



ATWEST



ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT WEST SOMERSET

ATWEST TRAVEL CLUB

I know that lots of people find the hot weather uncomfortable but being entirely selfish I am rather enjoying the summer so far. Everything seems a lot more cheerful in the sunshine, and to be able to potter about in shirt sleeves and not feel cold is lovely.

My legs are still a scary shade of white though so I am hoping for a few more sunny weekends!

ATWEST

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Some new vehicles are being trialled here in Somerset and we are very proud to be part of the testing process.

As you can see, Pete is making sure that these two vehicles are adequate from the passengers' point of view and he looks quite comfortable.

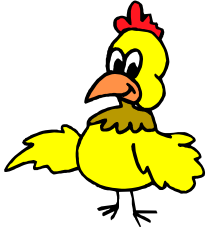
I'm not sure we have any drivers small enough to fit in the front seat but we'll do our best.

We'll keep you posted on the progress of the trial!





Deb's Joke and Fun Corner!



A chicken met James Bond while crossing the road.

"What's your name", the chicken asked.

"The name's Bond. James Bond", came the reply. "What's your name?"

"The name's Ken. Chick Ken!"



What words can be pronounced quicker and shorter by adding an extra syllable to them?

QUICK and SHORT!

OFFICE NOTICE

"After teabreak staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board."



Anyone feeling peckish?

Can you solve this code to reveal the wise words by a famous author?

YBL KRQ IBF KFN LH R
KFSQYRDQ MLXDQH MV
TRPPVDQX RIRV HKRWW
HYFQLH.

TFQZSTDSH

Solution next month!!



AIREDALE
ALSATIAN
APPENZELLER
BASSET
BEAGLE
BEDLINGTON
BLOODHOUND
BORZOI
BOXER
BULLDOG
CHIHUAHUA
CHINOOK
CHOW CHOW
COLLIE
CORGI
DACHSHUND
DALMATIAN
DOBERMAN
GREAT DANE
GREYHOUND

HUSKY
JACK RUSSELL
LABRADOR
LANDSEER
MAGYAR
MASTIFF
PEKINGESE
POINTER
POMERANIAN
POODLE
PUG
ROTTWEILER
SAMOYED
SANSHU
SETTER
SHEEPDOG
SPANIEL
TERRIER
WHIPPET

I had my dog Hudson in the office while I was doing this page, so a doggy wordsearch seemed appropriate!

MINEHEAD & DISTRICT TREFOIL GROUP



In mid-June I took Minehead and District Trefoil Group to Hestercombe Gardens near Taunton. It was a lovely sunny afternoon - just right for a gentle stroll around these lovely gardens, and a cream tea!

I like Hestercombe a lot because there are so many different styles of garden there. For anyone who knows about these things, the Formal Garden is one of the earliest examples of the partnership between Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll - renowned for their use of colour and interesting plant combinations. It has gradually been restored over the past few years, and looks stunning in the spring and summer - the roses and delphiniums were in full bloom when we were there.

Behind the house is the much more informal wild garden, also recently restored. This is very atmospheric with a stream running down through it, connecting a series of lakes. The path meanders along passing several interesting buildings and follies in which to rest and take in the view.

And once the gardens have been explored, the restaurant serves delicious lunches and teas, and there is a shop for choosing a gift or plant as a reminder of the day.

MOOR ROVER DOES VALLEY OF THE ROCKS



Exmoor Adventures used the Moor Rover service in June to transport a group from Porlock Vale House near Porlock Weir, to the Valley of the Rocks. As you can see from the photographs they had stunning weather for their day of outdoor activities.

These included abseiling and rock climbing amongst other things, and they couldn't have picked a more scenic or adventurous place to try these things. I'm sure the goats that scramble up and down the steep slopes with ease must have been very amused!

Exmoor Adventures is a local enterprise taking groups out all over Exmoor for energetic and rewarding activities (but hopefully not too many adventures!)

MINEHEAD REVISITED by Mike Prescott

This is the ATWEST coach and horses a few years ago!

The horses were stabled at the Plume of Feathers Inn on the corner of Holloway and Park Street. If you walk through Tythings Court Lane opposite the Queen's Head the stable doors can still be seen. They've been turned into garages.

The coach would leave Minehead station, up Porlock Hill, and down Countisbury. What a hairy journey it must have been, especially in inclement weather - Countisbury was only a single track back then!

The coach ran from the late 1880s until 1920 when the motor coaches took over.

(The postcard Mike gave me had some colour in it and I'm really sorry that this has been lost in scanning it to put it in the newsletter.)



THE ACORN SITE



On June 21st 2010 an historic step was taken towards Atwest moving to its own premises.

