

# *Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo WI*

## *Newsletter*

*June 26th 2023*



Hello everyone

I've been looking back at the June 2022 newsletter when we had just celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an evening of many tasty and skilful contributions - including fabulous DIY crowns and royal memorabilia. A wide variety of entertainment was provided by our groups, with Rosemary W's nostalgic poem of 1952 and Nan's challenging Royal quiz.

The Jubilee now seems a happy memory together with many other events since. Sadly, the Queen's funeral, then our tabletop sale, the

Christmas festivities, a shopping trip to Cardiff and carols at Exeter Cathedral, the launch of our website, the fabulous Easter Fair, the Coronation celebrations - ours and the village's - visits, meetings (Yealm Group, Devon Federation and National too) and soon another visit - this time to Dartington Gardens on 30th June.

With this month's minutes having just gone out with both Dartington this week noted and our annual visit to Pentillie on 19th July (Romeo and Juliet this year) plus our groups all being suspended until September, I was aware the usual format of the newsletter, with our recent meeting already reported and our future activities and those of DFWI listed, could be replaced during the summer with short reports from your summer holidays, or days out, family gatherings or just happy days in the garden or locally. A photo or two would be lovely - and you never know - they may add to our lovely website!

Anyway - here goes with that of my recent travels....

It's not very flattering - cycle helmet, glasses, denims and all, but this month's photo is of me on a 225-mile guided e-bike tour over nine days through the Baltic States. We started in Tallinn, the northern capital of Estonia, through the university town of Tartu, then on to coastal Riga, the vibrant capital of Latvia, to Klaipeda and the nearby 42 miles of sandy Curonian spit protecting its vast freshwater lagoon and lastly to the 14th Century Trakai Castle, reconstructed from its ruins on Lake Galve in the 1950's before we arrived in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania and the end of our trip. This is Trakai Castle near Vilnius...



And Vilnius...



Being the Baltic Plain, it's almost level throughout - think Norfolk but bigger but with lots of mixed woodlands and meadows, quiet roads, Russian villas, old Russian one-street coastal villages, ancient castles, pretty lakes and wooded coastlines, old towns and still more of the remains of the Soviet era. At times we were within a few miles of Russia



(across Lake Peipsi in Estonia) or near the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, between Lithuania and Poland. We ate cold pink beetroot soup, cepelinai (potato dumplings with fillings) cold herring, warm kibinai - much like Cornish pasties - and dark rye bread. The people also spoke English and Russian and couldn't

have been friendlier. It was a varied and scenic journey and gave us an excellent though brief view of the three Baltic States. You'll be pleased to know my bruises are now fading nicely (I'm not exactly Laura Kenny) but it was a memorable experience - and no, I won't be needing to sit on a cold rubber doughnut now, my THICK black padded cycle shorts didn't exactly give me Rear of the Year but worked wonders on the saddle!



Tallinn



Estonia - Lake Peipsi

Now over to you - why not send me a few lines about **your** holiday, visit or day out? A photo or two would be great too but don't worry if that's difficult. We're all still learning email but it would be good to have as many items as you can send me until we get back to normal service again in September. Send them to [pfmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:pfmiddleton@gmail.com)

Meanwhile, our next members' meeting is from 7 pm on Tuesday 18th July when we will be hearing from the owner of the Ivybridge Book Shop.

Cathy is unable to join us for the guided tour of Dartington Gardens on Friday so please let me know if you have any queries about any aspect of the visit before we go. I will be outside The Green to collect my ladies for car sharing there at 1 pm on Friday and will meet our group at Dartington with Rosemary Griggs <https://rosemarygriggs.co.uk/>. Let's hope this gorgeous weather lasts!

Bye for now  
Pat



One of the many storks that build their nests on telephone poles