

An Interview with Guy Eddy on 20 August 2013 at home at “High Croft”.

Richard Baker and Mike Wynne-Powell represented the Historical Society.

Guy Eddy came to Ringmore in 1978. He was on the Parish Council for 12 years and was Chairman for 7 of those during many changes to the village. He was also Chairman of the Ringmore Branch of the Royal British Legion and started the first ‘auction’

I came to the village in 1976. We were living in Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire, and I was based at Lyneham and Brize Norton. We stayed in the same place in Wootton Bassett for 12-13 years, which was very fortunate for the children – education wise you know. I was coming to the end of my RAF career and arranged my last posting to St Mawgan and meantime in the last 4 years before I retired Myra and I started wandering around the area looking for a house somewhere near the coast.

The nearest bit of coast to Wootton Bassett was down in Dorset and so we looked at Bridport, but because of the high house prices we decided to look further westwards. We came to Kingsbridge for a weekend and looked around the area, taking in Prawle Point. We then had a holiday with the children in a coastguard cottage at Prawle Point, and explored more of the area. We visited the local estate agents, and this house came up.

The house was only two-thirds the size you see today but we liked it! When I think about it now we must have been easily impressed – particularly so, because the sea was just over the fields! It did have planning approval for an extension and so we added this big room onto the house. It made the house half as big again. Both our families – mine and Myra’s were still down in Cornwall; my parents had died but my sister was still in Cornwall and this was as far as we wanted to go west. We didn’t want to live in Cornwall because we had had enough trouble getting in and out of Cornwall in previous summers. I remember one time when I was stationed at Bath, and to get from outside of

Bath to Wadebridge used to take us about 8 hours! You went through every town you came to and you queued through every town!

I finished at St Mawgan in 1978, I'd been the Station Flight Safety Officer (very glorious title!) the major thing I had to do was to organise the Air Day and that used to take about 3 months. The year I was doing it St Mawgan was also hosting, for one day, the Senior Officers War Course. This was a group of military men (tri-Service) and civilians, all at Assistant Director and Director level, who were on a 6 month Royal Defence College, Senior Officers War Course, from Shrivenham Defence College. They came down for the day and we had a flying display for them, and it seemed sensible, to hold our Open Day on the following day. There was aircraft everywhere! The air day for the public had planes flying between 2-5pm and was great fun, with something going on all the time. We started it all off with a Vulcan scramble which sort of shook Cornwall to its foundations! We had 4 Vulcans going off within 2 minutes and the noise was tremendous. A good day was had by all. A side issue was that on that day there were some chaps there selling fake programmes, our Police picked them up, and we got them in Court. Later I had to go to Bodmin Assizes to declare that this programme that they were selling was fraudulent and nothing to do with the RAF at St Mawgan.

When we first settled in Ringmore in 1978 the village had a lot more holiday homes than nowadays. There was a bit of 'us and them' as well. Jim Dodds was farming at Lower Manor and Michael Capps farming in Upper Manor. There wasn't so much happening in those days as there is now. People didn't seem to mix so much. I think I am right in thinking that. The WI was going and we had a Reverend who used to make silver ornaments and such like. We didn't have a Newsletter. The church used to bring out a little monthly leaflet, and Reverend Corbett, whether or not he did it, put a small insert into the monthly leaflet to alert people to what would be happening in the coming month. That was about the degree of any information there was.

The village shop was in Ivy Cottage and was run by the Harmans; they were before the Races but I am struggling to remember the name of the people before the Harmans. The pub had just been bought by the Hollands, they bought it in 1976 from Mrs Ledger. Barry Ledger was here when we bought this place, then he died shortly afterwards and Mrs Ledger carried on the pub for another 12 months or so, and sold it to the Hollands. They were there for 11 years. I used to do 5 stints a week for the Hollands in the pub, which enabled me to meet most people in the village. When I think what the pub was like down there then!

The British Legion My first collection raised about £500 and we gradually expanded by introducing the auction down the pub. The pub landlord then was Bob Dunkley who was an ex-merchant Navy man. He had been a purser on a liner of some description. He bought the pub from the Hollands and there was a load of old rubbish left there and he said he was going to throw out 'all this, that and the other'. He bought the pub in probably September / October and I persuaded him to have an auction of all this stuff. All sorts of strange things were in the collection to be auctioned including a stuffed badger sitting over the doorway to the outside. It was saturated in nicotine. There were three stuffed quails above the thatched awning over the bar! There was a stuffed seagull, would you believe, with a detachable head! All sorts of incredible garbage! We found a few other things and we had our first auction down in the Journeys End for the Poppy appeal. We made about £100, which we split between the Merchant Navy fund and the Royal British Legion – I think that would have been 1987, and an auction has been held ever since.

