

Chew Chat Times



Valley Arts Edition



Welcome to this special **Valley Arts edition** of the Chew Chat Times.

Over recent months, the discovery of the Chew Valley Hoard has inspired a host of activities across our valley. Through creativity, storytelling and shared history, local people have explored the Hoard's remarkable story in new and imaginative ways. From the Chew Chat Takeover and Every Coin Tells a Story event to Finders Keepers, the community production inspired by the discovery, this project has shown how an extraordinary find from the past can still bring people together today.

Of course, at Chew Chat we know a thing or two about hidden treasures ourselves. They usually turn up in the form of good friends, great stories and an extra slice of cake. In these pages, we celebrate the journey of the Hoard and how the many Valley Arts activities have helped bring its story to life. We hope you enjoy reading it.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



VALLEY ARTS TAKES OVER CHEW CHAT....

Two organisations, one valley, and ten years of bringing people together.



Hey Gerry, Chew Chat has had a great time during the Valley Arts take over... thanks for adopting us!



It was busy but fun! It was fascinating to meet the Chew Chatters and hear all their stories - interesting bunch!



Valley Arts and Chew Chat have been going about the same amount of time. Tell me how Chew Chat started?



Sadly my dad passed away, and I realised that my mum, who was in her 80s, needed a social life and some fun friends...



So, we organised a coffee meet up in Moondance with 4 other older people... and hoped it would become a regular thing...

That's not unlike Valley Arts. We started around ten years ago with a simple idea: to make arts, culture and heritage accessible to everyone in the Valley.

...within weeks numbers had tripled and Chew Chat was born. We haven't looked back and now have over 70 over 70s attending our activities.!

Which is why this partnership has worked so well. Chew Chat brings the people, Valley Arts brings the ideas!



Indeed! It's amazing where a bit of local history can lead!



THE CHEW VALLEY HOARD: A THOUSAND YEAR OLD MYSTERY



As part of the Valley Arts May Takeover, Chew Chat welcomed Gerry to Cake Friday to tell us the remarkable story of the Chew Valley Hoard.

When people think of buried treasure, they usually picture pirates and treasure maps. The Chew Valley Hoard is much more interesting. In around 1068, just two years after the Norman Conquest, someone buried over 2,500 silver pennies in a field somewhere in the Chew Valley. They carefully covered them up and, for reasons we'll never know, never came back.

The hoard remained hidden for nearly a thousand years until January 2019, when a group of seven metal detectorists, discovered it during a detecting weekend. They had the permission of the landowner and after finding very little all day, they suddenly uncovered one of the most significant treasure finds ever made in Britain. The coins were taken to the British Museum, where experts cleaned and studied them. The hoard contained exactly 2,584 silver pennies dating from 1066 to 1068, featuring the reigns of Edward the Confessor, Harold II, and William the Conqueror.

What makes the hoard so important is that it captures a moment of enormous change in English history. It contains twice as many coins of Harold II as had previously been found and

dramatically increases the number of known early coins of William I. The coins came from mints across England, including Bath, Bristol, London, York and Salisbury.

So why was it buried? Nobody knows for certain, but Gerry explained that England was a deeply unsettled place after 1066. With rebellion, uncertainty and no banks to keep money safe, the owner may have hidden their wealth underground during troubled times, intending to return later.

They never did.

At the time it was buried, the hoard was worth enough to buy around 500 sheep, a considerable fortune in an age when wool was essential for everyday life. Today, the hoard has been valued at around £4.3 million, making it the highest value treasure acquisition ever recorded in Britain.

After attracting huge interest at the British Museum, The South West Heritage Trust, on behalf of Somerset Council, has recently acquired the Chew Valley Hoard for the nation. It has been on display at the British Museum and after a temporary exhibition in Bath, will find a permanent home in The Museum of Somerset in a new purpose-built gallery in 2028.



FINDERS KEEPERS

BEHIND THE SCENES!

Rehearsals are well underway for Finders Keepers, a brand new community play coming to Yeo Valley Gardens this July. We went behind the scenes to find out what's been happening as the cast and crew prepare for the big performance.



A DIRECTOR'S VIEW

We caught up with co-director Emma, before a rehearsal one rainy Thursday evening.

For Emma, bringing everyone together is one of the best parts of the process. "It's brilliant when we get a full room of people of all ages," she says. "The script is really fun to work with." She describes the story as humorous and imaginative — taking a real event from local history and turning it into something funny and accessible for everyone.

As for what she's most looking forward to? The dress rehearsal. "When the cast get their costumes, the whole production kicks into a new gear. Everyone gets excited — seeing friends and cast members looking silly and fabulous, it's just wonderful." She's also hoping for one very special secret prop. "If we can achieve it, there'll be some proper theatre magic." Watch this space to find out what it could be!



THE COMMUNITY CAST

Tonight the cast were practicing a scene where some maids imagine what their futures could hold. It saw mixing bowls used as helmets, and a hilarious dance moment! We had a word with some of the actors playing the parts of the maids.



For Elodie, it's about the moment it all comes together: "At the end of it we're going to have a lovely community event where all ages can connect together." Emerald agrees: "A lot of people you wouldn't have met otherwise have all come together to create something really special."

For Ellie, the fact that it's all set right here is what makes it so unique. "It's so based in place — about something that happened in the Valley, written by people in the Valley, performed by people in the Valley. It really captures the spirit of where we are."

