

Glastonbury Conservation Society

Newsletter 1556 www.glastonburyconservation.org.uk October 2024



Sustainability in the 21st century



Wayne by one of the metal huts that he's been sheathing with timbers to improve insulation, The huts are elevated in recognition of the frequent winter flooding to which the fields are prone. Compostable toilets are being constructed and associated provisions to make the experience of volunteers more comfortable.

Take a walk along Porchestal Drove past Sydenhams from the town toward the River Brue and you'll see a good deal of activity in the fields on your left. Two fields have been purchased with money from the Town Deal fund to accommodate experimental agricultural and self sufficiency farming projects. Pictured here is Wayne who is building up the temporary facilities to provide for volunteers who will enable the project to get underway. Hedge and tree planting has

already been undertaken with multiple further initiatives in the pipeline.

There will be a large area of raised beds, complemented by crop growing forestry and a lake.

Also planned is an educational barn where students can study the evolving science aimed at limiting climate change and assisting us in dealing with what changes will inevitably occur, the evidence for which is not hard to find.

To the Tor



Those who have paused in wellhouse Lane to question if they are going the right way now have advice that is set in stone. The stone came from Beckery Island Regeneration Trust and is connected to the centre of the earth by steels big enough to support the Forth Bridge. Lettering by Thomas Cudworth. Jack Moses Smiley the dog found it easy to follow.

Membership review

The Conservation Society is conducting a review of its membership system and will probably resume publication of a paper newsletter when we have established who are current members and what they would like by way of format. From hereon we suggest an annual subscription fee of £10. If you would like to confirm your membership of the society please email the membership secretary: mitchell_kevin1@sky.com

The Society exists to:

- Ensure the survival of footpaths and their maintenance
- Obtains copies of all planning applications and exercises the right to comment
- Plants trees and hedges in and around the town – 51,800 trees in 48 years!

The objective is to encourage natural habitats for wildlife and assist environmental well-being. The society celebrates the cultural, historical and architectural history of Glastonbury.

The editor welcomes contributions to the newsletter: ianmutch@glastonbury.gov.uk

Curtis closes

Fifty years is a long time to run a business for anyone's life. Rod and Anita Curtis have run their hardware store in Benedict for half of its 100 year history. A go to 'all things are here' kind of a cave of domestic essentials Roderick, 7 and Anita Curtis have now closed the door to their Calor gas and hardware business in Glastonbury for the last time three days after marking their half century of marriage.

The couple will continue to live in the premises in Benedict Street, where they took over A. W. G. Curtis and Son from Roderick's father, who had run the store for 49 years after first opening in 1924.



Ali in black apron and her team

The Mocha Berry

The Mocaberry Cafe on the corner of Magdalene St and Benedict St has closed after 27 years with Allie at the helm. A more traditional cafe offering breakfasts and lunch with economic options like beans on toast, and the timeless bubble and squeak, it nonetheless extended a welcome to the well heeled business community as well. Who could possibly pass up the Executive Special – 'An aspirin, a fag and a black coffee' for £32. The new operators Finca are now occupying the corner site offering coffee and cake but no sign of the Executive Special.

As for Ali, a retirement populated with numerous cricket venues has already begun. Ow's that!

A hill with a view – Wearyall



A tree planting project to enhance the view across the Levels from Wearyall Hill is underway. The objective is to blend the big commercial sheds more sympathetically into the environment by tree planting. The white hand on the picture indicates the influence of 'some we did earlier'. The planting has been conducted along the bank of the Mill Stream by one of Sydenham's timber stores. Sydenham's management have been very co-operative with the venture which we hope to extend throughout the Beckery

Consoc Contacts

Chair: Adrian Pearse 01749 89 0216

Secretary: Amanda Montague,

Treasurer: Kevin Mitchell 079 6887 6440

Membership: Vacancy

Trees: Mike Smyth

Planning: Bill Knight 01458 835144

Liaison: Ian Tucker 01458 83 4841

Website: Sean Miller

Footpaths: Mike Smyth 075 3224 0620

Newsletter: Ian Mutch 07799 764 161

ianmutch@glastonbury.gov.uk

www.glastonburyconservation.org.uk

Glastonbury past

Twenty six High Street - a view of what is now the Cancer Research UK charity shop adjoining the access to Hanover Square from c.1910 when it was a millinery shop run by Miss Louisa Tomlin, shown in the doorway. Note that the centre first floor window appears to be a dummy painted on the brickwork, whereas now it is a functioning window matching the ones either side. The building appears to be of nineteenth century date and replaced a thatched predecessor.



A view of the Glastonbury Way

“Spent the most wonderful yesterday walking the whole of the Glastonbury Way (complete with app Pilgrimage intentions set at the beginning:
Healing for the land and all beings
Peace for the land and all beings
Connection to the land and all beings
Restoring sacredness to the land and all beings
and, of course, the land is a being. Magical encounters wheels within wheels as episodes and pieces of my life came dancing around full circle I made this walk while resting at the centre of the Tor labyrinth
And the chance to drop deeper into my home, as the Way weaves so beautifully together the layers of geological time, natural history, human history, sacred mythology and the many faces of Glastonbury, Avalon and her surrounds.

