

Ken Gollop's Newspaper Collection (1995-2017)

Selected and transcribed by Felicity Cox, 2017/2018

James and Penny Hallett have sold their Albany Guest House in Charmouth Road Lyme Regis but they will not be a loss to the local holiday business as they will be trading at Armada House Coombe Street, a self – catering establishment. Penny says running it will give her and James more time to enjoy life in the area they love so much. Penny who is chairman of the local hotels and restaurants association says “ we are looking forward to our new venture for we sincerely believe that Lyme Regis has a great future as a unique resort. (Lyme Regis News 9 November 2001)

Service Award for former mayor. Devoted service to Lyme Regis Boys Club, spanning 30 years, has been recognised by the Dorset Youth Department. Former mayor Barbara Austin will be one of the countywide recipients of a special youth and community service certificate of merit at a ceremony in Weymouth on November 28th. Barbara, whose sons have all been members of the club, has served it in various capacities including treasurer and is currently a very active trustee spearheading fund raising activities for the young people. Club president said “This is tremendous news, Barbara thoroughly deserves the award after all she has done.”

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 9 November 2001)

Lyme Regis is mourning the loss of a very endearing personality, Henry Gillingham, at the age of 84. Lyme born Mr Gillingham died at his home in Avenue Close where he lived with his wife Jean. As a boy Henry worked on Saturday mornings for R and L E Foxwell, delivering groceries from a horse and cart whole assisting driver Tom Berry. On school mornings he used to go to Sanders (now the Mad Hatter's restaurant) doing odd jobs, one of which was cutting swiss rolls in nine inch lengths, using a brass measure. He was allowed to put the odd ends into a bag and take them to school for lunch. Henry loved talking about the old days, one of his fondest memories was of walking with his mother and father on the old road to Charmouth on Sunday evenings to call in at the Royal Oak before returning home on the bus. He also reminisced about the fishermen hauling sprats on to the beach where he waited with an enamel bowl which he filled with fish for just 3d (1p). On leaving school at 14 he went to work at Bradfords the coal and builders merchants, where he remained employed for 50 years. He officially retired at 65 but immediately after his “farewell party” he was asked to return and he remained with the firm until his 70th birthday. He joined the Royal Marines in 1940, volunteered to be a commando and took part in the D Day campaign. He had served in North Africa ,Italy and Sicily before fighting in night raids off Antwerp and Holland. Always keen on sport he played soccer for the Seasiders and was a qualified cricket umpire, officiating at several minor counties matches. In the 1960's Henry and Jean took up bowls, playing for the local club and at the age of 75 Henry won the club's singles championship. He leaves a widow ,two daughters, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. His funeral service took place in Lyme Regis Baptist Church.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 16 November 2001)

History spot. Rebellious ancestors of council members. Two current members of Lyme Regis town council have a direct link with the Duke of Monmouth Rebellion in 1685. An ancestor of Mayor Ken Dibben and Councillor Ivor Curtis paid with his life for helping the usurper in his quest for the crown. When the Duke required access to the Guildhall after landing at Lyme, he found that he was locked out. So a member of the Curtis family took an axe to the door and smashed a way through. Ivor is aware of the story as a member of a branch of the Lyme Curtis family but was surprised to hear that the incident is in the” Festival

News”, a publication to mark the resorts 1200 anniversary in 1974 of the first recorded settlement in Lyme.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 16 November 2001)

One of the most popular pubs in Lyme Regis is now in the hands of new licensees who are keen to build on the reputation it has earned over the years. Hazel and Greg Smith who took over the Angel Inn from Rosemary Levett two weeks ago want to enter fully into the life of the town and to ensure that the inn becomes a mecca for darts, skittles and pool for the ladies as well as for the men. It is their first venture into the pub trade as licensees, although Hazel has had management experience in public houses. “We love Lyme Regis” she said “We have been bringing our children to the resort every summer since we came to the area and we are excited about our future. We have heard the story about the friendly ghost of a former landlady who is said to haunt the Angel Inn but that does not worry us”.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 25 August 2000)

A new exhibition has opened at Lyme’s Philpot Museum featuring James Harrison – the Dinosaur Man. Harrison lived in Charmouth in the mid-19th century and is famous for finding the superb, almost complete fossil of the dinosaur Scelidosaurus Harrisoni, the first dinosaur uncovered in this area. Because the rocks around Lyme Regis are 200 million years old this fossil find pushed back the age of dinosaurs considerably. It was not for another 100 years that any other dinosaur remains were found that proved older in geological terms. His find was the oldest in the world from 1853 until 1963. His important dinosaur finds and some of the Harrison fossil collection was donated to the museum by his daughter in 1940.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News September 2000)

The newspaper’s “super senior” series turns the spotlight on Douglas Fortnam. The 88 year old retired Lyme trader is the only surviving Alderman from the old borough council. He also held the highest office as mayor with a bearing that inspired confidence and trust. Harrow born Mr Fortnam came to West Dorset in 1950 when he formed the company Coleby’s of Lyme. With his late wife Lydia he developed the Toby Jug into a quality gift shop with a wide reputation. During the Second World War he helped the inventor of the Bailey Bridge with the span over the river Orme after the D Day landings. Mr Fortnam served the local authority at Lyme Regis for 16 years, holding the office of mayor in the mid 1960’s when the controversial issues at the time included the closure of the branch railway line and the county boundary dispute. Mr Fortnam was also chairman of the governors at the Woodroffe School for many years and he used the venue to organise Lyme’s first ever civic night. Mr Fortnam who has lived alone since the death of his wife three years ago is fortunate that he keeps in good health and has his younger son Peter living locally.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 27 October 2000)