The cast have got one month left rehearsing together before the final dress performance at Yeo Valley Gardens



BRINGING THE SCRIPT TO LIFE

The script for Finders Keepers was written by a small group of community writers, who met weekly with their mentor, Kesty. Writer Sam takes us through how it came together.

"We started with two ideas — a whodunnit, and a story about the different layers of the earth," Sam explains. "We'd meet, discuss, go home and write a bit, then share with each other." Over time, the group found their footing, eventually settling on a single time period for the story, which made the writing feel more natural.. "It's a process," says Sam. "As you work together, you find out what works."

Seeing those words brought to life in rehearsals has been a highlight. "It's really exciting to see the characters come to life — to see how people interpret things differently to how you imagined, but potentially in a better way. Everyone's bringing something new to it."



Sam is also excited about seeing what happens when all the costumes and characters come together in front of an audience. 'It's very much a show that involves the audience, that's something we wanted from the start, for the audience to feel part of it. There's a big vote at the end and I can't wait to see how that plays out'



Soon the show will be out of the rehearsal room and on the stage. Hope to see you there!



LOST AND FOUND

By Kesty Morrison

Everyone loses something they treasure at some point. Sometimes these things are found again, sometimes they shouldn't be - in Ian's case, for example, a puppy ate his hearing aid. Treasured as it was, he is unlikely to want that back.

I am at the Chew Chat Friday session, asking participants about any treasures they may have lost over the years, and hoping the puppy was okay.



Kathleen's lost treasure story is gentler. She had been gifted a gold locket and chain that she loved. She had taken it off in the bathroom and left it close to an open window. It mysteriously disappeared. *"My mother and her sisters were quite superstitious, so they said, 'I expect the magpie's come along.'"* She never saw it again, so it could be lining a nest somewhere.

The loss of some of these treasures is still fresh. Ann Morris tells me, *"My earrings, always on one side and I've lost about three wearing the same coat. Nice earrings. Pacific pearls shaped like Pisces the fish, that was last week, heartbroken."*

Then there are near losses. Eileen had two of these: *"My engagement ring, I'd had two,*



because I was married twice, and I gave one to my daughter on one condition - I said 'You do not clean out the horses with that on.' And she did, she didn't lose it, but the stone, it was a solitaire, got a bit wobbly."

The other near loss was a slightly bigger deal, she nearly lost the gift of life itself, and pretty early on.. *"I was born in Glasgow... when I was born, the nurse said to my mum... you've got a little girl but I'm afraid she's dead. My mother says I was sort of stupefied, and the nurse*

asked 'Have you got any whisky in the house?' My mum and dad didn't drink but because it was, near Christmas my dad just happened to have bought a bottle of sherry and a bottle of Bell's whisky. The nurse took the bottle of whisky, poured it in a bowl and bathed this



scrap of a baby, and now I'm the only living one in the family.. saved by the bell!

Sometimes we are lucky. A cherished item comes right back to us. This was the case with Raynor: *"My wedding ring's slightly too big and I realised I hadn't got it on so I searched the house, woke up in the night thinking of new places to look. You know it really mattered, but my cleaner came two days later, listened to this saga, marched straight upstairs and she said, 'We changed your bed last week, and there it was right by the headboard'- I couldn't see it."*

Some things we don't lose at all, we put them in a drawer and forget they are there at all. Russell Peters treats me to a showing of his wonderful and varied collections of coins, beautifully presented: *"This is a crown from 1951 commemorating The Festival of Britain. I can remember I was just about twelve at the time and it was the 'in-thing' as it was a special issue and everybody tried to get one. It came in*

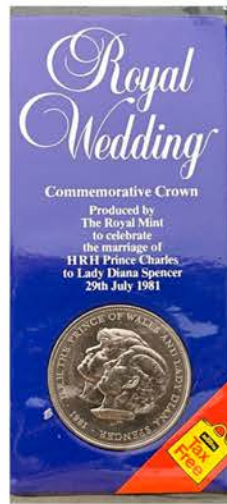
little boxes (see example below) and about two or three weeks after you got it, it just went into a drawer and nobody looked at it again - ever! That was only six years after the end of the Second World War and it was actually 100 years after the great exhibition which was held in 1851, but this was all to do with this redevelopment of the country."

Festival of Britain 1951 - sovenir coin



Often finding an object like this after some time brings back connected memories. Russell remembers: "1953 was the year of the Queen's coronation and my family went to London, not to see the coronation but because it was coronation year we actually went to see Agatha Christie's play, *The Mouse Trap*, which is still running."

He shows me another coin: "This is the silver wedding of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen, so that was 1972, and that was a commemorative coin... so these were crowns and then it went down to a lower value... down to 50p." Another coin, with two very familiar



characters, "and that's Charles and Diana."

It is so wonderful see these items so carefully placed in history. Joan has a treasure that has a possible connection to the Napoleonic wars: "I've got a ship in a bottle," she tells me. "When I was child, about three or four, my grandad used to take me to see his doctor and I went with him all the time, but one day I had chicken pox, or measles or something so I didn't go, the doctor said to grandad 'Where's Joan?' 'Ill,' he replied and he gave him this bottle for me. Allegedly it was made by the French prisoners of war in Napoleon's time. I've never had it valued, but that's my treasure."

