



THE SALTY TIMES

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EDITORIAL: Yes, the ST is still afloat, just. It does seem like yet another time-consuming job, but I've been studying Issue 2 (Nov 2015) and I have to admit, though I say it myself, that it looks very good! So, especially as our LHG needs to be thinking of the future, some topics to be considered include: Knowle Baptist Church, Belinda Lee, Fairlynch @50, the Preedy exhibition, and former Knowle resident Major Leslie Hewitt Gay. Next meeting to prepare for 2017? How about November, over a meal?



BAPTISTS SEEK PHOTOS. The Rev Graham Wise, who is writing a history of the Knowle Baptist Church, contacted Fairlynch to ask for any information that we have concerning the 1844 Ebenezer Chapel. He is especially keen to find photos. Some information about the Church is at <http://www.budleighbaptistchurch.org.uk/about-us/history/>

A BLUE PLAQUE FOR BELINDA? Belinda Lee was the subject of one of my Budleigh Brewster blog posts after contact with Matt Lambert, who told me he was writing her biography, due out in 2017. More recently, Steve Chibnall, of De Montfort University, approached the Museum in search of material for the book that he is co-authoring about the Budeigh-born film star. He is looking at the actress's career in Britain; a colleague is tackling her work outside the UK. Steve is believed to be the only Professor of British Cinema in the world, and is one of the UK's senior film historians. For background: <http://budleighbrewsterunited.blogspot.co.uk/2015/08/following-star-from-budleigh-salterton.html>



FAIRLYNCH AT 50. How should the Museum mark this important event? The 'Happy 40th Birthday' banner shown in this 2007 photo was made by the children of St Peter's School Time Team, according to our archives. The 40th Birthday celebrations, attended by Lord and Lady Clinton, saw MP Hugo Swire cutting a cake. It would seem right that the LHG should take the lead in staging some kind of exhibition to chronicle Fairlynch's half century. But how, what and where?

NEWS FROM FAIRLYNCH MUSEUM'S LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



THE VICTORIAN INTERNET? As I am sure you know, LHG members Trevor Waddington and Mike Wilson are hard at work preparing the 2017 exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary of former Budleigh resident Vice-Admiral George William Preedy CB. Preedy, who is commemorated in a fine stained glass window at East Budleigh's All Saints Church, was captain of HMS *Agamemnon*, which helped to lay the first successful transatlantic telegraph cable in 1858.



We are hopeful that a sponsor can be found for this exhibition. Bright ideas welcome! Admiral Preedy's story will be of interest not just to naval historians but to schools, covering as it does the development of engineering and communications at a particularly dynamic period in world history. For the background, see <http://atlantic-cable.com/Cables/1857-58Atlantic/>



LESLIE HEWITT GAY (1871-1949) About a year ago I was contacted by Barry Phillips, who was researching a project about Somerset County cricketers pre-WW1, including Major Leslie Hewitt Gay, formerly of Lee Ford. Barry kindly sent me his completed profile of Major Gay, along with this photo. His research left me wondering how the LHG should update the material in our folders of eminent local residents. It badly needs updating, but in what form? More paper files? And would this simply be a vain effort to duplicate the OVA's excellent Ovapedia website at <http://www.ova.org.uk/ovapedia> ?



Inside the Rosemullion

BUDLEIGH'S GRAND HOTELS — BY NICK LOMAN Former LHG member Nick has lent me an impressive folder that he has put together on the above subject. The pictures provide a fascinating glimpse into Budleigh's glamorous past, whatever Noel Coward wrote. As Nick said, to see guests arriving was like watching a London fashion parade for local residents. Have we adequately conveyed this aspect in the LH Room's section on the town's hotels?