

TIVERTON CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Tiverton Civic Society Newsletter

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Our thanks to Gavin Haig for providing the pictures of Tiverton Hospital's Wildlife Garden,
arranged as a medley by the editor

Our thanks to Fax and Files for printing this newsletter

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Chairman's Introduction

Will Mid Devon soon have a local plan? It is hoped that a decision will be announced soon. It is long overdue! The Examination in Public (EIP) of the Local Plan 2013 – 2033 was heard by Planning Inspector, Paul Griffiths, in February. The majority of Hearings were attended by Fern Clarke and Mike Sanderson on behalf of our society, and I spoke at the Hearing on the Eden Westwood proposals for Junction 27 (Policy J27), stating that we would like to see modifications to the policy 'to allow greater flexibility for other employment uses, preferably of a skilled and professional nature'.

The most recent Mid Devon Economic Profile, as well as the Draft Economic Strategy, contain some pertinent facts: Mid Devon has a lower proportion of its population of working age than the national average, mainly due to an ageing population and a significant proportion of young people moving out of the area for education and work. Few of those in higher education return to work in the district as most jobs are low waged, requiring low qualifications and technical skills. Productivity is consequently poor. There are comparatively few high-tech jobs and advanced manufacturing businesses which would be classified as part of the expanding knowledge economy.

Despite this, Mid Devon has a high employment rate and low unemployment. This is significantly higher than the South West and the UK rates, and is at a level at which the district has effectively full employment. This means that

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few people are available to staff new businesses, and that existing businesses often find it difficult to attract enough workers of the right quality.

The proposed development at Junction 27, with a projected 1200 employees, would seem to provide largely low-wage, low-skilled jobs, many of which may be seasonal. There is no evidence that additional graduate or high skilled non-graduate jobs will be created. This will do little to address the underlying employment issues facing Mid Devon, particularly the need to encourage the development of high wage, high skilled jobs in the knowledge economy. It will undoubtedly magnify employment problems facing existing businesses. In our submission prior to the EIP and at the hearing, I suggested that the 71 hectares allocated at Junction 27 should include the possibility of creating a technology hub on this important site, linked to south-western universities, and stressed that the proposed leisure destination should be smaller.

Now to the articles in this Newsletter. We celebrate the contributions of individuals and of groups of people, many of them members of this society, who share with us similar aims, and are helping to make our town a more attractive and vibrant place in which to live.

Gavin Haig's fascinating Spillafords Wildlife Garden was for many years an outstanding local attraction, and, despite his move to a smaller house, his enthusiasm is unabated, as witnessed by the exciting development of a new prize-winning wildlife garden at Tiverton Hospital. The committee of the Tiverton Community Arts Theatre, based at Tiverton High School, have for

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many years had the ambition to provide a purpose-built theatre fit for the 21st century for both the people of Tiverton and for those living in the surrounding area, prospects for the future being very encouraging. The Tiverton Volunteer Litter Pickers continue to make great efforts to tidy-up the town and they are to be congratulated on the recent award of £500. We also include a review of Peter Maunder's superb recent book 'Tiverton Cloth' by our leading local historian, Mike Sampson. This Newsletter also discusses the fascinating story of French prisoners of war who lived under parole in Tiverton and many other West Country towns, especially during the Napoleonic Wars: this is the subject of a fascinating exhibition at the Tiverton Museum.



Jo Mortimer, many of whose paintings have highlighted the attractions of Tiverton's historic buildings and streetscapes, has shared our concern about the neglect of several buildings.

We drew her attention to the condition of Exeleigh House and, using recent photographs, she has kindly produced a fine black and white drawing of the front of the building, generously presenting it to our Society. This can be seen on our website and at the CreaTIV Hub in Fore Street. The house, which is within the Tiverton Conservation Area, has been a concern to us: for instance, we included two articles about it in our November 2010 Newsletter, and we have frequently consulted conservation officers. The drawing dramatically highlights the sad deterioration of the exterior.

