



BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 57 Spring 2007

£1



Harbour Works ~ Winter 2006/7

photo G King

More information about the construction works on page 6 & 7, pictures on pages 22 - 25

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Consultation

According to the dictionary the meaning of the word "consult" is to seek advice from someone; confer with someone; to refer to for information; to have regard for a person's feelings or interest in making decisions or plans. How often the word consultation is used but how often are people consulted?

Some time ago central government gave local authorities the opportunity to bid for unitary status. Were you consulted? More recently Cornwall County Council decided to go down that road. Were you consulted? If the County Council's bid is accepted by central government then work will begin to put their plan into action. Will you be consulted? With

luck consultation may get as far as Town and Parish Councils.

Ironically the few that do enjoy the privilege of consultation include developers. They consult with local authorities until they arrive at scheme that is mutually acceptable. It is only made known to the public when it becomes a planning application. The same advantage applies to

water companies, as we know to our cost. Local authorities are guilty too, failing to consult on matters such as car park charges and other services. Protestation rather than consultation is the only way in which people can express their feelings, convey their opinions and offer advice. This is costly and time consuming for all concerned.

Boscastle Blowhole Editorial Team

The editorial team reserves the right to edit, accept, or reject any material submitted for publication in the Blowhole. The views expressed within the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

The team are: Philippa Arthan, Arthur Bannister, Joan Cork, Daphne Rogers, Chris Rodda, Mary Shepherd & Noel Ward.

The next Blowhole will be published in mid June. The deadline for copy is 25th May Please ensure that your copy reaches us by then or we may be unable to include it. Thanks

For advertising queries, contact Daphne Rogers 01840 250244

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Here and There

Footpath

Maintenance

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way in Cornwall will not be affected by the need to reduce some County Council budgets from April.

Despite huge pressures on budgets Cornwall County Council is committed to improving the Public Rights of Way network in the county. This is a high priority for members of the County Council's Executive and will continue to be so because of its importance to local communities, the health agenda and the tourism economy of Cornwall.

The improvement programme aims to ensure that paths are well signed and free from obstacles, with vegetation cleared and improvements to gates and stiles.

New arrangements with Parish Councils will help ensure a higher standard of maintenance in future.

Thank You

John Kinsman, Valency Taxis would like to say a very big 'THANK YOU!' to all of his valued customers over the past eight years.

John and Joan also would like to wish David and Anita Hammond all the very best in their new venture.

The new telephone number for Valency Taxis is 01840 211 702

Sadly, just before the Blowhole went to the printers, John passed away, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Our sympathies go to his family.

Boscastle

Pantomime

It is hoped to hold a Pantomime in the Village Hall next winter with the help of local 'talent'. There will be a meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 29th March at 7.30pm. Please come along if you are willing to help in any way, either on stage or behind the scenes.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to have more information, please phone Carole Flower on (01840) 250558.

Carn Awn Singers

The Singers are practising for concerts & new items are being added to the repertoire. If you are planning a concert or would like further information, please contact Jane Sadleir on 01840 213796

Bowthick Tip

After months of uncertainty Cornwall County Council bowed to public pressure and announced that Bowthick Recycling Centre would not be closed.

The facility will be open on Saturdays and Sundays as well as two further days during the week. On 14th March 2007 the County Council Executive will decide on which two days. The new arrangements will come into force on 1st April. It is guaranteed that the tip will remain open for three years with the situation being reviewed every year.

Chamber Goes For Broke!



Making money is second nature to members of Boscastle's Chamber of Trade and Commerce - so it was quite a shock to see so many losing their shirts during their belated Christmas celebrations.

More than 30 members of the Chamber got together for a night of food and flutters at the Wellington Hotel - but real gambling was strictly prohibited. Party-goers were each given 20,000 chips to play with by organisers of the Fun Casino Night. Then the gamblers had to choose whether to try their skill

at cards with Black Jack or simply take pot luck on the roulette table.

Two star performers did strike it lucky on the wheel of fortune. Anna Whitsed from the Bottreux Hotel ended the night five times up on her stake with more than 100,000 in chips. And John Wakelin from Westerings more than doubled his original handout.

They may be the cream of Boscastle's business brains, but with most losing the lot in no time it seems the message is "Don't give up the day jobs".

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Staff and supporters at the Visitor Centre Opening

Copyright photos courtesy David Flower

Visitor Centre

The new £200,000 Boscastle Visitor Centre opened its doors just before last Christmas two and a half years after the original building was devastated by

the flood. Part of the new facility will be developed as a local history resource room and there is an Internet access point as well as toilets available to the public.



Volunteer Mrs Folley with Arthur Bannister

Copyright photos courtesy David Flower

Get Well Soon

Unfortunately there is no Pickwick Papers in this edition of the Blowhole, due to ill health of the esteemed author. We wish him a speedy recovery and return to the pen.



CLIC & Children's Hospice SW

Annual Coffee Morning, Friday, March 16th at Sports & Recreation Centre. 10.30 - 12 Cakes & Bring & Buy. Donations to Village Hall

ART EXHIBITION

'IMAGES OF CORNWALL'

Cornish Landscapes by a Variety of Local Artists including the Boscastle Art Group

St Kew Parish Hall (by the Church)

2nd - 8th April
10am onwards

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TV Documentary

A researcher contacted the Parish Council via the website, www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk and asked for help in publicising an upcoming series - see below, also the full email, on page 35.

Are you a fun, outgoing family?

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Food & Craft Festival 2007 Cancelled

The Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce have, following a members meeting on 7th February, regretfully decided not to hold the Food Arts and Craft Festival in the Car Park this year.

The members felt that:-

- It is more important for the village to have the works completed, as planned, than hold the festival in the car park.
- By keeping the car park designated work period clear, this will alleviate any delays in completion of the works.

After the success of the Festival, during the last two years, the decision to cancel this year's event was not taken lightly.

The chambers' overriding concern is to ensure the car park is finished, as planned, for the village.

Adrian Prescott,
Chairperson of the
Boscastle Chamber of
Trade and Commerce

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Jane's Lawn

Building on last year's success, the lovely Jane Castling will again be allowing the village to enjoy the use of her lawn in front of Valency House.

Both Boscastle Primary School and the Combined Churches held splendid fund raising events during that glorious summer. In addition half a dozen other charities raised considerable amounts of dosh in friendly and attractive surroundings. Do good and feel good, what more can one want?

As before a selection of charities will all benefit from Jane's kindness. The figures that follow indicate the sums that were given to each charity by stall holders and the entrance donations on their day

last year. This is in addition to the money the charity raised from its own stalls and other activities.

- Air Ambulance (£230)
- RSPCA (£320)
- Macmillan Trust and Marie Curie (£250)
- Coastwatch (£235)
- Children's Hospice Southwest ((£362)
- Castle Goff Cat Rescue (£275)
- Merlin Project (£538).

Kick off Whit Sunday, May 27th. Please do come and support these fun fund raising events.