One auction was held at the Pickwick, and one at the Royal Oak but they had only limited success, and the best results were always at the Journeys End. When you think what the auction started from, little acorns sure enough, to what

is raised there now, it is extraordinary. A little later on, the person who was doing the Kingston organising moved out of Kingston and it made sense to put the 3 villages together – Ringmore, Kingston and Bigbury. It all gradually moved on and got bigger and bigger including holding coffee mornings at Jack Smith's at Bigbury-on-Sea. He used to have a café there above the car-park at South Sands?. *Editors note – This is the house where Joan Smith lived (she used to worship at Ringmore) and then she had a nervous breakdown – following a car accident - and ended up in sheltered accommodation in Ivybridge. The land where her bungalow stood now has two huge modern type houses.*

We built our annual donation up to something just over £5,000 in the last year that I did it – probably in 2002. The three parishes had a population of approximately 1,200 and it was the first time we had got beyond £3 per head – which was pretty good! We didn't get any award for our fund-raising, and I'm not sure what the award is that is up in the shop at St Ann's Chapel. I think it is an award for the most enterprising or something similar. We always fell between stools, being neither big enough to do some things, but being too big to do something else.

The RBL is pretty successful now raising funds of around £10,000. You had periods when people went from putting 50p in to putting £1 in. It showed up in the annual take. It would seem that people were slightly more affluent! And nowadays people put a tenner in the kitty or even £20! There is nothing like a good war to help the Legion. The Falklands helped considerably, the Service chaps were back in view again. You know a lot of the time that I was in the Service, we were there, but we weren't a desirable bunch – no that's not right, but you weren't supposed to go out of Camp in uniform unless you were on duty. You didn't go into a pub at night in uniform for instance. Somebody would have said something, but it didn't happen in Wootton Bassett because Wootton Bassett was full of RAF – over half the town was RAF! *Editors note: Service personnel were not allowed to wear their Uniforms off-duty because of the terrorist problems in Northern Ireland and the indiscriminate bombings that occurred in the UK pubs etc.*

THE MILLENIUM PROJECT

Planting the Millenium Hedge

Fifteen hundred trees were planted as part of the millennium project. How this millennium project started was that I had retired from the Parish Council by then. About 1998ish people were beginning to talk about the millennium whatnot and then we had all sorts of discussions of when it should be. Should it be the end of 1999 or should it be the end of 2000? I remember Reg Trant arguing that it shouldn't be until the end of 2000 when in fact 2001 came up! I thought, that's fair enough, but we are a privileged bunch to witness the change into another millennia. Nobody else is going to see that for a very long time so my thoughts were that we should do something about it!

Rob Batten was Chairman of the Parish Council at the time and I went along to a Council meeting and put the question to him "what are we going to do about the millennium"? The Parish Council were happy to say 'nothing'! Well, I said, I think we ought to do something about it. So I was advised that I should go away and gather ideas and then come back to the Parish Council when the ideas have formulated. So, in essence, the Parish Council didn't want to know about any millennium project.

I went and talked to a few people who all thought that the village ought to mark the occasion in some way, so I gathered together a small Committee of Mike Patterson, Thelma Mann and Jane Riddell. We did a little bit of surveying and asking of people what would they like done to celebrate the millennium. We had suggestions of seats, Parish map, church clock, garden of Remembrance and somebody else wanted to put up a wind turbine down by the Cove! We had a number of things that were good suggestions. I gathered these together and I went to the next Parish Council meeting and said I have ideas, and people want something done – generally.

Once again the Parish Council were very reluctant to take the project on and asked me if I would organise the millennium project. So we got going with our ideas and so on, and we sent out bits of information on the bottom of the Newsletter – a return slip where each villager was asked to say whether they were either in favour or against doing a millennium project. A little later a list of suggested ideas was sent out to all householders asking if they would vote for their favourite 3 items out of about 10 items.

We gradually got things moving that way and we came up with the planting of trees, the Parish Map, seats and church clock. It was about this time that the Lottery Funding was starting to issue grants for the millennium projects. So we decided we would apply for a grant. The paperwork is all in the dear old box there. As things went on I got in touch with Coast and Countryside Commission who were part of South Hams District Council, who in turn referred me to the British Trust for Conservation – who stumped up the money. They were the organisation who could produce trees. I met with the Coast and Countryside Commission and was asked where the trees would be planted. I had thought about putting trees down the bottom by Lower Manor Farm running down the valley. Perhaps a nice hedge running along the gulley would be nice.

