# Tywardreath News & Views August 2025 35p



Fancy Dress 5.30 pm Theme: Horrible Histories

Flora Dance 6.00 pm

PLEASE NOTE ROAD CLOSURE: 2.30 PM TO 3.30 PM AND 5.00 PM TO 7.30 PM

# **Tywardreath Annual Village Show**Saturday 9th August in the Village Hall

Show opens 2.00pm. Presentation of Prizes 4.15pm. Schedules available at the Village Shop. Entries close 6pm Thursday 7th.

#### St Andrew's Church Celebration of Summer Weekend

**Saturday 30th August - Music Requests** in church from 10am. Use the list in church to ask for your favourite. Tea, coffee and cakes on the day. **Sunday 31st August - Barbecue** in the church grounds at 12.30pm. Tywardreath Butchers burgers & hotdogs - and some delicious puddings.

#### Tots' Group at St Andrew's

Mondays in term time 10 to 11.30am Play, story time, singing and a snack £1 per family for 0-4s with parents/ grandparents/carers



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www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk

shona@tandgchurches.uk

Mobile: 07476 900623



#### Revd Shona Hoad writes ...

Following the news recently and hearing about the heat warnings that have been in place for much of the country if you venture across the Tamar, it seems that here we have had a remarkably normal summer experience to date. As I write, there is a gentle rain falling which should be sufficient to revive the grass that is ever so slightly yellowing in patches. All being well it will also be enough for the fruit crops to fulfil the promise that they are already showing – it looks a good year for apples, pears and plums in my garden and there are even some early blackberries for tasting. However, I know that on farms up and down the land there are real risks for crop failure this year and that has a serious impact on all of us, not just the farmers who depend on good harvests for their livelihoods.

It is good to remember an almost throw away line in the book of Genesis that says: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. We have become increasingly focussed on how the earth might endure and what steps need to be taken to reduce the global temperature so that all life can thrive. Often it feels as though we cannot a make a difference at an individual level by whatever small changes we might make, but at least if we all do something, then collectively, it can begin to change things. Much is being done in schools today to encourage children to think about the future and how the things they do have consequences for everyone. As children also learn by example, we all of us have a role in modelling what a sustainable world might look like for the generations to come.

A schoolteacher friend of mine recently took a group of 11-year-olds on a weeklong trip to a centre in Wales. There were signs up reminding everyone to be aware of what was being wasted at meal times and a set of scales to weigh the food that was being discarded after the group meals. The target was set on the

first day to reduce the amount of food that was not being eaten and the children enthusiastically set about minimising what was being put into the bin for weighing after each meal. It is surprising how quickly portion controls can be effectively worked out when such a challenge is set! It might not seem much of a difference to be made in global terms but why not make it a challenge to yourselves over the summer to consider your household food waste and see if you too can reduce the level.

With every blessing.

Shona

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Next on 18th August: Family Service @ St Andrew's 10 am ... on the third Sunday of each month.

Contemporary songs, craft activities, prayer and praise.

Enjoy a tea or coffee as you reflect and chat with others.

All welcome. (There is no 11 am service on this day.)

#### **News from St Andrew's**

<u>Sunday 29th June</u>. We gathered at St Sampson's, Golant today for a combined service of Holy Communion. Those who were present will long remember Martin's intriguing question: "Would you rather be faced with a horse-sized duck - or a hundred duck-sized horses?" He then went on to talk about the much bigger question we should consider -- who we believe Jesus is. It was the second part of the series looking at the Nicene Creed.

<u>Sunday 6th July</u>. Shona's sermon continued to look at the Nicene Creed, which was established 1700 years ago and gives a complete definition of what it means to be a Christian. It is a reminder that we are all equal in the sight of God. The creed reminds us that every day is a new opportunity, which brings us hope and the opportunity to grow in the image of God. The Holy Spirit brings new hope in a church which is for all people and all nations.

Sunday 13th July. Today was Sea Sunday. We were reminded of the perils of the sea as we listened to the passage from Acts Ch 27. The sermon focussed on this account of Paul's shipwreck and how even today sea conditions can bring physical and emotional exhaustion for those who work at sea. We heard about the important work of the Mission to Seafarers as they support sailors in need around the world. They respond in the way that the Good Samaritan was able to assist, not just in the moment but with ongoing care. The good neighbour was the one who showed mercy. Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

At 6pm we were invited to join Shona and Martin for informal prayer.