This year there will also be a fund raising event for an important new charity, the Tsunami Appeal, whose work continues.

Ten Years ago in the Blowhole



Music Hall

The Blowhole produced a splendid, full colour centre spread to celebrate Boscastle's first music hall. The audience was taken back to 1897 and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year. Twenty-eight talented artists backed up by a team of almost as many backstage and front of house.

WI Centenary

Gale force winds failed to dampen the spirits of those who gathered at Lesnewth Church to celebrate the centenary of the WI. In her address June Swanson said that the movement was concerned with much more than jam and Jerusalem. She outlined the history of the WI illustrating the

contribution made to the emancipation of women and to society in general.

10yrs

Whilst Ivor and Vera Bright retired and put their feet up Ron and Moira Hart climbed Lesnewth Church tower.

Chestnut steps

No agreement has been reached on who is responsible for the maintenance of the culvert by the side of Chestnut Steps.

B3266

Due to government limits on spending the B3266 road from Boscastle to Camelford Station is still not gritted in spite of the fact that it is often icy and that school buses use the route

Home farm

The National Trust confirmed that it was their intention to purchase Home Farm. The plan was to let the farm to a local person so that traditional farming could continue. The purchase would enable the Trust to create a new footpath from Minster Church through Minster Wood. And it might be possible to link up with the knoll above the Wellington.

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Carillion Construction

Chris Rodda talks to the site manager of a firm that has become a familiar name in the village

"It started raining when we first erected the cabins in October," wryly commented Colin Mitchell, "and it has been raining ever since." From his base in a stark set of offices overlooking a sea of mud, Colin kindly granted *The Blowhole* an insight into his role as Carillion's site manager. He is a tallish young man with a pleasant manner who is in charge of the £4.6 million scheme to reconstruct Boscastle's car park and harbour area. He is keen to impress on local residents that it is Carillion's and his own personal concern that the end result of two years' of reconstruction work will be an enhanced environment for both visitors and locals to enjoy and, most importantly, additional safeguards for life and property.

There can never be a guarantee that it cannot happen again, but the 2004 flood was a once-in-four-

hundred freak of nature. Present flood defences will, it is calculated, be sufficient to save the village in an incident which could happen only once in seventy five years.

Colin joined Mowlem plc twenty three years ago, straight after taking a degree in civil engineering at the University of London. He remained with the company after it was absorbed by Carillion last year, when it expanded its business into the South West. He commutes daily from his home in Newton Abbott to be at his desk by eight in the morning, and rarely leaves before 6.30pm or later. Understandably he works long days to ensure that the separate and sometimes conflicting demands of the Environmental Agency, the District and County Council, South West Water, the National Trust and other agencies are kept in balance.

Most recently the proposal to create an overspill car park at Penally Hill was abandoned, to the relief of many. Instead the present car parking spaces opposite the Cobweb will

be reinstated by Easter, as well as the "green" parking area in the Valency valley. Together they will add up to the 240 spaces required by NCDC. While not completely layered, the tarmac will be roughly half as thick as the final version. The ramps to that part of the park will gently lift traffic to a new height of a maximum 1.5 metres above present levels.

The overflow car park will be reinforced by a plastic honeycomb product which allows grass to seed and grow through, while forming a tough covering to the subsoil. The final appearance should be that of a pleasant meadow, in use (again, hopefully) for only part of the year. Spread with grittings or gravel the same product will support the entrance roadways to the area.



Site Manager Colin Mitchell

Conscious of time and space constraints, Carillion's work will continue throughout the summer along the Valency banks, and raise the section of car parking adjacent to the shopping precinct. By the end of May the new public toilets by the main entrance should be open for use. The visible signs of work deepening and widening the Valency will be screened by hoardings alongside the river, and similarly construction work in the harbour area.

At present the two enormous holes which will house the pumping stations for South West Water's proposed new



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Carillion Construction *continued*

sewage scheme will be capped with concrete covers. Before Easter pipework and power cables will be laid, and tarmaced over so the impact on traditional perambulations by visitors down each side of the harbour will be minimised. It is hoped that quite interesting and low-key building work in local materials, providing a retaining wall to the harbour side can continue.

No need to comment that the weather has caused continual problems. When the subsoil beneath the car park was tested last summer, prior to construction work beginning, after a long dry summer, it was revealed that, mixed with gravel, it contained a normally acceptable silt "fines" content. However, continuous rain over the past months, apart from making any progress slower and more cumbersome, has soaked the ground to the extent that simply compressing it in order

to lay a foundation for a tarmac covering has proved impractical. Aggregate has had to be imported from the Goonvean clay pit outside St Austell, meeting the twin objectives of providing a solid sub-strata and putting otherwise waste material to a good use.

Widening and deepening the river by an average one metre has tested the mettle of the construction team. Getting the depth right, with the right contours, working in up to a foot of swift flowing water, sometimes a torrent, is not easy, especially as the underlying bedrock is proving extremely hard and intractable. It is not simply a matter of cutting a straight groove. The natural appearance of the river bed and banks must meet the Environmental Agency's exacting standards. While the water capacity of the river is thus increased, new pools are being dug out alongside the channel to create quiet backwaters for fish and water fowl to



Operations Centre

breed. Widening the river has meant the creation of sloping banks leading down to the central channel, which in time will grow over with native species of vegetation.

Today's mantra is to be environmentally friendly. To this end there will be additional tree screening of the car park from the properties that adjoin it, and planting along the new river walk.

Some of the flood build up in 2004 was caused by fallen and broken trees jamming the Valency higher up, and to prevent a repetition the Environment Agency is co-operating with local landowners in a tree maintenance scheme to remove aged trees and clear scrub land.

In 2004 some eighty cars were washed into

the harbour. Quite an ingenious system of flexible and solid bollards has been devised to allow excess river water overflow into the car park and exit via the roadway, but keep the cars inside the park, should the 1 in 75 year flood event be exceeded.

The whole project should be over by March next year. As I left the warm confines of The Cabin the wind howled down the valley. As I walked along the waterlogged path to the car park I mentally took my hat off to Colin and his team, still labouring into the dark. Suddenly, as if to support this contention, it blew off, up high and away into Minster Wood. If anyone finds a brown, canvas bush hat, much loved, there is a bottle of red plonk to reward its finder!

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Forrabury and Minster Parish Council meet in the Village Hall and members of the public are invited to attend. Public participation is at 7 pm before the meeting starts. Meetings have now been scheduled to take place on the second Thursday of each month.

Council Elections will be held in May - see back page for information about becoming a councillor

Temporary Car Park

A Planning application by the Environment Agency for a temporary car park with new access from the highway aroused much interest from the public. Members of the public expressed concern about the destruction of a historic wall, pedestrian safety walking to and from the village and traffic congestion. The Council rejected the proposal on the basis of 1. Historic

hedgerow destruction. 2. Traffic gridlock. 3. Unsafe pedestrian access. There were 4 votes in favour of rejection, 2 against, with one Cllr declaring a prejudicial interest.