Lyme Regis bell brings back memories of town crier Walter Abbott. A bell in a corner of Lyme Regis Museum strikes a chord in the hearts of local people who revere the achievements of the late Walter Abbot. As a town crier par excellence, he was one of the great heroes of modern Lyme history. His daughter, the late Dorothy Abbot who was once head teacher at the old Lyme Regis Junior School, used to delight in telling the pupils stories about her larger than life father. He won the national championship three times in 1930 when he was a big tourist attraction. Author and geologist Muriel Arbor, a great lover of Lyme recalls that “in the 1920’s Walter Abbot provided a means of communications of genuine Lyme affairs”. His bell was presented to Lyme Regis in 1933 by Doctor Wyatt Wingrave, the then curator of the museum. It originally belonged to the deputy town crier of Coventry and probably dates from the late 18th Century. The current town crier’s bell also belonged to Walter Abbott. The museum one is now cracked and useless.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 29 September 2000)

One of the doyens of Lyme Regis Parish Church has just celebrated her 80th birthday. Cecilia, organist and choir mistress at St Michael the Archangel for many years is a former missionary and schoolteacher whose record of service to the community is outstanding. (Bridport and Lyme Regis News 20 October 2000)

The Parish Church in Lyme Regis is to lose its distinct pebble dash after major repair works. The Reverend Jane Skinner team vicar for the Golden Cap Benefice and the mayor's chaplain said "the church had to face up to its responsibilities regarding the tower at St Michael's Parish Church, where there were problems with water ingress". She was speaking at last week's Lyme Regis Town Council meeting where she thanked the mayor, councillor Michaela Ellis for choosing the church as her charity of the year. "It is an increasing struggle for the members of the church who have to meet all the financial demands" she said. The church clock, which has not been working for several months, is expected to be repaired after the work on the tower is completed. (View from Lyme Regis 8 November 2017)

The Mayor of Lyme Regis, Councillor V Homyer helped to christen the Gollop brothers new 36 foot trawler, the "Sea Soldier," when she went on her maiden trip on Friday. The Gollops (Roy and Ken), who were pioneers in the revival of the fishing industry in Lyme Regis, bought the boat to replace the old "Torbay Star." The Sea Soldier was built by Percy Mitchell and Sons of Mevagissey. Pictured on board are the Mayor and the Gollop brothers. (Bridport, Lyme Regis & Axminster News 24 July 1970)

Mrs Lavinia Alberta Jefford – a former Curtis – who lived at 34 Corporation Terrace has died aged 86. Mrs Jefford was born and educated locally and left school to work for the area laundry. She married Mr Albert Jefford. A first class stoker in the Royal Navy and the couple had seven children and 19 grandchildren. When Mr Jefford came out of the Navy he took up gardening and became a popular figure in the town. He died in 1962. For the past few years Mrs Jefford has lived with her daughter Miss Lavinia Jefford. The funeral service was to take place today at the Parish church followed by burial at the local cemetery. (Lyme Regis News 22 January 1971)

Mrs Frances Mary Haddon, widow of Lesley Haddon who founded the firm of Haddons of Broad Street in Lyme Regis shortly after the First World War, has died. Mrs Haddon was born in Sydenham London and educated at Strathmore College, she met her husband while visiting Lyme Regis. They were married at Uplyme Church in 1940. Mrs Haddon was trained as a secretary and for some time worked in Purley as private secretary to Lord Runciman. After her husband died she lived alone at "The Divide" Launchycroft, Lyme Regis. Mrs Haddon supported many local organisations and was noted for her kindness and generosity. (Lyme Regis News 29 January 1971)

Mr and Mrs George Stanborough celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mrs Stanborough, 70 years old, is a member of an old Lyme Regis family. The former Miss Emily Loveridge, she was one of the family of nine of Mr and Mrs Tom Loveridge of Mill Lane. Mr Stanborough served in the First World War, including six months in Russia where he was injured and taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital where he met Emily who was a nurse there. Mr and Mrs Stanborough married at Axminster Register Office in 1921 and moved into a house in Colway Mead where they have lived ever since. Mr Stanborough who worked as a wire man for the GPO, started work with Mr Fowler at the Old Mill after he got married. He then joined Caddy & Son the builders and later worked for Artisans, another building firm. Mrs Stanborough, a member of Lyme Regis Darby and Joan Club worked for many years at the old Lyme laundry. (Pulman's Weekly News 16 February 1971)

The Rotary Club of Lyme Regis formed 45 years ago has an outstanding record of service to the community and has played a significant role in the life of the town. During the past 12 years it has raised £34,000 for charity, £19,600 of this being used to alleviate the suffering brought about by overseas disasters and assisting Third World organisations and projects. Lyme has always been proud of its Rotary Club while its members have continued to impress with their dedication and drive. None has been more enthusiastic over the years than Cecil Symonds, the sole surviving founder member, who helped to set early standards which have been more than maintained. The local activities which the club was involved with were the "Car for a Bob" competition which raised sufficient money to ensure the building of the casualty department extension at the old Lyme Regis Cottage Hospital. The club helped to set up the Pilsdon Community Centre and was a leading light in the establishment of the local Abbeyfield Society, the Environmental group and the Friends in Need project. On the international scene the organisation has entertained overseas students, has helped to pay for the education of destitute Indian children and nominated local young people for study and vocational courses in other countries.

