

YOUTH VIEWS -TOMORROW'S WORLD

“out of the mouths”

We decided no book of our village would be complete without a contribution from the next generation. We asked them to look ahead and visualise their village as it might be if they still lived here in say 20, 50, 100 or even a 1000 years time!

We start with Maria's thoughts on how she sees Weare Giffard today.

Maria Grigg 8

*W is for Welcome to our village.
E is for Everyone is happy to live here.
A is for All are welcome at local parties.
R is for the River running through.
E is for Everyone loves meeting each other at the local pub.*

*G is for Go and watch the cricket in the park.
I is for In the summer come to our village fete.
F is for Floods, we get a lot of them.
F is for Fireworks at the village hall.
A is for Animals that run freely here.
R is for Road that winds through the village.
D is for Don't forget to visit Weare Giffard again!*

Cleo Bott 15

“I think there will be more houses built higher up in 50 years time.”

Elli 3

“In the future, I think there will be fewer houses in Weare Giffard”.

Lotte Keely 5

“I think that in 1000 years time Weare Giffard will be under water.”

Alexandra Keeley 7

“I also think there will be more flooding but bigger and better houses, more adults, less children but more play areas.”

James Gillespie 11

"I think there will be more houses, people and children, but also more sports facilities."

Paul Hedden 13

"I think in a 100 years time it will be more or less the same, but the river much wider."

Ashley Giles 13

"I think in 3 years time it will be much the same but with more facilities".

Joanna Hedden 11

*When I look out of my bedroom window in 30 years time
I wonder what I will see
Will I see water or will I see trees
Or might I see a busy town
Or will I see just plain ground
But in that amount of time what I want to see
Is Weare Giffard exactly the same as what it used to be.*



Village Children, March 2001

Photo: Robert Eades

Becky Grigg 8

“ I think Weare Giffard is a very friendly place to live in, it feels very lucky. I think it will be the same in 10 years time”.

Joseph Hedden 9

“I think there will be mammoths instead of cows. The work on the farm will be done by ‘traculators’, and all the farmers will work together”.

Mathew Chandler 10

“I think in 1000 years time, the houses would be built on extending legs so they would not get flooded and the road would also rise for the hover cars. Failing this, there would be a glass tunnel to drive underwater. Goods would be ordered and delivered by Internet and farms would be more advanced with part animal- part robots. Holidays would be taken visiting beautiful planets in space.”

Daniel Giles 14

“I think the valley will be totally under water with industry, railway tracks and trains on the hills.”



Children on River Torridge

Hannah Arnold 17

*In one hundred years time
I hope to see
Weare Giffard a village with identity
Independent from bigger places
A Community full of friendly faces.*

*In one hundred years time
I hope to see
Weare Giffard's a village for family
With safe atmosphere for the kids to play
Where parents unwind from a computerised day*

*In one hundred years time
I hope to see
Weare Giffard first village in history
To exist in an underwater biosphere
Where people no longer have the flooding fear.*

Emily Gunderson 12

"I think in 100 years time we will be living under a large plastic bubble to protect everyone and everything from flooding and global warming. I don't think anyone will like my idea!"

Ryan Lees 8

*We'll all have fun
We'll have the sun
It's a place that grows crops
And plenty of raindrops
People help the environment and wild life too
We have fantastic scenes
And we all eat baked beans
We have lots of otters
Even more than Harry Potter
There are no coppers
Because there's no crime
No pollution, all solutions
This is the future that we want.*

Alexandra Eliasson 7

"I hope it will stay as beautiful as it is now".

Alex Pirrie 12

FLOODS

*The water rises in the night
The cars all parked outside the Hall
All that was solid now floats by
Nothing to be done against nature's wrath
The people all relax to wait
Until the water falls.*

Sarah Goswell 11

*"I think in 50 years time it will still be happy and peaceful with no thieves,
less houses, so that woodland is not cut down, but more excitement for the
younger children".*



Children's entries in the Horticultural Show

Olivier Chaffe 14

*All you used to hear was the trickle of the river
The church bells chiming
The breeze blowing through the trees, and the song of the birds in the trees
Now I'm not a child, and everything has changed
All you hear today is the chug of the trains
The purr of the cars, the roar of the lorries,
And the motor bikes speeding down the highway
Such a shame.*

Alexandra Gillespie 8

*"I hope that the village will be big enough for me to live in when I grow up
and that there will be more things to do."*

Lucy Hedden 11

*"I hope that in 50 years time Weare Giffard will still be quite historic, and
with farms but bigger, and with more facilities."*

Antonia Pirrie 10

*Just a quiet village
One after another
Another house being built
A small town with shops
More houses
A small city emerges
It's a centre city now
It was a village.*



At the Firework Party - Village Hall, 2000

Lousie Coggins 14

Lousie, who lives in Summer Place, describes her journey to school on a solar rail in the year 2100.

The solar rail starts just on the other side of the Tarka trail and comes over the top of Annery Kiln, where the houses are on high metal stilts to avoid flooding which has got much worse with Global warming and the rising of the sea level. Halfpenny Bridge is now 30ft higher, a swing bridge to allow ships to sail up the river, and built of stainless steel. The road through the village has been raised, also some houses, but some are in ruins. Weare House is undamaged and one of the oldest unchanged houses in the village.

The Solar rail collects me from Summer Place, which is very little changed. It then passes Barton Farm, which is now a computerised energy making farm supplying energy for the village. Animals are no longer necessary as protein comes from other foods; even the church bells are rung by computer. Here the river has been diverted to make more space for the electric wind mills which help power the village. The village hall with a hard core of organisers is very high tech offering inter-net and computer training. A bit further along is a big undercover sports complex with all sorts of facilities, including a cricket club, and with a swimming pool adjoined to the back. The Mill has been mainly rebuilt and does bed and breakfast. There is now no need for a village shop as it is done on the inter-net, but the pub is flourishing. The solar rail zooms past the pub, over an enlarged Chopes bridge and on to Torrington and school.

Jennifer Wright 10

*A crystal egg,
Hidden in a soft blanket,*

Crack - a caterpillar!

*Growing nibbling
Growing munching
Growing chomping.*

In a flash where is she

A silk scarf in her place,

*It twists and turns.
And - A BUTTERFLY!
She lays an egg,
Nature starts again.*

(We included Jennifer's contribution because it is all about the future,
and the process of the present shaping that future)

Editorial:

It is perhaps pertinent to note that almost ALL the children think that the river will continue to flood more and more.

From the Production Team we would like to acknowledge and thank most sincerely all the children above who contributed their invaluable insights into the future. One tries to imagine this book being read by one of them in 50 years time.....what will they think of their foresight and how true have these visions become?