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Exeleigh House was built for John Heathcoat soon after 1820, and it is listed Grade II, being described by Historic England as 'a good example of a [late] Georgian villa, with some unusual features, such as the cast iron columns to the porch, but it is also historically important as Heathcoat's house, sited close to the factory and the West Exe development'. It seems that John Heathcoat never lived in the house, and one story is that he arranged for it to be built for his daughter Caroline on her marriage to Ambrose Brewin. They certainly lived in the house until after the 1851 census when they moved to Hensleigh House. Thereafter, the building was leased to a variety of families, many not associated with the textile industry. Part of it became a Devon County Day Nursery in 1942. In 1952 Heathcoats took it back for their own uses. It was used for some years as the factory's personnel office and as an experimental laboratory. During the 1970s East Devon College begun using the building for overflow classrooms, but for over twenty years the house was little used and neglected, with obvious external deterioration.

The drive to the house became unusable in the late 1940s owing to the collapse of the bridge over the factory leat, access subsequently being through the factory grounds. The once extensive gardens were gradually built over as the factory's operations expanded. The present company operate from a restricted part of the site and pioneer the research, development and production of specialist textiles. For reasons of security the company needs to control access strictly, this being a major problem preventing the sale or lease

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of the house. It has been suggested that the footbridge to the house over the Exe, destroyed in the 1960 floods, should be reinstated, or that, with the recent demolition of redundant buildings, a new secure driveway could be constructed. Both would be very costly.

It is very gratifying that the exterior of the building is at present being repaired, and that its appearance is already much improved. Jo Mortimer is hoping to produce a full colour painting for the Society when and if this work is complete! It is hoped that a long-term programme can resolve Exeleigh House's future use, the provision of access being a major priority!

It is always a pleasure to announce a new book by one of our members.

Douglas Rice, already author of an outstanding biography, *'The Life and Achievements of Sir John Popham 1531 – 1607,'* has written a new book *"Renegado' John Were. Truly a Hero"* (Hazel Books - £7.50). Col. John Were of Halberton was a Parliamentary officer in the English Civil War who raised his own regiment of Mid Devon men and fought several major engagements, keeping a record of his own actions and writing a clear and concise account of the Civil War in the West of England. As Douglas says: 'he emerges as a brave, sincere, committed and engaging contributor to an arduous campaign which profoundly affected Britain's future ... truly a local hero'. Copies of the book should be available at our next meeting on May 14th.

Jeremy Salter

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Tiverton Hospital Wildlife Garden, an Award-Winning Project

My passion for wildlife and the natural world began seventy years ago, during an idyllic boyhood in rural Essex, which allowed me to explore woods and streams, to climb trees and make dens, and to run freely in wild flower-covered meadows, sending up rainbows of butterflies. I was enchanted then, and I'm enchanted still, though the world is very different now. Children probably don't make dens or climb trees like they used to years ago.

I have lived in many different locations in Essex and Devon, and in each one of them I have tried to create a corner for wildlife, from suburban plot to the four-acre riverside area which evolved over some 27 years into Spillifords wildlife garden. My aim has been a simple one, to encourage plants and creatures to thrive in a safe area, free from herbicides and pesticides.

My love of encouraging wildlife to flourish in a garden setting led me to develop a wildlife garden at Tiverton and District Hospital in my presidential year with Exe Valley Rotary Club. My rotary colleagues were very supportive, and several of the members helped to create the initial layout of islands of wild flower beds, fixing bird and insect boxes to some of the surrounding trees. The wards of Twyford and Blackdown have a good view of the garden area, and can witness birds feeding from nutholders and raising their families in the strategically placed nestboxes. Patients often report seeing hedgehogs in the garden on warm summer evenings.

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The Mid Devon Natural History Society, Tiverton Hospital League of Friends, and Exe Valley Rotary Club have managed and maintained the hospital wildlife garden since it was developed when the hospital opened in 2005. When the Exe Valley Rotary Club was offered a stand at Octifest street food event, it presented Rotarians with a great opportunity to promote the hospital wildlife garden, which the club sponsored along with the Hospital League of Friends. On the stall, volunteers invited donations for nest boxes of all types. The donors' names were engraved on zinc plaques fixed to their boxes. The boxes were photographed and placed in the garden by a team of Rotary volunteers in the hope that the birds, insects, and mammals attracted to the nest boxes, would provide enjoyment and an aura of serenity for years to come.

I have found that the best way to manage the wildflower population is to create 'island' flower beds, bounded by boughs of dead wood or limestone rock. The islands are managed like garden flowerbeds, so that vigorous intruders such as dock, dandelion, and coarse grasses can be weeded out. Our cherished collection of native species includes Dames Violet, Snakes Head Fritillary, Meadow Cranesbill, Corn Marigold, Poppy, Heartsease, and Lady's Smock and Evening Primrose among many others.

