

SUNDAY 26TH MAY 1991

The Gathering at Lew Trenchard was an exciting and successful event for all who came. It seemed that the youngest to the oldest was making this a great family event. So many had not met before and others had not seen each other for a long time.

Altogether there were 119 of us including the family, support groups of locals, the P.C.C., and members of the Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society, and 98 for the church service.

There was not one Baring-Gould present although over 66 of us could claim to have descended from that name. There were over 20 from Arthur Baring-Gould's side of the family, headed by Irene Widdicombe who, at well over 90, is as mentally sprightly as ever. Bless her for coming.

With the amazing generosity of everyone, donations from the beginning of the year of £1,420, the church collection of £129 and the picnic £550 have all contributed to one great onslaught against the death-watch beetle. More has to be collected of course to complete the job, but the screen is safe for some time having been very well repaired. The Parish Church Council do thank you all for your enormous support.

The whole event was a huge success with one tiny flaw - the video which I hoped would record the day and all the people who came, was absolutely useless, an amateurish flop. But we may be able to collect some videos from members of the family who were recording the event so, hopefully, we can share the day with those in Canada, USA and Africa.*

None of us will forget the fun that we all had. The wonderful sunshine, the folk singing by John Hobbs, the first strawberries of the season with clotted cream, and the trip around the house. A day to remember.

By the way, on 26th May 1872 Sabine came into the estate, his father Edward died on that day 119 years ago and there were 119 souls supporting this gathering!!! A strange coincidence of numbers, one for the numerologists! Perhaps it was a planned event and not a coincidence!

John Reboul has put together a book with all the portraits in Lew House, orders can be taken for copies.

Has anyone any photographs of the gathering that he would be prepared to share with everyone?

Image Briggs

* A new video is now available at £12.50 + postage. 14