



# *Buckfastleigh and District Society* Newsletter

Issue 15

April 2008

## Welcome to our Newsletter

### Previous meetings

Since our last Newsletter in November 2007 we have had a visit from Phil Newman of English Heritage who gave us a fascinating talk on the 'Mines of Buckfastleigh and Ashburton'. In fact so popular was the subject that it was 'standing room only'!

Following that, in December, we held our Local History Group Christmas Social evening – which proved to be a happy and successful event. Also in December the Christmas Windows competition was judged by Councillor and Mrs P Clarke with the following results: - 1<sup>st</sup> Place went to J Searle & Son; in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place was the King's Arms; 3<sup>rd</sup> was 70 Fore Street with Dean Forge being Highly Commended.

In January PCSO Douglas McCance came with Sgt Ian Stewart to talk about the role of Community Support Officer. Again there was a good turn out and many questions asked and answered.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February we held a Public Meeting of the Millennium Green Trust and this was followed by an excellent talk from Jan Kusmirek about 'The Wonder and Joy of Perfume'. We never knew just how much goes into the creation of perfumes.

Unfortunately our Egg Hunt in March was far from successful, mostly due to the inclement weather we suspect. However, some brave parents and children did turn up and seemed to enjoy it despite the rain!

### Our next events

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding our Annual 'Brain of Buckfastleigh' Quiz, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall. The entry fee will be £1.50 per person with a maximum of 4 people to a table. Please do try to come and support us as the proceeds are all in aid of Local Charities. See posters for any other details.

Another popular annual event is the Mystery trip which will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, leaving from Woodholme Car Park at 1.15 pm. The cost for entry, coach and cream tea will be £14.50. Contact Peggy Henley on 01364 643496 for further information and to book.

**FUN DAY** - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm on the Orchard Millennium Green. Please do come to support us and have a good time, as well as helping us to raise funds to maintain the Green for a further year.

We will be holding a **SUMMER WALK** in July – again date and details will be on the posters as well as in the monthly Community News Sheet. We felt we would have a change this year and have chosen somewhere other than Dartmoor, which will make it a less strenuous walk.

### Orchard Millennium Green

If any of you have visited the Green recently, you will have noticed that the mower shed has been moved inside the Green and made secure. We would like to thank all those who have helped with this and also all those who are, and will be, helping with mowing, gardening and general maintainance of the Green on every first Saturday of the month until October, from 10.00 am to 12 noon. In particular we would ask if any of our members could come along and help. As a Society we have opted to apply to join in the 'South-West in Bloom Neighbourhood Award' scheme which involves a specific area (i.e. the Green) being judged on improving the environment with horticulture in its widest sense. CAN YOU HELP?

### Local History Group

Chris Routley is still being given old photographs of Buckfastleigh to put on our database. What an amazing panorama of historical and social interest they display! Our thanks for photos go to Mrs W Short, Mr G Green

and Mrs R Look. If anyone else has any old photos please contact Chris on 01364 642592.

### Buckfastleigh Remembered

We continue with the second part of the piece that Chris Routley has written about his memories of the Mill Fire Brigade. He says that: -

"Part of our job was to remove and empty extinguishers from different departments within the Mills, this again was treated as a drill, they would light fires on waste ground to the side of the mill. We would have to extinguish these. After that we dated and refilled the extinguishers and put them back in the departments. This was done periodically until all departments had been covered.



Chris in competition at  
Brislington, Bristol

Once a year we had a major drill with Totnes, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh brigades. The Totnes Chief would take over and run the exercise; it involved a lot of hoses and water and we cleared the floor of a high unused mill building in a mock exercise. I thought this was great as we had older equipment and this meant we got to see the more modern equipment".

Part three will be in in the next Newsletter.

For information on the Society's activities, please contact Ann Armstrong on (01364) 642839