Herbs, another great interest, are encouraged and mixed into the wildflower islands. I am fascinated by the history and medicinal use of herbs; indeed we use them extensively in both cooking and therapeutically, and grow many varieties including Feverfew, Marjoram, Fennel, Lemon Balm and Lavender,

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many of which are highly attractive to butterflies, particularly Common Blue and Small Copper, as well as many brown butterflies such as Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet. All these butterflies have been attracted to the hospital wildlife garden. One of the most successful ways of adding to the meadow flower collection is to start native wild flowers in pots and plant them out individually into prepared meadow areas.

The hospital garden is bounded by Devon hedgerow banks with Guelder Rose, Wayfaring Tree, Hawthorn, and Blackthorn, which attract birds such as the song thrush, blackbird, robin and wren to feed and nest there. I have discovered over the years that an essential component of any wildlife garden is a patch of stinging nettle. Best placed facing south, nettle will attract some of our loveliest butterflies. We have several clumps of stinging nettle on the south-facing hedge bank. Residents such as Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma all lay their eggs on stinging nettle, while the migrant Red Admiral's larvae feed on the nutritious plant before making the long journey back to southern Europe or northern Africa. A recent acquisition has been an insect nest box. This innovative box habitat houses ladybirds, lacewings and mason bees in hollow bamboo tubes, arranged in layers; the ladybirds returning the compliment by feeding on aphids.

Our Hospital Wildlife Garden was given national environmental recognition in February 2018 and I was presented with a trophy at Torquay in April - the Rodney Huggins Environmental Award. The RHS were invited to judge the

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wildlife garden in July 2018 and we were awarded a certificate for an outstanding wildlife garden.

I have found that encouraging, nurturing and protecting native species in the hospital garden is a constant joy and inspiration. Patients, staff and visitors tell me that the Tiverton Hospital Wildlife Garden is a sanctuary; a potent source of the spiritual and emotional nourishment and healing so necessary in our pressured world.

Gavin Haig FRCS

Tiverton Community Arts Theatre

Tiverton Community Arts Theatre (TCAT) was formed in 2010. It was born out of the plan that year to rebuild Tiverton High School. A public consultation at that time firmly stated that the community wanted a new theatre and arts building as part of the new school design. A building that would be constructed and run to be fully accessible to the community. The plans were, however, put on hold in 2010 when the Government put a halt to all new school building which had been planned under the previous Government's 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative.

Significantly, during the week commencing 11th February 2019, Neil Parish MP addressed Theresa May at Prime Minister's Questions at Westminster to stress the urgent need to rebuild Tiverton High School. After nine years of hard work the prospect of a new school and theatre is back on track.

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Tiverton has a thriving arts and performance community. Be it dance schools, choral groups, music clubs, amateur theatre companies, film society, the excellent Signpost pantomime club and much besides! What Tiverton lacks is an arts space fit for the 21st century. One that the whole of Mid Devon can be proud of. Tiverton is growing fast, and new housing is being planned and built on a large scale. As far as access is concerned Tiverton is well placed next to the A361 North Devon Link Road and within easy reach of the M5 motorway and mainline railway station.

TCAT has close links with Tiverton High School, so when in 2010 the new school plans were put on hold, a group of dedicated people from the community gathered and formed Tiverton Community Arts Theatre. TCAT quickly drew up 3 main aims to:

- Promote arts and performance wherever it happens in the community.
- Prove the need for a new theatre in the town by running and promoting arts events of all kinds in the auditorium at Tiverton High School.
- Explore funding opportunities to build a new theatre for Tiverton.

TCAT began putting on events for the public in 2012. Between 2012 and 2018 TCAT has put on hundreds of events, welcoming thousands of people through its doors. This has not only proved the need for a theatre but has also built up a team of dedicated volunteers with a credible working knowledge of how to run a theatre and arts space profitably.

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TCAT has been incredibly fortunate that Tiverton High School allocated land on the new school site on which to build a new theatre. With the help of architect Nigel Grainge and funding from Devon County Council, a Masterplan was created for the construction of a new school and theatre on land at Bolham Road, Tiverton. TCAT has been in integral partner in this process. In many ways, TCAT has helped to drive the new school/theatre project through several important phases. This culminated in 2018 when Tiverton High School was granted outline planning permission by Mid Devon District Council with a theatre for TCAT.

