

# Friends of **The Wharf** Newsletter Spring 2015

## LUNCHTIME LECTURES



The popularity of our lunchtime lectures continues with large audiences each Monday. Speakers are all exceptionally interesting, entertaining and professional. A new lapel microphone has improved sound quality and reliability. Audiences enjoy excellent auditorium and screen facilities, courtesy of Directors **Angela & Stephen Court**, with technical help from **James Court** and **David Reese**. Cakes and refreshments are served by **Janet Halsall** and **Jo Clarkson** amid the friendly atmosphere of the coffee shop. **Colin Kilvington** continues in inimitable style on ticket sales; £3.00 from each ticket goes to the coffee shop for refreshments and £1.00 for speakers expenses and student subsidies

The 2015 lecture programme is now on the Wharf website [www.tavistockwharf.com/friends\\_of\\_the\\_wharf/about\\_the\\_friends](http://www.tavistockwharf.com/friends_of_the_wharf/about_the_friends)

Ann Pulsford & Becca Parlby

## VOLUNTEERS

Becca Parlby, who did 3 months work experience in 2014 at the lunchtime lectures, went on to secure a permanent job in public relations in a finance company in London.

Emily Miles joined as a volunteer in January 2015 to help with the lunchtime lecture programme, introducing the talks and helping with ticket sales. Emily now has some part-time employment at the Marine Biological Association library in Plymouth.

Emily Miles & Simon Dell



# LAST TINNERS OF DARTMOOR

Tom Greeves gave a very interesting illustrated talk, *The Last Tinnners of Dartmoor* at the Wharf on **Monday 19th January** which revealed the world of tin mining on Dartmoor in the early 20th century. The era was brought vividly to life through remarkable contemporary photographs of men and machinery, and anecdotes based on conversations with former miners and their families. Tom has written extensively about Dartmoor in books and articles since 1969. His latest book, *Dartmoor's Earliest Photographs—Landscape & Place 1860–1880*, is due to be published in March. In June 2015 Tom will be inaugurated in Tavistock as President of the Devonshire Association and he is currently organising an international conference celebrating the tin working landscape of Dartmoor, to be held in Tavistock 6–11 May 2016. Tom will be speaking again at the Wharf on **Monday 16th November** on *The History of the Warren House Inn* and **Monday 14th December** about *Dartmoor's Ancient Tracks*, both at 2.0 pm.



## EYLESBARROW TIN MINE



Colin Kilvington gave a fascinating illustrated talk on **Monday 16th February** about Eylesbarrow Mine, one of Dartmoor's largest and most prosperous tin mines, that operated during much of the first half of the nineteenth century. The field evidence is generally well preserved with examples of most types of remains to be expected from this period. Only Whiteworks and Vitifer compare in size. Eylesbarrow had ore processing facilities on a grand scale with seven stamping mills. Between 1822-1831 it even had its own smelting house—the last one working on Dartmoor, that produced 276 tons of metallic tin. It is likely that much of the Eylesbarrow ore was of very fine quality. The talk mentioned the work of the Eylesbarrow mine project instigated by the Devonshire Association (Plymouth Branch) that was carried out over a 4 year period from July 1967 to 1971. It resulted in a substantial paper published in the 1974 volume of the DA Reports and Transactions, one of the first detailed studies of an individual tin mine.

## DARTMOOR'S MOSS GATHERERS

On **Monday 15th June at 11.00 am at the Wharf** Ann Pulsford will be talking about *Dartmoor's Moss Gatherers*. during the First World War and sponsored by the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, sphagnum moss was gathered, then dried and processed into wound dressings at the Imperial Hotel at Princetown. The people of Widecombe were commended in 1920 for their heroic efforts in moss gathering, when a naval shell was donated by the National War Savings Committee. Ann will also be presenting the public lecture at the Devonshire Association's annual conference in Tavistock on **5th June at 7.0 pm at the Bedford Hotel Tavistock**.



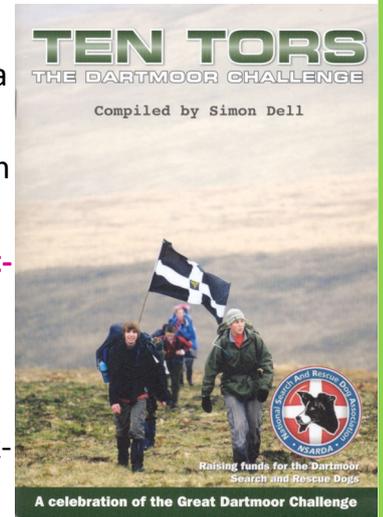
# HISTORY DAY MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

## BEDFORD HOTEL 11.00 AM & TEN TORS 2.0 PM

Monday 27th April 2015, in association with the Tavistock Festival, there will be lectures at 11.00 am on the history of the Bedford Hotel and 2.00 pm the history of Ten Tors given by renowned local authors and historians **Alex Mettler** and **Simon Dell**.

