



Issue 5

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR INFORMATION TO ENTER INTO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT:
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Mutated Foxglove at Heanton



This unusual foxglove flower was spotted in the garden at Heanton Satchville. Deformed flowers can occur for a number of reasons but most likely in this case is damage caused by frost to the immature flower buds as they formed during the early spring.

Our native foxglove – Digitalis purpurea is a most fascinating plant. It is a pioneer and will quickly appear on cleared ground from seeds which may have lain dormant for many years. It demonstrates many ingenious adaptations to ensure successful pollination and seed dispersal. Bumblebees are guided into the flower by nectar guides, namely, the spots in the mouth of the flower. These show up under ultra-violet light and bumblebees are sensitive

to this part of the spectrum - landing lights for bees. The hairs in the flower help to give them traction and the downward facing flowers deter other insects (they may rob nectar and pollen without pollinating the flower). Once seed has set, the tall stems aid seed dispersal by waving in the wind.

Foxgloves are toxic to humans but are used in small refined doses in the form of digitalin to control heart disease.

It is worth remembering that if you find any unusual flower forms like this that can be propagated, you get to choose the name. In this case the only option would be Digitalis purpurea; 'Splat'!

North Devon Cricket Match

Sunday 10th of July, the stumps were set for the annual cricket match between CDE, Merton and Petrockstowe. Petrockstowe won against Merton as predicted, then it was time for CDE part-timers against the professionals of Petrockstowe. We had a few surprises up our sleeve, including the great white hope, coached in South Africa and now heading the Garden contingent of the team. Surely this, combined with the 3 ringers from East Devon,

Charles, Edward and James, was the inspiration we needed.

Despite several missed catches (ably demonstrated by Paul) we kept the score down to an achievable target, but lost some cheap wickets to some very fine bowling and fielding, eventually losing by a couple of runs.

Next we took on Merton, winning the toss we put them in to bat. With the bowlers arms warmed up there was a sense of purpose about the team. The mishaps of the first game were far behind as some very good bowling and fielding gave us more than an even chance. Brendan got us off to a flying start and the batting form lasted right down the line. James came in to

boost the run rate, unfortunately for him Geoff was at the other end and whilst James was in running mode Geoff was in idle. Despite James trying to infuse some energy into Geoff, it was a lost cause, Geoff was determined to run no more than a single. Eventually (much to Geoff's relief) he was caught for 4. Ash faced 2 bowls before deciding he didn't like being the target for that red object that Merton kept throwing at him, in he came. With the garden department reduced to taking coaching lessons and learning about their short comings from Paul, the practice was too little too late. The winning runs were not long in coming, as befitting, Edward came in and made it look like

British Show Jumping at Bicton Arena



Bicton has put itself firmly back on the map as a favourite venue for show jumpers who praised the excellent going, well thought out schedule and super camaraderie at last weekend's three-day meeting.

People flocked to the main arena to cheer on their teams in the Inter Academy Pony regional competition which ended in tears of joy among supporters of the victorious Cornish Choughs.

Steve Williams designed a series of up to height, technically testing tracks in the 1.30m series which saw Sammie Jo Coffin (Willem de Lux), Mark Edward (Mamas Tinker) and Justin Tuff (Retro) sharing the top money while Dorset's Kathryn Ellison headed the Halo Horseboxes B&C with Master Finn.

a stroll in the park.

Although Petrockstowe were the winners of the event, the true winners were all who turned up as it was a cracking day all round.

Finally I think a vote of thanks should go to Kenny Heaman for organizing and controlling such a fantastic day. Next year will be ours!

Heath Week and Festival Day

Sunday 24th July saw the start of our annual Heath week festival the east of Woodbury Castle. The weather was a bit drizzly when we put up the tents meaning people would be looking for things to do other than going to the beach.

Things started off slowly but quickly picked up, Landrover Experience's 4X4 drives were

busy all day. Bungy was helping children to make bugs and flowers out of pipe cleaners. One girl was heard to say "I wish he'd give us a chance to do the work". The tractor and telehandler were busy with young and old imagining themselves hammering over the commons.

In the distance the story teller was keeping the young at heart enthralled by his stories. Groups were taken back in time by the archaeologist, and others made clay pots as they did in times gone by. The RSPB and Devon Wildlife Trust were leading walks and building bird boxes. Children and adults were wandering around with

all the things that they had made during the day like birds out of willow.

The remainder of the week's events were oversubscribed and we had to split the Nightjar hunts into two. The ones on East Budleigh common had at least two pairs spotted with one actually seen perched in a tree.

Aggregate Industries walks were full; Duncan the Quarry Manager gave a good insight into the regeneration of the quarry now that abstraction has stopped. People were allowed to walk over recreated heathland to see how things were progressing.

The RSPB's Dawn to Dusk finale on the Friday was again especially busy with children enjoying pond dipping.

We were even asked if we could do this more than once a year. We feel this is something that we are comfortable with, though it does take a lot of organising by Kimmo Evans of the AONB, and all the other organisations.