Meantime, the National Trust had bought Lower Manor Farm a few years earlier, and I got in touch with them saying that the village wanted to plant some trees for the millennium. Can we plant some firs up your valley? I can't remember who was at the helm of the local National Trust then, but he said 'no!' The National Trust won't promote the planting trees unless they are indigenous to the area. That made things a bit more difficult, so we had a longer think, and to cut a long story short, they said you can have the hedge down in the valley that is very bare, and we would like to see some trees along the hedge. You can plant that hedge and we won't charge you anything for it!

So we got fencing for each side of the hedge, but it's a fairly bare bank in between other than brambles and stinging nettles! This hedge was 250 yards long or so. I then went back to talk to the Coast and Countryside Commission advising them that we did have a hedge that we could plant, and asking them what do you think we should plant in it? We were given a brochure which showed all the local trees – ash, hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, wild rose – which could go in that hedge, and we were going to plant a tree every yard.

Now we needed to think about where the trees were going to come from. We eventually went to MGM Nurseries between Loddiswell and California Cross (no longer there now). The money came from a grant from financiers, based in Tavistock, who were involved with Coast and Countryside Commission. We bought 1500 trees from MGM nurseries, 1300 of which were planted in the hedge, another 100 down in the valley between us and Bigbury - on John Tucker's plantation down there. It took 3 months to do all the planting, starting in November 1999 and finishing in about February 2000. The precise location of the hedge is: below Lower Manor Farm, follow the path round, the gateway past the plantation there is a steep field and if you look up at that field, the hedge that runs halfway along the skyline, sloping upwards, is the millennium hedge. Alan McCarthy was the mover and shaker of planting all these trees. He worked out a master plan of ash, hawthorn, spindle, blackthorn, rose all in order all along the length. I haven't been to look at these trees for a long time now, but I must do it next Spring when the blossom is out. It should be a decent hedge by now as it is 13 years old now.

The idea in producing the little booklet was that the hedge would be recognised for what it stands for. I mentioned to Jem Deverson some months ago that we need to get some plaques put up so that people can say that that's the millennium hedge up there, planted by a string of people from Ringmore. There is also a millennium tree planted on the edge of Jem Deverson's land. Initially,

Brian McCabe and I planted it, but his bullocks then ate the tree! Then Jem and I planted a sequoia which should easily outlast us by a little bit!

The little plantation down the bottom – we planted on a piece of John Tucker's ground down there, where the path from Bigbury village comes down the valley and then up over into Ringmore. It is just over on the left down there – a little triangular piece of land with 100 or so trees on it which were left over from the hedge, plus 2 or 3 damsons. This piece of land is situated past Corner Cottage, and then take the path for Bigbury village which is at the bottom just before the stream. John Tucker fenced in this piece of land, and at this stage we hadn't spent a penny! And finally, there were half a dozen fir trees we planted in the bottom of the caravan park, again down past Corner Cottage, then straight on down to the bottom – the caravan site is on your right. There should be a site plan of the trees in the box.

Next we addressed the seat business. It was suggested that we put seats out on the cliff path. However the National Trust don't permit that (they don't want to be responsible for the upkeep of the seats) but they were happy to place a large log on the path to Toby's Point. One day Dudley Hext came out with his fork-lift and lifted the log into place. Within 5 years the log had disappeared – due to beetles, bugs, weather etc. Quite extraordinary how quickly the elements eroded the log. The other log was placed down Smugglers Path – half way to the coast where there is a slight clearing. This log lasted a big longer – up until 2011.

The seat half-way up is in memory of one of the warden's who worked for the National Trust. The seat on the edge of Ayrmer Cove was put there by Chris Roberts in memory of his wife. However, Chris wasn't allowed to put any inscription on the seat – the National Trust didn't want that. The National Trust have now put a bench halfway up the coastal path between Ayrmer Cove and Toby's Point.

The Parish Map. John Bracey produced this brilliant piece of mapping and we needed two copies of the master map. One copy to go on the bus shelter at Ringmore, and one down at Challaborough. I went into 3 printing shops in Plymouth where I didn't get much help. Finally, I went into Kingsbridge and called into a printers shop. Initially I was given a quote of £1700! So then I went back to the Coast and Countryside Commission to ask if they could reproduce the map in colour, and they said they didn't think so. However, a week or so later they phoned back to say they had found a way to reproduce the map.