In the end, whether lost, found or rediscovered, some things are treasured and will be, as the bard reminds us, "As long as men can breathe or eyes can see."





MAKING COINS... AND POSSIBLY CAUSING MARITAL DISPUTES

Chew Chat thoroughly enjoyed the Valley Arts May takeover. Honestly, there was never a dull moment!. One week we were sharing stories about our treasured possessions, the next we were hearing all about the fascinating Valley Hoard, and on Friday 15th May we all got to grips with...our own heads.

Giuliana from Valley Arts bravely hosted the coin making workshop and, with a mixture of excitement and mild terror, the Chew Chatters were handed mirrors and asked to take a long hard look at themselves before drawing what they saw.

Now that proved to be far more entertaining than anyone expected.



Mary and Sonja

Some people went for the classic Roman emperor approach with a dignified side profile, although several participants nearly developed neck spasms trying to look sideways into a mirror whilst drawing at the same time.



John enjoying drawing his face

Others decided their reflection really wasn't something that needed to be immortalised on silver currency and took a slightly more "creative interpretation" approach instead.

We had some wonderfully elegant line drawings, a few surprisingly flattering portraits, and several wives drawing their husbands. That was interesting. Not all of them could resist exaggerating certain features either. I sense one or two domestic discussions may still be ongoing.



Busy busy!



Jill - drawing complete!

Once we'd finally got our heads onto paper, it was time for the exciting bit, transferring the images onto silver coins. This involved carefully sticking both the drawing and the coin to the table so they lined up properly, before using a special tool to trace over the image and press the design into the silver.

Very satisfying indeed.

After that, the coins were placed onto what can only be described as a "slightly firm sponge", and the same tool was used again to deepen the design so the portrait stood out in relief. The results were genuinely stunning. It was amazing to see how everyone's different styles and personalities appeared in miniature silver form.



Roy - what concentration!



Some of our coins

We're now planning a competition to see whether the other Chew Chatters can guess which coin belongs to which person. I already know who the one with the large nose belongs to, although for legal reasons I probably shouldn't say.



Oonagh's 91st!

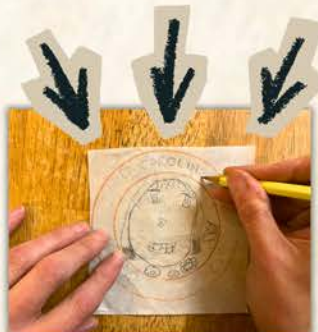
Of course, no Cake Friday would be complete without a birthday, and we were delighted to sing Happy Birthday to Oonagh and make her suitably embarrassed in between all the artistic activity.

Huge thanks to Giuliana and Gerry for such a fun and memorable session. Who knew looking at your own face for an hour could be so entertaining?

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN COIN AT HOME

1 DRAW YOUR SELF PORTRAIT

Use a mirror to draw a self portrait inside the inner circle of your tracing paper template - OR use a photo/selfie taken on your phone or even get someone to take a photo of you.



2 DECORATE YOUR COIN'S BORDER

Why not take inspiration from coins old and new, add a pattern, wavy lines, shapes, use words - your name, a quote etc or draw symbols of things you like or your hobbies ie: flowers, football etc

2

3 SECURE YOUR METAL COIN

Tape your metal coin to a flat surface so it's secure



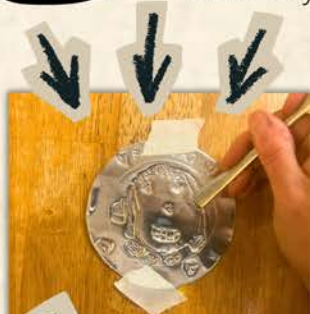
PAPER TEMPLATE

TURN YOUR TRACING PAPER OVER SO YOUR IMAGE IS IN REVERSE! (ie. writing is backwards)
Align your tracing paper on top of your metal coin so lines on paper and coin meet up. Tape into place.

4

5 TRACE YOUR IMAGE

Go over the drawn lines of your image, pressing hard with an embossing tool (you can use a knitting needle, a chopstick or the handle of a teaspoon). This will leave a faint trace of your image on the metal.



EMBOSSING

Once you've gone over all lines and your image is now on the metal, remove the tracing paper. Using your embossing tool again, go over the lines on the metal pressing quite hard. This will make the lines deeper and stronger. Ta Dah!

6





BRINGING LOCAL HISTORY TO LIFE FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS

By Laura Davies

This spring, our unique community arts project has also been delighting young audiences across the Chew Valley. In collaboration with Valley Arts and the South West Heritage Trust, and supported by funding from Arts Council England, Laura Davies and Giuliana Terran have created a fun and interactive workshop, including a short educational play titled *The Secret of the Chew Valley Hoard*, which they are currently touring to eight local primary schools.



Designed especially for children aged 4-7, the play introduces the remarkable story of the Chew Valley Hoard - a collection of medieval silver coins buried almost 1,000 years ago. Through lively storytelling and interactive performance, pupils are invited to step back in time to 1068, shortly after the Norman Conquest. They meet a range of characters; including a hardworking farmer, a travelling Norman soldier, and a humble kitchen maid, each with their own possible reason for hiding the treasure. By encouraging the children to imagine, question, and vote on who might have buried the hoard, the performance brings history vividly to life.