Bridport & Lyme Regis News 24 February 1995

Frank Watson opened a motor repair shop and hire service in the garage at the rear of the Three Cups Hotel Broad Street in 1921 and in 1925 opened up at a new premises built by A G Case and Sons on the site in Broad Street which became Woolworth's store.

Bridport & Lyme Regis News 10 February 1995

A former town councillor and chairman of Lyme Regis Society, Dr Joan Walker died at her Marine Parade home on Saturday aged 93. She retired to Lyme in September 1967. She was an internationally acclaimed expert on diabetes, a pioneer who did tremendous work to enhance the lives of sufferers. Dr Walker was among the first to graduate from the London Medical School for Women, now the Royal Free Hospital. She worked in various hospitals before going on to practise anaesthetics at the Royal Leicester Infirmary in 1936. After spending three years in general practice she returned to the Leicester Royal Infirmary to work as a physician. In 1947, with the advent of the National Health Service, Dr Walker was appointed physician in charge of the Infirmary's diabetes clinic where her expertise in this field of medicine quickly won her acclaim. She was the first doctor to appoint specialist district health visitors to improve the care of diabetics in the 1950's and she published a paper on it *The Lancet* in 1953, but it was not until the early 1970's that the service became widespread in this country. Dr Walker, who became a consultant in 1962, was the first person in this country to carry out a population survey on diabetes, establishing that for every recorded case there was one more person with the illness who was unaware of it. She first became an officer of the Lyme Regis Society in 1969 and went on to serve as chairman, secretary and vice president until her retirement from the group in the 1980's. In 1984 Dr Walker was the author of a publication on the first 50 years of the Lyme Regis Society. She also wrote a monogram for Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society on "The Infant Mortality Rate and Public Health in Lyme Regis between 1856 and 1979". As a Lyme Society member she was prominent in the successful fight to stop the demolition of the former Langmoor Hotel, now Broadway House. Dr Walker, a town councillor for three years from 1968, was also actively interested in the Lyme Regis Museum, following its progress. Author John Fowles, the former curator of the museum, said of her "I am deeply saddened by her death, she was a marvellous lady.

(Lyme Regis News 11 August 1995)

Lyme Regis Town Mill Trust has bought Mill House formerly owned by Don and Trudy Boalch. The 16th century building will become an integral part of the Town Mill development project. The Trust chairman David West said "The property always has been a part of the working mill. We plan to use part of it as an educational facility for the trust and a shop. Part of the display area will be devoted to a miller's 19th century kitchen. This all coincides with the construction of the garden area which will be planted in the spring with plants accessible

in the 17th century. Detailed planning for the working mill was in hand and it was hoped to start installing machinery in the spring.”
(Lyme Regis News 18 December 1998)

Tributes for Roy Symes. More than 150 people attended a farewell party at the Pilot boat Lyme Regis for Police Sargent Roy Symes who has retired from the Dorset Constabulary. Mr Symes was in charge at the Lyme Station for almost a decade and spent all his police career in Dorset. He received many gifts and tributes, among them a painting of the Cobb from his colleagues at Lyme Regis.
{Lyme Regis News 18 December 1998)

Buena Vista changes hands. Another noted Lyme Regis hotel has changed hands following its sale by the joint owners Mr and Mrs Frank Meadows and Mr and Mrs Gordon Forsyth. The New proprietors are Gareth and Judith Stone of London. Mr and Mrs Stone are very experienced in the hotel and catering trade and decided that Lyme Regis was the place in which they wanted to live as well as trade.
(Lyme Regis News 7 May 1999)

Allhallows College at Rousdon is up for sale with an asking price of £3,250,000. The Victorian mansion, with its numerous outbuildings, extensive grounds and private beach could become a unique des – res or a luxury hotel say the sellers. The estate, set in 350 acres will be sold as a whole it has been stressed. Other ideas for the former private school, which was forced to close and call in the receivers last December, is a nursing home or holiday park. Allhallows already has links to the famous with Prince Andrew having been a regular visitor when his former teacher Peter Larkman was headmaster there in the late 1980's. Jeremy Irons and Meryl Streep visited when they filmed scenes for the French Lieutenant's Woman on the school's famous undercliffs – which are included in the purchase price. London based estate agents Strutt and Parker will handle the sale from their Exeter office. The sale includes the stunning mansion house and chapel built by MP Sir Henry Peek in 1870, with around 91,000 sq ft of former classrooms and dormitories and some 20 dwellings scattered through the estate. The school's sudden closure last year came as a major blow to parents throughout East Devon and West Dorset, who were forced to hurriedly find new schools for their children.
(Lyme Regis News 14 May 1999)

Unique map tracks the town's colourful history. Two Lyme residents, an artist and a printer, have pooled their talents to produce a unique record of "The Pearl's" past in the form of a millennium map. Printed on parchment, it depicts many of the major events in the history of Lyme, from fossils to Fowles. The first copy of the map by Peter Russell and David Endersby was presented to Lyme Mayor Stan Williams last week and will hang in the Guildhall chamber. Copies of the map will be sent to the civic chiefs of towns linked with Lyme Regis, St George's Bermuda, Old Lyme Connecticut USA and Cruelly Normandy France.
(Lyme Regis News 21 May 1999)