As reported last month the lease for the Acorn Site has been signed, and here is Barbara Middleton collecting the key to the site from Kathryn Gilligan of West Somerset District Council legal department, who has been working with Atwest towards this since August 2009.

In Barbara's words ...

After 2 years of delicate and challenging negotiations, Atwest is delighted to say that we have finally been granted a lease for 15 years to develop and occupy the Acorn Site in Brunel Way, Mart Road, Minehead. Thanks to the support from West Somerset Council, we've been able to get this lease when there is no land available anywhere else for us to go. In late July, we are hoping to hold a celebratory ceremony called 'The cutting of the first sod' as a preliminary to work starting. Watch out for 2 lucky passengers who'll win the chance to be in the picture that day.

Atwest has raised nearly all of the money needed to provide a new surface for the buses and an accessible wooden carbon-neutral building. We're hoping that when we're settled, we'll be able to hold a few social events for our passengers and really make this project of great benefit to the local community in West Somerset.

Barbara Middleton

MOOR ROVER AND EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK



Exmoor National Park Authority has part-funded the Moor Rover service and are very active in promoting it. They have also used it twice in recent weeks as part of their own activities.



Towards the end of June Dan James, Sustainable Economy Officer for ENP, booked the Moor Rover to transport a group of National Park staff visiting from around the country. They had been working hard for two days, and the final part of the workshop was to visit various projects around Exmoor that had received money from the Sustainable Development Fund.



First port of call was the new livestock market at Cutcombe (top photo), which is very modern building much more fit for purpose than the current facilities.

Next was Dunster Castle to see the Bat Camera in action, and then on to the roof to see the recently installed photo-voltaic panels (second photo). We were asked not to walk too near the edge but most of us couldn't resist the temptation to look at the view (third photo).



After a fascinating visit to TRUCE (Timber Reuse) in Minehead we took the scenic route up Porlock Hill, over to Exford and up Winsford Hill - our destination the Exmoor Pony Centre (fourth photo). The visitors thoroughly enjoyed their brief tour of Exmoor, and I enjoyed driving it!

ENP LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

In early July Exmoor National Park launched a new website with the tag line "Car Free, Care Free on Exmoor". The idea is that the site gathers together in one place all the information needed by visitors and residents about how to get out and about on Exmoor without using their cars. All the bus services are mentioned, as well as the West Somerset Railway, cycle hire, and suggested linear and circular walks.

The launch was held in Simonsbath House Hotel and the Moor Rover was used to pick up passengers from Minehead, Porlock, and Lynmouth. The top photo shows the bus outside the hotel and the bottom one shows all the people who attended being photographed promoting Moor Rover!

Website address www.ExploreMoor.co.uk



AUGUST'S TRAVEL CLUB TRIPS

Tuesday 10th August

CREAM TEA AT WITHYPOOL

Right in the heart of Exmoor, this picturesque village is an ideal destination for a cream tea. With a scenic drive over, an attractive tearoom, and a scenic drive home, could there be a better way to spend an afternoon?

Thursday 12th August

YEOVIL

This seems to be a popular destination for shopping, with a good range of well-known shops and some interesting independent ones

Monday 16th August

BLACK VENUS INN, CHALLACOMBE

The last visit here in May went down very well with all the passengers – wildlife spotting on the way to the pub, delicious lunch, and more scenery on the way home.

Tuesday 17th August

CHEDDAR

There is so much to do in Cheddar – a breathtaking drive up the Gorge, elevenses in one of the tearooms, and a jaunt round some of the shops. Followed by lunch and more shopping at Cheddar Garden Centre.

Monday 23rd August

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

(£4 per seat)

Does this place need any advertising? There's the beach, fish and chips, icecreams, shopping – what more could you need on a day out!

PLEASE NOTE.... FOR ALL FULL DAY Travel Club TRIPS THE BUS WILL BE LEAVING FOR HOME AT 3pm. This does not apply to group trips, where the time can be booked as needed.

Thursday 26th August

TORRE CIDER FARM

Time to indulge in a tippie (hiccup) with your cake, to finish off a lovely afternoon's drive around a pretty bit of Somerset.

Wednesday 1st September

WHITE HORSE INN, BRADFORD-ON-TONE

Two of the drivers found themselves in Bradford-on-Tone recently, and having had a walk through this very pretty village, they visited the pub. The menu looks delicious so we thought it ideal for a Travel Club trip!

***** SUMMER SPECIAL *****

BOOK AS MANY OF THESE TRIPS AS YOU LIKE!

The booking line for **Travel Club** trips will open at 9.00am on Thursday 29th July. Please remember that bookings will not be taken before this time.

Booking line number 01643 709701

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Anna 22/07/10