Infinite gratitude to the many town volunteers who created the Glastonbury Way, with a genius design that takes you back into town at the halfway point (toilets! coffee! lunch!) and - I realised afterwards - can also be walked as a lemniscate figure eight ” *Anonymous*

Hat brush advertising H.A.Mcmillan, Hatter, Glastonbury



Perspective and technology

Two views of Benedict Street separated by a century. The scribbling on the old one is on the photograph.

The editor has tried to position himself in the same place that the pre WW1 photographer occupied and yet in the modern photograph the Tor looks much further away.

This may have something to do with the iPhone 11 having a different lens to the camera used in the upper shot.



There are white bristles between the dark ones, look closely

A rare and perhaps unique survivor of an item of Glastonbury advertising ephemera.

H.A. McMillan is recorded in the 1897 Kelly's Directory, as having a shop in the High Street, but no specific details regarding precise location are given - perhaps readers may have more information?

Such brushes were given to purchasers of top hats, and were used to brush the nap of the silk

plush from left to right, after which 'polishing' with a velvet pad (normally supplied with the hat by the manufacturer) produced the distinctive sheen characteristic of silk top hats.

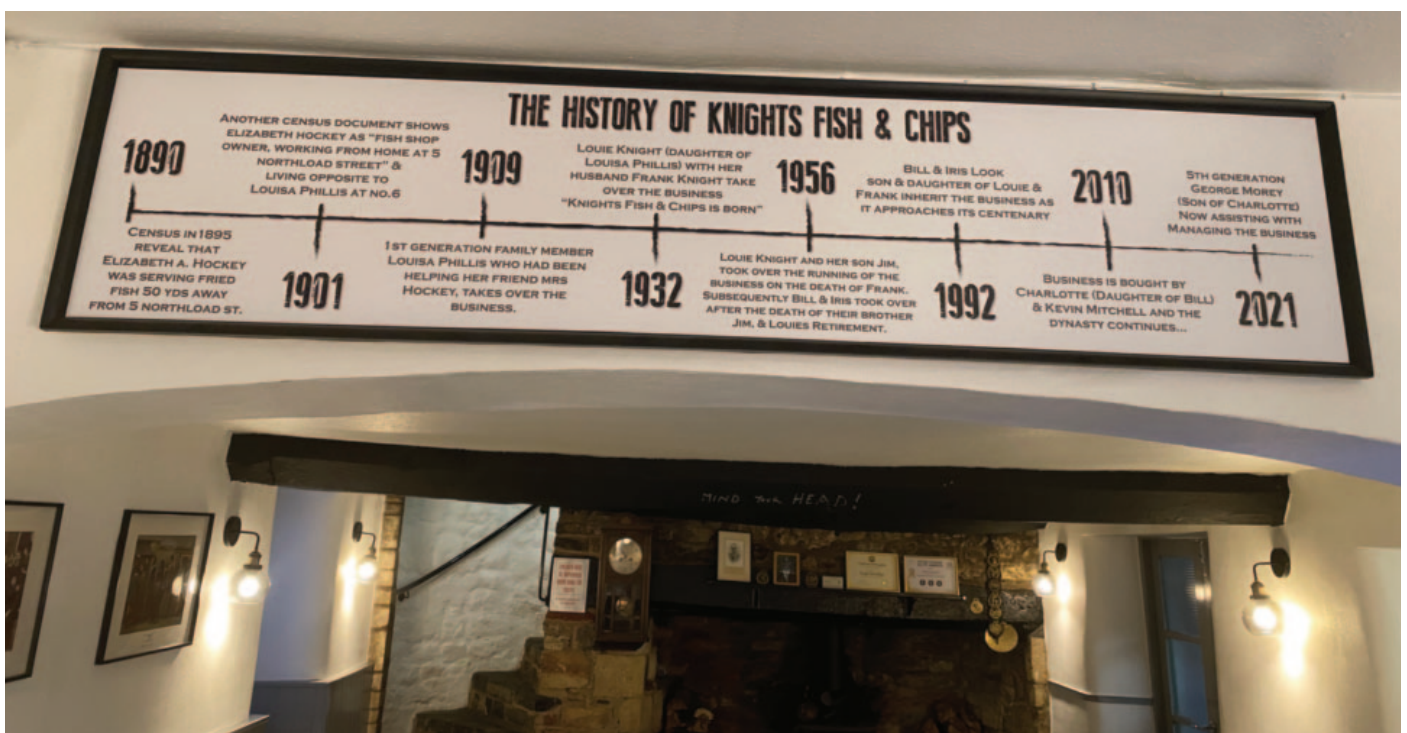
Manufacture of silk plush ceased in the late 1950s, and once stocks were exhausted inferior substitutes have been used, making original silk top hats in good condition and larger sizes increasingly valuable.

Knights is Number One!

Knights Fish Restaurant has scooped a top national award. Knights Fish Restaurant, in Northload Street, was crowned fish and chip restaurant of the year at the 2024 National Fish and Chip Awards. The result was revealed at a ceremony held at the Park Plaza in London.

According to Google fish and chips has once again claimed the title of Britain's most beloved national dish, dethroning the long-reigning champion, chicken tikka masala as of Mar 6 2024. Incidentally chicken tikka masala is a uniquely British dish which is totally alien to Indians.

Curiously, while the restaurant cannot take delivery orders by phone you can only order via smartphone app, PC web browser or phone web browser.
www.knightsfishrestaurant.com £20 minimum order.



If you can't read the text that describes the history of Knights just blow the image up. On a Mac that is command + and no doubt it will be something equally simple on a PC