Major Thornton Pearn, former headmaster of the Woodroffe School and the only person to be awarded the Freedom of the Town since local government reorganisation in 1974, has died just 12 days after his 87th birthday. He was a war hero, a great leader and a visionary whose drive and determination greatly benefited thousands of people during and long after their school years. He was born at Saltash into a well - known Cornish family. He went to Devonport High School and Exeter University. He became headmaster of the old Lyme Regis Grammar School in 1946, succeeding the late Mr S Watton. The Lyme school then had 185 pupils, with no sixth form, a situation which Major Pearn rectified by pioneering the opening of St Andrews Boarding House in 1952. This was followed by the establishment of the Harcombe and Rhode Hill Houses (now all closed.)The old grammar school became a comprehensive school I 1964 and under Major Pearn's stewardship Woodroffe school was

acknowledged as one of the top comprehensives in the country. His considerable knowledge of all aspects of education and his communicative skills were quickly recognised by the media, he was a regular broadcaster on BBC television and radio, a regular contributor to the quality national press and education adviser to HM Forces. Major Pearn was an accomplished pianist and organist who helped to compose the school song. Awarded an MBE for services to education in 1973 he retired from teaching three years later but continued to serve the community through membership of the local rotary club for many years. His military service began at the outbreak of the Second World War when he joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner. He was mentioned in dispatches at Arnhem and won the Military Cross for bravery during the crossing of the Rhine. In 1945 he was summoned by General Horrocks to set up an educational training programme to prepare men for demobilisation and was in sole charge of this successful operation.
(Lyme Regis News 4 June 1999)

A tremendous accolade for Lyme Regis and its museum was bestowed by world famous naturalist Sir David Attenborough on Friday when the spirit of Mary Anning trudged through the streets in the form of actress Miriam Cooper. Sir David who officially opened the extensively refurbished museum said he was delighted to do so adding " Anybody who thinks as I do that fossils are romantic and exciting will realise that Lyme Regis is the Holy Grail of palaeontology. The museum is a model one, a jewel with positive features and a great part of the community which it reflected and served so well. I visited this museum 10 years ago when it was quite uninteresting, even a dangerous place, now it is delightful and very remarkable". Sir David, who has visited Lyme on several occasions, having friends in the area, said that in 1824 Mary Anning found a particular special Plesiosaur at Lyme and sold it to a Reverend William Conybeare who was rector of Axminster. He passed it on to a museum in Bristol where it was eventually destroyed in a German bombing raid but not before a plaster cast of it had been made. This cast was now in the Natural History Museum in London. The ceremony, also marking the 200th anniversary of Mary Anning's birth on the site of the museum, attracted a large crowd and considerable attention from area and national media. Miriam Cooper, who portrayed the great pioneer of geology with style and warmth, was thoroughly entertaining and particularly attentive to children from Lyme Regis and Charmouth Primary schools A welcome to all present was extended by the chairman of the Museum trustees Mr Ken Gollop, who said the refurbishment started eight years ago had been achieved after a great deal of toil and struggle. He was particularly pleased that the invited guests also included the Mayor and Mayoress of Lyme Regis Councillor and Mrs Owen Lovell, the Chairman of West Dorset District Council, Mary Penfold and museum patrons Davis Wilson and author John Fowles.
(Lyme Regis News 28 May 1999)

Ancient and modern home in town centre. A maisonette of great antiquity offering carefully restored accommodation with a wealth of character features is on the market at Lyme Regis for £135,000. It comprises spacious accommodation on the first and second floors. The sash windows to the front elevation suggest Georgian origins but internal inspection will reveal a considerably older history. Features include ancient oak panelling, beamed ceilings and exposed roof timbers, a beautifully restored kitchen range, exposed stonework to stone walls and much more.

View from Lyme Regis 25 January 2017

Lyme Net has now moved to The Hub. There have been big changes for the Lyme Regis Development Trust in order to help create a more financially secure future. We have converted several rooms at St Michael's Business Centre to lease to local business, this means the office in the Hub will be alongside the main office for Lyme Net which is a part of the same charity. This change of offices, together with a lot of grant – aided work to the Hub, will give us more flexibility of where and how we offer activities and services, new opportunities (a video and audio recording studio and catering training facilities) and more

intensive use of our buildings. Lyme Net can still offer similar services to those it always has, printing, coping, scanning, careers advice and advice on training.
(View from Lyme Regis 25 January 2017)

Teneriffe Path will not be made a public right of way as the decision on a public inquiry held earlier this year was published. Government appointed inspector Heidi Cruickshank published her decision following a three day public inquiry where arguments both for and against the path being opened to the public were put forward. She said that she was not satisfied that there had been a full, uninterrupted period of 20 years use of the path by the public, which was required to dedicate it a public right of way and there had been "evidence of ill will" against second home owners at the inquiry. Teneriffe Path runs from Broad Street, alongside the Masonic Hall and down steps to Marine Parade where the entrance is hidden behind a door between seafront cottages Madeira and Little Madeira. Many Lyme Regis residents have argued that they used the path freely as a shortcut between the seafront and town centre prior to the 1980's, when the door was permanently locked but residents of the surrounding cottages have said the path was always intended to be private. The decision puts to bed a long running dispute on the public's right of way over the footpath.
(View from Lyme Regis 24 May 2017)