The site is at the gateway to the town from the north with quick access from the A361 and the M5. It is close to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre but away from the flood plain of the River Exe upon which the current school and theatre auditorium are located. This has been identified by the Environment Agency as an issue for the existing school due to global warming. This land will become playing fields for the school.

So TCAT now has land upon which to build a theatre, it has outline planning permission from the local authority, and over the six years of operation it has shown that a new theatre can work in Tiverton. While the new school building will be funded by the local authorities and probably receive financial assistance from national government, TCAT will have to find the funds to build the theatre itself. It will be separate from the school both as a building and in terms of its management. In order to raise the substantial funds required to

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build a new theatre, TCAT has to show prospective funders, locally and nationally, that it is feasible to run profitably and present a serious business plan for its future operation. In 2018 TCAT employed the services of highly respected theatre architects Foster Wilson Architects and ACL Theatre Consultants. Both organisations have huge experience in designing, building and advising on new theatre projects.

The feasibility study and the business case assessment concluded that a new theatre for Tiverton would be financially viable and could be run successfully. This is good news. Such consultants have sometimes found that proposed theatre projects elsewhere in the country are not viable and advise against their carrying them forward.

As we enter 2019, TCAT is now at RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage 1, a significant stage in our new theatre plans. The plans for the new theatre are closely integrated with those for the new school. Much of the infrastructure, groundwork and utilities for both projects will probably be built as one. The new theatre/arts building will be located prominently at the front of the school site on Bolham Road.

As we all know budgets for local and national government are tight. But the need for a new secondary school for Tiverton is now urgent as highlighted to the Prime Minister by Neil Parish's significant intervention in the House of Commons recently. The school structure built in the early 1970's is well past its best, both in terms of the state of the buildings and in terms of teaching

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and learning facilities for the pupils. There is now a desire and willingness to find the funds to build a new school. TCAT will be at the heart of the business case for the new school as well as for the theatre.

TCAT is entering a highly exciting phase. A structured fundraising plan is being developed in order to attract large grants and funding to build a new theatre that we can all be proud of. Foster Wilson Architects have provided a Design Brief showing how the new theatre will be equipped with all the latest facilities, equipment and space to thrive. It will feature a café, public space, dressing rooms, rehearsal space and fully equipped wing spaces. It will include an adaptable auditorium to seat up to 400 people, while also being easily changed to a flat space for meetings, exhibitions and diverse events.

TCAT is determined that the operation of the new theatre will be as it is now, a community theatre run for the community by the community. The local community will be encouraged to use it at advantageous rates and its use will be inclusive. This is a fundamental ethos of TCAT.

TCAT has achieved much but now needs wide-ranging community involvement and support. This is a once in a generation opportunity to create a significant public building that will enhance the town. TCAT is determined not to let this opportunity slip by. In order to support the project TCAT invites everyone to spread the word about the new building. To find out more visit www.tivertontheatre.com or ask questions by emailing TCAT at info@tivertontheatre.com.

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The final design is by no means complete and there is every opportunity to provide fresh and innovative ideas of what should be included in the new building. Constructive thoughts and initiatives can be sent to yourvoice@tivertontheatre.com. Tiverton is a thriving, growing town which deserves up-to-date facilities. These will raise the aspirations of the community and make Tivertonians proud of their town. Watch this space in 2019 and please support TCAT as we move forward with this project.

Julian Morgan

Chair, Tiverton Community Arts Theatre

Tiverton Volunteer Litter Pickers – a Brief History

Civic pride can manifest itself in many ways, including the formation of societies which strive to identify and enhance positive influences that can contribute to our quality of life. One such began in a very small way in response to the growing litter problem.

In 1998, environmentalist Douglas Rice followed up his concerns over litter with action. He inspired a small group of kindred spirits to join him on some litter picks to supplement the efforts of the MDDC. The Council was trying hard to stem the litter tide, but did not have the resources to cover all areas all of the time. By the end of the following year, the small but enthusiastic group decided to adopt a more formal structure. Tiverton Volunteer Litter Pickers (TVLP) was born. Some of the early pioneers members remain active to this day: Douglas Rice, who served as Chairman until 2017, Gordon Davies

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(Hon. Secretary for 18 years until 2017), Anne Davies (Hon. Treasurer and still in post after 18 years), and Ron Rogers (long-serving Quartermaster). Our first Chairman was Chris Caffin, who subsequently moved away.

