

WE ARE 40!
OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**Interview with Exim:
Our most popular
student activity**

In Conversation With...
Moira, our newest Student
Support & Accommodation
Officer

INSIDE:

- + **40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY**
- + **UNITED NATIONS DAY**
- + **PUMPKIN SOUP FOR THOSE LEFTOVERS**

econtents

2 WELCOME

3 NEWS

4 IN CONVERSATION WITH....

We speak to Moira, our new Student Support & Accommodation Officer

5 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

To celebrate our 40th anniversary we held a party at the school

8 UNITED NATIONS DAY

A look back to the conception of the United Nations

8 TO PUNCTUATE OR NOT PUNCTUATE!

A long standing debate has been ended

9 LET'S DANCE

We speak to Laura, Exim's Artistic Director

11 RECIPE

A pumpkin soup, perfect for using your left overs from pumpkin carving

12 PUZZLE PAGE

Waste some time and do some puzzles!

13 WHAT'S ON

Your guide to what's on in Plymouth





Kelly Luscombe
Editor

Is everyone ready to accept Christmas is only 95 days away? I'm not, after the hot summer we had, although I may have moaned about being too hot (in typical British style!) I have enjoyed not having to prepare for rain just in case! At least we have autumn to ease into the colder days and darker evenings.

In this issue we have included some photos from the 40th Anniversary party and Suzanne Sparrow's speech, an interview with Laura, Exim's Artistic Director and our In Conversation this issue is with Moira, our newest member of staff.

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WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for past experiences, stories or photos to share on our social media and also for our special Anniversary Issue of The Sparrow Times in December. We would love to hear from you, please email kelly@sparrow.co.uk or send us a private message via our social media channels.

NEWS

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MATERNITY LEAVE

Kathryn will be starting her maternity leave at the end of September and leaving the Accommodation department in the capable hands of Manuela and Moira. Good luck Kathryn, we look forward to meeting your little person!

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

EXAM SUCCESS

We held two Cambridge exam sessions in July for the first time for Cambridge First and Cambridge Advanced candidates. It was a great success, with particularly good results for our Advanced candidates – over 70% achieving a C1 level!



CLOCKS GO BACK SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 02:00 (2AM)

Don't forget that the clocks go back.

If you have any news you would like to share, please send your story to thesparrowtimes@sparrow.co.uk

In Conversation With...



Moira Morris

Student Support & Accommodation
Officer

WHAT GETS YOU OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING?

Not wanting to waste the day.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE – PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL?

Raised my two children to be the most amazing son and daughter I could ever wish for.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

My dogs and my caravan.

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE ANYONE, WHO WOULD YOU PICK AS YOUR MENTOR?

Simon Cowell

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

My first proper full time job was with a hire-purchase company where I was a clerk/typist.

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

The last book I read was Trick School for Dogs by Manuela Zaitz I am reading this book not to teach my dogs circus tricks, but to teach them things like opening and closing doors, the names of their toys and places they might be, letting me know if they want a treat or a massage and to shake paws and all types of understanding and communication. Dogs get great pleasure from learning new things and it provides stimulation and bonding with their owners, it's great fun and enjoyment for both

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE UK TO BE?

Holland's Wood Campsite in the New Forest.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO OR PERSONAL MANTRA?

It's not what you do or where you go its who you do it with.

WHAT IS YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?

Chocolate while watching TV.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU LAUGHED SO HARD YOU CRIED?

Almost cried when Manuela and I went to the car park at work to collect food for the 40th Anniversary and looked for each others car and neither of us had a car.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPER SKILL THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE, WHAT IT BE AND WHY?

Ultra Confidence – So I could visit more places and see more of the world.

HOW DO YOU RELAX?

Being outdoors, listening to wild birds singing, interacting with animals and enjoying nature, going to a nice place in the country, taking my dogs somewhere really nice and having fun with them, riding my mountain bike, chatting with friends, sitting outside a cafe watching people and the world go by.



We celebrated our 40th anniversary with a party in September. Invited were past staff and teachers, homestay families past and present, companies that have worked with us over the years and local dignitaries. Suzanne Sparrow gave a speech which told the story of the school and its origin and gave thanks to those who helped make it what it is today. As Suzanne's speech gives a great insight into the her past and what led her to start the school we are sharing it in this issue along with photos from the party.

