

## A belated Happy New Year.



I am pleased to say that new website layout is now live. If you look at the website you will see that its appearance has changed significantly, though I am still trying to keep the layout as clean and clear as possible. The learning curve to manage the new templates is significant so I am hoping to achieve some sort of control over the coming weeks. Fortunately, weather prevents too much work in the garden or the shed so time shouldn't be a problem.

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A little story comes to mind whilst writing this email. I trust all can remember the postal strike of 1971.

This created a few problems for me personally as I relied on receiving a letter from home each week - with cash enclosed.

I had resigned myself to surviving on an overdraft, but my mother was more resourceful. On a phone call home (from the cupboard under the stairs, charges reversed obviously) she let me know that she had sent a parcel via British Rail to be collected from the station in Exeter. The next day, Paul Goodwin and I drove to Exeter to recover the parcel. On opening it, not just a crisp £5 note, but also numerous goodies – Cracker Barrel cheese, beans, biscuits, cigarettes, etc. Ah, relief!

Another strike, this time by rail workers affected newspaper deliveries as there were no rail services on Sundays. One solution for Devon was to fly newspapers to Exeter Airport. These needed to be unloaded and transferred to vans for distribution to the newsagents. Someone managed to arrange for a group of us to go to the Airport at 2 in One Sunday morning to help upload. The bundles had been thrown into a passenger plane between the seats that necessitated us having to pull and manhandle the bundles out from and then pass them one to another the length of the plane. Tiring and difficult work, but £10 cash for two hours work was pretty good deal – and as I was on bar duty the evening previously during a Jazz Night in the cellars at Killerton, I had the key and was able to open the bar for a pint when we returned.

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Paul Goodwin has at last achieved international notoriety.

His letter relating to Killerton was published in the spring issue of the National Trust magazine



Series 12, Episode 6 of the BBC series "**Digging for Britain**" will feature Killerton - airing on Thursday, February 20 at 8:00 pm on BBC Two. This episode is titled "Lost Mansions and Impaled Prisoners". The National Trust is conducting a search for the remains of a manor house buried on the **Killerton** estate grounds adjacent to the **Columbjohn Chape** where Sir Richard and Lady Ann are buried.. This house played a significant role in the English Civil War and reportedly hosted Oliver Cromwell during the siege of Exeter. If you miss it on Thursday you should be able to catch up on iPlayer



For your diary, the annual cricket match will be held on  
**Sunday 29th June 2025 at the Killerton cricket ground.**  
First ball - 2:00pm



*Best wishes to you all, and don't forget, if you have time to write a few words about events or experiences at Killerton or your life since then I am always happy to receive them - and with your permission share them on the website.*

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