#### **Friendship Club**

The Friendship Club meets on Wednesdays from 2-4pm in Well Street Methodist Chapel. All are invited to come and join the club. Contact Jo Langford 815921.

| From the Registers |   |             |  |
|--------------------|---|-------------|--|
| Baptism            | "Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father" |             |  |
| 9th March          | Henry Bywater and Arthur High                                   | St Andrew's |  |
| 13th April         | Oscar Jackson and Benjamin Garside                              | St Andrew's |  |
| Marriage           | "That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,"            |             |  |
| 24th May           | Scarlet Ashbridge-Goodman and Connor Tregidgo                   | St Andrew's |  |
| 18th June          | Jane Pettitt and James Murray                                   | St Andrew's |  |

#### **Tregaminion**

On Sunday 22nd June we had a small congregation for our midsummer worship. A brief shower; then singing birds and sunshine welcomed the service. We remembered John the Baptist and a message from Ephesians extolling the virtues of living under God's peace and in unity with our neighbours. Two traditional hymns sung to contemporary music and a reflective instrumental piece completed the service.

Tregaminion services have moved to the second Sunday, so the next service was the traditional Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) on Sunday 13th July led by Shona. A good congregation enjoyed a Sea Sunday theme with a reading from Acts, looking at the struggle of the disciples in a dodgy boat in a storm, that needed ropes around it to secure the hull. The well known story of Jesus walking on the waves and calming the storm encouraged us to rely on Him in difficulties. The Mission to Seafarers was highlighted: a place where visiting sailors can find shelter from their own storms in life.

The next service will be on Sunday 10th August at 10am led by Tracey & Nigel, then Holy Communion (BCP) on 14th September. Nigel Canning

#### **Tywardreath Royal British Legion**

The monthly meeting was held in the New Inn on Wednesday 2nd July. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all the committee, which for the first time in several years now numbers in the teens. The secretary said that she was going to have a Legion stall at the Par Carnival Fete. Questions were asked as to who was responsible for the maintenance of the war memorial, as the concrete surround was breaking up.

The chairman said that Warren had arrangements in hand for the commemoration of VJ Day, including the church service and laying of the wreaths, on Friday 15th August at 11.00am.

The next meeting will be held in the New Inn on Wednesday 6th August at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Warren Nicholls, President

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#### **Tywardreath & Par Over 60s Group**

The meeting on Friday 11th July was well attended, to listen to Jimmy James' talk on the history of the Bodmin & Wenford Railway from when it was formed to the present day. This was followed by afternoon tea.

On Friday 8th August the club are going to the Par Garden Centre for afternoon tea at 2pm. Numbers are limited, if interested please contact either Linda 814459 or Liz on 812256 for further details.

#### **Tywardreath Village Fete - Saturday 2nd August**

We look forward to seeing you all on Fete day in the garden of The New Inn. Gates will open at 2pm and we will have our usual stalls, BBQ and games, along with The Tywardreath Morris, Mount Charles Town Band and the band Solid Foundation in the evening.

We shall be pleased to receive more donations for the following stalls:

- **★** Tombola
- ★ Bottle stall
- ★ Raffle
- ★ Produce
- Once loved

If you have any donations you could spare, please drop them to The New Inn. The playgroup will also be open to accept donations for the above stalls and the cake stall on Friday 1st August from 5pm & Saturday 2nd August from 9am.

If you have any questions or would like donations collecting please contact Rachael or Lianne on any of the following:

E-mail: Tywardreathfetesecretary@gmail.com

Phone: 07828 392970 or contact via our Facebook page.

#### **Fowey Memory Café**

Memory Café is held on alternate Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm at Squires Field Community Centre, Park Road, Fowey, PL23 1EF. We aim to provide a friendly, supportive and relaxed environment where guests can spend time together. We offer a range of enjoyable activities and every session includes tea or coffee, cake and chatter. We spend time reminiscing and talk about current affairs.

During June and July we enjoyed a range of activities including Armchair Aerobics, table top games and Tai Chi. During August we hope to have an afternoon of croquet kindly hosted by Pam, Paul and friends .

New guests and carers are always welcomed. Just give us a ring for more information on 07525 488329. We are supported by Fowey Community Bus and pick up in Fowey, Par, and Tywardreath. For any transport enquiries, please contact Jane on 01726 815463.

