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# Opinion

## Pointed question

MARION Gammell's letter ("Derek's question", Opinion, May 24) asked where the name Pennington Point came from. She went on to say that they could not recall hearing the name during the 1940s and 1950s.

Unfortunately we still cannot say where the name came from, but we can confirm that the name goes back considerably further.

Between April 1927 and February 1930 both the *Sidmouth Herald* and the *Sidmouth Observer* reported at least four cliff falls at Pennington Point. Prior to 1927 there are reports of falls at Alma Cliff.

Some of the reports relating to Pennington Point read like some of the much more recent *Sidmouth Herald* articles.

A report from the paper dated January 7, 1928, said a tremendous fall of cliff occurred yesterday and was the largest of many frequent subsidences during the past year or two.

It went on to say: "It is a matter of satisfaction that the fall occurred when it did. Had it been in the summer time when, despite every warning, people will freely sit about right under the foot of the cliffs at this part, it might very possibly have caused serious loss of life. The subsidence at the top strikes right in against the public path..."

The *Sidmouth Observer* of February 5, 1930, reported that residents on the eastern side of the seafront were awakened on Sunday at 4.30am by a terrific rumbling noise and discovered that "a very large cliff fall had occurred at the Alma".

Falls continued throughout the rest of the day and the following day as well. The report concluded "... with the result that Pennington Point has completely disappeared, and it is now possible to get an uninterrupted view along the coast to Beer Head".

While this does not explain how it got its name, this might explain why the name Pennington Point does not seem to appear in reports again until much more recent times.

Rab and Christine Barnard  
Sidmouth Museum

## Funding thanks

FOR the Nigel Ogden fundraising night, Sidmouth in Bloom would like to thank all those who supported us.

The Methodist Church where it was held, and John McGregor and Mike Edgecombe for organising the concert, advertising and printing the tickets.

Lynette Talbot  
Chairman, Sidmouth in Bloom

## Bowling us over

PLEASE may I take this opportunity to reiterate the generosity shown by Sidmouth Bowling Club towards 1st Sid Vale Scout Group.

The group have always supported the movement, for which we are extremely grateful.

It is the support from community organisations such as the bowls which encourages progression within our group, something which we can constantly see - especially with the push for a new hut!

I would like to say just how grateful we are to the bowling club for their previous and current support, and for the opportunity they provided to myself and Barry during the visit to their club.

I too believe that it was a success - the effort that the club went to for us during our visit was exceptional, and the coaches were both informative and friendly.

We were made to feel extremely welcome during our visit, and we both agreed we'd learnt something new about the sport, which



▲ Danger zone: the latest cliff fall at Pennington Point and (inset) cracks remain visible.

## And still people walk under cliffs...

AGAIN, a massive cliff fall at Pennington Point.

Not long any more for other parts to come down.

I would have thought that everybody is well aware of the dangers of walking under

the cliffs but there are still people walking on that part of the beach! There are so many other places you can walk, why put yourself in danger?

Tony Vetterop  
Sidmouth

hopefully we can share with the young people within scouting in the near future.

Rachael Hill  
Sidmouth Explorer Leader  
1st Sid Vale Scout Group

## Saving our pub

THE Save The Red Lion Campaign Group is fighting to retain the Red Lion pub in Sidbury village, East Devon.

The Red Lion's owners, Punch Taverns, are selling it. It is the only pub in a village of almost 1,000 residents.

On June 5, ITV's *Daybreak* programme covered the Fair Deal for Your Local rally in Westminster.

The sale of the Red Lion pub is directly linked to the issue that Fair Deal for Your Local is championing.

To lend your support, visit our blog site <http://thepubinthevillage.blogspot.co.uk> or contact us directly.

John Loudoun  
Secretary, Save The Red Lion Campaign

## Preyed upon?

I READ with sadness the story about the death of two buzzards ("Birds of prey are poisoned", *Herald*, May 31, front page).

Perhaps they were two of the three, sometimes four, birds that fly above Trow Hill. They have been there for so many years now!