Lyme Regis Museum has announced a successor to John Howells who retired recently after several years as its very successful manager. The new man is Mike Cawte of Uplyme, a former marketing executive for lighting in films, television and the theatre. Mr Cawte 58, recently took over from Mrs Sylvia Lee as chairman of Lyme Regis Dramatic Society. He said he was very much looking forward to his new role at the museum "I love the building, the location and the exhibits and I very much admire all those who have worked so hard to achieve so much".
(Lyme Regis News 9 February 2001)

Lyme readers will be saddened to hear of the death in Ireland of former artist Ivor Wilson. He was very much to the fore in his many years in Lyme where he ran the successful Tor Gallery and where he painted. He also made significant contributions to the art work for the film *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.
(Lyme Regis News 9 February 2001)

A top scientist will take a helicopter flight above West Dorset's Jurassic coast next week to decide whether it should form part of a new world heritage site. Geologist Paul Dingwall, a top advisor with the United Nations is due to make an aerial reconnaissance of the Dorset shoreline from Lyme Regis to Studland Bay before meeting with council officials. His visit is seen as crucial in determining the bid to have a 30 mile stretch of coastline afforded the same protection and status as America's Grand Canyon and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. He is a key man appointed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to assess the bid for UNESCO. His visit is the last phase of the local presentation of our case and what he recommends in his report is the most important part. He will see the site and also meet with local people including land owners and councillors.
(Lyme Regis News 9 February 2001)

Lyme Regis Junior Band. Tributes have been paid to former town mayor Mike Hartley who has announced his retirement from the presidency of Lyme Regis Junior Band after 10 years in the office." He has been absolutely brilliant, very committed and supportive in every way" said band chairman Linda Peadon. "We are most appreciative of his service and dedication and we were delighted that he came with us in 1995 when we took the band to Old Lyme, Connecticut, USA where they were a big attraction at the world special games for the disabled" His successor is to be another former first citizen Barbara Austin who opened a special fund when she was in office to help raise money to pay for the band's trip to the USA.

(Lyme Regis News 23 February)

Richard Fox, Lyme's local historian and tour leader, entertained a top man on documentation of the past last week when eminent Robin Bush was in a town tour party. Former town crier Richard's historical tours are very much a part of the summer scene in the resort. He was delighted when Mr Bush, very prominent on television in Tony Robison's Time Team, took the guided walk as the head of a party of people from the Mary and John Association from the United States of America. Ancestors of the association members sailed from this country to the Connecticut area on the ship Mary and John in 1640.

(Lyme Regis News 8 June 2001)

David Badman 63, one of the longest serving and most respected members of staff at Lyme Regis Woodroffe School is retiring at the end of term after 33 years at the school. Devon born David, after graduating from Exeter University did his teacher training practice at the Woodroffe school in 1961. He returned to the school to take up an appointment as head of chemistry seven years later. For eight years he was in charge of boarding at Harcombe and head of year responsible for pastoral care. David gave up teaching to become a school technician after the death of his wife Mary, who also taught at the school, in 1993. He said "I never regretted the move and it was a pleasure to continue my association with the Woodroffe which is a very caring and successful school. I am looking forward to my retirement, although I shall not be idle as I enjoy gardening and I will continue my association with the Science Consortium which trains teachers to work with computers in education. David will be sadly missed at the Woodroffe for his commitment in all spheres of school life particularly with sound and lighting for stage productions.

(Lyme Regis News 13 July 2001)

New owners take over The Gables. The Gables Holiday Apartments in Church Street has been taken over by Christine and Alan Simpson. They have bought the property from Les and Shirley Higgins who have moved to France. The Gables was once Lyme Regis Hospital, its first operating table being given by Lord Lister, Baron of Lyme Regis and pioneer of antiseptic surgery. Now it is a modern complex, with well- equipped apartments and a fine reputation, but shades of yesteryear are retained with one light fitting in the former operating theatre now the bar. Christine and Alan found Lyme by accident about five years ago, when they fell in love with the resort and resolved to make it their home. They said reservations are healthy and they look forward to receiving a visitor from Bermuda who met Stan Williams on his recent trip to Lyme's twin town there, St George's.

(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 5 June 1998)

Lyme Regis Abbeyfield House is welcoming visitors from June 15 to 21 as part of the organisations national week. The Lyme house, Westhill, is run by one of around 600 autonomous Abbeyfield Societies. It is an attractive listed building with a large mature garden and was owned in 1840's by Joseph Hayward. With his son Abraham, he successfully went to court on behalf of the people of Lyme in order to get the Pinhay cliff walk opened after it had been walled in by the land owner.

(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 5 June 1998)

Lyme Regis town councillor Valerie White has died aged 61. She was diagnosed with a serious illness in the 1980's but managed to lead a positive and active life almost to the end. Councillor White was a former headmistress who has owned a property in Lyme for 20 years. She won a place on the town council six years ago, she served on various council bodies, including the Planning and Marine Theatre committees. Her other interests included the business and professional women's club, the jazz festival and the Lyme Regis art group. Councillor Stan Williams said Councillor White's death was a sad loss. "She was a bright,

smart and intelligent lady whose input was sadly missed in recent times when ill-health forced her absence from the council chamber on occasions”
(Lyme Regis News 27 March 1998)

One of the most prominent hotels in Lyme Regis, The Bay has changed hands. Owner George Blackshaw 84 and his family have given up after trading for over 20 years. They came to Lyme from Charmouth where they owned the Queens Arms. Mr Blackshaw, who will continue to live in Lyme Regis, said the decision to sell the hotel had been accelerated by the death of his wife Jean in January. Over the years The Bay Hotel has become almost symbolic of the halcyon days of the seaside summer holiday.

