



# ATWEST



**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT WEST SOMERSET**

## ATWEST TRAVEL CLUB

By my calculations, this edition of the newsletter marks one year since I started putting it together. I hope that it is still full of the kind of things you expect to find, and if there is anything you would like to see in addition please let me know.

I am always looking for suggestions and ideas!

Hopefully by the time you get this, the signs of spring will be ever more visible, and we can look forward to more sunshine and increasingly warmer weather!

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Fresh from Lanzarote - Pete in the new open-top Slinky bus - calling at your village, stopping at your home!

AtWest will always get through, but we might not always get out again! Luckily the passengers were safely transferred to another bus before this was taken!



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# Deb's Joke and Fun Corner!

How did the dinosaurs pass their exams?  
With Extinction!

What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it?

Nothing. It just let out a little wine!



Do these belong to me?



Preparations for the 2010 Hamster Olympics are going well!

Taken from "F in Exams: The Best Test Paper Blunders"

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld. *Mrs Orpheus*

What is a nitrate? *Much cheaper than a day rate.*

Name one measure which can be put into place to avoid river flooding in times of extensive rainfall (eg in Mississippi). *Flooding in such areas may be avoided by placing a number of big dames into the river.*

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed? *At the bottom.*



Here is a CRIME SCENE wordsearch for all you detectives out there - to get the little grey cells working hard!

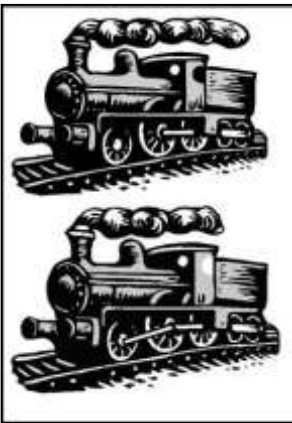
- |             |          |            |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| OFFICER     | FORGERY  | ACCOMPLICE |
| OUTLAW      | FRAUD    | ALIBI      |
| PATROL      | FUGITIVE | ARREST     |
| PENALTY     | GANGSTER | BAIL       |
| PERPETRATOR | GUILTY   | CHARGE     |
| POLICE      | HOMICIDE | CLUE       |
| PRISON      | HOODLUM  | COPS       |
| PRIVATE EYE | ILLEGAL  | CRIME      |
| PROOF       | INNOCENT | CRIMINAL   |
| ROBBER      | JAIL     | CROOK      |
| SHERIFF     | JUDGE    | DETECTIVE  |
| SLEUTH      | JURY     | EVIDENCE   |
| SUSPECT     | LARCENY  | EXTORTION  |
| THIEF       | LAWYER   | FELON      |
| WITNESS     | MOBSTER  | FINE       |

## LOCAL EVENTS

### FRIENDS OF MINEHEAD STATION - JUMBLE SALE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, THE AVENUE, MINEHEAD MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 10.00am

Including Jumble, Bric-a-Brac, Raffle, Tea and Coffee

All proceeds go towards restoration projects at Minehead Station.



Spot the differences!

### STEAM GALA - WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY

20-21<sup>ST</sup> and 25-28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010

This has established itself as one of the premier heritage railway events of the year, and is visited by several thousand people. This year's event is themed "The Standard Era" and will celebrate the British Railway Standards and other locomotives that worked with them from 1950-1964.

## ATTENTION PLEASE!!

### MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE

#### TRAVEL CLUB

IN ORDER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND CONTINUE RECEIVING THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PLEASE PAY THE £5 ANNUAL FEE BY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>.

#### GROUP LEADERS

THE £20 GROUP REGISTRATION FEE IS DUE BY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT BOOKINGS FOR GROUP TRIPS WITHOUT IT.



## WOOKEY HOLE AND CHEDDAR CAVES



Some of the caverns at Wookey Hole

On February 8<sup>th</sup> Minehead and District U3A Geology group used AtWest for the first time, to take them to Wookey Hole and Cheddar. The aim was to try and see the caves at Wookey, and Cheddar Gorge and Gough's Cave, Cheddar all in one visit. It was a tight schedule but they succeeded in seeing it all, and having a very informative and enjoyable trip.

The day started with a guided tour of the caves at Wookey Hole and their very interesting rock formations. After lunch in the Caves Cafe, the drive to Cheddar took the group down through Cheddar Gorge - breathtaking as always!

The final part of the trip was a self-guided audio tour of Gough's Cave at Cheddar, finishing with a cream tea! The group had a very good day and on the journey home discussed where they could visit next - the Jurassic Coast of Dorset seemed a popular choice!



Some of the cheeses maturing in the caves at Wookey before being delivered to Sainsburys!



Ann Lang and Jenny Lennox-Wood trying their hand at paper-making the traditional way!

## EAST LAMBROOK MANOR



This time last year I took a group to see the gardens at East Lambrook Manor, near South Petherton. The garden is famous for being designed and created by garden writer Margery Fish, and is popular at this time of year for its varied collection of snowdrops.

Having enjoyed the visit last February, I suggested it as a trip for the Travel Club. Several of you agreed and we had a lovely day out - cold but dry with occasional glimmers of sunshine!

As the garden is quite small we extended the trip by having lunch in the Rose and Crown pub, just opposite, first. They looked after us very well and the food was very good. The current owner of the garden - Mike Werkmeister - then gave us a brief history and introduction before directing us to the snowdrops.

As well as the snowdrops, there were lots of other winter flowers out, including Witch Hazel, Winter Aconites, and the first hellebores.



Snowdrops are funny plants. Once established in the ground the species will quite happily bulk up and seed themselves around to make large swathes - as seen at Snowdrop Valley. However, getting them going in the first place can be quite a challenge. If you are thinking of planting some then this is the time of year to do it - while the bulbs are still growing, or "in the green" as gardeners would say! It is possible to plant them from dormant bulbs but more often than not they fail to get going.

If you already have snowdrops in the garden but want to divide a large clump to spread further, or share with friends, then wait until the flowers have finished before lifting them. Gently tease the bulbs apart into individuals or small clumps, then replant straight away so that they can finish off the growing season in the ground.

# MARCH'S TRAVEL CLUB TRIPS

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

## **CHEDDAR and CHEDDAR GARDEN CENTRE**

A dual trip including a drive along the famous Cheddar Gorge with time for a quick walk if you like, followed by a visit to this excellent garden centre for lunch and garden shopping!

The booking line for **Travel Club** trips will open at 9.00am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Please remember that bookings will not be taken before this time.

Booking line number 01643 709701

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

## **ALLERFORD INN, NORTON FITZWARREN**

The lunch-with-drive trips seem to have been very popular so here is another one, but heading in a different direction! This pub comes highly recommended and is very reasonably priced (£5 for a main course or carvery, £1.50 for a starter or dessert).

*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.

There seems to a certain amount of discussion about where the drop-off point should be on some Travel Club trips. So to save any awkwardness on arrival at a destination the drop-off point will be determined by AtWest before the trip departs. Thank you!

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

## **WELLS**

Those of you who already know Wells know what this wonderful place has to offer, especially on a Wednesday when the market is on. For anyone who has never been it is well worth a visit.

## **ADVERTISEMENT**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

## **HONITON or OTTER NURSERIES, OTTERY ST MARY (£6 per seat)**

This is a pick-or-choose trip – a chance to visit the lovely market in Honiton, or the first of several (no doubt!) visits to this special nursery.

  
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**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
**BURNHAM ON SEA**

Do I need to say anything about this fabulous place – a walk on the beach followed by fish and chips on the seafront, or some shopping perhaps!

Anna 23//02/10