Another time we would need to ask the artist to produce a map to a set size with particular colours which would make the reproduction much easier. The Coach House is missing from the map, as is Kimberley, but Kimberley is in Bigbury Parish! There should be information in the box as to who would be the best person to approach to get additional copies of the map as they become weathered.

It would also be a good idea to put a 'dot' on the map so that people can see where they are standing when they look at the map. The copyright of the map is Ringmore Historical Society. One map, as mentioned earlier, is positioned at the bus shelter in Ringmore and the other map is near the shop at Challaborough. It is in a new notice board on the drive-way to the chalets. It is positioned fairly out of the sun. It is used a lot by white-van-men who are looking for a particular house to deliver to! The Parish Council did pay for the frame on the map at Ringmore, and the Manager of Parkdean paid for the frame on the map at Challaborough.

The Clock. A saga in its own right. We were in the early days of the National Lottery who advertised 'something for everybody'. We filled in this whacking long form, got it signed up and sponsored by Sir Douglas Hall as a worthy cause. Some six months after putting in the application we heard that it had

been rejected. We wondered where we went from there. I didn't know what I was talking about, putting a clock on the church, but Mike Patterson was a great help. The poll, held to see if the village wanted a clock, was 2 dozen for, 4 dozen against.

The only recent installation of a clock on a church was Kingston's, but I had an idea from Francis Jarvis, who was church warden of Kingston at the time, that the clock project would cost several thousand pounds. We had no money at all at this point in time! I remember writing a screed for the Newsletter saying that we had been unsuccessful in obtaining a grant. And then I went into the business of looking at all sorts of trust people around – oh god it makes me feel tired to think about it! But around the country people were getting grants for clocks, and one place fairly close to home, Caro Pole and I thought we pretty well filled the criteria according to a booklet of what grants were on offer for various things.

I had a booklet which listed about 30 different trusts who would give grants for this, that and the other. I approached the Caro Pole people who said they couldn't help us as we weren't in Cornwall! I went on and on, and out of the blue I had a letter back from the David Knightley Trust who were interested in our project. They expressed an interest in helping. Round about the same time Nancy Grimshaw had died and George said that he would like to give money towards a clock if the project got off the ground. So I put more words into the next Newsletter, and in the meantime Mike Patterson had done all sorts of research into clocks on churches. He looked up how they would work etc, and he came up with this sort of clock which would work for us, and he had a cost of £5,500.

We'd had meetings along the way about how we were proceeding with this project, and we had decided that we would ask the village if they wanted us to go ahead with the clock project, and if so, would they help us financially. Mike

Wynne-Powell put all sorts of different clock faces onto a picture of the church in order that Parishioners could choose which clock face they most liked. We felt we had to go ahead with this project. The clock makers were up in the Midlands, and so we asked when they could do the clock. By now it was 2001.

And of course, all that had seemed very simple suddenly wasn't so, because we hadn't had any dealings with the Diocese at this stage! So another huge hurdle had to be got through. We had to pay all sorts of monies to the Diocese for various people coming to look at the church etc etc. We had to have an inspection by an Ancient Monument expert to see if a Grade 2 listed building could house a clock. The expert said that with a bit of effort this could have been a Grade 1 listed building, and we were thankful that it wasn't Grade 1 because I feel sure there would have been even more restrictions on the building!

Anyhow, we got the go-ahead, and then we spent the next 6 to 9 months dealing with the church and getting approval to put the clock on the wall of the church! The colour of the clock face was debated. Then we were cleared to go ahead and raise money and get on with the job. We sent out our request for funds via the Newsletter, and the money quietly came in and we just about got the amount needed! We finished up with £200 - £300 over the required sum which we used for maintenance along the way. We didn't deal with the financial side of things at all. When it came to money we gave it all to the Parish Council to sort out. We, the four of us on the Committee, weren't in a position to handle the money. So money that was gathered from all around the Parish was given to the Parish Council to sort out. We had no idea how much money had been collected until I asked the then Parish Clerk, Margaret Wood, the total that had been donated.