Another Lyme establishment to change hands is Rumours Restaurant in Coombe Street. The new owners taking over from the Roberts family of Lyme are Ron and Lynda Skelton who have come from London. It is a new venture for the couple, who say they will be putting a greater accent on local caught fish and have renamed the business Rumours Fruits De Mer.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 8 May 1998)

Young restaurateur George Symonds says his opening weekend at the By the Bay restaurant on the sea front was extremely successful with lots of customers. George decided to change the name from Seaventurer. While on their honeymoon in the USA, Gina and I were standing near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco when the name came to us, we both felt it would be ideal for our new enterprise.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 8 May 1998)

Disaster day for soldiers. Lyme Regis and Uplyme lost more soldiers in Iraq on one day during the First World War than this country lost during the whole of the conflict against Saddam Hussein. That surprising statistic has been discovered by local councillor and historian Ted Street during his researches into the official history of the Devon Regiment. He was referring to a battle in which the Devon's backed by the Gurkhas were ordered to capture and consolidate a double line of enemy trenches in Iraq in February 1917. The army documents record that heroically the Devon's pushed forward undeterred by the fact that they had seen two battalions dashed to pieces attacking the same trenches only two days before. "It was the sight of a lifetime to see the line of platoons walking over through a very hell" wrote one private. Only five officers and 186 out of 403 men came out unscathed, sixty three were killed but the attack was still referred to as "a brilliant success". The truth is that the regiment had lost its entire complement of officers during fruitless charges against the German trenches. The officers leading the Devon's in Iraq were young inexperienced volunteers whose military knowledge was little better than that of the young recruits that they led. The men from Lyme and Uplyme who died on February 3 1917 were L/Sgt Harry George Frost, Private Charles Edward Gale, Private Frederick Sloman, Lance Corporal Arthur James Frost, Private Albert Samways and Private Alan James Wiscombe.

(Bridport and Lyme Regis News 8 May 1998)

Lyme Regis Sailing club continues to be on the up. This was underlined by commodore David Beer at his annual presentation. Mr Beer said that in the 12 months since the opening of the new headquarters at the Cobb, costing around £180,000, membership had increased to 321 members. The dingy park was now full of craft and the club looked forward to a bright season, the highlights of which would be the RS open meeting in June when competitors would be coming from all over the country for the 50th anniversary of Lyme Regis Regatta and the Lyme Bay Challenge event. The sailing club was formed in 1921 by the late Rev George Eyre, Lieutenant Col B M Hynes, Dr Cooper and ten enthusiasts. It has an excellent reputation for staging national and European events. Progress over the years has been remarkable and family links within the thriving organisation have been retained. This is underlined by the choice of this year's vice – commodore Sally Holman. She is proud to

have the office as she has been associated with the club for over 40 years. Her late father, George Holman was flag officer for a long period before Sally took on the role.
(Lyme Regis News 24 April 1998)

The amazing progress of Lyme Regis Sea School continues with news that it has been awarded a Lottery grant of £4,900. The school that opened just three years ago in the former Outdoor Adventure Centre gets the money for three projects. They are to buy a new rescue boat launch trailer, to replace two dinghies and to spend £850 on more staff training. "We look on the grant as a mark of confidence in the achievements and advancement in the Sea School" said a delighted Trust chairman Jim Bolton.
(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 24 April 1998)

Lyme Regis businesswoman Mrs Edith Ryder has died at Tree Tops residential home aged 87. Uplyme born, she was the former Miss Hockey and the widow of Mr Bill Ryder, who died in the late 1970's. With her husband she ran The Volunteer Inn in Lyme Regis for many years before taking over the town's New Haven Hotel. She leaves two grandchildren, one of them Mayoress Mrs Anita Gwyther. The funeral service takes place at Uplyme Parish church.
(Lyme Regis News 15 May 1998)

Lyme mourns local gardener. A devout Lyme Regis man Henry George (Harry) Keeley, who was a bell ringer until his 90th birthday, died peacefully at Tree Tops Nursing Home. Mr Keeley who was 93 was one of nature's gentlemen and will be greatly missed. Born in Worcestershire, he came to Lyme Regis in 1919 when he went to work as a gardener for the Eyre family, with who he remained until he retired. The garden at Westhill, which he and the late Miss Eyre created, was much admired throughout the district, as was his own garden at Knaps Lodge. Mr Keeley was a staunch member of Lyme Regis Parish Church where he married Marjorie, who succeeds him, and they enjoyed 66 happy years together. They had three children Daphne, Rachel and Roger and there are six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Harry was vicar's warden from 1964 until 1982, during the ministries of the Rev's John Charles, Andrew Nicholson and Murray Dale. Coupled with his church duties was his great passion for bell – ringing which he started in 1929. He rang in many towers around the country, ringing peals and quarter peals and making lifelong friends. The peal boards in Lyme's church tower record his successes over the years. Harry's other hobby was his motorcycle which enabled him to be a dispatch rider during the war and which he rode for 70 years, mostly around the town. The funeral service takes place at Lyme Regis Parish Church.
(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 20 August 1990)

