her house and hopes to move in October.

*We need two more members of the committee; a **Treasurer** and a **Speaker Finder**. So please could we have some volunteers, this matter is urgent as it is usual to plan the speakers for next year towards this November/December as the first event is in February 2014.*

Our next outing will be to National Trust Bradley Manor, Newton Abbot on 3rd September at 2:15pm.

If you wish to attend you will have to contact Tricia Whiteaway on 01626 866927 as soon as possible.

*Regards,
Derek Wain*

Thanks to older members...

On 10th July 2013 the committee of the DLHG held a tea party in Jo's Room at the Museum to honour Paul de Lusignan, the retiring treasurer. Paul had served us for many years overseeing the distribution of the newsletters as well as keeping our finances in good order – in the past he had been ably assisted by his late wife Jo (hence the name of the room as she had been instrumental in raising funds for it). Paul was given Life Membership, another life membership was also presented to Marie Thompson to acknowledge her behind the scenes & support of Bob who is sadly missed by us all both for his hard work and wit. As well as his certificate Paul was presented with a bottle or two to enjoy at his leisure - we look forward to seeing our two life members continuing to enjoy future meetings.

Mavis

Trip to Ugbrooke – 16 July 2013

It was a VERY hot day when 21 members of our group met in the grounds of this house which has a very long history on this beautiful site. We were met by a very nice lady called Mary who was to be our guide for most of the visit – she acknowledged the heat and said that anyone needing to sit and rest and have a cold drink had to mention it to her and arrangements were available – that really set the tone of the tour. As there had been a property on the site since Norman times and had been in the same family although with various names due to marriages of daughters into other aristocratic families. The Cliffords who are the present incumbents are a very old family with associations throughout the years with Royalty – 'The Fair Rosamund' being very well known as the secret mistress of King Henry the second who was traced to a secret hideaway at Woodstock where she was traced by Eleanor of Aquitaine (the Queen) who offered her a choice of a dagger or poison – legend has it that poison was her choice. A portrait of her can be seen at the bottom of the stairs. The Clifford family were also very important during the Stuart years when Lord Clifford of the day was the confidante of the King. It was at this time that the family converted to Catholicism – which they maintain to this day as the beautiful chapel shows. There is so much history at Ugbrooke that I cannot do it justice in a brief article - one little personal touch was the grave of Bob – a dog regarded as a good friend – this was placed under a tree by the lavender beds. The afternoon ended in the Orangery where most folk were glad of cold drinks instead of the usual cream teas. As usual big thanks to all drivers who gave lifts on this hot day; also thanks to Tricia for all the organization.

Mavis Stuckey

**Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 1st October, at The
Manor House.**

**A talk on Ghosts in Devon
by
Robert Hesketh**

at 2.30pm

Dawlish Flooding, Friday 7 October 1960

People who were awakened in the early hours of Friday morning by the sound of torrential rain and a single clap of thunder could not have realized that this heralded the most serious flooding in Dawlish for many years.

Mr B. Chapman's picture was not taken at the height of the flood on Friday. It was between 1pm and 2pm that the water reached its highest level and came almost to the top of the fountain.

At the Met. Station in the lawn the total rainfall from 28 Sept. to yesterday morning (8 days) was 7.36 inches; the highest recording was taken on Saturday morning; 2.13 inches.



Livestock drowned.

On Friday afternoon a heifer belonging to Mr. P. Baulkwill, Court Farm, Holcombe, was found drowned in a field above the village. The animal was jammed tight in a 6 foot gully which had been carved out of the hillside by the rush of water.

Evacuated Flat

Mr & Mrs Glyn Berriman, 3 Garden Flat, Brookdale Terrace had a most unpleasant experience. They were awakened by the barking of their dog at 5:30am on Friday morning to find about 2 inches of water on the floor of their bedroom. The water rose rapidly, coming through a manhole in the passage, as it had done on two previous occasions. The flat was again flooded on Saturday & Sunday. Through the kindness of Mr L. Watkins, Mr & Mrs Berriman have been living at the Royal Hotel, pending a full investigation by the public health department of the Council.

Many sightseers

In contrast to the downpour of the morning, the sun was shining at mid-day on Friday when crowds of people watched the remarkable sight of the Brook rising rapidly. It would appear that there was a second cloudburst on Halden during Friday morning, and suddenly started to rise again at 1pm. By that time there was too great a flow of the water to go under York Bridge and flooding began in Brunswick Place, Brookdale Terrace and Piermont Place. Water poured into Dawn Cellars, Messrs Tarrs, Miss Paytons, and Messrs. Soundys, and practically into all the cellars from the corner of Piermont Place to the Royal Hotel. The local Fire Brigade and Council pumped water out of the houses and cellars.

Over the bridges.

The floodwater covered the whole length of the Lawn path and also came over the tops of the bridges. Tuck's Plot was inundated and water was rushing through all the arches of the Viaduct, making it impossible to go onto the beach. One car which tried to drive along Brookdale, had to be pulled out, and the police diverted all main road traffic along Plantation Terrace. Heavy baulks of wood were washed down stream and practically all the coloured lighting was washed away.

Stream Illuminations

It was the second year running that the stream illuminations

were washed away. Practically the whole of the installation over the water was damaged irreparably.

Aller Stream

On Friday and on Sunday evening Aller Stream, many times its normal size, swept into Luscombe Pond, over the bank into Mill pond and directly over the Glebe into Lawn Stream. Flood water from Luscombe flowed into the church yard past the church tower and into the mill leat trough the lych gate. It was fortunate that the church was not flooded.

Floods at the Warren

A television programme featured the flooding in the holiday parks at the Warren where a number of low-lying sites were under water owing to the inadequacy of the tidal culverts. Fortunately those mostly affected were holiday caravans which were empty, although some staff caravans suffered.

The flood water had subsided by Tuesday night.

No land slides on the railway

Slight cliff falls were experienced at Earlys Wall where two private beach huts were tipped over. The face of Lea Mount was considerably eroded by the downpour and there was much red earth to be removed from the walks. Fortunately there were no landslides onto the railway, the only local hold-ups being caused by the flooding of Teignmouth station on two occasions. A number of passenger and freight trains, normally run on the western region were diverted to the main line through Dawlish.

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It is believed that this car was owned by Mrs Gwanwyn Wright in 1969 and was subject to a 3-point turn!