The villagers managed to raise £2,500, and George Grimshaw also donated £2,000 which was a huge help. Additionally we received £1,350 from the David Knightley Trust. When the clock was installed the men didn't use scaffolding,

they abseiled – that being the cheaper option! It took a long time for them to drill through the church tower wall – nearly one whole day! A survey was also undertaken to do with the clock chiming. Everyone thought that Madeleine Capps might complain but she, in fact, didn't! She was happy with the timings of when the chimes would sound. There was quite a bit of opposition to the clock along the way. Initially the Chairman of the Parish Council was against it – that was Geoff Dyke, and John Bracey didn't want it because he lived next door. Yvonne Sheppard didn't want it – she was Church Warden at the time and neither did the vicar, John Elliott. However, eventually everyone was turned around and twelve months later there wasn't one dissenting voice; the fact that the clock would not chime through the night seemed to please immediate neighbours and ruffled feathers were calmed!

There are some photos of the function when the clock was unveiled in 2002. I had a good connection with a lady who worked at South Hams District Council, a Mrs Gill , and ever since the lottery thing started I went to see her from time to time to figure out how we should attack the project! She became quite interested because there weren't many Parishes doing anything out of their 60 odd Parishes. I remember saying to her that the clock project had taken so long that it could be joined into the celebrations for the Queen's 50th Golden Jubilee!

Gordon Macintosh:-

The village hasn't had any notoriety since I came here to live, although I had heard that it was actually off limits to Naval personnel for a while. This was probably due to Gordon Macintosh when he lived in Cross Manor. He was the second son of the sweet manufacturer and Gordon came back from the war having fought in North African campaign, a huge man, probably his waist measurement was the same as his height. He was full of good intentions and his family 'paid him off' – "here you are Gordon, would you go away we don't want you in the family business". I think the family thought he might damage the

business severely. So Gordon pitched up in Ringmore and used to entertain all sorts of people, including Naval personnel, who used to party the night away. So it is quite possible that the village could have been off-limits to Service Personnel! These activities went on long before I came to the village. However, Gordon was still in Cross Manor when we came to live here although I think he was beginning to see the bottom of the little bag of money and had to slow down.

Circuits and Bumps:-

Richard asked whether Guy had any recollection of an aeroplane that used to land and take off giving people a trip round the bay. Guy: I can remember as a youngster Alan Cobham's flying circus, they used to travel around the country in the 1930s, the early days. I can remember as a kiddie, probably 7 or 8 years old, the flying circus coming down to Wadebridge with about 4 or 5 different aeroplanes and taking people on short flights in the area. But I don't know that it was ever done in Ringmore.

Planning Applications !

Development of the lower part of the village, Orchard Field – opposite the Parish Room. I was on the Parish Council in those days and there was a lot of trouble about the proposed new houses. I blame Michael Capps for that! He used to put sheep down on that field in the winter time and it was quite a decent little orchard – I don't know whose orchard it was. Anyhow, one particularly bad winter the sheep were down there too long and they stripped the bark off the fruit trees. The fruit trees died so the argument about protecting the orchard was lost. It was still within the protected area of the conservation zone, the Parish Council were against any development.

The plans produced were for 2 large houses or 6 small cottage type houses. The Parish Council would have been in favour of the 6 small cottage type houses. Eventually though the planning permission was for 2 large houses. Mike Pitt started to build Orchard House – where Robbie McCarthy lives. He commenced excavating for solid ground and dug down some 8' 0" looking for bed-rock; they put down a couple of hundred huge 6" blocks to form a basis for foundations. They had a fair job on that land initially.

The other house, Maple Bank, is further back from the valley as such and that was built by a couple of brothers who were a bit fly-by-night! One had just come out of the Navy and his brother was a builder and they decided they were going to build this house. The garage should have been built adjoining the building, but it was built as a separate building which upset people – particularly Rob Batten because it obstructed his view of looking down the valley! The other thing the builders did was to try and put a balcony on the house. A balcony had not been approved. The Parish Council got onto South Hams District Council to alert them to this deviation from the plans! Had this balcony been built it would have overlooked Ringmore Vene and the pub. There is a glass door on one end of the house which overlooks a drop – this would have been the door out to the balcony! *Mike Wynne-Powell mentioned about the plans having dormer windows – Guy is unable to remember this.*

The land where these two houses have been built is not the piece of land which Alan King and George Grimshaw fell out about.

You get some of the older people talking about those 'incomers' in a bit of a derogatory tone, but without the incomers the village wouldn't be thriving as it is today. Ann Lambell was on the Parish Council when we first came to the village. Myra was also on the Parish Council. The PC met 11 or 12 times a year

My father had been in the WW1 and I was in WW2. Oddly enough I went to places where he had been. We both went to Palestine, my father being on the second landing of the Dardenelles, pushing out the Turks. He and his elder brother were together, talking about Gaza at one time, before they went on to Jordan. I also know Gaza where there was a bombing range.