South West Water

Graham King reported to the meeting of 25th January that DEFRA had refused permission for the sewage treatment works at Bossiney. The Tintagel application has yet to be announced. He further reported that SWW plan to jet clean the sewage pipes in the harbour. This will cause disruption while the work is being carried out.

Playing Field

There is to be a legal agreement drawn up between the Parish Council and the Football club for use of the land. The play equipment will soon be chosen in consultation with the National Trust. The

cost of this equipment is expected to be in the region of £35,000 - £40,000 and it is hoped that it will be installed shortly after Easter. Cllr Findlay is arranging for fencing to be erected around the site and would welcome volunteers to assist with the work.

Bus Shelter

No decision has been made, but it is expected that the cost of a shelter would be in the region of £2,000.

Re-cycling

Cllr Comber emphasised that re-cycling should not be put out too early and that care should be taken to place items in the correct bags. She also asked that any spillages from the collection lorries should be reported to NCDC. enforcement will take place.

Bowthick Tip

County Councillor Glenton Brown reported that the Bowthick Tip was to remain open for the next three years for four days each week. It would be open on Saturdays and Sundays and two other days yet to be decided. He was delighted with the outcome, which resulted

from considerable public opposition to the proposal to close this facility.

Telephone Box

At the February meeting it was agreed that a modern telephone under a cowl should be installed into the wall of the Gateway building

Lower Bridge

There is to be a public meeting to present the new plans for the lower bridge in the near future.

Public Participation

1 SWW – sewage

Dr Alex Stewart has received a letter from SWW admitting that there are faults in the sewage system going down through the village. The letter also said that any future planning should ensure that there is no increase in the flows should enter the network as a result.

2 Car Parking

It was pointed out to council members that residents in Tintagel are able to park in NCDC car parks for 30 minutes free of charge. The council were asked if they would support the same concession for Boscastle residents once the car park work is completed.

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Local Government Reform has moved on quite a bit since the last issue of the Blowhole. In January, the County Council voted to put in a bid to the Government to become a Unitary Authority. This would mean the end of District Councils and one overall authority for Cornwall. Four of the Districts also put in a bid for a different type of Unitary. North Cornwall did not support either of these bids, as the Councillors felt that this was not the best way forward for Cornwall.

We felt that services to this area would be badly affected, and that services here would lose out to the more populated parts of Cornwall. There would almost certainly be financial savings with both of the bids, but this

would be from job losses, and NCDC feels that by working together more effectively savings can still be achieved without the loss of service provision.

One of the ideas behind the Government's thinking is to pass more responsibilities to Parish and Town Councils. I am supportive of this, but only if that is what people locally want and only if the professional back up is there, and this will come at a high financial cost. The County bid is based on 82 Councillors for the whole of Cornwall, which will mean an enormous work load for each Councillor, and far less contact for the electorate. It will also drastically limit the number of people who can stand for election, as it will be at least a full time job.

The County plan involves dividing Cornwall into 16 area networks, and the plan at present is for the Valency ward to be split (again!!) with Boscastle and Trevalga as part of the Camelford and Tintagel area, and St.

Juliot, Lesnewth and St. Gennys as part of the Bude area. These areas will have the power to make local decisions but I am worried that they will be too small to have much impact, and that the rural parishes will be disadvantaged.

I did not vote for the County bid, as I am not at all happy with the way I think it will affect the

people I represent. If, however the Government decide that it should be accepted, which is by no means certain, I will work as hard as possible to ensure there is the best outcome for the local area and its people.

Janey Comber

01840 230 497

jcomber@ncdc.gov.uk

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“I Can't Go Anywhere Without It”

Barry Morgan, 71, was diagnosed with MS 17 years ago, although he had had symptoms long before that. A widower, he lives on his own in Tintagel. When Barry couldn't find a mobility scooter to suit his needs, he designed one himself.

They do say that necessity is the mother of invention, and that is why Barry Morgan invented his lightweight trike and car hoist.

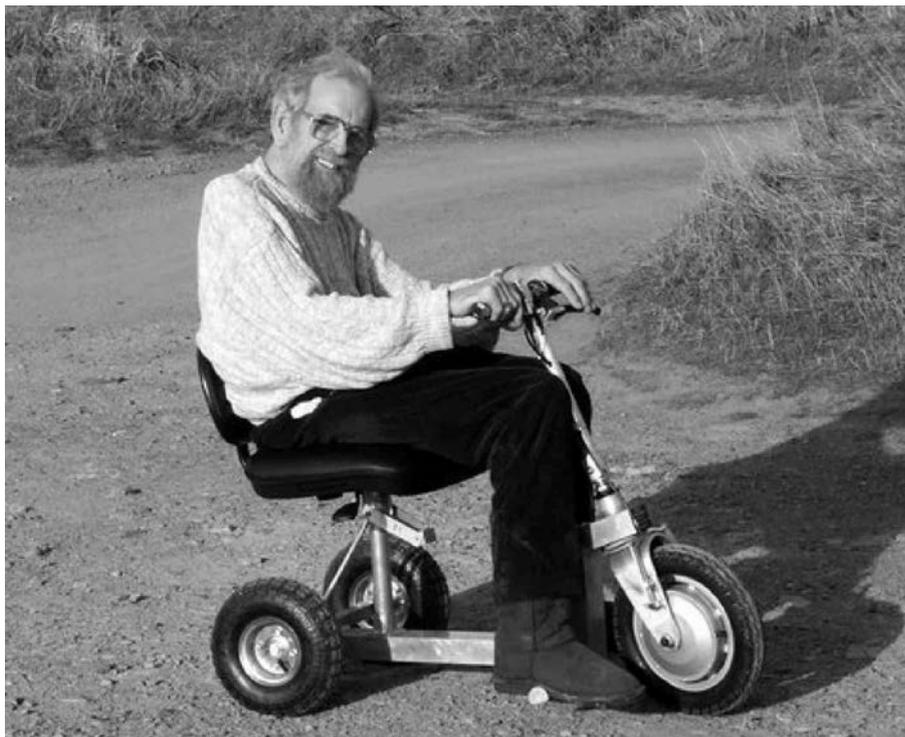
You would think that with so many scooters of every size and weight, on the market, every niche had been catered for? Not so, says Barry. “That's the crux of it – there was nothing for my particular situation. I can't walk, I can't stand, I am pretty well knackered. But I want my independence and to be able to do things on my own. I don't need any help with this trike.”

“I needed a trike that didn't need to be dismantled and that could be hoisted on to the roof rack of a car. There wasn't anything exactly like that, so I invented one. I've looked at many other scooters, but none of them suited my purpose.”

Barry has come up with a smart-looking three-wheeler in aluminium. The battery is built into the chassis, and the only thing that dismantles is the seat. He has also designed a hoist which lifts the trike up to the roof rack, and down again at the touch of a button. Everything can easily be done by one disabled person.