Dates of forthcoming cafés are: August 7th and 21st; September 4th and 18th.

# **Gunners Kids CIC Launches Drop-In Sessions to Support Families Affected by Terminal Illness**

Gunners Kids CIC is a Cornish non-profit organisation supporting families with children who are facing the terminal illness of a parent or caregiver.

It has now expanded its services to include regular drop-in sessions in **St Austell, Launceston**, and **St Ives**.

These new sessions aim to provide a safe space for families in need of support, as well as offer professionals the opportunity to learn more about the organisation's work. Gunners Kids CIC already runs a variety of services, including activity days and tailored workshops.

In June, the group hosted a jewellery workshop for families, and in July they welcomed families to an activity day at Wheal Martyn.

In addition to events, Gunners Kids CIC provides tailored support boxes to children, designed to help them navigate anticipatory grief and better understand the challenges of having a seriously ill loved one.

The drop-in sessions are part of the organisation's new outreach programme, offering families a chance to talk to trained volunteers in a supportive, confidential setting. As the volunteer team grows, the organisation hopes to expand this service into more areas.

#### Current drop-in schedule:

**Launceston**: 2nd Wednesday of each month at The Health Hub, 10am to 12pm

St Ives: 3rd Tuesday of each month at Edward Hain Centre, 2pm to 4pm

St Austell: 3rd Friday of each month at St Austell Library, 10am to 12 noon

**Tamsin Chapman-Gunner**, Co-founder and Director, said: "It's fantastic to be able to offer this service to families, and we hope to bring it to even more communities soon. We are currently overwhelmed by the number of families needing support, and we hope our services help them navigate what is such a difficult time in their lives."

Gunners Kids CIC is dedicated to supporting families in Cornwall during difficult times, providing them with the tools and guidance they need to make the most of their time together.

The organisation's mission is to offer workshops, activities, information, and peer support in a safe, welcoming environment, ensuring families can build meaningful and lasting memories.

For support, volunteering opportunities, or to learn more, contact: <a href="mailto:tamsin@gunnerskids.org">tamsin@gunnerskids.org</a> or visit <a href="mailto:gunnerskids.org">gunnerskids.org</a>.

To donate, please visit: www.givengain.com/cause/gunners-kids-cic



#### This way and that

(same answers each way)

- 1. Concerning a pope.
- 2. A type of organic acid.
- 3. Sounds like a very small bell.
- 4. Meeting of 2 lines.
- 5. Fails to win.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |

# 1 2 3 4 5 ... 6 ... 7 ...

Last month's answers, This way and That 1 Shrub, 2 House, 3 Ruche, 4 Usher, 5 Beers.

**Last month's crossword** Across: 1 Soldier, 5 Sequels, 6 Animate, 7 Nosiest. Down: 1 Sustain, 2 Liquids, 3 Iterate, 4 Respect.

#### Crossword

#### Across:

- 1. Betrayer of friends or country.
- 5. Sense of deep regret.
- 6. Beachwear for an infant.
- 7. Where you see the doctor. Down:
- 1. Pushes forward with force.
- 2. An official who dispenses charitable funds.
- 3. To cause extreme pain.
- 4. Return of a spacecraft to earth's atmosphere.

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#### Hours of Rusiness

| nound of Business  |                                       |  |  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Monday<br>Tuesday  | 9 am - 1.00 pm &<br>2.15 pm - 5.30 pm |  |  |
| Wednesday          | Closed                                |  |  |
| Thursday<br>Friday | 9 am - 1.00 pm &<br>2.15 pm - 5.30 pm |  |  |
| Saturday           | 9 am - 1.00 pm                        |  |  |

| Church & Chapel services in August |   |  |   |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
|                                    | ST ANDREW'S   | TREGAMINION  | WELL STREET                                       |
| Sunday<br>3rd August               | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion<br>Rev Andrew Wade  |  | 10.30am<br>Service<br>Mrs Norma Cook              |
| Sunday<br>10th August              | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion<br>Rev Andy Higgs   | 10.00am<br>Morning Worship<br>with<br>Nigel and Tracey | 10.30am<br>Service<br>Mrs Carol Thornton          |
| Friday 15th                        | 11.00am<br>VJ Day service   |  |   |
| Sunday<br>17th August              | 10.00am<br>Family Service<br>Rev Shona Hoad   |  | 10.30am<br>Holy Communion<br>Rev Colin Short      |
| Sunday<br>24th August              | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion<br>Rev Shona Hoad   |  | 11.00am<br>United Service<br>Par St Mary's Chapel |
| Sunday<br>31st August              | 11.00am at St Andrew's<br>Combined Benefice Holy Communion<br>Rev Shona Hoad (followed by Barbecue) |  | 10.30am<br>Service<br>Stuart Hunkin               |