Alongside the play, pupils have also taken part in hands-on coin-making workshops. Inspired by the historic coins, each child creates their own "treasure" by drawing a self-portrait and embossing it onto a metal disc using simple tools. This tactile experience helps them connect with the past in a meaningful and memorable way, while also expressing their own creativity.

The project not only introduces young children to an important local archaeological discovery, but also highlights the idea that history is all around us, often just beneath our feet. By combining performance, storytelling, and practical activity, it has sparked curiosity and excitement about the past in a new generation. It has been a joy to see the children's enthusiasm and imagination, and to share this fascinating piece of Chew Valley heritage with the local school community.



FINDERS KEEPERS

Community Play

By Toby Hulse

How many writers does it take to write a community play? It sounds like the start of a joke, but it's actually a good question. If a play like Finders Keepers is going to reflect the full variety of people who live in the Chew Valley, then every element of it should be open to as wide a range of participants as possible, including the writing.

Most plays are written by one person: Finders Keepers was written by five, with the guidance of two more. Of course, this is actually nothing new. The concept of a single author for a play is comparatively recent. Shakespeare, for instance, wrote a number of his plays with one or more other playwrights. We are also really familiar with the idea that our folk songs, or fairy tales, or myths are the product of many imaginations, over many generations.

So, how does this work in the 21st century? The five writers have written together and separately, to create a play that incorporates many strands – from modern day detectorists, to eleventh century bishops, to glamorous TV presenters, to a host of highly opinionated insects – all in response to the Chew Valley Hoard. They have been supported in this by local writer and performer Kesty Morrison, who has also had the unenviable task of deciding what to keep and what ends up on the cutting room floor. There was enough excellent material discarded to stage another three plays! My job has been to ensure that the script doesn't sound like it was written by a committee, and that there are no holes – this is not a game of Consequences after all...

The result is a piece that can genuinely be said to contain the voices, thoughts, and the daft senses of humour of residents from all over the Valley, to be staged by local performers, to be enjoyed by everyone who lives here – a proper community play.

How many writers does it take to write a community play?



OUR WRITERS: Martin, Kesty, Clare, Sam, Rachel, & Rich

Yeo Valley
Organic Gardens

Valley
Arts

18-19 July
7.30pm

THE PLAY'S BACKSTORY...

Our play is, of course, inspired by the incredible discovery of the Chew Valley Hoard.

Valley Arts, in partnership with South West Heritage Trust, brings together a talented cast of 40 local residents in this Traitors-like whodunnit, to solve the mystery of a stolen hoard.

Your host, Clawdia Twinkleclaw will present five suspicious characters who all have something to gain. It's the job of you, the audience, to deduce who the treasure traitor is.

"In this trunk is a huge hoard of stolen coins, two thousand, five hundred and eighty-four of them, found right here in the Chew Valley. But who stole them over 950 years ago, and how did they get here? One of these five suspects knows the truth, but which of them is deceiving us, and which is faithful? When we have heard all the evidence, I will ask you to cast a vote to unearth... the Mystery of the Chew Valley Hoard."

Is it **Osmaer** the moneyer, with his workshop full of children busy minting coins?

Could it be **Bishop Giso**, more interested in mead than sermons?

Perhaps it's **Simon** the in love sheep drover, keen to provide for his sweetheart?

Maybe it's **Emmeline**, a lady's maid with feminist ambitions for a fairer life?

Or is it **Wulfric**, an Anglo-Saxon about town, looking to get rich quick?

Follow the twists and turns this 18th / 19th July, at Yeo Valley Gardens. Tickets available from:

www.valley-arts.co.uk/Events/finders-keepers/





MY PRECIOUS

By Kesty Morrison

When the writing team for the upcoming community theatre production, *Finders Keepers* began looking at ideas for the script, one of the first questions we were interested in examining was, **'What is your personal treasure?'**

In the first draft, the writers imagined the seven detectorists each unearthing a find from history that in some way affected their own emotional life. In exploring this concept the writers were able to really look at the detail of the word 'treasure' and how it resonates with different people.

What does the word conjure up for you? Whether it is tolkeinesque dragons or your favourite sweet treat, everybody has a different response to the question. That said, when I posed this very question at a recent Chew Chat session, an overwhelming amount of people said that their treasure was their family. "Family above everything else in the world."

Some were more specific, not about particular children thankfully, that might be awkward, but a number of couples cited each other. Shirley has been married for 69 years and her husband considers her his most precious treasure.



Shirley and Pat



There is a comical tinge to the pecking order in some cases; one husband cites his wife followed closely by his dog. Another couple said each other, closely followed by gardening. Another, "Wife first, then motor bikes, cameras and martial arts," and, "My children and also my cat." A lot of wives were surprised to hear themselves referred to as 'treasure' at all. "Well that's the first I've heard of that!"

For Mary, her greatest treasures are her great grand-children, aged five, two and one. They all live nearby, and so she sees them all frequently.

Margaret, who has had many health complications over the years, says, "I'm just pleased I'm alive! I'm lucky I'm here I can tell you." Just treasuring life itself. Passed loved ones too, late spouses especially, were treasured in memory.

One gentleman who had lost all his family agreed that it was the most important thing, but that you can always find things to treasure in life. He was currently treasuring living very near to two excellent pubs, The Pelican and The Bear and Swan.