“It's very easy,” says Barry. “You just park the trike close to your car, take off the seat and put it on the passenger seat of the car. The rest of the trike all stays in one piece, though the steering column folds down. The electric winch latches on to the trike and hauls it up to the top of the car.”

The trike, called the Morgan Independence, is hardy enough to withstand wind and rain, and the battery is completely protected from



Barry Morgan, mobile thanks to his invention, the Morgan Independence

the elements because it is housed inside the waterproof chassis.

The trike had to be made light enough to go on his previous car, a Nissan Micra. He now drives a Toyota Yaris. The trike weighs just 18 kg with the seat off, and the hoist weighs 10kg. The speed is variable from 4mph for pavement use, and 6.5mph unrestricted. It can go for 10 miles on one battery charge in flat conditions.

Barry and his business partner John Hopkins have just begun selling their new trikes and hoists from Hopkins Morgan Mobility Systems Ltd, the business they have set up in Boscastle.

Trained as an electronics engineer and physicist, Barry still works as an engineer in the oil industry, working from his home in Tintagel.

“I can't go anywhere without the trike”, says Barry. “I use it for shopping, going to the pub, visiting the harbour – anywhere. If you want to be sociable, the trike also features a hydraulic seat which will

raise you up 4 to 5 inches when you're stationary.”

To find out more information about the Morgan Independence, battery powered trike and hoist mobility system:

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Boscastle & Crackington Gig Club

Despite global warming doing its best this winter to keep us off the sea circuit training has continued every Monday and Thursday evening. That said, since Christmas, we have been able to go out at least half a dozen times, launching from Rock to take advantage of more sheltered conditions. We can't wait for the warm summer evening launches from Boscastle, which we all enjoyed so much last year.

Meanwhile, thanks to the generous loan of a large dry barn, Torrent has been undergoing an overhaul. The summer took its toll with the odd scrape etc but thanks to a gentle rub down and paint and varnish, she is looking as good as new and now it's Rival's turn!

As March arrives our thoughts are inevitably turning to the racing season and particularly the World Championship on the Scillies over the May Bank Holiday. Our rapidly growing membership means that we shall be taking both gigs and entering 6 crews, Men's A&B, Ladies' A&B plus a Ladies' & Men's Veterans crew.

Whether our men will be able to match last year's success will be a challenge, but having so many members racing and available throughout the season should help our build up towards the end of season County Championships.

Our third AGM was held on Friday, March 23rd at Boscastle Village Hall, when a new Executive Committee was elected:

Mike Stickney, Chairman/Communications; Peter Feehan, Vice Chairman/Men's Rowing Captain; Steve Higgins, Secretary/Membership; Maureen Connelly-Webster Treasurer; Jane Anderson, Health & Safety; Sarah Jones, Ladies' Rowing Captain; Doug Halse, Equipment/Training; Jim Connelly-Webster, Welfare/Premises

Members present at the AGM voted to increase membership fees for 2007/8 to £30 for individual rowing members and £60 for Family membership, with all other fees remaining the same, however members renewing before 31st March 2007 will be charged at the 2006/7 levels.

Finally, thanks go to the following members who guided us through the difficult and formative years of the club: Chris Ingram, Charlie Tippet, David Wade, Andy Jones, Jack Penfound, Alan Zoefig, Stephen Oliver.

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17 th March: Atlantic Highway	5 th May: The Big Three
24 th March: Brian T Williams	12 th May: Johnny Cowling
31 st March: Blue Slate	19 th May: Jailhouse
7 th April: To be arrange	26 th May: Brian T Williams
14 th April: Whiskey Thieves	2 nd June: Inside Out
21 st April: Flamingos	9 th June: Atlantic Highway
28 rd April: Festive Road	16 th June: Memphis
	23 rd June: Whiskey Thieves



Church and Chapel



Easter message from Rev Chris Musser

As I write this, we have just begun the season of Lent, that period of 6 weeks leading up to Easter when traditionally many people 'give up' something they like, something usually seen as bad for us, like smoking, chocolate or beer, with the required level of guilt if one errs and succumbs to temptation before Lent is over.

Lent has come to be understood as a time to focus on SIN; a word not much used these days, and GUILT; maybe a word that is over used, living as we do in a society that indulges in witch hunts for any and every occurrence; someone must be accountable for every mishap! To those two companions add in the expected PUNISHMENT, heavenly thunderbolts or eternal fire and brimstone, and no wonder Christianity came to be seen as a somewhat joyless religion!

Strange really, when you think that the chap who started it all, Jesus, was definitely into joyful living! It's clear from the gospel stories that he enjoyed a good party, and that his whole focus was about releasing people from whatever burdens they were carrying so that they could live life to the full, whether those burdens were sickness, disease, exclusion, oppression, poverty or man-made rules.

The word for sin in the original New Testament Greek is literally translated as 'missing the mark'. To me, 'missing' something means that I've lost out somewhere; what we miss when we 'sin' is the mark of God in us, we've missed the chance to be as like God as we have the potential to be; we are the losers as well as those we've 'sinned' against.

The month of March this year sees the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act; the Act that was passed to finally end the forced transportation

of Africans to the British Colonies and the Americas.

While it is not possible to say that the transporters suffered as much as the transported, it is surely the case that our involvement in such oppression demeaned us to the extent that we still carry the shame, both as nation and church, that we profited from such human misery for so long.

It is also undoubtedly true that slavery still exists today, in many forms. Perhaps our involvement is not so obvious as 200 years ago, but we in the West do still profit from human misery in other places.

The traditional foci of Lent; fasting, almsgiving and prayer can help us to right some of those wrongs.

Fasting: giving up those things that have been produced at someone else's expense; - ask the questions: why are those jeans/ that coffee/ chocolate etc. so cheap? What age are the workers that produced them, and under what conditions do they work?

Almsgiving: giving not only money to help the poor, but giving time to campaign for justice.

Prayer: getting closer to God to help us realise how and where we are 'missing the mark'.

All of humanity is demeaned as long as some profit through the oppression of others, we continue to 'miss the mark' of our potential to be like God.

Jesus' concern to overthrow all that oppressed and caused suffering led to his ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Our following his example may mean some sacrifice of the way we have become used to living, but could ultimately lead to a fantastic re-birth of possibility for all humankind.

A blessed and joyous Easter to you all.

Rev'd Chris Musser

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 5th April: Holy Communion service at 8pm at Lesnewth Church

Good Friday 6th April: 3 hour meditation from 12 noon – 3pm at Forrabury Church. This is broken down into half hour sessions, starting on the hour and half hours. Everyone is welcome to join us for as long as they wish.

Holy Saturday 7th April: Easter Vigil with Holy Communion 7.30pm at Otterham Church

Easter Sunday 8th April: Dawn service at the Coastal Lookout at 6am. Everyone welcome, and to join us for breakfast at the Rectory afterwards.