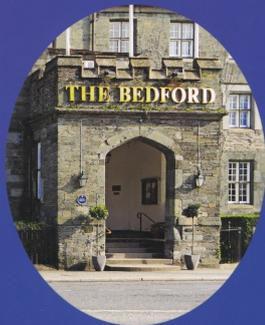
### HISTORY OF TEN TORS

Former policeman and police historian **Simon Dell** is a regular speaker at the Wharf lunchtime lectures with tales of Moor Murders including the double murder in Peter Tavy. Simon, an excellent entertaining speaker will be talking about the *History of Ten Tors—the Dartmoor Challenge* on Monday 27th April at 2.0 pm. He will also be leading a group visit to **Wistman's Wood, Dartmoor** on Monday 15th June at 2.0 pm. Monday 7th September at 2.0 pm he will also be talking about *The Beat on Western Dartmoor*.



### THE BEDFORD HOTEL

A DEVON GEM  
The Bedford Hotel, Tavistock



Alex Mettler

**Alex Mettler** will be describing the Bedford hotel's fascinating history on Monday 27th April at 11.00 am

This inn, first noted in 1719, has occupied two sites in its 300 year history. The first adjoining the Higher Abbey Gate and from 1822 its current position on Plymouth Road, facing the Parish Church. Today this fine English Inn encompasses parts of the old abbey buildings. The 1822 hotel was the work of Jeffry Wyattville with the addition, in 1830, of a ballroom designed by the renowned Plymouth architect John Foulston. In his talk Alex will be describing both the building modifications and family connections which have helped to shape the hostelry of today.

### TAVISTOCK TO ETHIOPIA

Tavistock Wharf welcomed Ian Gasper on Monday 2nd February to present a talk on *Ethiopia Today*. Ian captivated the audience with brightly coloured images of the country, its wildlife and its people. He covered topics ranging from food, culture and religion to transport, weddings and the human-wildlife conflict. Ian presented a detailed account of the history, language and culture that shaped his time in Ethiopia, and was quick to dismiss preconceptions of African countries by talking about modernisation in the capital Addis Ababa and the growing use and application of mobile phones alongside primitive agricultural techniques. Ian is currently in Ethiopia on a trek for WaterAid and will be returning to the Wharf on Monday 3rd August at 2.0 pm for a talk on another topic *Wildlife in Madagascar*.

Written by **Emily Miles**

## GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: PLAYING THE CLOWN

The lunchtime 'lecture' on Monday 23rd February was both presented and acted by Brian Freeland, a former theatre manager and director. Brian entertained an audience of 70 with his own piece, *George Bernard Shaw: Playing the Clown*.

Although he was just a young boy when Shaw died in 1950, on entering into a life of theatre following National Service, Brian quickly fell under the influence of Shaw's tempestuous character. As Shaw is the only person to have been awarded both an Oscar and a Nobel Prize, tales of his loves, life and plays comfortably filled 70 minutes.

Describing his presentation as 'part talk, part one-man show', Brian cleverly narrated Shaw's life alongside acting monologues. He has performed this tried and tested set-up around the UK as well as abroad and it seems this is the key to its success. By interspersing the narration with his own experiences of performing Shaw's plays and interactions with mutual acquaintances, a personal touch is added, letting the audience get to know two people for the price of one. It was a thoroughly entertaining production. Brian will be returning in 2016 with another production. Review by **Emily Miles**.



## FRIENDS OF THE WHARF

The Friends are committed to using the funds collected from memberships for the enjoyment of Friends visiting the Wharf. In 2014 we organised the repainting of the patio tables and all the outside woodwork with our volunteer Jacob Broome. We purchased new patio umbrellas and some new tubs for outside the Canal Road building, replaced the taps in the toilets and assisted with repairs to the central heating boiler and the glass doors to the patio. The Friends have also had all the gutters overhauled and are repairing the damp wall in the gallery area. We maintain and plant all the patio tubs and Eunice Burr keeps the gardens lovely.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Following the success of the lunchtime lectures and the live broadcasts the Friends have increased their membership to 580. Members find that the discounts on the lectures and live broadcasts make the membership fee of only £8.00 or £10.00 p.a. very good value, with such a variety of entertainment now on offer. The Friends volunteer committee includes: Sue Boxall: committee; Eunice Burr: gardens & stewarding; Wendy Cronin: membership secretary, box office & stewarding; Rebecca Garland: secretary & box office; Christopher Kirwin: vice chair of Friends; Sheena Odle: committee; Ann Pulsford: chair of Friends, talks organizer & speaker; Mary Stewart: committee; Chris Talbot: box office & committee; Mary Thompson: committee; Frank Woodcock: committee. We are pleased to welcome our new treasurer Gail Reed who has implemented a simplified and efficient accounting system. Membership secretary: Wendy Cronin:wcronin386@aol.com

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Wharf AGM will take place on **Monday 11th May 2015 at 3.30 pm at the Wharf**, following the Lunchtime Lecture. All members are very welcome to attend, but please bring your membership cards. Membership forms, on the back of the Lunchtime Lectures programme, are available from the Wharf reception and membership makes an ideal gift at only £8 or £10 p.a.

## BOOK DONATIONS

Please leave your unwanted books and videos for the Friends to sell in the bookcase near the bar area.



FRIENDS OF THE WHARF