There are, I suppose, the usual suspects: an overzealous gamekeeper ordered or obliged by his employers to preserve game bird stocks, or a vengeful pigeon fancier or farmer.

Then comes the inadequate that may have done this for personal pleasure because he could!

It may have been an accident - poison not intended for birds of prey - or even a toxic prey kill.

If this was not an accident then it was an act

of indescribable cruelty, meant out to birds in their natural habitat going about their lives. It was malicious and demeans the perpetrator.

I am already missing the glorious sight of these birds in flight, as I had a ringside seat from my sitting room window.

This valley will be a poorer place now that they have gone.

W Allen (Mr)  
Sidmouth

## A joy to watch

THE *Sidmouth Herald* headline of May 31 ("Birds of prey are poisoned") saddened and appalled me.

Our wildlife is losing its natural habitats, without these criminals killing them.

These wonderful birds are a joy to watch circling high on the thermals.

We are so fortunate in this part of Devon to enjoy many species.

E Hoopes (Mrs)  
Woolbrook  
Sidmouth

## Let people speak

I WAS interested to read your report "Public right to speak wrangle" in the *Herald* of June 7 about speaking rights at East Devon District Council meetings.

In the article you report EDDC Conservative councillor Ray Bloxham saying: "This issue is yet another example of blatant scaremongering for political gain by a small number of independent opposition members."

EDDC was found by planning inspectors at Feniton and Ottery St Mary not to have a five-year housing land supply and is therefore vulnerable to planning approvals on inappropriate sites.

A special meeting of the EDDC development management committee on February 5 was arranged to consider the worrying situation.

As the Devon county councillor for Feniton and an EDDC councillor for Ottery, I participated in both planning appeals.

However, I was not allowed to speak on February 5. Representatives of organisations such as Fight For Feniton's Future, Save Our Sidmouth, and West Hill Residents' Association also attended the meeting on February 5 wishing to speak, but were also denied the opportunity.

Councillor Ben Ingham (EDDC Independent group leader) argued that they should be allowed to speak - but the chairman refused.

To rub salt in the wounds, the EDDC leader subsequently congratulated the chairman on the "masterly way" he chaired the meeting!

That is why some of us made efforts to change and improve the rules about public speaking, and to allow EDDC councillors not on the development management committee to speak at that committee on matters of major importance.

It would be very welcome if EDDC does make changes to ensure enhanced speaking rights.

The gain would be for East Devon and all its residents - not for a small number of independent opposition members."

Councillor Roger Giles  
Ottery Town (Independent)

## Get a move on

FURTHER to your article "£100,000 for a Sidbury cycle link?" (*Herald*, May 24) regarding a cycle track/footpath to Sidbury, possibly funded from section 106 agreements - a levy raised from developers towards local amenities - I would urge the powers to be to get a move on.

Like the A303 improvements there seems to be a lot of promises but no action!

Many parents will not let their children walk or cycle along this route A375 as it is too dangerous, hence more car journeys to work and school.

The new link would help revitalise Sidbury and hopefully prevent the possible demise of our village pub.

I urge them not to wait for someone to be maimed or killed. Action is needed now!

It would also be helpful if EDDC's new over-zealous traffic gestapo got on their bikes and did something about the dangerously parked vehicles in Sidbury, particularly on the bend at Burnt Oak.

Or perhaps they think the road is too dangerous to venture up the valley?

Andy Webb  
(via email)

## No consultation

I HOPE nobody will cut the grass along the elevated section at Arcot Park!

At least then it will partially obscure the hideous metal fencing that was recently erected following absolutely NO consultation with the local residents.

Local government, where's the openness and transparency?

Robert Barrett  
(via email)

## Very good result

OUR annual Sidmouth street collection was held on Friday, May 31, a glorious summer day.

Thank you to all our volunteer helpers who gave up their time and everyone who donated so generously to raise £653.27 for Cancer Research UK - a very good result.

ZM Lavers (Mrs)  
For Sidmouth Friends of Cancer Research UK