Thank you for coming to join with us in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Language School - the first Language School in Plymouth. To do a brief resume of the history since 1978. I will explain the concept with the reminder that the English Language is the world-wide language used in all its many forms - and with this in mind and



the realisation that the City of Plymouth had no Professional Institution offering specific learning facilities I decided to found what is now known as the Suzanne Sparrow Plymouth Language School Ltd.

My knowledge of how to start was sparse - putting it mildly - not a teacher, linguist or businesswoman and just £2000 - where do you start?

• PERSONAL HISTORY

A little bit of personal history comes in here. I was born in 1924 in College View (just off Mutley Plain), went to school up the road in North Road East - a school called Gunnerside, then I transferred to the Busy Bees when the family moved to Hartley, came back to Plymouth High School and only moved out

of Plymouth when our home was blitzed in 1941. You can see the connection I have with this area of Plymouth.

In 1942 I joined the WRNS as the age of 17 and was trained to go to sea. 1945 after being demobbed, trained as a secretary and became PA to the MD of a jewellers, then in 1947 I joined the International Paint Company's Research Laboratory - and eventually married Bernard - who became the boss in 1948. During my time at this Research laboratory I met representatives and visitors from overseas - some - particularly from the Far East - had limited English. We also hosted overseas students in our home - there was nowhere to attend classes.

Meantime, along came Hilary (my daughter) and Raymond (my son) and I concentrated on bringing them up - at the same time typing and editing books and organising various events, this gave me the 'pin' money of £2000. With time both left home and as already mentioned - the idea that I must do something positive became the spring board for the Language School.



40th Anniversary Celebrations

Well – here you have strokes of luck – I went to a Party and met Mr. Ivor Thompson. He turned out to be the Solicitor who set-up the Ltd. Company and obtained the name of the School. He was also Chairman of the newly formed Plymouth Marketing Bureau - I was already a founding member (Thompson & Jackson are just around the corner).

The Chief Executive Officer of the Marketing Bureau was a dashing young man called Roger Mathews who was an enormous help in guiding me through marketing strategies.

The next move was to find accountants – so Cullum, White & Pawley - then on the corner of

“ But – we had no School building – I was ‘selling’ something we did not have and could not get. Every time I found a suitable building – the Council refused the ‘change of use’. So after 10 years, I bought a Hotel!

Houndiscombe Road – fitted the need admirably and Mr. Cullum allocated a gentle but persuasive young man – Robert Hawke – to guide and keep



me on the straight and narrow. Grant Thornton eventually took over this Company (and Mr. Hawke) and we came under the brilliant expertise of Alan Westall as Managing Director. He saw us through those critical years and when my husband,



Bernard, retired and became Financial Director of the School, guided him in the art of finance for business.

Early on printers ‘found’ the logo of the ‘Sparrow’ and we started with headed note paper and a leaflet about the School.

Soon we found the best printer in Plymouth – and we had designed brochures produced under the artistic direction of Mike Fairall.

• SCHOOL BUILDING

But – we had no School building – I was ‘selling’ something we did not have and could not get. Every time I found a suitable building – the Council refused the ‘change of use’. So after 10 years, I bought a Hotel! Meantime we had held classes in the Plymouth Arts Centre, the Chamber of Commerce, The Preysten House and various Church Halls; and students started coming to us in the early part of 1979.

By good fortune I had engaged a lovely Irish teacher, Moira Dunford, and not long after she

returned to Ireland. Now we came to our most colourful teacher and then DoS, Angela Clegg, who saw us through many years as a brilliant teacher and who's family helped greatly in our move here.

I had a young understudy – Peter Clarke – as Marketing Manager and part-time teacher at that time.

We have maintained a very high level of teaching expertise throughout the years, receiving British Council 'recognition' many years ago. We welcome new teachers and many returnees, particularly in the summer.

Another 'Ace' is our host families. You can only learn well if you have good teachers and kind good host families. These we have – and over the years – have been blessed with wonderful help and support – a great thank you to you all.

We have here from those early years Mrs. Barbara Moon, Mrs. Shirley Thyme and Mrs. Jill Neale and Ms. Marylyn Goldsborough.

- **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

At the beginning of the School I joined the Plymouth CoC – now Devon CoC. It was very much the old boy network and I am eternally grateful to Audrey Cook, the then Secretary, for all her support. Likewise

Pam McGilliray for her participation and foresight in helping me form and set-up an International Trade Division within the Chamber. Then in 1988 I was elected as Chair of the Chamber – the year during which we had just moved here.