Nick, 92, has a candle holder that he used to take to a history group as a show and tell item. It was probably his grandparent's, passed down to him from his mother. She used to walk to the air raid shelter carrying the candle

with her to lead the way. How lovely that a guiding light is being passed down generation to generation.



Nick with his grandparent's candle holder

Kathleen, Nick's close friend, has an ink stand which belonged to her grandmother which has been passed down through the family. "I have always loved this ink stand - I remember my grandmother always had two pens, and blue and black ink in the bottles. It was given to my Grandmother by my Grandfather on her 21st birthday on 30th June 1894. So, it's over 130 years old, only small but very pretty. There is no makers name but there is a label saying 9/6 - which at the time would have been almost a week's wage for a farm worker or servant!



Kathleen's Grandmother's ink well

Elsewhere "A barometer that belonged to my father, over 100 years old," is greatly treasured.

Often it is not the thing itself that is of importance. One lady was given a set of apostle spoons by her neighbour, "The spoons are pretty," she added, "but the lady who gifted them to me wrote a little card and that's what

sticks in my mind. That was 50 years ago, I moved away, got married, and so I don't know what happened to her."

Her friend tells me that her grandmother in the 1920s would collect thrupenny bits and put them in the Christmas pudding. Her aunt collected these and put them all on a bracelet, some of these were Victorian coins. It's completely broken and not worth anything, she tells me, except to her and her family.

Sometimes a thing can be treasured pragmatically. "My walking stick - I couldn't walk without it," was one very sensible response. A spade, is also treasured by the gardener who cited his wife first, followed by gardening. And, Mike Kiff valued his "life experiences - I was mayor in my previous town on the east coast. I've travelled a lot and done lots of things."



Alison's stories for her great grandchildren

Alison Kilgallon has created a legacy and something that will no doubt stay in her family for generations through "Writing children stories for my great grandchildren."

For John Pontin, it is an idea that he treasures. A truly exciting one, the potential of turning climate change into a positive. He talks with great enthusiasm and energy about carbon future proofing and investment in green energy.

It is vivifying to listen to this room, full as it is of different experiences, people, memories, perspectives and to the connections between them all. It is a thing to be treasured.



A HOARD IS A HOARD, OF COURSE OF COURSE

By Kesty Morrison

As a surprise perk of working on the script for *Finders Keepers*, I've discovered the vicarious joy of watching detectorist videos online. The Chew Valley find must have been quite a moment to match; the most valuable hoard ever discovered in Britain. We all have pivotal moments in our lives, however, and it is interesting to reflect on what we personally count as an historic memory. Is it something historic within our own lives, or something that intersects with the larger world, the zeitgeist, or sometimes, maybe, both?

When I ask Peter Undy if he has any historically interesting memories he tells me "No" several times and shakes his head and I am about to move on when his friend, says "Yes you do, you just told me a very interesting story about meeting Muhammed Ali!"

It turns out that when Peter was running a project in Basildon and staying at the Crest Hotel, he would go across to the Floral Hall nearby, where Tim Witherspoon was soon to be fighting Frank Bruno for the championship. "He was doing his sparring before the fight," he tells me, "in preparation for the big match."

The week before the fight, the boxers were out doing their early morning runs when Muhammed Ali arrived. He planned to watch the fight, and he used to come down to

breakfast every day, pick a table, sit down and have a chat with whoever was sat there. "He'd come and chat to you, some days he'd have had his drugs for Parkinson's and he wouldn't be as chatty, but when he was shaking a bit you'd have a really good conversation. He sat with us three different times."

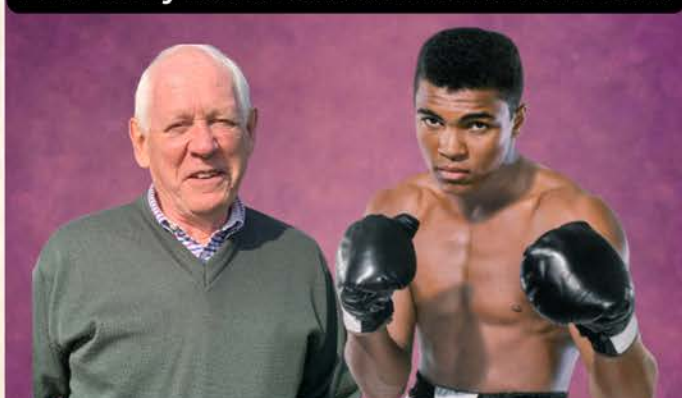


John Pontin recalls his father going to Burma

Some of the memories conjured up are from very early moments that combine world history with personal history. John Pontin, recollects being three years of age, with his younger brother, then one. They lived in Bedminster, 24 Southville Place, and their father was a company sergeant major in the Gloucestershire regiment. "He was all dressed up in his uniform when he had to go off to Burma [now Myanmar] for four years. We were there to see him off. We watched him in his uniform walking down to East Street ice cream parlour where there was a coach to take him off to Burma and he was off for four years. So we were a one parent family, my sister, who was older at 16 years old, she was as good as another mother, so, we had two mums really. I'll never forget seeing my father in his uniform walking off to war."