Tots' Group at St Andrew's will resume on Monday 8th September

St Andrew's Church is open most days from 10am (11.30 on Mondays) to 3.00pm approx. Please feel welcome to come in for quiet reflection, prayer and the air of peacefulness; or just to look around your historic Parish Church.

#### St Andrew's Church Celebration of Summer Weekend

**Saturday 30th August - Music Requests** in church from 10am. Use the list in church to ask for your favourite hymn or piece of organ music. The programme will also include commentary and readings related to the music. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available on the day.

**Sunday 31st August - Barbecue** in the church grounds at 12.30pm. Tywardreath Butchers burgers & hotdogs - and some delicious puddings. There is no charge but donations will be welcome.

#### Contributors Please note deadline: the 15th of the month

E-mail tydnewsviews@hotmail.com
Post News & Views, 41 Tehidy Road, Tywardreath, PAR PL24 2QD
By hand at the above address.

News & Views is published by St Andrew's, Tywardreath, Parochial Church Council.

| Village Hall & Scout Hall - August Diary Dates   |             |  |  |
|--|-------------|--|--|
| Every Wednesday  | / 11.00am   | Tai Chi Class  |  |
| Every Friday   |             | Line Dancing (Beginners 6.30 pm)   |  |
| Friday 8th   | 2.00pm      | Tywardreath & Par over 60's Group - afternoon tea at Par Garden Centre. See page 7.  |  |
| Saturday 9th   | 2.00pm      | Tywardreath Annual Village Show. See page 1.   |  |
| Monday   | from 1.30pm | <b>Tywardreath Quilters</b> at Well Street Chapel. Sewers and knitters are most welcome.   |  |
| Tuesday & Friday   | 10am-noon   | Coffee mornings at Well Street Chapel  |  |
| Wednesday  | 2-4pm       | <b>Friendship Club</b> at Well Street Chapel. All invited to join the club. Contact Jo Langford 815921.                            |  |
| Monday - Friday  | 10am - noon | Par Community Library at Par Track Cafe.   |  |
| Monday, Wednes   |             |  |  |
| 10.30am to 1.30pm <b>The Hub @ Cornubia</b> (Moorland Road entrance) Enjoy an affordable, tasty home-made lunch in a warm and friendly environment, free access to games, books, activities and support. Contact Sonia 07980 838578. |             |  |  |
| Saturday 2nd   | 2.15pm      | Tywardreath Village Fete. See page 1 and 7.  |  |
| Monday 4th   | noon-1.30pm | <b>Soup &amp; Sweet Lunch</b> at Gott Hall, Par. All home made at £7; no need to book.   |  |
| Wednesday 6th  | 7.30pm      | <b>Tywardreath Royal British Legion</b> meeting at the New Inn. All members are welcome to attend.                                 |  |
| Monday 11th  | 6.30pm      | <b>Lyndon Allen</b> : war talk at St Austell Library as part of the VJ series of events, £5. proceeds of raffle to St Austell RBL. |  |
| Thursday 14th  |             | VJ Day events in St Austell town centre.   |  |
| Friday 15th  | 11.00am     | VJ Day wreath laying at the War Memorial   |  |
| Friday 15th  | 1-2pm       | <b>Experts from Eden</b> at St Austell Library: Phil Young: workshop on insect refuge.*  |  |

Thursday 21st 7.00pm ISOT meeting at Well Street Chapel. Open to all.

creatures. £1 per child.\*

Friday 22nd 2.30 to 3.30pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm Rock Pool workshop at

St Austell Library. Learn about what you can find in

a rock pool. £2. Limited seating.\*

2-3pm Julie Kendall talking about carnivorous bog

Thursday 28th The Royal Navy are at St Austell Library, hosting a

workshop for 11 to 15 years old on STEM – Science, Technology Engineering and Maths.\*

**Par Old Cornwall Society** meetings will resume 27th September in the Bishop Gott Memorial Hall, Par Green, Par, at the new time of 2.30pm. Visitors welcome.

