

The total population of Syde and Caudle Green together is less than sixty. All the more remarkable then that no less than seven of the sixty are writers, with published books to their name.

Stephen Freer has translated from the Latin three volumes of the sixteenth century botanist Linnaeus, (published by the top-of-the-tree publishers, Oxford University Press), and now at the age of ninety three is working on a translation of the French botanist, Clusius. **Andrew Bowden** has just had his fourth book published – and it’s actually selling quite well! **Malcolm Whitacker** has written a fascinating account of his war time experiences as a boy in Syde, while his **wife Diana** has published a biography of ‘The Other Mitford’, Pam Jackson, who lived for many years at Caudle Green. Also from Syde, **Lorna Grey** has written ‘a real cracker of a crime thriller’ – printed, published, stitched and bound ‘in house’!



Two years ago, **Gerald Stewart** wrote a most moving and humorous account of his life as a young person in Duntisbourne Abbots intriguingly entitled ‘Pipe Lids and Hedgehogs’. And most recently our retired vet, **Mike Ponting**, has published ‘Bumpop and the Loch Ness Monster’ an ‘almost true story’ of his celebrated bike-ride from Lands End to John O’Groats. It’s illustrated by his grandchildren and is ‘a must’ for all who are young of heart.



Finally, as yet an unpublished author herself, behind most of these writers is the real professional in our midst, our one and only Freddie Freer who advises, edits, proof-reads, and above all endlessly encourages.

So is this a record? Nothing like it I suspect since the Dymock Poets. Who says nothing happens in villages!