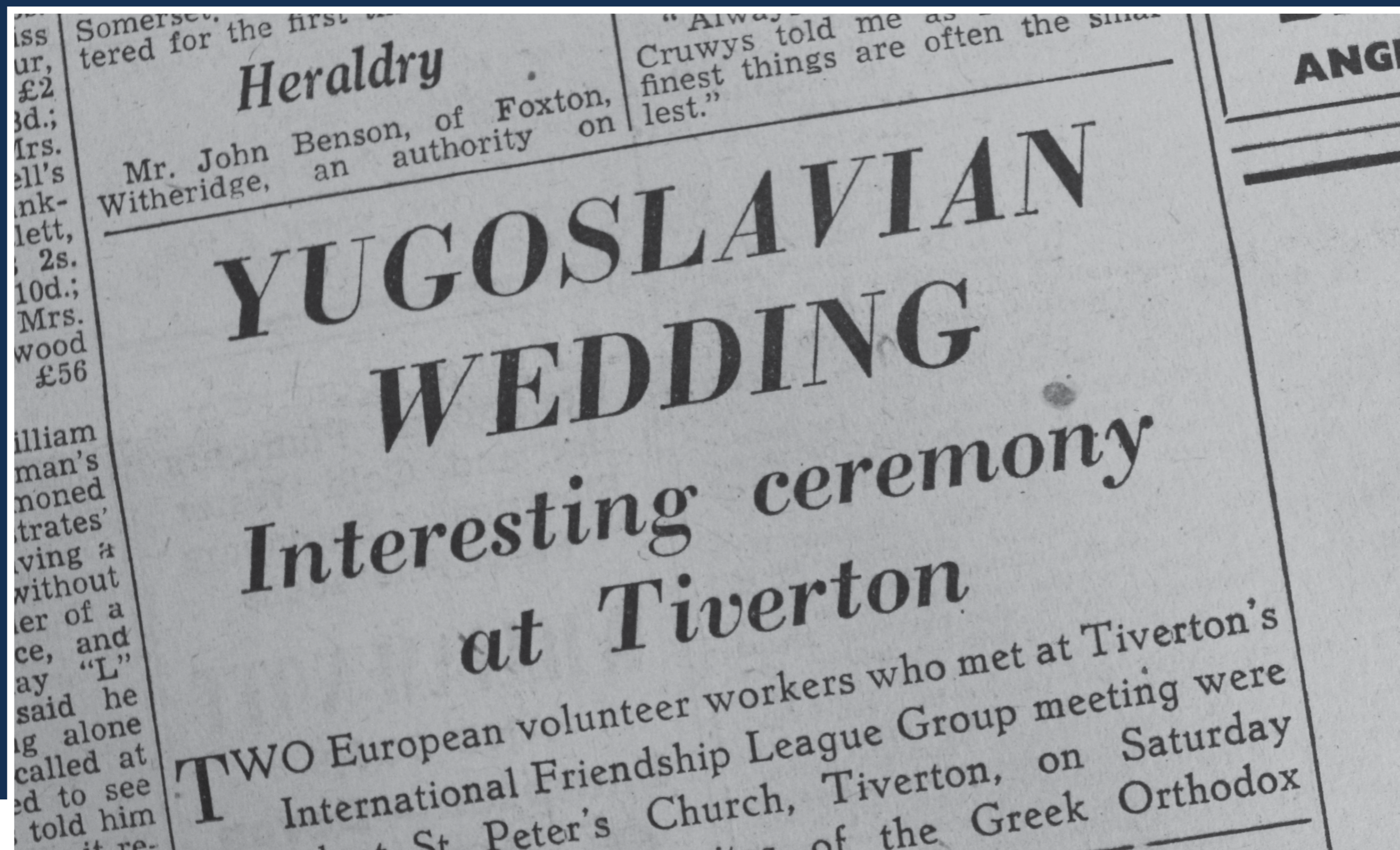


Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Roots



Passing Through

Tiverton's history has also been enriched by the stories of visitors who have passed through the town, without making it their permanent home. From Jewish migrants to temporary workers from the Commonwealth, the town has seen a range of visitors from across the globe. Many of those who have passed through have travelled from Commonwealth countries, part of the complicated legacy of the British Empire.

Some European Voluntary Workers are also known to have passed through the town rather than staying permanently. An article from the Devon and Somerset News reports an interesting ceremony in Tiverton. Two EVWs, who met at Tiverton's International Friendship League, were married at St Peter's Church on May 18th 1949, according to the rights of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The groom was a Mr Peter Manjlovic from Yugoslavia, who was working for the Devon Agricultural Committee and living at the Bolham Road Hostel. The bride was Miss Olga Kush, a Ukrainian who had been working at the Heathcoat Factory since December 1947. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. E. Popovic from Bristol.

Although the ceremony was celebrated in the local paper, there is no evidence that the couple stayed in the town. As with many other post-war workers, they likely moved on in search of work,

or perhaps returned home, to family and a more familiar life.

During the 1960s, Stenner of Tiverton Ltd, then part of the Heathcoat Engineering Division, led the way in the technology and manufacture of sawmill machinery. There was a strong interest in their products across the world, particularly from Commonwealth countries.

On 12th December 1961, the Tiverton Gazette reported on the unusual visit of a young Hindu couple from British Guiana, who spent their honeymoon working at Stenners factory. In return, a £40,000 shipment of Stenners machinery was made to British Guiana. The couple visited for nearly three months, and lived in a furnished apartment at 5, Old Blundell's. Mr Pasram was trained to maintain bandmills whilst his wife, Henwati Pasram, worked in the sales office – a strange honeymoon indeed!



Top left photo: This article is evidence of the importance of religious heritage to some of the people who lived in Tiverton after WW2. Image courtesy of Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life.
 Top right photo: Numerous newspaper articles of the time show people including workers and government officials coming to Tiverton to look at machinery. Image courtesy of Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life.
 Right photo: This fuzzy clipping is the only record of our honeymoon couple. Image courtesy of Tiverton Museum.