

## Volunteers wanted for Ivybridge town clean-up

Volunteers needed in Ivybridge for local community projects and maintenance projects.

Last week a team of five volunteers accompanied Ivybridge Town Council Parks Ranger Andrew Price to help clean up and improve access along the top end of a footpaths between Ivydene Road and Blachford Road as part of a continuing effort to maintain the area.

Andrew Price Ivybridge Town Council Parks Ranger said: "We managed four hours in the heat, cutting back the overhanging trees, hedge trimming and clearing over eight dumpy bags of soil and vegetation from the path surface.

"The aim is to improve access, without cutting everything back too hard, this still allows nesting birds to go undisturbed, wildflowers and insects to still flourish.

Andrew Added: "Many thanks once again to everyone helping out the local community.

"The volunteers did an excellent job."

If you would like to get involved in volunteering tasks around the town then please contact: [andrew-price@ivybridge.gov.uk](mailto:andrew-price@ivybridge.gov.uk) or call the Town Hall on 01752 893815



by Ginny Ware

MAYFLOWER celebrations will continue this summer after many of the festivities were cancelled due to Covid restrictions last year, including a river parade during the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta.

Dartmouth Mayflower 400, commemorating the town's part in the historic Pilgrims sail to America in 1620, has appointed directors – Laura Campbell and Lindsay Ellwood – to oversee completion of the project.

Laura said: "We've all achieved so much in spite of everything and Lindsay and I are determined to see the last few elements of Dartmouth Mayflower 400 through, to showcase the hard work that so many volunteers have put in over the last five years.

"In the absence of our Mayflower Week last August we've put together an alternative offering to enable Dartmouth Mayflower 400 to have a maritime profile and legacy for the project.

"The Mayflower River Parade will now take place on Regatta Saturday, sailing from Noss Marina along the Dartmouth side of the River Dart to just below the lower ferry, where a salute will be taken by our invited VIP's and the vessels will disperse. Prizes will be awarded for the best dressed vessel and the best salute."

Alongside the river event The

# Sailing ahead with Mayflower events



Lindsay Ellwood and Laura Campbell, Dartmouth Mayflower 400 directors.

Flavel will be running a programme of Mayflower music, films and talks. Dartmouth Mayflower 400 will also be organising a fun run during Dartmouth Food Festival in September.

Lindsay, who runs the heritage and education aspects of the project, will continue to work on the 'Stories of

the Mayflower' book; the town centre Dartmouth Heritage Trail, Packhorse Trail that links Townstal, the original settlement, to the port, and the Castle Trail that runs from Bayards Cove to Dartmouth Castle.

The trails include the Pilgrim: New Horizons sculpture on Embankment,

created by Mark Gregory and Dartmouth Academy students. A 10-foot replica scale model of the Mayflower, built by local volunteers, is now on display in Dartmouth Museum as part of an ongoing Mayflower exhibition.

Tourism consultant Laura Campbell will be continuing her work with the town guides she trained last year with Town Crier Les Ellis, and local businesses to promote Dartmouth and the tourism legacy of Mayflower 400.

The project has raised funds for Rowcroft Hospice through sales of commemorative Dartmouth Mayflower pennants and supported the Dartmouth Regatta Recitals which can be heard this summer. It's also supporting the Classic Channel Regatta, funding a musical performance as part of their shore-based activities, now planned for 2022.

Dartmouth Mayflower 400 has also partnered with Dart Sailability and provided funds towards an extension to the pontoon on which a disability hoist will be installed. The project is also sponsoring a crew of disadvantaged young people to sail in the Ocean Youth Trust's yacht Prolific as part of the Mayflower Race from Southampton to Dartmouth in August this year.

## Long serving vets retiring

Richard and Anne Balkwill have retired from Selworthy Veterinary practice after years of dedicated service to their communities' pets and livestock.

The staff at Selworthy said that they will be missed, and they are "sad to announce their retirement."

Richard and Anne have built the business up over 30 years – working from a few rooms in their house initially to developing an award-winning veterinary surgery that has been recognised by the building industry for its construction, and the Practice was recognised by the Royal Col-

lege of Veterinary surgeons for its veterinary skills.

The practice said they are "indebted to them" for all the hard work they have given over the years and that they will be greatly missed by the team and the clients who have benefited from their diligence, hard work and Kindness.

## Favourite walk inspires novel

A FAVOURITE walk from Totnes to Ashprington inspired Chris Thorndyke's latest novel.

Chris was born in Totnes in Devon and lived in what he describes as the most beautiful resort in Britain, Torbay.

A retired principal from the one-time St Hilary School of Paignton he published with a passion interest in county history.



The father grown-up five grand-children, he now lives but regularly to his native Devon to draw on atmosphere for his writing.

"There is like walking through the wooded glades that follow the course of the River Dart or absorbing the wide open spaces of Dartmoor from its uppermost point to get the inspiration I need to write," he says.

"My new novel, Ebenezer Dunn, set in the Devon village of Ashprington in the year 1775, was inspired by one of my favourite walks from Totnes to Ashprington and the now famous Sharpsham estate. It's Devon at its finest."

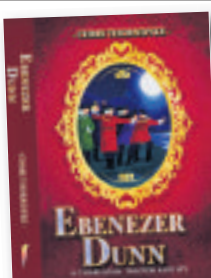
**Devon 1775**  
**A Tale of Infamy, Smuggling and Assassination**

A temporary rector arrives in the Devon village of Ashprington, but he's certainly not what he appears to his parishioners to be.

The village church of St. David sees the arrival of the Reverend Ebenezer Dunn who has instructions from the French to spy on the bustling harbour of Dartmouth and to create instability amongst the inhabitants in the villages and hamlets along the River Dart. Establishing links with Squire Roger Maddock of Darton Hall, a ruthless smuggling baron, Ebenezer forms a syndicate of smugglers from the village to undertake the hazardous smuggling contracts proposed by the squire.

The drums of war are beating in the American colonies and a treacherous member of the village pressures Ebenezer to gather more information for his spy master in Plymouth. Hearing of a secret plan to bring King George III to the stately home of Saltram House, Ebenezer conspires with his spy master to bring about a disaster that would rock the foundation of England to its core and fuel plans for an imminent invasion by the French.

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