TVLP got off to a flying start. A local competition produced a logo which is still used on our green tabards. Excellent working relations were established with MDDC and Tiverton Town Council: both have been most helpful. We decided to setting an example by litter picking ourselves, to help schools and other groups organising litter picks, to become involved in public events to gain support for our anti-litter philosophy.

Since 2001 the TVLP has been involved in many events per year, working with primary and secondary schools, church groups, the Mid-Devon Show, the Great Western Canal, Britain in Bloom, Rotary Fun Day, the Balloon Festival, Tiverton Carnival, Music in the Park etc. We have a stand or publicity display at these events, since one of the long- term objectives of the TVLP is to influence public opinion and try to reduce the amount of litter that is thoughtlessly discarded in public places. We have supported the initiatives of the MDDC which have resulted in some 30 groups of litter pickers in surrounding towns and villages. All receive free equipment, and the TVLP is able to loan out some of its own kit to small local groups.

It is encouraging to record that the TVLP is currently experiencing a resurgence of support and enthusiasm, with good attendances at public litter picks, and the recent award of £500 for services to the community. It is

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planned to purchase some modern cigarette-stub 'micro-bins' to be distributed in Tiverton for the convenience of smokers having a furtive puff outside pubs, clubs etc. New prospective litter pickers are always welcome. Litter picking is a relatively humble task, but very satisfying and quite sociable, as we often arrange for light refreshments to follow a pick. If you are interested, please contact our Hon. Secretary, Janet Rendle, on Tiverton 254914 or jr@mellguards.eclipse.co.uk.

Gordon Davies

Peter Maunder, *Tiverton Cloth: The Story of the Town's Woollen Trade 1475-1815* (Tiverton: the author, 2018). ISBN 978-1-5272-3174-0. Hardback.

On the back-cover Peter states that this volume is the culmination of 20 years' work, and from the very first page this is evident: he has left no stone unturned in his investigations of Tiverton's merchants. Some readers will imagine that most of this material has already been published and is readily available, and all that is needed is selection of the most relevant facts and to put them into order. However, anyone who has undertaken serious research knows full well that such information as contained in this volume has been extracted from obscure dusty documents held in various repositories throughout Britain and overseas.

Previous authors have attempted to show how Tiverton's cloth trade raised it to a position of being one of the most important towns, not only in Devon and the South West but in the whole country, but Peter has definitively proved

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this to be the case through his diligent research. His training as an accountant has enabled him to understand the national economic circumstances and financial dealings behind the Tiverton merchants' successes and failures. In the case of Peter Blundell, whose great wealth has only been partially explained, Peter now gives us a credible explanation of his meteoric rise.

Peter's detailed investigation and analysis of the Exeter Customs Accounts and the Port Books of many locations in England have shown the importance of sea-borne commerce to the Tiverton merchants. The extent of the early trade in such commodities as Breton crescloth, wine from the Bordeaux region and elsewhere, and Spanish iron, illustrates the various connections Tiverton had with the Continent at an early date. I remember many years ago joking with a former curator of the Tiverton Museum about the (im)possibility of writing a maritime history of an inland town like Tiverton, yet here it is in glorious detail! As Peter is the first to point out, despite gaps in the coverage of the maritime trade, it is nothing compared with the complete absence of sources for the overland carriage of Tiverton cloth to London which would, certainly in times of naval conflict in the English Channel, have been much more voluminous than the risky journeys by sea. Oh for the discovery of a carrier's ledger!

This 450-page volume covers almost three and a half centuries, each period of which receives equal in-depth coverage. Beginning with the early trading of such well-known Tiverton luminaries as John Greenway, the book chronicles

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the volatility of the cloth markets in the mid-16th century and the effects of the national conflicts of that time, the later decline in exports in the 1630s and the upheaval of the Civil War. The important change from the production of kerseys to serge is fully explained, as is the importance of Samuel Foote who virtually founded the Dutch serge trade in the latter half of the 17th century. Prominence is given to the surviving correspondence between the Tiverton merchants and David Leeuw in Amsterdam – another previously untapped source – and to the troubles that followed the introduction of Irish yarn and worsted in the 1700s. Peter describes how circumstances led the town's cloth merchants to attempt to diversify as the 18th century progressed, illustrating this with the example of the Upcotts' ventures into America. Material is included from the Fox archive to illustrate the latter part of the 18th century and, following the arrival of Heathcoat in 1816, the remnants of the cloth industry, although often ignored, are well-described.