- **STUDENTS**

Our student intake started soon after 1979 with students from Switzerland and groups and individuals from France and Spain who came in those early days and still come to us. Nowadays we are known world-wide and students come from the Middle and Far East, South Korea, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Brazil and Mexico and the Northern Hemisphere covering a wide range of English Language needs.

To round up – may I thank those who worked with us over the years on the staff for coming today including: Susan Brearey, Angela Clegg, Philip Savery, Jackie English, Anna Zocchi, Peter Goodman, Graham Johns. And there are many who keep in touch that could not come today and I apologise if someone has been left out.

A big 'thank you' goes to all our present staff for their help and continued loyalty in making this a 'Great Day'.





United Nations Day

24 October

The name 'United Nations, coined by Franklin D. Roosevelt who was President of the United States in 1942 was first used in the Declaration of United Nations of 1 January 1942 during the Second World War when representatives of 26 nations pledged their governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. After the devastation of the War, representatives of 50 countries met at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The charter was signed on 26 June 1945 and officially came into existence on the 24 October 1945.

In the 73 years the United Nations has been in existence the United Nations, its specialised agencies, related agencies, funds,

programmes and staff were awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize eleven times.

The United Nations work tirelessly at upholding the main objectives; maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law.

On 24 October, United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.



TO PUNCTUATE OR NOT PUNCTUATE. THAT IS THE QUESTION!

The English language is full of contradictions and oddities and learning it can sometimes be confusing for non-native speakers. But, then there are even times

when native speakers can't agree on the correct English for a situation.

A debate on whether the name 'Land's End' should or shouldn't have an apostrophe has finally ended. The issue has always been a grey area which has caused some road signs to have an apostrophe and some without.

It was finally agreed after Cllr Sue James for Cornwall Council requested the knowledge of Craig Weatherhill, an archaeologist and historian who's written a book on Cornish names. He believes it should have an apostrophe and this was unanimously approved by the council finally ended the punctuation debate.

Let's Dance



One of our activities the past two summers has been to Exim Dance Company the contemporary dance workshop, hip hop and street dance, is one of our newest and most popular activities. As well as teaching our students to dance, Exim have also facilitated business development discussions with our business students.



We spoke to Laura, Exim's Artistic Director to find out more about the company.

HOW WAS EXIM STARTED?

Exim Dance Company CIC was set up by co founders Claire Summers, Stacey Weeks & Jessica McMunn in November 2011. Exim Dance Company is the University of Plymouth, company in residency. It was set up as a graduate company from the University of Plymouth, BA Hons Dance Theatre course. Exim exists to provide opportunities for at risk young people to participate in socially engaged dance sessions. We are dedicated to reducing barriers to participation for everyone of all ages marginalised as a result of their disadvantages in life (whether due to social deprivation, disability, special learning needs, vulnerability due to care

helping to explore & support the growth of dance as not just an art form but also as a healing practice, support mechanism and an educational tool. Laura Henry current Artistic Director who was appointed the position in 2016 had worked with the company



for three years previously within different roles ranging from intern, performer, practitioner and general manager.

WHAT ARE ALL THE THINGS THAT EXIM DO?

At current Exim Dance Company run 18 weekly sessions that range from age 4 all the way up to 70+ this is within primary, secondary, SEN, community/outreach and professional settings across Plymouth and further a field. The company delivers dance activities, facilitates training sessions, business development talks and provides accredited dance qualifications throughout the city as well as producing professional inclusive touring work that tours both nationally and Internationally. The company delivers dance on average to over 350 participants each week!



arrangements or otherwise) to provide people with skills (e.g. communication, problem solving and leadership skills) to help them in their future lives. To do this we believe that, as well as delivering our own programme of work, we must also provide high quality training and opportunities to students and professionals wishing to work as dance practitioners in the community. We work in schools, universities and communities across Devon where our projects can have most effect,

WHAT IS THE AGE RANGE OF THE PEOPLE YOU TEACH DANCE TO?

We teach from age 4 all the way up to 70 years+.



WHAT IS THE FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR WORKING DAY?

What makes working for the organisation so very special is the variety that comes with each day, not one day or week is ever the same. Its constantly fresh, exciting and keeping me on my toes! I get to meet new people on a daily basis which is pretty special.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU SINCE YOU STARTED EXIM?