<sup>\*</sup>Please book at library / email staustell.library@liscornwall.org.uk / or 03001234111

#### **Tywardreath and Par Parish Council**

These notes have been abridged from the Draft Minutes of the 3rd July meeting.

<u>Vine Place and Polmear Orchard</u>. The Parish Clerk confirmed that Heads of Terms for both properties had been received and were available for inspection and that she had queried the issue of the lighting at clause 7 with the solicitor. Members would check this out on site and report back and also considered that the highway needed to be better defined on the plan. The Parish Clerk was instructed to follow up on this, check responsibility for any drains and ascertain the status of the building showing in the corner. Cllr C Wildish reported that the Working Group had not met since the previous Parish Council meeting.

<u>Par Beach Huts</u>. Cllr Wilson had met with the Park Ranger on 30th June for a hand over of two huts so that a publicity campaign can start. He said that he was arranging volunteers to help clean two huts, hoping to avoid major repainting.

Par Beach Toilets. Cllr Wilson reported further vandalism, with a serious attempt to actually set fire to the toilet premises. Damage was also found to one of the Beach Huts. Talks continue with the Police and Cornwall Council for solutions. Cllr A Wildish advised that he had reported the criminal damage to the police. Members discussed various options to address this as it not only means that the facilities are unavailable for use, it also results in a considerable cost to the public purse. Wildlife cameras were suggested but Cllr Phillips was dubious about their effectiveness as they flash intermittently so would probably be vandalised. It was agreed that members would investigate the cost of various options and report back.

<u>Planning</u>. Cllr Wilson had contacted Cornwall Council regarding a complaint about a shipping container installed in a back garden at Poldrea. Cornwall Council confirmed that no planning permission had been sought and it is indeed a technical breach of Planning. However, they stated they would not be enforcing the breach due to costs and it not being in the Public Interest. Cllr Wilson had responded that if regulations exist, they should be enforced.

<u>Tywardreath Hill</u>. Cllr Wilson said that he had pressed for a resolution date. He had been told that work would start end of July/beginning of August, providing there are no delays to Cormac's schedule due to other work. In other words, no quaranteed fixed date.

<u>Parking issues</u>. Cllr Wilson said that the Highways Manager had agreed to meet with him and the Parish Council, but had stated there was no budget for lines or signs this year so nothing is going to happen anytime soon.

Empty run-down properties. Cllr Wilson advised that procedures exist to report these so that CC can investigate if it is possible to get the properties back into use. He suggested that a list for Tywardreath & Par should be compiled.

<u>Highway hedges</u>. In response to a request from Cllr Hughes, Cllr Wilson agreed to see if the overgrowth between Trecarrel and Poldrea could be cut back.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 4th September.



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#### **Tywardreath - Some Wartime Memories**

From "Tywardreath Past and Present," published 1993 by Tywardreath Women's Institute.

#### The Elderfield Bomb

During August 1942 the Germans bombed Elderfield House without warning. Mrs Barnecutt and her father Mr Crago were killed and the house demolished completely. Articles of clothing and furniture were found as far away as the Marsh. Two children were playing under the wall and survived with only cuts and bruises. Many of the surrounding houses were damaged by the bomb blast.

"The remarkable thing was that a "stug" of pickled eggs in the "spence" (under stairs) was undamaged and not one egg broken.

"The ironic thing was that Mrs Barnecutt had said that if the siren goes come with me, we will be safe in a granite house."

#### Other Memories of The War

Land was "dug for victory" because imported food couldn't get through. Our rations were supplemented by the odd pig or chicken kept in the back garden. The Air Warden's shelter was in Vicarage Rd, now a private house; there were few other shelters. There were prisoner of war camps at Lanescot mine. The Germans machine gunned the bus in Belmont Street and Mary Littleton was hit by shrapnel.

"I saw a swastika on the plane. The Germans started to machine gun me as I sat on my bike. I hid in Mrs Pearson's. They missed me by inches."

"About 500 American G.I.s were billeted at the Burrows. Dad said they would not be allowed in his house with his young daughters."

"The Italian POWs used to throw oranges over the hedges for the children."