The chronological treatment of Tiverton's trading activities is supplemented by biographies of the main merchants, thereby giving a personal dimension to the history. Much additional information has resulted from Peter's trawl through the proceedings of the Court of Chancery in the National Archive at Kew, which uncovered a wealth of detail concerning Tiverton merchants – a source not previously consulted in relation to Tiverton.

Jane Evans' catalogue of Tiverton cloth seals similarly displays a very scholarly approach to the subject, and would be worthy of a separate publication, but I

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am sure everyone will agree, it is the perfect complement to the main body of text. The catalogue brings together information from far afield – necessary, as of the 165 examples so far examined, just seven have been found in England, and of those just one in Tiverton. It must be added that the wonderfully executed illustrations of the seals enables the reader to view in one place all of the examples so far known without having to travel extensively.

This substantial A4-size volume has been printed by Short Run Press to their usual high standards. The choice of illustrations has been well - planned and all are relevant. Peter's style of writing flows well, and, although he is first to admit that his research techniques and palaeographic skills are largely self-taught, he has produced a work worthy of any university don. To all of those lucky to have a copy of this volume – look after it, as it will not be surpassed for many a year!

Mike Sampson

The book is available from the author, Bryngwyn Manor, Raglan, Usk, NP15 2JH, price £25 (incl. UK postage and packing).

Napoleonic Prisoners of War

Tiverton Museum's latest temporary exhibition 'Around the World' explores Mid Devon's international links over the centuries fuelled by trade and war. The exhibition includes the story of the woollen cloth trade, creating close links to Europe, especially to the Netherlands. In the nineteenth century, it looks at how Heathcoat Factory continued trade with Europe. It also looks at

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prisoners of war held in Tiverton during various wars. The exhibition runs until 31st August and entry is part of the normal admission fee.

For this article, we thought we would concentrate on the little-known story of Napoleonic prisoners of war in Tiverton. A large number of prisoners were brought to Britain during the wars with France between 1793 and 1815. 176 French prisoners arrived in Tiverton in 1797, and more passed through the town in the following years. Thomas Enchmarch, whose family had been wealthy cloth merchants, replaced mercer William Tucker as agent for the prisoners in Tiverton in 1805.

Nearly 1,000 prisoners passed through Tiverton in total, but there were never more than 300 in the town at any one time. Prisoners spent an average of three to four years in Tiverton between 1804 and 1811 before being moved on to another town. Little is known about the relations between Tivertonians and the French, although there was at least one marriage and one child born in Tiverton to a French father at this time. The prisoners helped prevent a fire spread through the town in 1797 and refused an offer of payment from the Mayor to repair their damaged clothes.

Captured officers lived in relative comfort; often stationed in private houses. Admiral Dumanoir lodged at the Angel and disliked the landlady so much that he said *'the house is high, the walls are thin, there's an 'Angel' without, but a devil within.'* Tiverton housed a number of both French officers and their servants throughout this period. A curfew was in place for the prisoners, and

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the bell at St George's church was rung at 8pm every night to warn them that they must be within the town boundaries of the turnpike gates by that time.

A number of the French officers were Freemasons, and they held an irregular Lodge in Tiverton until the successful escape of fourteen prisoners resulted in privileges being restricted. When the war ended, one of the former prisoners, Alexandre de la Motte, stayed on to teach French at Blundell's School. In 1824 he was living at 26 Bampton Street (where the Jo Amor shop is today).

Pippa Griffith

From the editor:

Complementing Pippa's interesting article is one by John Fisher about Napoleonic prisoners of war in Devon which is posted on the internet at <https://devonshiremagazine.co.uk/the-french-prisoners-on-dartmoor>. It states that 150 French officers came to Tiverton on parole from Dartmoor. In a report to the Dartmoor authorities their behaviour was reported as 'exemplary' but 'some of them have made overtures of marriage to women in the neighbourhood which the magistrates have taken pains to discourage'.



The Angel Inn c. 1900 was knocked down to make way for the Memorial Library following the First World War.

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A tiny dolls tea set carved out of bone by a Napoleonic Prisoner of War which is on display in the exhibition.



A bracelet made from human hair by Napoleonic Prisoner of War which is on display in the exhibition.

Old Blundell's School where Alexandre de La Motte taught after the Napoleonic Wars ended.