For Sonia giving birth to her first born child was the biggest change in her life, the beginning of a new era, 1966, and also the year of

Peter Undy had breakfast with Muhammed Ali



England's success at the World Cup and at Wimbledon. "A very happy time." She remembers that other friends were having children alongside her, and that, along with the positivity of the global moment, gave this time a special poignancy.



Sonja's first born in 1966

Sometimes our personal histories separate us from current events. Margaret Rowall recalls being diagnosed with bronchiectasis as a child, before she was even old enough to attend school. She notes that her memories of world events were limited because she was so often in hospital and didn't follow the world in the same way as other people.

Bill Blyth is very clear about his most historical moment. It was in July 1955, he met his wife, they married and were together for 60 years.



Kathleen's wedding day 1962 St Andrews, Chew Magna

Kathleen too remembers her wedding day as an historic moment. It took place in Chew Magna Church in 1962. "My whole family, mother, grandmother, great grandmother were married there."

Her friend, who at first couldn't think of anything, after a pause said, "Can I add something?" She told me that when she had moved to Chew Magna in the fifties, the high street had been very different. "So much quieter." Instead of dodging speeding cars and getting stuck in traffic jams you would instead be negotiating with herds of cattle. Life has changed immensely and will continue to do so, everywhere.

Our own historical moments are written with our every choice and deed, and they will always intersect with the decisions and deeds happening around us, here and all over the world. Like the Finders Keeper's writers, we are all co-creators in the end. Could we all co-create me a hoard find please?



A QUESTION OF TREASURES

By Jill Hicks

I think 'Treasures' are what you make of them, not necessarily what everyone else does? I wonder what you think?

One of my treasures is a few pieces of rusty old iron - guess what they are ?

The Berlin Wall came down officially in 1989 but in fact between 1990 and 1994.

My first visit to Germany was as a teenager to stay with my penfriend's family. She was called Regina and lived near Buckebourg, not far from Hameln and the Harz mountains but also close to Wuppertal, a noted bomb factory during WW2. During the Allied Occupation of Germany Regina's mother, a lovely lady, had

been personal secretary to a British Naval Officer who had worked closely with my father in marine engineering during the War. Regina, one of three sisters, was my age and we walked and biked and bussed around the lovely countryside looking for all those naughty rats terrorising Hameln many years before!

Since then I have made a number of trips to Germany for business with my husband and also for my job at School; with my parents I went to Berchtesgaden and since then have walked and skied a number of times as well as enjoying sightseeing and music over the years.

It makes me laugh or maybe cry, to remember that I even have a piece of paper from University that assures me I can read technical papers in German alongside a dictionary for the high German - I can assure you I cannot !!

However, one of my later visits allowed me to visit Berlin and also to see the remains of the infamous Wall separating East from West Germany. To my ghoulish fascination I picked out of the ground my pieces of rusty iron - my treasures - marking somehow for me 'the war to end all wars'. How wrong I was; no wonder I have spent the years since as a Quaker Friend.

A real treasure for the World would be 'the end of man's inhumanity to man'.

Jill's Berlin Wall Treasure



WHAT DID THE NORMAN'S EAT? POTTAGE of course!

Pottage is a healthy and hearty dish, a bit like a stew or a soup. A dish eaten by ordinary people in the medieval era. Wealthy folk would have added meat or spices to this basic recipe.

You will need:

A sharp knife
Chopping board
Saucepan
Wooden spoon

Ingredients:

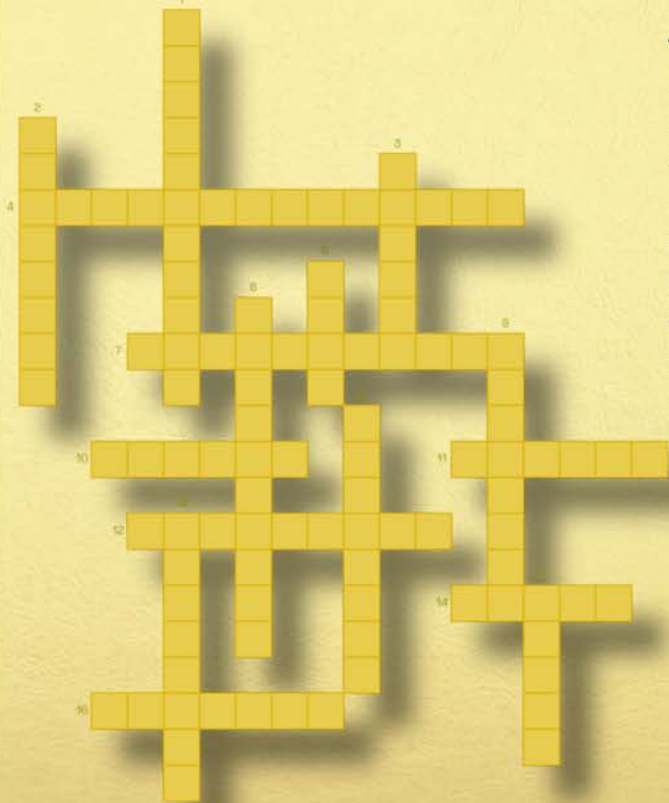
White cabbage (quarter to one third), chopped
1 white onion, finely chopped
1 leek, chopped
Handful of peas
4 x Tablespoons oats
Few sprigs of thyme
Half a litre of vegetable stock

Method:

1. Put the vegetable stock in the saucepan
2. Add the onion, cabbage and leek, stir
3. Add some thyme
4. Simmer for 5 minutes
5. Add the peas and stir
6. Leave for 5 minutes
7. Add the oats, stir
8. Leave to thicken for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add more oats if a thicker consistency is desired.