The Leisure Centre will be renamed Woodmead Hall. One of the great social areas of Lyme Regis is to be commemorated with the renaming of the Leisure Centre. From the first of January it will be known as the Woodmead Hall, a move which is bound to evoke many happy memories for residents who experienced so much enjoyment in the old buildings which formerly carried the name. The Woodmead Hall, demolished several years ago, was very much the centre for dances, parties and meetings. The building began life on Salisbury Plain in the First World War and later accommodated the former grammar school in its early days before being pulled down to make way for the leisure centre and more car parking space.
(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 20 August 1990)

A well established humorous illustrator who went to Lyme Regis Woodroffe School is back in Lyme plying his trade in a room once used to make coffins. Ian Dicks and his wife live and work in Eagle House, Sherborne Lane, at one time owned by the late Boswell brothers, the local undertakers. "It is fantastic to be in Lyme Regis, the place I have always wanted to be"

said Ian. Born in Weymouth, now in his 40's Ian used to board at the Woodroffe School. He was employed in advertising before beginning his career as a cartoonist, working in Bath and London prior to returning to Lyme. He has worked for most magazines and many agencies and has a regular spot in The Mail on Sunday.
(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 27 August 1999)

A Lyme Regis based business which started in a recession has made fantastic progress to become one of the South Coast's leaders in its field. Rob Perry Marine, operating from the Cobb at Monmouth beach, is on the crest of a wave having developed its specialist services and increased its staff and clientele. Rob, who went to the Woodroffe School and his wife Enid, who is responsible for the administration, took the plunge over a decade ago when they started with a van to provide a mobile marine service. Then in 1989 they acquired the former garage premises at the Cobb run by Brian Dale. They are now reaping the benefits of foresight, initiative and very hard work. Rob is the only qualified marine engineer in the area, on leaving school he went into shipping with BP, rising to the position of chief engineer on super tankers. Having taken on another engineer his business is now the main dealer for Honda and Mercury outboard engines as well as Lister and Beta diesel engines. The firm also meets a wide range of specialist marine requirements including insurance and stocks everything from wet suits and life – saving gear to electronic equipment. Rob and his small team, including engineers Alan Reed and Stanley Crompton are pleased with their strong position in the market place. They are a great asset to the marine activity in one of the country's leading holiday playgrounds. Rob and Enid, who is also a very successful conference organiser, have two sons Rupert and Henry.
(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 3 July 1998)

A Lyme Regis postman is about to deliver something completely different. In the afternoons, when he is not involved with his Royal Mail duties, Glyn Yorke, 37 is offering a mobile chimney sweeping and cowl fitting service. He has erected an eye – catching chimney pot onto the roof of his van, has equipped himself with brushes and vacuum machinery and is ready to sweep into business. "I suppose they will call me Postman Pot said Glyn who lives in Colway Lane. "I previously had 14 years in the building trade, during which time I swept a few chimneys on request. Then when I was considering taking up a sideline this idea came by to me. I heard somebody saying they couldn't find a chimney sweep, I know there is still a demand for the service, especially in the country areas. I am also available for weddings, I have bought a top hat and tails to attend ceremonies on request and bring the traditional good luck".
(Lyme Regis News 26 March 1999)

IT is the way forward. A market research project has revealed that there are almost as many self - employed people in the Lyme Regis area as there are in full and part time jobs combined. The survey, conducted last summer on behalf of Lyme Regis Development Trust by Louise Vinter, has proved to be extremely useful in the establishment of the resort's new community learning centre. Of the 400 local business identified over 250 responded. The response from community and voluntary organisations in Lyme Regis was 18. Ninety five percent of the people who replied live in the town or within three miles. More than half use a computer at home and many more use one for business purposes. The survey revealed a high degree of interest in the services which will be available through the community learning centre. Even those who said they would not use it believed the resort would benefit. Researchers learned that the Internet was the most popular area for study, followed by basic word processing, spreadsheets, drawing and painting. There was also considerable interest in educational courses delivered via computer and in gaining computer qualifications. The survey also revealed a wide range of interests among respondents, reading, walking and music being favourites. In the middle ranges people are keen on history, art and crafts, sport, computing and the cinema. People seem to be more enthusiastic about fashion and boats than about cars. Cooking comes way down the list. Many survey respondents maintained

that too many young people were forced to leave the town for work and that it was very important to help them through the teaching of computing skills and IT computer based companies. More than half the business responses came from shops, hotels and bed and breakfast establishments who showed a great interest in training courses, particularly in health and safety, accounting and customer care.
(Lyme Regis News 26 March 1999)

Extracts from Pulman's Weekly News, 17 January 1899. AXMINSTER and LYME REGIS LIGHT RAILWAY. The estimated cost of the works and land is £49,938 and the total length, including junctions on both sides of the Axminster Station is 6 miles 5 furlongs and 7 chains. The project has been exceedingly well received in the neighbourhood, it felt that while providing for all reasonable requirements, now and for many years to come, no useless expenditure out of character with the traffic to be provided for it is to be made. It will be seen at a glance that very moderate receipts per mile per week will ensure a fair return to the shareholders.
(Pulmans Weekly News 15 January 1999)