9am Holy Communion at Lesnewth Church

9.45am Holy Communion at St.Juliot Church

10.45am Holy Communion at Minster Church

11.30am Holy Communion at Trevalga Church

3.00pm Holy Communion at Davidstow Church.

Easter eggs for children at all Easter Day services.



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Easter message from Rev Bryan Ede

Some people are given some fascinating jobs to do occasionally. In one of the books, which I regularly use, there is a chart, which shows the date of Easter Sunday and other special days in the Christian Calendar until the year 2025. Someone had to sit down with a Calendar of the phases of the moon to be able to compile the chart, and the information produced has significance for Church Celebrations and holiday seasons across a large part of the world. The chart fascinates me for two reasons one of which is personal.

Sue and I were married on the Saturday of the Easter Weekend, officially we should call it Holy Saturday, 40 years ago this year. Holy Saturday was on March 25th in that year. In the 40 years that have elapsed, March 25th has not coincided with Holy Saturday since, nor does it before the year 2025 (that is as far as the chart goes). We just find it fascinating that right through until we both reach the age of 80 our Wedding Anniversary will not be on Easter Saturday (or Holy Saturday).

The other fascinating fact is, of course, that we are able to work out when Easter falls so far ahead because of the reliability of the cycles of the Moon. Our Easter Celebration weekends always coincide with the Celebration of the Jewish Passover, which are days around which the arrest, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus took place at that first Easter. The Jewish Passover is not the only religious festival that is dependent on the phases of the moon the Muslim Festival of Ramadan is as well. The phases, or cycles, of the moon remind us of the order, which is at the heart of our chaotic world and speaks to me of the creating power and mind, which inspired Creation – the power of God.

Most of us appreciate the creation cycle that brings new life and colour to our gardens and hedgerows after

the barrenness of the winter months. Just think of the colours that we anticipate as snowdrops, daffodils, primroses, crocuses and camellias come into bloom – colours which we shall have around us at Easter.

Easter is hopefully a time for remembering, celebrating and pondering for all of us. We remember the stories associated with the cruel death of Jesus, which he faced courageously, and his rising from death on that first Easter morning. Through our remembering we celebrate that all of this happened because of God's love for us and his wish to open to us the 'heavenly way' of experiencing life within the span of eternity – an experience of looking at life in a 'New Way' or 'renewal living'. As we remember and celebrate we can only ponder what it really means for us. For us it is experiencing the reliability of God and his power and his bringing some order and meaning to the chaos of our lives – God's creative power available to us.

Easter is an Anniversary – a milestone in life. At every milestone in our life's journeying we look back on the journey but hopefully look forward as well – hopefully as animated about the future as we are of the past.

We wish you every blessing for a joyous Easter.

Bryan & Sue Ede

Methodist Chapel:

*Rev Bryan Ede,
The Manse
Tintagel
Tel: 01840 770274*

Church of England:

*Rev Christine Musser
The Rectory
Forrabury, Boscastle
Tel: 01840 250359*

Roman Catholic Church:

*Fr Storey
St Paul's Church, Tintagel
Tel: 01840 770663*

*Quakers meet each Sunday at
10.30am in the John Betjeman
Centre, Wadebridge*

Everyone is invited to share in the events and activities associated with our Methodist Church in Boscastle. These include:

Thursday March 29th 10.30 – 12noon:

COFFEE MORNING at the Methodist Church

GOOD FRIDAY April 6th 8.30am:
Service with Holy Communion

EASTER SUNDAY April 8th 11am:
Easter Morning Service

You are also invited to join in THE SUNRISE SERVICE at CONDOLDEN BEACON at 6.30am with Breakfast at Tintagel Methodist Church to follow.

Saturday, June 9th 2.30pm FETE in the Methodist Church Grounds

Methodist Church:

Sunday services at 11am

Forrabury Church

1st & 3rd Sunday each month:
10am, Morning Worship.

2nd & 4th Sunday each month: 10am
Family Communion.

1st Sunday each month:
'Together@3', Family Service

St. Juliot Church

2nd & 4th Sunday each month: 3pm
Holy Communion

3rd Sunday each month:
10am Mattins

Davidstow Church:

2nd & 4th Sunday each month:
11.30am Holy Communion

Lesnewth Church:

1st & 3rd Sunday each month:
10am Family Holy Communion

2nd Sundays: 9am Said Prayer Book
Communion

Otterham Church:

1st Sunday each month:
11.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday each month:
3pm Holy Communion

4th Sunday Each Month:
11.30am Morning Worship

Trevalga Church:

3rd Sunday each month:
11.30am Holy Communion

1st & 2nd Sunday each month:
11.30am Mattins

DOREEN HANCOCK 1916 - 2006

Doreen Margaret Hancock was born at Moon's Park, St Teath in June 1916 and moved to Boscastle at a very young age.

Her family were the first to move into the new council houses at Cambeak and she received her education at Camelford Grammar School. Her early working life was at the Castle Hotel, Tintagel and then for Dan Ferrett at his Bridge store. She had her first son, John on a very snowy day in January 1946 and her second son, Peter in February 1961.

Doreen was a very talented musician and took part in various music festivals. She was the choirmaster for the WI and an accompanist for the Tintagel Orpheus Choir. She was both a chapel and church organist and her love of music saw her play the organ or the piano whenever required and she did this until quite recently. Doreen loved to get involved with every aspect of village life, whether it was the WI, coffee mornings, whist drives, football or the cricket clubs, Doreen was there making her contribution. Wherever she was she would make everyone welcome, young or old, local or newcomer, all were made welcome and this earned her a great deal of love and respect. Her support for Boscastle football team spanned many years and she would be seen on match days serving refreshments from the hatch, with the sugar pot in hand, giving everyone a welcoming smile and a word of encouragement. She became a second mother to all the players and to every footballer who put on a Boscastle shirt, they were known as 'my boys'.



Doreen made her home a place of welcome and she received numerous callers every day except Tuesdays which was her rest day. She would open her home as a venue for many a meeting, when a whole host of fund raising events were organised, with coffee mornings being her speciality. Whatever the organisation or charity, Doreen would always be found in a corner selling and folding raffle tickets, which was one of her favourite jobs. Until a couple of years ago, Doreen still thought she was 16, but medical problems took their toll and gradually they got worse and she died in Treliske Hospital.

The funeral service was held at Forrabury Church. The bearers were all friends from the Boscastle Football Club. Tributes during the service were given by her sons John and Peter and by Martin Pethick, who, as part of his tribute, said "If the Good Lord above is in need of a good, honest and caring lady to help organise a coffee morning or run a raffle, then she's on her way!"

Rev Christine Musser began her tribute by saying "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. For Doreen had seen seasons and changes, joys and sorrows and throughout all this she had been sustained by her great faith in God and her knowledge that God was with her every step of the way. We are privileged, to have witnessed such a faith and should rejoice with her, for just as winter does not have the last word and spring will follow, so death does not have the last word either. For Doreen, the seasons have rolled by and the time has come for this great lady to make her journey from this world to the next. And she goes with the love and gratitude for all that she has done, given and shared with us."

