



# *Theatre Locale –*

## *Your Heavitree Squilometre Update*

Welcome to the Oct/Nov issue of *Theatre Locale* 2019. *Theatre Locale* is your [Heavitree Squilometre](#) Update.

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■ **Wonford Village Heritage Trails** and other project finale celebrations!!

■ **Heavitree Gap –** Inspiring talk and potential future Heavitree/Alice Springs connections

■ **Ladysmith Whitewater Rafting!!**  
Exploring the South African connection in a modern world

### **Wonford Village Heritage Trails**

The Wonford Pod, as part of their Wonford Village and Great House project have been revealing the hidden histories of Wonford Village itself.

They discovered early on that the village layout, with its central street with narrow strips leading off at right-angles, is a typical early medieval village pattern meaning that the street pattern that you can see today reflects the shape of a settlement that is 800 years old – taking it back to the time of King John.

As they explored further they've found a myriad of other hidden histories in the existing buildings which date from all periods in the last 300 years.

They are now ready to share that with you and have prepared a Wonford Village History Trail. They invite you to join them on a guided walk as part of their finale celebrations on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

There will be guided tours at

2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.



Please sign up here for your joining details and to see what other plans the Wonford Pod have for the day <http://www.heavitreesquilometre.org/wonford-village-and-the-great-house.html>

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## Heavitree Gap – A visitor from down under



In September the Heavitree *Squilometre* were very pleased to host a visitor from down under. Stuart Traynor had made contact with us following our communication with the Akeylerre Healing Centre in Alice Springs.

He has been researching the Heavitree/Alice Springs connection and was keen to come and visit the place that the Heavitree Gap had been named for.

Stuart gave a fascinating talk, packed with good Aussie humour and insight, about the laying of the Telegraph Wire through the Northern Territories, including details about the life of Devon-born William Whitfield Mills who was one of the surveyors and was responsible for the re-naming of the Heavitree Gap and indeed Alice Springs itself. In 2021 it will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that re-naming and Stuart has promised to take our messages of goodwill back to Alice and to see if there might be ways that we can positively explore that connection in a modern, multi-cultural context.

## Ladysmith Whitewater Rafting!

Taking up the theme of names with global connections we've received some wonderful suggestions for how we might celebrate Ladysmith Road next year. Ladysmith Road was one of many in this country that was named after the relief of the Siege of Ladysmith in the Boer War. So, it makes sense to follow that trail to South Africa. One rather fun suggestion that we have had so far is to take advantage of the new easier rules on traffic control and stop traffic for one afternoon in the summer to allow the road to be turned into a foam slide for lots of family-fun! The Klip River runs through Ladysmith and join the Tugela which is one of the largest of in the KwaZulu-Natal province. Imagine white water rafting in Heavitree!

What a fun way for our children to learn about the world and the modern context of our former empire relationships. Imagine a penpal project between our children and the indigenous Zulu children of today's Ladysmith.

At the moment all these things are just ideas. As ever, it will be the Pod that decides, that is, the project will be run by a steering group of local residents. Can't wait to see what they come up with!



Luke Jerram's waterslide, Bristol – [Bristolpost.co.uk](http://Bristolpost.co.uk)

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