



# *Buckfastleigh and District Society* Newsletter

Issue 16

September 2008

## Welcome to our Newsletter

### Previous meetings

Our annual 'Brain of Buckfastleigh' Quiz took place in April this year and was a great success. The winners were 'Florrie and the Old'uns' and they donated their winnings to Brainwave; in 2<sup>nd</sup> place were 'The 4 Has Beens' - their prize money went to Devon Air Ambulance; whilst the donation from 3<sup>rd</sup> place 'The Ancestors' was also sent to Brainwave.

In May the Mystery Trip took us to the Bodmin to Wenford Railway, where we had a delicious cream tea. Our thanks to Peggy Henley for, once again, organising such an enjoyable outing for us

Fun Day in June, which was opened by Jan Young, was a great success with more people there than we have had for some years. We also had a larger number of stalls and this helped to make a more varied event. Totnes Town Band again entertained us. The Duck Race winners were: - 1st Katie Donald; 2nd Jill Burgess; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vicki P; 4<sup>th</sup> Warren Richardson and the Mystery Duck prize won by Amaris.

For the Summer Walk in July we chose a different area to explore and, ably led by John Hodgson, the walkers set off along the canal path from Exeter Quay to Countesswear Bridge and back, a distance of approx. 5 miles. More people came than in recent years and we had a lovely leisurely walk.

### Our next events

Mike Perriam will be coming to give an illustrated talk to us about 'The Abbot's Way, Dartmoor' on 18<sup>th</sup> September, and we look forward to this, do come if you can as he is always very interesting.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> the AGM of the Society will take place. If you are interested in being put forward as a

member of the Committee please let the Chairman know or come forward at the meeting. The AGM will be followed by cheese and wine, and then we will have a talk from a Dartmoor National Park Ranger.

Following the success of our Summer Walk, it is hoped that we will also have an Autumn Walk, which will enable us to see the autumn foliage at its best. Details of this will be in the Community News Sheet and also on posters around the town.

South-West Water will be sending a representative to speak to us at our meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Do come along and, hopefully, find answers to any questions you may have.

### Orchard Millennium Green

As we said in our last Newsletter 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. Those of you who have recently visited the Green, perhaps on Fun Day, will hopefully have noticed the hard work of all our volunteers, which has helped to transform it by making extra beds along the wall to create more interesting areas; and the large bed has been improved with additional planting. We had four shrubs donated to us by a local lady (name unknown) but our thanks to her and to all the people who have put in their valuable time to help us.

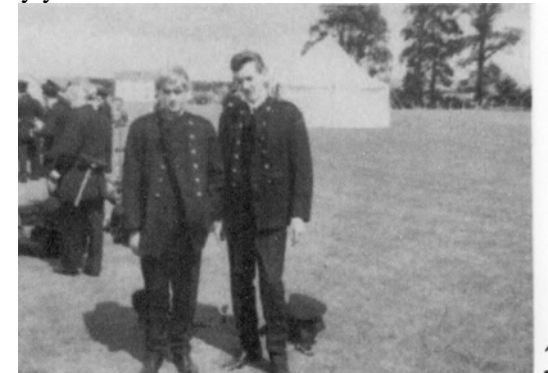
### Local History

Chris Routley has made an excellent DVD from our Photo Archives. This was on sale at Fun Day and also on Lamb Pie Day. A great deal of interest has been expressed in this and if you were not able to attend either of the days and would like to buy a copy please contact Ann Armstrong (Tel. No. at the end of this Newsletter). The cost is £5.00 (with £1.00 p & p if you require it to be sent).

### Buckfastleigh Remembered

Now here is the third, and final, part of the piece that Chris Routley has written about his memories of the Mill Fire Brigade. He says that: -

"We had our own full drill every three weeks, run by Ron or Cecil. Not all drills were wet drills, but if we did have a wet drill we had to hang the canvas hoses up to dry around the station for a couple of days. Once they were dry they could be rolled up and put back into the pump. Once a year we would take part in drill competitions against other CWS fire brigades in Bristol. This involved two four-manned teams and two oneman drills. I was in a four-man team with George Reed; also we did a oneman drill each. For the six weeks before the competition we had to drill once a week for the fourman drill to learn it and get our speed up and for myself and George we had to do an extra night every week to learn both our oneman drills. No one knew the details of which drills would be performed until about six weeks before the competition when Ron was informed by letter from Manchester. The drill changed every year."



Edwin Nolan and Chris Routley taking a break before the next drill

Thank you Chris for sharing this information with us.  
For information on the Society's activities, please contact Ann Armstrong  
on (01364) 642839