

## What Happened Was - 18



At last I got around to setting up the forge and there were a few jobs I had been putting off, mostly forged ironwork for horse-drawn vehicles, mainly museum restorations. One notable job was from the science museum in London, this was a huge coach called the “High Flyer” which had rear wheels about seven feet in diameter and four inches wide. When it was built in the early seventeen hundreds, rolling the tyres for these wheels was not possible so they settled for two inch wide curved sections each about two feet long and two inches wide staggered around the wooden rim and fixed on with nails driven in and clenched over on the inside. I had the job of making the replacement nails which were 7/16”x 5/16” section about five inches long tapered to a point with a rectangular countersunk head with a square mushroom top. There were three hundred and sixty of them, so the forge started to earn its keep.

About this time Janet started work at the post office for Mr & Mrs Boatswain who had just taken over, they were a really nice couple. This she found to be interesting because they were quite busy and there was the added bonus of meeting people and swapping gossip, I am sure it was better than drilling holes for no proper wages.

In 1974 John and Gwen Bellinger asked me if I would take on being treasurer of the Flower Show, they probably thought I was good with money, I certainly didn’t have much of my own to practice on.

The Spaxton Flower Show as it was known had been going for many years, lurching along on a wing and a prayer with no money to speak of (that made the treasurers job easy) so a shake up was the order of the day. We got more people involved and on the day of the summer show, always late August bank holiday Monday, it was heaving, with extra sideshows and stalls, then at six o’clock a well attended Bingo in the hall followed by a disco at eight o’clock till midnight. It was a long hard day but it was well worth it. One thing worth recalling, Mike Williams the insurance man from Northgate lived next door where Philip and Caroline Ham now live. Mike had a lady friend, June Weller who had an ice cream van which she parked at the hall, I’ll give you a donation, she said and sure enough next morning she came round and gave me fifty pounds saying she had a good day and she would be available next year. There must be money in ice-cream!!

One thing with living on the job getting to work was easy, just walk across the yard, but sometimes it backfired, you were always on hand. Just sat down to lunch “Knock- Knock”, I knew you would be home and the same thing late at night, so I had to put a stop to that. One Saturday night after a good meal and a couple of bottles of cider came a knock at the door. I jumped out of my pram and lunched to the door saying some not very nice things. I flung the door open and standing there was Alan Cornish, he had been fishing and had the biggest Conger Eel which he promptly dropped and ran, before I could recover or say thanks or anything he was gone. Ever since then I have felt bad about that night, so if you are reading this Alan let me say a long overdue sorry!!!



SLB

### Quantock Lodge Pool – Opening Times Spring 2016

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| Sunday - Family swim<br>10:30am – 12:30pm  | Monday-Lanes Swim<br>6:30pm – 8:15pm   | Tuesday – Adult Swim<br>8.00am-10.15am    |
| Thursday – Adult Swim:<br>8:00am – 10:15am | Thursday-Lanes Swim<br>6.30pm – 8.15pm | Well Equipped & Quiet<br>Sports Hall& Gym |

**Quantock Lodge Leisure, Over Stowey, [info@quantocklodge.co.uk](mailto:info@quantocklodge.co.uk) 01278 733375**