Rev Chris described Doreen as an important figure in the doings of Boscastle for many years. "Soon after arriving in the village I was told I should go and meet her. It was a bit daunting really, I felt a little like being checked out by the boss. But, I needn't have worried, for she was delighted to meet me and was very friendly and welcoming, as she always was to everyone. It was always a pleasure to go and see her and to be greeted by that lovely smile and to hear something more about Boscastle and its people and it is as Brett said 'that she wasn't just friendly and welcoming, she had a way of making him feel welcome too that we belonged here'. He was right, she did. A few of us decided to get together to learn some of the traditional Cornish carols - where better to meet than Doreen's house. Doreen and Brett made a good team, teaching us lesser mortals the subtlety of the harmonies and the proper 'vitty' way these carols should be sung. She was part of the cycle of Boscastle."



**New Year
New Beginnings**

Having mourned the loss of two special, long standing members, Doreen Hancock (pianist), fondly thought of and as yet no one with her musical talents has been found to replace her; and June Swanson "Mrs Boscastle WI". A dedicated and active WI member over a great number of years, who was known for her forthright manner, dedication for "getting the job done" and also for her great kindness; members now needed to look forward.

The first speaker of the year was Ivor Bowditch of Imerys Minerals Ltd., who had worked in the China Clay industry for 40 years, starting his career, as a "mine captain and moving on to middle management. He talked with great authority on the history, processes and uses of china clay. The clay was first discovered near Helston at Tregonning Hill, by a Plymouth chemist, William Cookworthy. Mr Bowditch explained how the clay was used in the English porcelain industry and how Cornish clay had been supplied to the Staffordshire potteries such as Wedgwood, Spode and Minton. He outlined, with the use of slides, how vast improvements to mechanisation over the years have greatly speeded up the process of extraction and processing. Mr Bowditch said that the war years had brought about the successful production of aggregates for roadwork and the manufacture of Industrialised Prefabricated Cornish Unit Houses and that in 1990 there had been a change in ethos with the emphasis moving toward the chemical industry. Today the clay produced has a diversity of uses and is present in the manufacture of ceramics, paper, nappies, paint, sealants and adhesives, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Pointing out the effects that china clay industry has had on the Cornish landscape, with the early conical tips now replaced by flatter hills and more recently the spoil back-filled into the

old pits, Mr Bowditch said that there has been considerable regeneration carried out by Imerys, to heath lands and broad leaf woodlands. He said that whilst there are still huge reserves of china clay in Cornwall, Imerys would be transferring part of the organisation to Brazil, where per ton of clay there is only one-and-a-half to two tons of waste, making the process more commercially viable. However, the research and development side of the company will be expanded in Cornwall.

You would anticipate that in January, with Christmas still a close memory that the ladies known for "eating their way around Cornwall" would have been thinking of trimming inches off their waistlines, not so. The Eagle Hotel, Launceston, was the venue for the Spring County Lunch, where the dedicated team of "eaters" were able to forget the wet, miserable January weather for or a while to enjoy a hearty lunch, and network with other WI members.

With every New Year comes the February election of a new committee and president. The outgoing president Jill Clark, having first presided over the monthly business, announcements and annual proceedings, was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the members, as an expression of thanks and appreciation for her efforts over the last 3 years.

It was good news from the treasurer, who was happy to report a healthy bank balance.

The secretary gave a full and well reported account of the varied and interesting excursions and speakers for the year.

County Advisor Cathy Reed was on hand to offer advice and assist with the election of a new committee and President. What at first promised to be a difficult process, miraculously reached a prompt, satisfactory conclusion with nine committee members appointed and Edith Gomoll agreeing to accept the Presidency for 2007/2008.

Mary Shepherd gained most points during the year for the monthly competitions and flower of the month

continued on page 17



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WHAT COULD WE WRITE ABOUT?

Mary Shepherd mulls over possible articles for the Blowhole. Apologies to Mary for the gremlins who deviously chopped out an important portion of a piece she wrote for last Blowhole.

Could we write about the weather? How it has been one of the warmest Springs on record so far - which is pretty hard to believe with the amount of rain that has already fallen and as yet doesn't appear to know when to stop.

A conversation overheard between two gentlemen gardeners last week went a bit like this:

1st gentleman "I just don't know when we're goin' to catch up."

2nd gentleman "I know what you mean, tis a bloomin' nuisance, the hedges need cutting back, the grass needs mowing and tis too wet to go anywhere near the vegetable plot."

It seemed that their conversation just about summed up their frustration and that of many other fellow gardeners. Having said that, even with all the bad weather, the snowdrops and daffodils have managed

to bloom, the camellias are a picture and the hellebores and primroses are as delicate as ever. Always assuming that the birds leave the primrose heads on!

Or could we write about the NHS. How it would seem, that there are doctors and nurses in plenty, but no funds to pay for them, resulting in the closure of hospital wards. How infection in hospitals is on the increase and how there seems to be a distinct lack of dentists.

We could however, write about recycling! Do you save all those plastic bottles, paper and tin cans for recycling and then get frustrated about the bits that are not acceptable? Things like the bottle tops, plastic food containers and carrier bags.

There is always "global warming" to write about. If everyone stayed at home,

didn't heat their food, lived on salad and only bathed in the summer, (assuming there is no water shortage), would the planet then be saved?

Let's not forget the subject of car parks and park and ride. Should you be lucky enough to find a parking space, will the ticket machine be working? If it is, how far away is the ATM machine to supply you with sufficient funds to pay? There again, if you should opt for an out-of-town park and ride which takes you on the scenic route ... through the local residential area, how are you then going to get the pushchair, 2 children, the dog, an ornamental tree, 2 bags of food shopping and the dry cleaning on the bus?

But of course last but not least we could always write about housing development and "The Planning Department". How the voice of the many is supposedly listened to by the few, but somehow, strangely, the prevailing view is that of the few.

Well after all that we couldn't think of a thing to write about, but perhaps you have got some good ideas!

MW

Air Ambulance Charity Shop, Delabole

Opening times for the shop are displayed on the door but are, of course, subject to the availability of volunteers.

During January a successful sale took place to try and make some space on the rails for Spring, although at the time of writing this we seem to be back to Winter, However as someone recently remarked we do get the four seasons but sometimes all in one day!

Sales and donations in January totalled £1123.10 gross, this included the following: £150 received from Mr. and Mrs. Moffat of Boscastle; £80 received from an anonymous donor. We would like to thank them for their generous donations

The last few weeks have been a very sad time because, as many of you know, Leo and Joyce Henderson recently passed away. They were very involved with the organising and day to day running of the Shop and will be greatly missed by the team of volunteers and customers. Our sincere condolences go to the family. JS

Jenni & Alan Sabin welcome you to The Spinning Wheel

Bridge Walk, Boscastle

Pavement Cafe & Bistro

Lunches & Daily Specials

Hot & Cold Snacks

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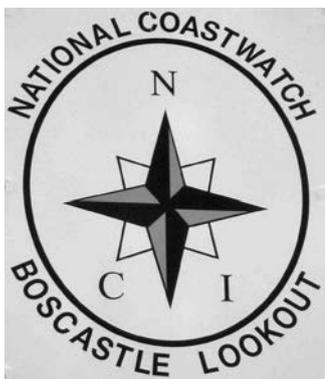
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Things have been pretty lively for Coastwatch lately and we don't just mean the excellent Christmas party at the Wellington, but rather the weather.

