

# DELROW DIGEST



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## Tropical splendour

Not long ago, St Michael's enjoyed visiting the wonderful, colourful orchids in the tropical house at Kew Gardens. The display was amazing as you can see, and Jimena (above on right) was

right temperature and just the right colours. She could almost imagine that she was back at home in Colombia!

*Chas*

especially glad to find a place with just the right humidity, just the



## Hello there!

Spring. It's such a wonderful season. The planet's tilt has almost reached its northern equinox, where British daylight catches up with the night. The extra warmth that light brings is already heating the soil and the water, quickening the land. As a recorder for the *Woodland Trust's* phenology section, I have to pay close attention to the natural world around me. Phenology is the study of the changing seasons, using the natural calendar to mark any changes. Did the elder trees start developing new leaves this early last year? Were the swifts leaving Britain this late in the past? I'm just one of thousands of people who help to note down the dates of certain events in our areas. Then the data is averaged out and used in research to determine the rate of climatic



change in Britain: nothing's ever exactly the same from one year to the next. If you want to find out more, go to

[www.naturescalendar.org.uk](http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk)

I had already noted several events before Thursday 23rd of February. However, for me that day was the start of spring in my 'local patch'. As if out of nowhere, 7-spot ladybirds were crawling up the fresh sprouting reeds and sunning themselves on the walls of the Social Space. Wasp and bumblebee queens emerged from winter dens and began the task of founding and populating their new empires. Flies small and large buzzed around the flowering crocuses, dwarf irises and cyclamens, a foundation for the generations which would serve as food for the returning swallows, flycatchers, warblers and other



migrant birds. And birdsong was being restored, albeit in dribs and drabs.

Apart from robins, British birds don't form and defend winter territories. As their songs are an integral part of that defence, save for alarm calls they remain mute during the colder parts of the year. But now a skylark sung in the fields by Radlett Road bus stop. Blue tits and great tits trilled in the trees, watched by song thrushes. I even thought I heard a buzzard passing overhead – unless it was the mimicking of a starling, hoping to attract a mate with its wide range of impressions.

With the gentle sun on my face, sitting by the Rose Court pond hoping to spot the first newts of the year (another date for the phenologists), I was dreaming of the year to come.

*Natalie*

## Winter Fire

Here in Japan the winter is stretching unabated into March, and I write this in front of a wood-burning stove. It generates warmth, and the flames play and dance. I chose this way of heating at no small expense to put my money where my mouth is: to live a life more beneficial to the planet. The same motivation I had for installing solar panels.

I know there are downsides to solar panels—pollution upon manufacture for example—but on balance, and when compared to the costs and dangers of conventional nuclear power generation, the best information I have is that they're an almost unequivocal good.

The wood stove? I've just found out that I may be [unwittingly poisoning my neighbours](#).

The general consensus is [wood burning = green](#). But [this](#) may be too much of a downside.



From our Japanese correspondent, Julian Bamford. See more at: <http://onlyablockbead.typepad.com>.

## God's Creation

Remember the birds and bees,  
And the hills and the trees.  
They're not just parts of God's creation;  
They're here for every nation;  
They're here for us to enjoy;  
Not for us to destroy!

*Richard Raymond*



*Orchid blossoms at Kew (Photo: Chas Bamford)*



## From our Thai Correspondent

Thanks to our *Delrow Digest* correspondent in Thailand, we have come across some new dishes to delight your palettes.

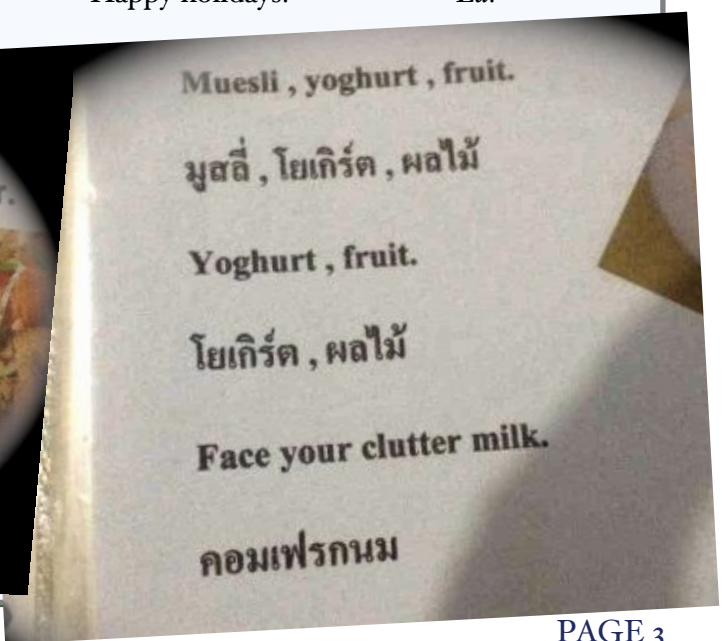
If you eat at a restaurant on a beach such as the one pictured on the left, you may be faced with these choice choices:

Fried fish with herds (of sheep?), anyone?

Or what about the chance to face your clutter milk first thing in the morning?

Happy holidays!

*Ed.*



# Delrow's Guiding Vision... on to Step Two!



wider perspective. We used a lot of the material which people found for us as you can see from the pictures.

