

Chris and I arrived mid-afternoon and after settling in to our room at the Cot we arranged to meet up with Vijay and Jeannie.

Vijay had decided to go up-market this year and booked rooms at the Globe Hotel in Topsham, not necessarily because of the facilities at the hotel, but because it was stone's throw from The Bridge Inn. Why the Bridge Inn? Surely because of the history attached to the building built in the 16th Century. Maybe the fact that it has been run by the same family for 121 years. Even because the Queen visited the pub in 1998. None of these. It turns out that that back in the day, Vijay would often call into this pub on his way to Rolle College in order to have a tot of Dutch courage before presenting himself there.

We met up with Vijay in the garden at the Bridge and enjoyed a couple of hours sat gossiping about nothing in particular whilst imbibing a pint or two in the evening sun overlooking the Exe.

On the Saturday morning Chris and I had a wander through the gardens at Knighthayes before returning to the Fisherman's Cot to spend an afternoon on the Terrace overlooking a different part of the River Exe and greeting ex-Killertonians as they arrived - whilst quaffing a pint or two.

By the evening everyone had arrived, and we took our seats in the restaurant for an evening of eating, drinking and making merry – and grumbling – boy how we could grumble!

On Sunday morning we assembled at the National Trust car park at Killerton where a new face appeared, Tom Henley – Killerton 1966.

After some initial chatting, we passed through the NT gates and on up to the Front Door for our routine "Front Door Shot", then in to meet up with Denise.

The House has been decorated to reveal the part the Acland family took in the suffrage movement. Eleanor Acland, Sir Richard's father, played a leading role as a nationally prominent suffragist whilst her aunt Gertrude Acland was Chair of Exeter's anti-suffrage league. The House was decorated with much memorabilia from the era.

Whilst we wandered through the familiar rooms and stairways, it still amazes me that different stories continue to emerge of our times there. Long forgotten stories nudged to the front by familiar places and names and voices.

Lunch in the NT café then onward – or rather downward – to the cricket field.

We were slightly disadvantaged for the game as our numbers were reduced this year, and a few reluctant players were pressed into their whites. However, whilst at first there was some concern that we might not be able to offer a decent game, the actual event was most entertaining, and I'll leave it to our team manager, JB Davies to describe the competition in detail.

Tea was fantastic, and a barbeque after the game enabled us to enjoy a drink or two in the setting sun.

I would like to add part of a note I received from Ian Godwin after we arrived home: "... I had a long chat, as we were leaving on Sunday, with their captain, Cliff and a couple of their guys. He was full of it, they'd had a good afternoon and are really keen to continue next year. They have a number of social fixtures every year and ours apparently is always the best. Also, interestingly enough, although they realise we are a mature team (!) they really didn't know exactly how mature most are! They would be more than happy to consider 20 overs. ... "

About it from me at the moment. I'll finish editing the photos I have and set them up on a gallery within the next day or two.

Finally – a "save the day" date for your calendars:

June 23rd 2018 – Cricket – Killerton Academicals vs Broadclyst CC at Killerton Cricket Ground.