"I remember a regiment of Indian soldiers wearing turbans and leading mules walk up North Street."

"Once a choir of Negro US soldiers gave a concert, their singing was superb."

People had to register for coupons in shops. Rationing books were fawn for an adult, green for children. Weekly rations were 4 ounces of margarine, 2 ounces of lard, 2 ounces of butter, 8 ounces of sugar, half a pint of milk, 4 ounces of bacon or ham, 2 ounces of tea, 2 ounces of cheese, one shilling's worth of meat.

There was a points system on tinned goods, jam and sweets counting up to 8 ounces per week. Fruit was scarce; any bananas were for the children, one fresh egg per fortnight. The children were given bottles of orange juice, cod liver oil and extra milk.

Rationing was introduced in January 1940. Children under five were allowed half the adult ration but no tea allowance. In 1943 pregnant women were allowed an extra half ration and eighteen coupons for shoes and clothes.

Sugar bonuses were allowed at jam-making time and for treats at Christmas.

Allotments flourished. Everyone was encouraged to eat more vegetables. During Spring and Autumn, berries were collected for their vitamin content. Tea would be made from fruit leaves to eke out rations.

"British Restaurants" were opened, which provided good, nourishing and cheap meals (there was one in St Blazey). For example: rabbit pie - 6d; braised liver -6d; vegetables 2d extra; sultana roll - 2d; rice pudding - 2d; lentil soup - 1d; children's meals - 4d. Private restaurants were limited to five shillings a meal.

Rationing lasted in various forms for fifteen years, The Ministry of Food had to educate the public to accept novel foods like dried egg, dried milk powder, whale meat, snoek [an unfamiliar dried fish], salt cod, soya flour and Spam. After the war, disastrous harvests led to a shortage of cereal crops, which resulted in rationing of bread and potatoes.

#### Life in the War

No more playing on Par beach. If you weren't in the services, then you did your bit by joining the Home Guard or Civil Defence. Everyone carried their gas masks. The end of the war was celebrated with a procession around the village and a party in the New Inn garden.

"There was no television of course. The radio was our communication with the outside world. This was powered by accumulators which had to be paid for, so our listening was rationed, like everything else."

"Later on in the war there were lots of US sailors and soldiers about, waiting for D-Day. The Chapel used to invite them to participate. Good old-style tubthumping preachers! Afterwards, we would entertain them in our homes and I would listen agog to their stories."



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#### In Quires and Places where People Sing - Tailor made in Bahrain

Memories of the places I visited during my army adventures. by Warren Nicholls

I left the water engineers, as it was getting a bit gory. Some soldiers were moving to another position, so I got a lift. There were no stars to guide us but somehow the driver knew the way. It was all just sand, gravel and a few shrubs .We had lots if water, but that would not last long. Eventually we arrived and were met by two local soldiers, standing under a galvanised shelter, which was shimmering in the heat, although it was late afternoon.

The officer in charge was the only non Arab person there. He had made himself comfortable, with air conditioning and a very smart china tea service, used for visitors—which did not include me. There were not many senior NCOs, so we all fed together and there was somewhere cool for me to sleep. The cold showers were quite warm, with the tanks just under the galvanised roof. It was about the most desolate place any unit could be.

After two nights there, I found a vehicle going back to Shajah, via another camp where off duty officers and soldiers could stay a short while. I wanted to buy a Maria Therese dollar, which was legal currency around the United Arab Emirates and in parts of the Middle East. She was Empress of Austria 1740/80. I am not sure why this dollar was used in that area.

It was getting mid afternoon when we arrived. There were palm trees in the distance. The camp was built around a square: the usual kitchen, offices and accommodation, also a shop. The driver went in with me and I bought the dollar. I can't remember now how much I paid.

Coming out, I got a surprise. Officers and soldiers were walking about, some holding hands, dressed in shirts with a sort of kilt, and light sandals. Some had colouring around their eyes. It was a special evening. The driver had something to eat, we took on more water. I did not eat. I was afraid of a tummy upset and there were no trees to go behind; and certainly no other facilities on our journey. I did not ask what was going on, and he did not say.

By now it was dark. It was up to the driver if we should go or stay. He seemed to want to drive on, as most of the soldiers we saw were not of his regiment.