Since I took over the company in 2016, my mission was to get the professional company touring and working internationally. 2018 has seen the company present work in Moscow and represent the United Kingdom in South Korea at Korea International Inclusive Dance Festival. We have delivered dance workshops in Spain and across the UK. Our



educational outreach programme has increased hugely and we are now in a position where we



work alongside big Plymouth partners regularly and are commissioned for big city wide projects and local events. We have secured large quantities



of funding from various funders, trusts that mean we can support some of our community/ outreach projects over a three year period.

IS THERE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR YOU ARE MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO FOR THE FUTURE OF EXIM?

I look forward to every week with the company and the opportunities that are presented to Exim all the time. I'm looking forward to the company keeping expanding and working both within Plymouth and across the world.

If you are interested in any of the services Exim offer you can find out more and contact them through Facebook @EximDanceCo.

Season Recipe

pumpkin and bacon soup



Ingredients

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 50g butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 150g maple-cured bacon, cut into small pieces
- ½ Crown Prince pumpkin or onion squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into medium chunks (you need about 500g pumpkin flesh)
- 1l chicken stock
- 100ml double cream
- 3 tbsp pumpkin seeds, toasted
- maple syrup, for drizzling

Method

1. In a large, heavy-bottomed pan, heat the oil with 25g butter. Add the onion and a pinch of salt and cook on a low heat for 10 mins or until soft. Add 60g bacon and cook for a further 5 mins until the bacon releases its fat. Then increase the heat to medium, add the pumpkin and stock and season. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer, cover with a lid and cook for about 40 mins until the pumpkin is soft. Pour in the cream, bring to the boil again and remove from the heat. Set aside some of the liquid, then blend the

remaining pumpkin until smooth and velvety, adding liquid back into the pan bit by bit as you go (add more liquid if you like it thinner). Strain through a fine sieve, check the seasoning and set aside.

2. Melt the remaining butter in a pan over a high heat and fry the rest of the bacon with black pepper for 5 mins. Divide the bacon between four bowls, reheat the soup and pour over. To serve, sprinkle over the pumpkin seeds and drizzle with maple syrup.

Puzzle Page

The perfect time to waste some time!

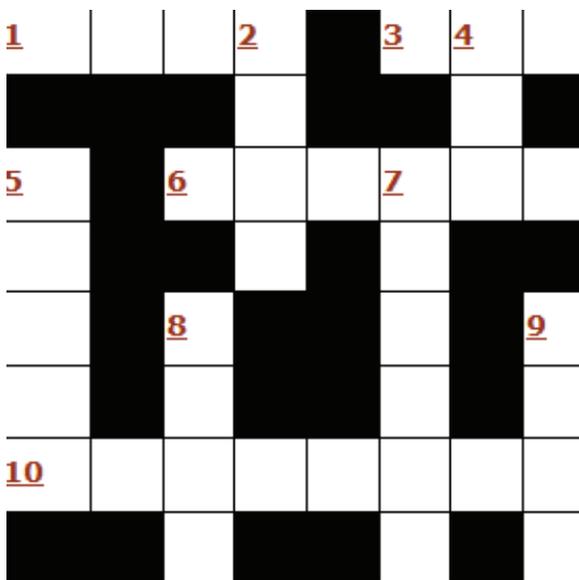
Rhyming Pairs

chair	scurry
phone	dare
hurry	most
down	marry
post	town
carry	loan

Matching Opposites

tall	off
hot	dark
light	cold
rich	short
on	poor

CROSSWORD: Animals



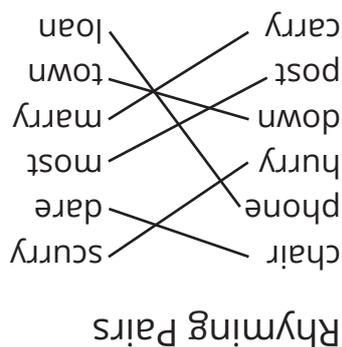
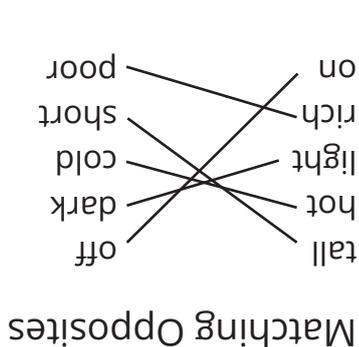
Across

- A big, strong farm animal
- A female chicken
- It looks like a horse with long ears
- Big cats with black coats