CHEW VALLEY HOARD CROSSWORD



Across Clues

1. Coins cut in two for change
2. The book of tax and land survey ordered by William
3. What the hoard is made of
5. The nearest mint to Chew Valley
6. These erupted in the wake of the conquest
8. Dream discovery
9. Where William was the duke of
13. Major battle linked to the hoard's turbulent era
15. Weapon which allegedly killed the last Saxon king

Down Clues

4. Earth and timber Norman castle (5,3,6)
7. Person who might discover a hoard
10. The King William was fighting against
11. The famous tapestry depicting the invasion
12. The day William was crowned
14. Some coins have 'PAX' on which is latin for
16. The name given to a coin maker

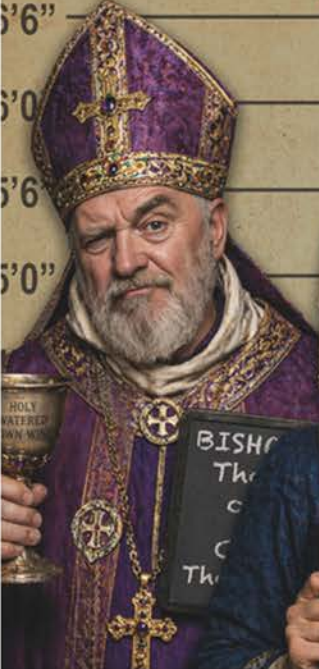


Valley Arts presents

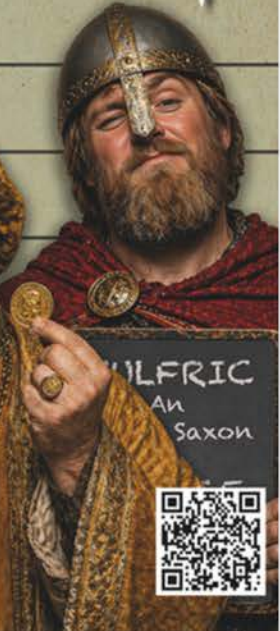
FINDERS KEEPERS

A Chew Valley
Community Play









Sat 18 July – 2pm & 7pm

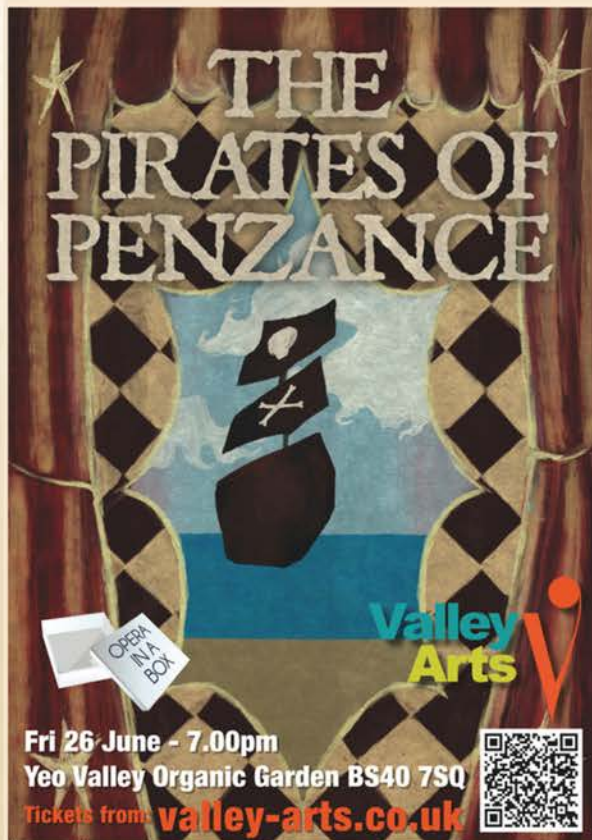
Sun 19 July – 1.30pm & 6pm

Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Blagdon, BS40 7SQ

Tickets from: **valley-arts.co.uk**



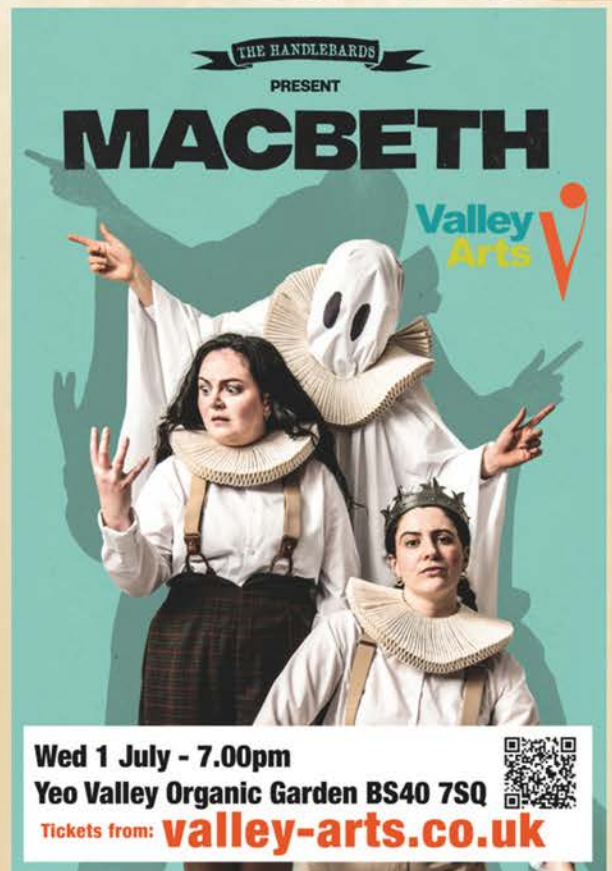
MIDSUMMER MAGIC WITH VALLEY ARTS AT YEO VALLEY ORGANIC GARDEN