Promotion for MP John Denham. A former Uplyme schoolboy who went on to become a Labour MP was last week made a Minister of Health in a Government re-shuffle. It wasn't the first time that John Denham MP for Itchen Southampton has won favour from Prime Minister Tony Blair. After a period on the back benches he was first promoted to Parliamentary Under Secretary of Pensions, Mr Denham is the younger son of Ted and Beryl Denham of Venlake Uplyme, both leading members of the Uplyme community. He was educated at Mrs Ethelston's Primary School in the village and at the Woodroffe School Lyme Regis.
(Pulman's Weekly News 15 January 1999)

The new Town Clerk is Michael Lewis who has been promoted after handling the council's finances for the past 14 years. Mr Lewis will carry the title of town clerk and chief financial officer and will be helped by staff member Christine Bright who will be the minutes secretary." We decided to promote from within because we believe our staff are capable" said finance officer Ken Meech. "It is important that we have a period of stability". Honiton born Mr Lewis 45, has been employed in local government all his working life, having come to Lyme Regis from a position with the Kent police. He married a Lyme Regis girl Vivienne and has four children.
(Lyme Regis News 15 January 1999)

Extracts from the First edition of Pulman's Weekly News published on January 31st 1899: Lyme Regis – The Boy and the Catapult. Herbert Curtis 15 was summoned for discharging stones from a catapult at Goslings Bridge. PC Meadon proved the case. The chairman Mr G Osborn warned Curtis against the danger of using catapults, adding that although they were going to deal leniently with him on this occasion, if he or any other boy was brought up on a similar summons thy would not get off so lightly. He was fined 2s and 6d and allowed a week to pay.
(Pulman's Weekly News 29 January 1999)

Symes Store Lyme Regis. Older Lyme Regis residents will recall Bridport born Bill Symes who moved from his home town Co-op to work at the old Co-op in Combe Street in 1925 when he was 20 years old. The shop was opposite the Ship Inn and today is Lyme's Fish Bar. Later in 1930 Bill, by then married, went into business on his own account, opening a grocers shop between the Co-op and the Bethany Chapel which is now the Combe Street Gallery. Just before World War Two Bill moved to a brand new grocers shop on the corner of Combe Street and Monmouth Street where he traded until his retirement around 1960. Today the corner shop is Rumours Restaurant.
(Pulman's Weekly News 15 January 1999)

Highlands Farm Uplyme has been sold by Stags Honiton office. It's just within Devon but close to the Dorset border in Gore Lane. The property which comprises 27 acres of mainly undulating pasture occupies an attractive location with far reaching views over its land and beyond. The 20th Century house has in more recent years been renovated and extended. It was offered with 2 reception rooms, farmhouse kitchen with Aga, ground floor bedroom with bathroom. On the first floor are 3 bedrooms one with ensuite shower room. With the property came a range of modern outbuildings suitable for general livestock purposes. The guide price was £250,000.

(Pulman's Weekly news 15 January 1999)

A new restaurant will honour Oscar Wilde. Former professional opera singer Craig Sullivan and his wife Irene will be running the Old Monmouth hotel at Lyme Regis from Easter and have plans to introduce a restaurant called Oscar's. The name highlights the fact that the great Oscar Wilde stayed at the ancient hotel in 1891. Mr and Mrs Sullivan who formerly traded at the Hunters Lodge Hotel and the White Hart in Colyton will be taking over the management from David and Yvonne Brown. The Sullivans, noted for their excellent Burns Night celebrations, were at the heart of the festivities during a party in honour of the great Scottish poet at the Old Monmouth on Monday night.

(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 29 January 1999)

Improvements to Lyme Regis Museum, which began with the opening of an appeal in 1991, have finally been completed at a cost of £550,000. The project, led with great dedication by curator Liz Ann Bawden, has included extensive structural repairs, internal refurbishment and additional display areas. Members of the public are invited to view the transformation at an open day on Sunday February 7th from 2pm until 4.30pm. "I hope every single person in the town will come along see what we have done and enjoy the museum" said Liz Ann. "Lyme Regis has a history of which it is rightly very proud and now we have a museum which does it justice".

(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 29 January 1999)

Mrs Frances Collier, a well-known local woman, who had been one of the first tenants in North Avenue on the Colway Mead estate, has died in the Court Nursing Home in Charmouth. Mrs Collier, the former Miss Chaffey, worked in the catering industry for most of her life, her last employment being at the Harbour Inn Lyme Regis at the age of 80. She was widowed in 1993, having been married to her husband Percy for over 50 years. Mrs Collier leaves five children and several grandchildren.

(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 12 February 1999)

One of the great servants of the local auxiliary coastguard service has retired due to ill health. Derek Hallett 57, who recently underwent heart bypass surgery, has called it a day after 23 years. Derek leaves with the distinction of having been the longest serving auxiliary in the Lyme Bay sector. "It has been marvellous to serve with the auxiliary team said Derek the camaraderie has been super and it has been rewarding to help with such a fine service team. When I first joined Jim Bolton was in charge. I have also served under Bob Kendrick, Mike Poupard and Pat Hunt. All of them are first class men and I have been delighted to work with them. Many rescues have given me satisfaction but I remember particularly reaching a man and two children who were trapped on the cliff at the Spittles after being cut off by the tide. They were very distressed and crying when located and I must say it was a nice feeling when I found them". Lyme Bay sector manager Peter Pritchard said "Derek has been a dedicated and most committed auxiliary coastguard, as indeed are all those who volunteer for this kind of service, because they are the front line soldiers.

(Bridport & Lyme Regis News 12 February 1999)