Down

- A big and very dangerous cat
- The female of '5 down'
- An animal raised for its meat and wool
- A baby cat
- Long hair on the neck of '2 down'
- They live in the sea, in rivers and in lakes

ANSWERS



CINEMA

TO CHECK WHAT'S ON AT OUR LOCAL CINEMAS PLEASE CHECK WEBSITES

VUE CINEMA

Barbican Leisure Park, Shapters Road, Coxside, Plymouth PL4 0LG

Phone: 0345 308 4620

www.vue.com

REEL CINEMA

25 Derry's Cross, Plymouth PL1 2SW

Phone: 01752 225553

reelcinemas.co.uk

PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE

38 Looe St, Plymouth PL4 0EB

Phone: 01752 206114

plymouthartscentre.org

JILL CRAIGIE CINEMA / UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA

Phone: 01752 585050

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/your-university/peninsula-arts/film>



PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

LANGUAGES CAFE

The Languages Café promotes communication across languages and across cultures. It is a meeting place for students, staff and Plymouth residents to practise their language skills over a coffee, in an informal and fun environment.

The Languages Café offers our students and the Plymouth community a great way to: practise target languages, learn about different cultures, build close-knit friendships, have fun. All abilities - all welcome.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING SEMESTER
13:00-14:00**

PLYMOUTH ART WEEKENDER

FRIDAY 28-SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

Plymouth Art Weekender is an ambitious three-day event that takes place annually across the city. The weekender confidently celebrates Plymouth, its people and the visual arts, promoting the city as an exciting contemporary art destination. It showcases a wide and diverse range of activity for all ages including a large array of events and exhibitions throughout the city by local, national, and international artists.

CAMPUS MARKET

Come and find a selection of mouth watering dishes and the finest products from the South West's local traders.

See a selection of locally sourced meals, sweet treats, crafts and much more at the UPSU campus market!

**17 SEPTEMBER, 1, 18 OCTOBER 1, 15 NOVEMBER
10:00 - 16:00**

THEATRE

TR2 BACKSTAGE TOURS

TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY - TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Take a tour of our production and learning centre. Here you can see where we build sets, make costumes and props and where companies come to rehearse.

**TOUR ONLY £7, TOUR & CREAM TEA £10
BOOK 01752 267222**

WEEKDAY TRP BACKSTAGE TOURS

WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY - WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

A behind-the-scenes tour of the The Lyric and The Drum gives you a unique look at how a busy theatre operates. Our backstage tour aims to take you behind the scenes to view the The Lyric auditorium from the stage, the flexible format of The Drum, the orchestra pit, the trap-rooms and front-of-house areas. Glimpse inside the dressing rooms, wings and backstage areas, experience some of the theatricality, heritage and tradition all in the company of well-informed and enthusiastic guides. Come and enjoy the buzz of what's happening behind the scenes today!

TOUR ONLY £7

TOUR AND AFTERNOON TEA (WEEKDAYS ONLY) £15

TOUR AND CREAM TEA (SATURDAYS ONLY) £10

MATTHEW BOURNE'S SWAN LAKE

SATURDAY 22-SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

Retaining all the iconic elements of the original production loved by millions around the world, Matthew Bourne and award-winning designers Lez Brotherston (Set and Costumes) and Paule Constable (Lighting) will create an exciting re-imagining of the classic production.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THEATRE ROYAL BOX OFFICE

OTHER EVENTS

KNIGHTS ON PLYMOUTH HOE

SATURDAY 30 JUNE

PLYMOUTH HOE

A full contact Medieval Combat display on Plymouth Hoe. There will be a living history area where you can see what life was like for a medieval tournament knight, you can also talk to the resting knights.

The aim for this is to help Plymouth home club of ISCA Men At Arms, this event will be both exhilarating and educational for the people of Plymouth to help reignite an interest in Plymouth own rich medieval history.