If you are reading this locally then you'll be as familiar with the wind and rain that we've had as we are, but you may not realise that our instruments registered a gust in excess of Force 12 on Saturday 20th January. According to the Beaufort Scale that is classed as Hurricane Force, with wind speeds in excess of 64 knots.

With breezes like that it's not surprising that we haven't seen so many walkers on the Coastal Path this winter or that we've needed to replace parts of our wind generator and wind speed instruments.

However, our volunteers have proved

to be made of sterner stuff! Four more have qualified since November, four more are nearing the end of their training and two have recently started theirs. It all helps in the long run.

At the January meeting we were presented with a cheque for £250. This magnificent sum raised by Mrs. Alyce Barber, Ray Fox's daughter who had made NCIBoscastle her chosen Charity in the Great Eastern Run. Thanks for her efforts and to everyone who sponsored her.

With Spring on the way, some would say it's been with us for a month or two already, things are going to be busier up on the cliff top.

So, if you feel you'd like to help, our Station Manager, Mike Morrell can arrange for you to visit the lookout and spend some time with an experienced watchkeeper to get feel for what is involved.

You can contact him on 01288 321384.



WI Report

continued from page 15

competitions and was presented with both cups by Cathy Reed.

With formal business done, it was time for a bit of fun and for identification skills to be put to the test. Members had each been asked to provide a photograph taken during their childhood, the identity of which was to be withheld. The anonymous photographs were displayed and the impossible task of putting a name to each face commenced. One or two were fairly straight forward, but in the main the task was unbelievably difficult, made more so by not everyone submitting a photograph and by one member submitting two!

It could be said that on the whole there has been a successful beginning, to what promises to be another good year, with members looking forward to the new calendar of events. March will commence with a visit to the Cornwall and Devon Post, followed by two visits to the Hall for Cornwall, one

for The Spring Countdown, where Dr. Paul Whittaker, will be speaking on "Music for the deaf", and the other, a visit to the Duchy Ballet's performance of Cinderella.

Boscastle WI is a small, friendly, fun-loving group of individuals who are always pleased to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining, meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Village Hall. October to March meetings start at 2 pm and April to September 7.30pm. Come along and see for yourself.

Gloria's Edinburgh Fog

Serves 6

600ml (1pt) double cream,

110g (4oz) Blanched Almonds, chopped

16-24 small Ratafia biscuits

6 tablespoons whiskey or Drambuie

2 tablespoons castor sugar

A few drops of vanilla essence

Whip cream until stiff.

Fold in sugar, whiskey and vanilla essence. Add biscuits and almonds.

Chill well before serving in individual dishes.

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WANDA LARRATT

20TH JUNE 1948 - 16TH DECEMBER 2006

Wanda was born and grew up in London. After working at different jobs there she saved enough money to go travelling to Crete. Once there she ended up living in caves above the beach, with friends including Joni Michelle. This time in Crete was a catalyst for Wanda's love of travel and song.

Once back in England she moved to Cornwall in the late 60's. Moving around the county until Boscastle became her family home in 1975.

She held music and the arts close to her heart, and could be found at most musical and theatrical events in the area. Musically talented, Wanda played the hammer dulcimer and the Appalachian dulcimer and she loved to sing – 'Maggie May' will be remembered by many as being Wanda's song.

Wanda became involved with Footsbarn Theatre Company not long after moving to Boscastle and together with her children, Quillon, Crispin and Melody, spent many years travelling throughout Europe with the Company. Wanda helped set up and run a school for the Footsbarn children, ensuring that their education continued whilst 'on the road'. One trip took them to Portugal, a country that stole her heart.

Wanda by name and a wanderer by nature, she eventually returned to



Boscastle and settled down for a bit having her fourth child Jay. She became involved once again with Boscastle playgroup - some ten years after being there with Joan Cork, and many more Boscastle mums, devoted her time to the children of the village.

Wanda stayed working with the playgroup until she was tempted down to the school by Neil Young. She worked there with the children of Boscastle she loved so much for many years, until sadly she had to leave due to ill health.

She continued to travel abroad whenever she could, visiting Australia, France, Morocco as well as frequent return visits to her beloved Portugal.

One of Wanda's great gifts was that she had a way of making people she met feel special. All those in her life were touched by her warmth and vibrant

personality. There was always a smile and a sparkle in her eye when she greeted people.

In 2006 she had her first children's book published 'Finn and the sea dragon', set in Boscastle, a place she loved dearly. It gave her great joy to see it published and that it was so well received. She was working

on a second book again set in Boscastle 'The Mazed Pigs'

Wanda passed away at home on the 16th of December after bravely battling with cancer. But she managed one last journey to Portugal with her family in the autumn of last year, allowing her once again to enjoy the sounds of sheep and cow bells, and the smell of eucalyptus trees, she loved so much.

Her funeral was held at Minster Church, Boscastle on Friday 22nd December.

It was a sad occasion, but one that will be well remembered - so many people walking, driving and flying to make it on a sunny pre-Christmas day. It was a beautiful tribute to someone so loved and deeply missed.

All of Wanda's family would like to thank everyone for their help and support.



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22 April 1814: Napoleon's Defeat

All over Cornwall they were celebrating the entrance of the Allied Army into Paris and the dethronement of Napoleon.

[Napoleon was sent to Elba, escaped and fought the Allies again at Waterloo. He was banished to St. Helena. With the return of peace, thousands of troops returned home penniless. Having no prospects many drifted into vagrancy and crime. Petty offences of all kinds were numerous and in Cornwall the authorities were too badly organised and indolent effectively to deal with the situation.]

18 Oct 1822: Tread Wheel For Bodmin

The Justices at the Quarter Sessions have ordered that a tread-wheel be immediately erected in the bridewell-yard, at Bodmin for the employment of prisoners sentenced to hard labour.

The treadmill enclosed in iron railings cost £134, each prisoner spent 3 to 5 hours every other day on it, at 50 steps a minute, many of them being ruptured, a capstan was used on intervening days for the old and the sick.

30 March 1838: Cornwall Spring Assizes

William Harding aged 15 was charged with stealing a frail or basket of William Matta, because he was once convicted of larceny he was sentenced to transportation for life. Joseph Perryman indicted for stealing a black hen from Phillip Sym, 7 yrs transportation.