Further interview with Guy Eddy on 16 September 2013

Ringmore Civil Defence Emergency Committee

The emergency business was started in the early 1980s when I suppose round about the time that I went on to the Parish Council. There was a requirement for Parish Councils to set up some sort of emergency response. In essence, suppose there had been a nasty incident in the local area which resulted in the village being cut off, you would have a requirement to feed yourself and to protect yourself from radiation and all that nasty sort of thing. In theory each Parish had a four-man team, of which I was Chairman, and then you had an agricultural member, a military type defence member and finally another member who was primarily responsible for seeing that the Parish was fed. From that four-man team you involved a bigger team, and we finished up with around a dozen or so members helping in this cause. We used to hold a village exercise once a year, and we attempted to feed the village! We used to cheat a bit about this because we held our exercise in September so that we knew we could cope in producing a sweet with all the fruit and apples about at that time of the year. We had previously bought in some stewing beef and we set up shop in the WI Hall. We had one of the old 'Soya' boilers which was a cooking machine that was produced for Queen Victoria for the Crimean War. The Queen was upset that the chaps in the Crimean weren't getting warm food, and this 'Soya' machine was designed by a French chef. It stood on legs, very much like an old copper boiler that was used to boil up clothes, and it burnt anything that you lit underneath it. It had a lid and a chimney. It was incredibly effective and

produced an enormous amount of hot water with a box of matches – or so it seemed! And then we had 20 cookers which were set up with bricks and blocks, to which we lit fire in between, and we had Service type of cooking tins over this cooking area. We used to produce a meal once a year from this equipment! And our peak was feeding 75 villagers one September. Another September it was poor wet weather and we were as smutty as rooks in the WI garden! We had our trench cookers out, on which rain was pouring down, and got hold of an old piece of carpet and rested that over the top which resulted in us all looking like refugees! Smoke everywhere and rain pouring down! At the same time we had some film of a nuclear product being moved by train, and the local defence knew how to make a home safe. You had to find the safest spot in your house, and you reinforced that area. You needed to have an area with no windows. I suppose this lasted until Mrs Thatcher and Michel Gorbachev got chatting. It was way past the Bay of Pigs business which was in the early 60s. There were all sorts of places around which complied to being ‘nuclear safe’ and Follaton House had a reinforced cellar. That was produced for the South Hams Council personnel to go into should any such nuclear incident occur. The SHDC had an ‘Emergency Officer’ and he was someone I had come across before. He was in charge of all of Devon’s emergency set-ups. Then when Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev got together and decided they could talk to each other it all quietly died down. At that point we stopped feeding the village on a yearly basis. Committee members on this special committee in Ringmore were: Jim Dodds – Agriculture, Bacchus Baughan’s son – an ex-marine and Stan Brunskill. Then we had our wives to help – Myra Eddy and Pam Brunskill. Netta Butler from Challaborough,West from Challaborough, Rob and Fiona Batten, Margaret Messervy from Marwell – she was a member of it because it was allied to the WRVS.

We got the boiler from the emergency people at SHDC. After it had all died down the boiler was given to the Modbury scouts. It might still be with them! It was all good fun attending meetings in Kingsbridge, Cornwood and Ivybridge.

Kingston and Bigbury had their own committees but it seemed to me that they were both pretty half-hearted about it. I can remember Tony Walters saying that they had Brigadier Clarkson going to be their 'big man', and they were going to set up a road block at Harraton Cross and not let anyone through! That was about the end of their effort! But it was all based on the theory that Devonport would have been a target. It would have resulted in the bridges being put out of action, and the circle of nuclear fallout from Devonport was thought to be of a 25 mile radius which extended to this part of the world. Radiation was a big issue, and the residual effects of radiation. It was all pretty serious stuff. One forgets now that there was this east-west tension and every once in a while the issues would bubble up. At the end of the project it all went quietly off to the back burner and was forgotten. I found a box of all that gear which I gave to Mike Hammond in the Spring of 2013. He would be the person to ask if you want to see the printed information.

John Milne-Smith made new gates for the church.

I did 12 years with the Parish Council.

Why is 7 stones so called?

Ringmore Historical Society is not responsible for the opinions or the accuracy of fact contained in the above interview.

Thanks to Guy Eddy for his time and to Sally Errett for transcribing the audio recording to written form January 2014.