BONFIRE NIGHT 2018

MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2018 16:00

PLYMOUTH HOE

Fireworks, fairground rides and a giant bonfire on Plymouth Hoe to celebrate Bonfire Night.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 2018

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2018

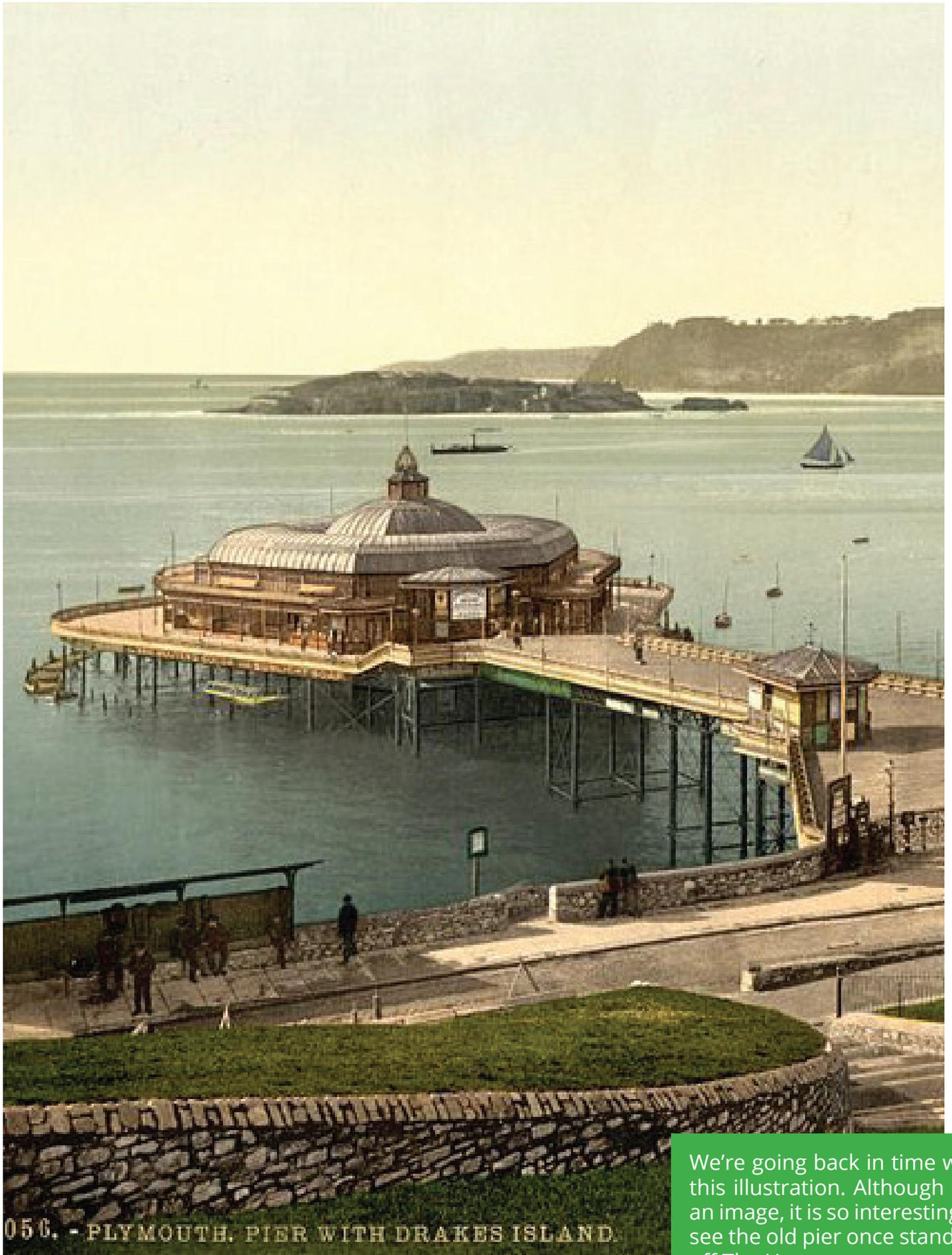
The Christmas holiday is officially here once our Christmas lights are switched on - 15 November 2018. The switch-on launches the Christmas countdown and marks the start of Thursday late night shopping if you're hunting for the perfect gift.

PLYMOUTH CHRISTMAS MARKET

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER - SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 2018

The city centre Piazza will be completely transformed as the Christmas Market sets out more than 50 beautiful log cabin style stalls. Pick up some individual and unique Christmas gifts at Plymouth Christmas Market, located in the heart of the city centre. Over 50 wooden cabins, festooned with fairy lights, will house traders from the South West and beyond, selling everything from sweet treats to handmade jewellery and even Christmas trees!

Through the Lens



056. - PLYMOUTH. PIER WITH DRAKES ISLAND.

We're going back in time with this illustration. Although not an image, it is so interesting to see the old pier once standing off The Hoe.