Getting back to the mess, I had a good clean up, a nice lunch as usual, and another visit to the market (souk). I found some chaps who were going down and walked with them. It was just a maze of alleyways, leading to a square with open stores on either side. Everyone wanted you to buy—at a good price, they said. Jewellery could be made, or a suit and shoes by the next day.

The plane left next morning, then back to Bahrain. I started to think that, with the extra months added, I should soon get a posting.

As I didn't have an office, I often walked down the main road to the HQ. A cream coloured Mercedes car pulled up, and the driver offered me a lift. I took a few moments to get in (you never know!). He knew who I was and what I did—news gets around—and he knew the job he wanted me to do.





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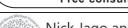


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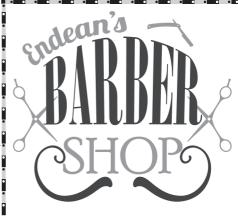
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This was an Arab tailor, who made suits for Forces personnel, at a good price of course! The tailoring operation he ran was a sweat shop, to say the least, and there were mosquitoes and other insects flying about. He wanted me to fumigate the building.

I called around later in the day. They worked from about 8 am to 6 pm in a very hot building, with all those sewing machines clicking away and very little ventilation. Yes I could do that. I told them they would need to shut all windows, cover all the pieces of cloth, and remove any foodstuffs.

I said that I could come at about 4 pm. There was a great outcry—they would lose two hours work! The boss was not going to pay them to go earlier. In the end they agreed that they would stop work at 5 pm, then it would take an hour to cover everything. I had made sure that the fire service was informed!

I went around at the given time. They were packing up and covering everything in case of any damp residue. Eventually they went home, leaving just the "foreman" and the boss. All vents that could be were closed. It was getting dark by this time. The motor of my machine started; and as soon as the exhaust pipe got hot, out came the vaporised insecticide. I went around under all the desks, chairs and the shelves stocked with rolls of cloth, until the building was full, with just an occasional leak.

Having refilled, I did the area outside. It certainly disturbed the sleeping birds from their nest in the trees. Around the building the silent air held a haze of insecticide, which settled as a film, with a lean sort if smell. No one lived very close, so there were no problems there. There were some rats which objected to the smell and chased about everywhere.

Next morning early I went there to check. The foreman opened up. There were dead mosquitoes, flies, and spiders in all sizes lying about, and the covering sheets had a a light fog, that had to be shaken off, then aired .The boss was pleased, but the employees were not too happy. They covered the noses to avoid the smell.

Two days later I went for my fitting—at a very good price! I took with me an old suit, which they took to pieces to use as the template to make the new one; but a fitting would still be needed. I had chosen the cloth, a dark grey woollen material, for a three piece suit. The foreman started to do the measurements, standing on a wooden box. I took my uniform off to get a better idea of size.

That done, there was another fitting after two days and then it was ready. How much? "I give you a good price," he said. I am sure he did. I have forgotten the cost but it lasted years.

Next day I was called into the office, where the clerk gave me a blue sheet of paper: a posting. Where?—to the RAMC Apprentice College in the Depot, Aldershot. Shiny boots, marching around, weekly parades. What a change! "Must get a better tan," I thought, "I've got just ten days to get ready."

Next month, just a few afterthoughts.

Warren

#### **Exploring Time: A Painter's Perspective**

Tony Foster's new exhibition will be at the Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery in Truro until 25th October. The exhibition will then tour to the Royal Watercolour Society in London, the Dayton Art Institute in Ohio, and other international venues.

Tony's work has taken him to rainforests, deserts, mountains and river valleys across the globe. The concept for Exploring Time was born during a painting expedition to Everest in 2007, when a monk



gave him an ammonite fossil found near the summit. The encounter prompted a shift in focus towards the systems and timescales that shape the natural world.

The exhibition offers a look at time through nature's lens: the movement of mountains and rivers; the passing of seasons; and the appearance of rainbows.

Visitors will also be able to see Tony's painting and camping equipment, including a specially modified easel designed for use in harsh environments. An extract from Painting at the Edge, a film directed by David Schendel, will be shown as part of the display.

Bryony Robins, Co-Director of Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery, said: "We're extremely honoured to have Tony exhibiting with us and have enjoyed working with the team from The Foster Museum in California to deliver the exhibition."

Ewart Hancock's Diary contained no entries for August 1990. We shall hear from him again next month.

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