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Valley Arts

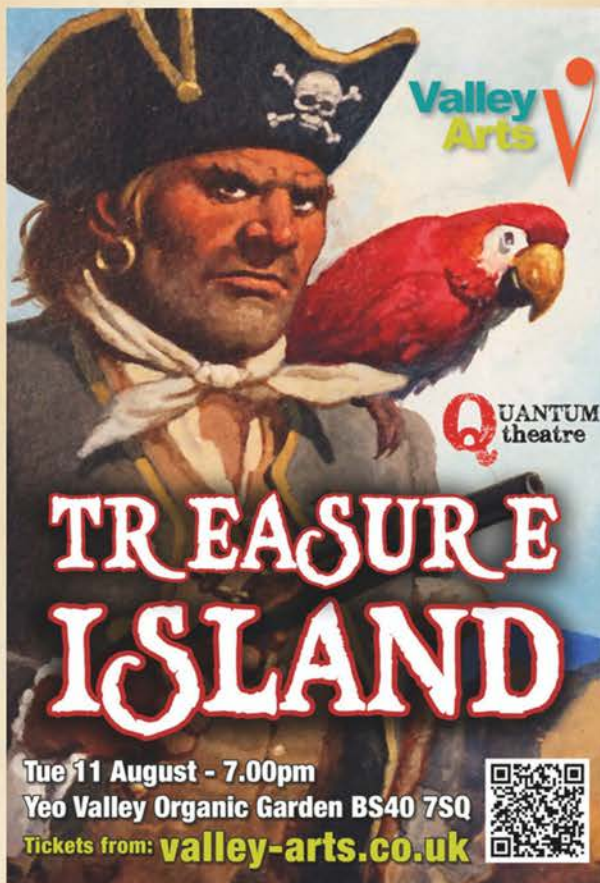
Fri 26 June - 7.00pm
Yeo Valley Organic Garden BS40 7SQ
Tickets from: valley-arts.co.uk



THE HANDLERBARDS
PRESENT
MACBETH

Valley Arts

Wed 1 July - 7.00pm
Yeo Valley Organic Garden BS40 7SQ
Tickets from: valley-arts.co.uk

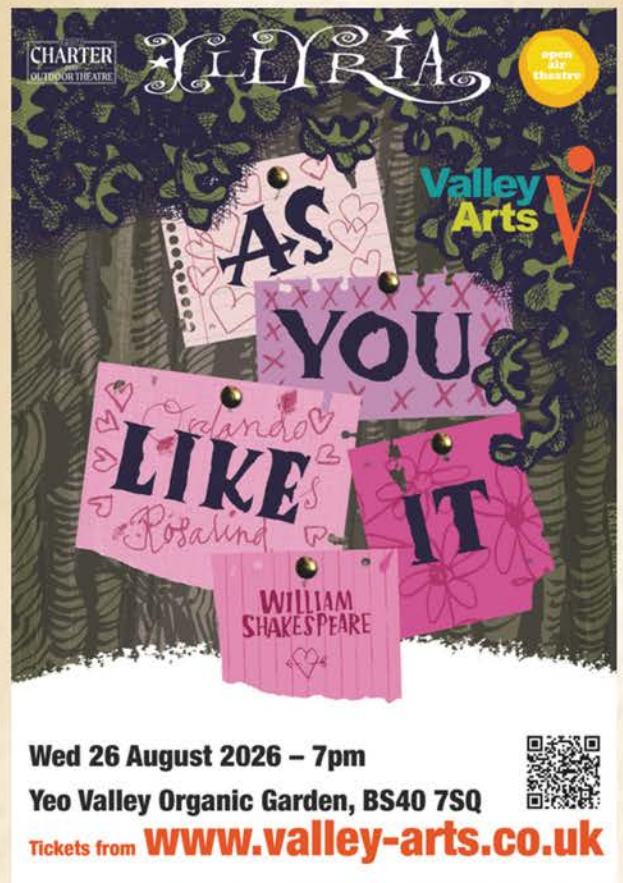


Valley Arts

QUANTUM theatre

TREASURE ISLAND

Tue 11 August - 7.00pm
Yeo Valley Organic Garden BS40 7SQ
Tickets from: valley-arts.co.uk



CHARTER OF THEATRE

ILLYRIA

Valley Arts

AS YOU LIKE IT

William Shakespeare

Wed 26 August 2026 - 7pm
Yeo Valley Organic Garden, BS40 7SQ
Tickets from www.valley-arts.co.uk