We thought it would be a nice idea to make a new map with anyone else who was interested. So, a few days later, several people joined Michael, Matthew and I exploring Delrow again. We saw things with different eyes this time, for different

*Following the last article (see January's Digest ), more work has taken place on the path to a new Delrow Guiding Vision Statement. Here is an illustrated report to bring you up to date.*

In early February the Guiding Vision Statement Core Group reviewed the last big gathering which explored the facts that make Delrow what it is. Over the following weeks, people collected even more information and provided some wonderful drawings and even some crafted materials. Simone and I created a collage with these things. Ribbons connected different areas of the display with a map of the Delrow estate and the areas we had visited on all our walks.

Matthew and Michael were able to create lists of the activities taking place in these different areas. Activities are not visible like the houses we live in, but are very important. They are the glue that binds us together and makes community happen between us.

In our review, the Core Group tried to focus on all these connections with the help of our very big map. We were able to look at Delrow like birds flying very high over it and see everything that creates our community in a



people see different things.

In our meeting, we also organised the future events for the Guiding Vision Statement work and what we, the Core Group, need to prepare for the next step. Mid-March will see us launch the second step. You might remember that it is connected to the element of water. It will turn to the history of Delrow from its founding right up to today. Until then we will be kept busy with all the things we need to find out. We hope you can join us on Step Two!

Anne



The Core Group get busy with their original map

Admiring the display of community contributions



Matthew uses the chance to photograph his own feet



Detail of the map



We made the display collage!



# Welcome to Tarapacá

Hello everyone! In this issue of the *Delrow Digest*, I would like to share some information about a small project in Colombia, the country I come from.

It's a small biodynamic community farm and garden called Tarapacá. With help from the anthroposophical society, Tarapacá aims one day to become a Camphill community.

At the moment Tarapacá is a school where people of any age with special needs can work in different workshops like a pottery and a weavery and where they also have a space to learn about many other things.

They've got some cows and goats that give the



Family and friends work day



Therapeutic clay modelling

moment. A few volunteers keep very busy preparing the tea breaks and lunches.

As you can see, this is still a very small project which is being built step by step. What makes it thrive is the enthusiasm and happiness of the people working and studying there. If you want to know more, go to <http://granjatarapaca.wordpress.com/about/tarapaca-in-english/>

Yes, you can even read about it in English!

*Jimena Fernandez*



Christmas shepherds' play

Tarapacá students lovely fresh milk to make cheese for their own consumption and to sell. Bread and garden products are also sold at market.

There are thirteen students and three teachers at the



Mask workshop

## Joke Corner

*Warning: not everybody will understand the punchline for this joke. If you don't recognise it, ask someone who's, say, 30 or over to remember adverts for a certain well-known British cleaning product. Then ask them to sing the jingle!*  
Natalie

A man worked as a waiter in a seafood restaurant. One day, a customer ordered fresh squid. The waiter escorted him to the large fish tank full of crabs, lobsters, octopi and squid where customers could pick their own meal. To the waiter's horror, the man pointed to a small green squid.

"Please reconsider, Sir!" begged the waiter. "The large, red squid are so much meatier. We don't even know how that one got into our live squid order, but since he's appeared, he's become a sort of pet!"

The customer was adamant, however: he wanted that squid on his plate! So the waiter sadly fished the little fellow out and took him to the kitchens. When Jervais the chef saw the customer's order, he went very pale. However, it was his duty to kill, chop and cook the live seafood, so he placed the green squid on the table and raised his large knife. Just then, the



squid opened up its tentacles to reveal its beak, surrounded by moustache-like bristles. He seemed to be smiling slightly – knowing that he was to die, yet forgiving the chef for his actions. With a sob, Jervais put down the knife.

"I can't do this!" he cried. "I can't kill such a peaceable little fellow! But I have to cook him. I know! I'll get the rough, tough brothers Hans over to do the chopping!"

Hans and his twin brother Hans were giants of men, covered in scars and tattoos. They washed the dishes and cleaned the kitchen at the end of the night. After Jervais had explained what he wanted, they strode over to the table, picked up knives and looked at the squid. Once again, those tentacles parted. Once again, that little bristly smile seemed to reach into the soul and forgive even the most heinous of deeds.

After a minute locked in the same position, both twins threw down their knives. "We can't do this either, Jervais!" Hans and Hans wailed in chorus. "Tell that vile customer to eat something else because he sure ain't getting this squid!"

The moral of this story?

*Hans's that do dishes can be soft as Jervais with mild, green hairy-lipped squid!*

## Tossed and found

Shrove Tuesday saw a lot of activity on the Main House lawn as frenzied people ran up and down with pans which at times contained pancakes.

Who was the winner? Who knows? But it was certainly a lot of fun. Ed.



## Nonnie Moose

*We have just heard that Nonnie is currently away hunting for George who has apparently gone missing. Unconfirmed reports place the vegetable detective high up in the French Alps. According to which rumour you believe, he is searching for a fresh supply of carrot cheroots, some top-class powder snow skiing, or the meaning of life.*

*Ed.*



## Caption Competition



Please send your captions to the *Delrow Digest* at [chas.bamford@delrow-camphill.org](mailto:chas.bamford@delrow-camphill.org).

The winning entry will be announced in the next issue. *Ed.*

*(Photo: Matthew Shallow, London, February 2012)*

## Quiz Time

And what is wrong with this gate (seen on the Isle of Wight not long ago)?



*ANSWER: The gate is not closed.*