19 August 1825: A Celebrated Vessel At Falmouth

The "Enterprise" a steam vessel arrived in Falmouth on her way to Calcutta with passengers. She was the first steam ship to reach India, she weighted 479 tons, 122 ft long, an



engine of 120 h.p. and made the journey in 113 days at an average speed of 6 knots. She won a 100,000 rupee prize from the Indian Government which purchased her as a ship of war.

22 August 1828: A Memorial To Wesley

Within a mile of Penzance stands a large rock on which John Wesley used to preach to thousands after prevented from doing so in the town. William Pengelly of Trannack placed a marble tablet inscribed; - "On this rock the Rev. John Wesley and others preached the Gospel of Christ from the years 1742 to 1760, W. Pengelly, 1825"

14 Jan 1831: Reform Meeting At Launceston

A public meeting was held in Launceston to petition Parliament in favour of Parliamentary reform and to extend the elective franchise, as out of 3000 inhabitants only 14 can be said to be represented.

9 Oct 1835: Married In Haste

At Lawhitton Mr. W. Lee 87 years married for the 3rd time to Miss Maria Inch 22 yrs, after which they danced to the violin in the village inn. He buried his second wife the Tuesday preceding.

25 Dec 1835: Patience

At St. Gluvias John Taylor married Anne Tredwen after a courtship of 22 years, during which time he married two others.

Lesnewth Official Rain Station

I have produced these figures for past recent winters as I understand the works in the car park flood defence scheme are apparently being hampered by rainfall. One can see quite clearly that we do have heavy rains during normal winters. Agencies like the Environment Agency do hold these figures.

In February we have a huge total of 217.5mm, that equates to something over 8 inches. This is twice the average for a February total.

All measurements in the table are in millimetres. Val Gill



Rainfall totals:

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
December		178.2	115.2	139	166.3	186.2	59.5	249.2
January	149.4	74.3	116.4	188.3	119.8	197.8	156.7	87.9
February	217.5	92.8	70.5	97.6	95.6	118.6	110.8	235.4
Annual Totals		1243.4	1269	1590.4	1152.5	1708.8	1266.3	1982

Answers to Crossword:

- Across**
 1 damson 5 denizen 10 amah
 11 orris 12 Nepal 13 pestle 15 use 16 Eric 18 fa
 19 old 20 taxi 21 abbot 23 eel 25 die 26 bloc
 27 ennu 28 lan 29 reek 31 egg 32 obtuse 36 ant
 39 oast 40 deep 41 tea 42 aerie 45 extend 47 eider
 48 tend 49 amber
- Down**
 1 dan 2 amenable 3 map 4 shamrock 5 Dresden
 6 Erse 7 nit 8 islet 9 nescent 11 opulent
 14 eradicate 17 ixia 18 fabricate 22 Boer 24 lunge
 30 around 31 esteem 33 ta 34 USA 35 empty
 37 next 38 Tate 40 deer 43 rib 44 ide 46 en

JUNE E SWANSON

1926 - 2007



June on her 80th birthday

Mrs June Swanson of Boscastle passed away at Mount Edgecumbe Hospice on January 5th, 2007 at the age of 80. June was born in Garforth, Yorkshire and spent most of her youth in Darlington, Co. Durham. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in her late teens to help with the war effort and trained as a wireless operator near Manchester. She was later stationed at Blackpool, Compton Basset and Uxbridge. She often mentioned that she could identify wireless operators by the unique way they tapped out Morse code and how tragic it was if a signal suddenly stopped. Whilst in the WAAFs she participated in several plays with Robert Hardy and she was a keen participant in theatrical productions throughout her life.

Following the war, she began supply teaching in

Darlington, and in 1948 she married fellow teacher, John Watson. Their children, Pauline and Christopher, were born in Darlington then John took up his first post as headmaster in Middleham, Wensleydale. In 1956 the family moved to Wakefield, Yorkshire and June began evening classes, completing the City and Guilds examinations in domestic science. In 1966 she obtained her teaching qualifications and taught infants in nearby Rothwell for several years.

Following the death of her first husband in 1970, June moved to Kelly near Tavistock to teach at Gunnislake Primary School. In 1978 she married retired farmer Donald Swanson. The couple settled in Boscastle and during this time they opened their beautiful garden at Treforda Water, taking donations for Cornwall Hospice Care. They had 12 wonderful years together until Don's

death in 1990. Already active in the Women's Institute, June was elected County Secretary and became a familiar face at groups throughout Cornwall. She was also the representative for Denman College for several years. She was saddened to retire at age 75, but continued as a staunch member of the Boscastle WI. Until recently she was the WI representative on the Village Hall Committee and she started the Pop-In, a weekly coffee morning open to all. She was also a member of the British Legion.

June was a dedicated church and choir member at Forrabury and her lyrical lesson readings were widely admired. She had a life-long love of poetry and everyone was entertained by her reading "When I Am An Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple" at her 80th birthday party last June. She retained her sense of humour and bright smile throughout her short stay at Trelliske followed by 3 days at the hospice she had always supported. June Swanson will be sadly missed by her family and many friends.

On January 16th Rev. Christine Musser officiated in a short service at the Glynn Valley Crematorium with family and close friends attending. Later, over 100 people gathered for a service at Forrabury to celebrate June's life. Eulogies were given by son Christopher Watson, (Northampton), daughter Pauline (Polly) Szantor, (Kuala Lumpur), and close friend, David Lamond. Others spoke of June's loyalty and commitment to a variety of causes and the choir added its voice in tribute. Family members in attendance were granddaughter Rachel Watson and step granddaughter Zoë, stepsons Graham and Jim Swanson, with their wives Joy and Karen, and Jackie Pebody. Unable to attend were grandson Tim Szantor (Calgary), stepson Michael Swanson (Calgary) and stepdaughter Loveday (West Wales), step grandchildren Nick, Will, Jim, Nicole, Edward, Emma, James, Esther and Stephen. The service was followed by a gathering hosted by Bob and Jill Clark with refreshments provided by the Boscastle Women's Institute.

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Polly wrote a special version of the Jenny Jones' 'Purple Poem', for her mother and read it as a tribute:

Now that I am gone, I will wear purple every day.

I will eat all the chocolate I desire, and cream, and butter.

I will get fat again, no longer saying, "My clothes are too big."

I will drive my car down the lanes at 50 miles an hour and all my passengers will shout, "Yippee!"

I will never worry about what others think of me, not that I ever did of course, but now I have no constraints at all. I can thumb my nose at irritating drivers and stick out my tongue at anyone who annoys me.

I will throw my stick over the railings, and that wheelie walker too. Never mind if it's someone else's garden. I will go out dancing on Saturday nights and I won't be home 'til midnight.

As for spitting, that's a skill I learned long ago, and I will challenge all my erstwhile heroes to a competition. I will win of course.

I will visit my family throughout the world with ease, just for a few minutes if I choose. I will never be an unwelcome guest.

I will always sing in tune, and if you hear your window rattling, that's probably me hitting a high note.

I will swim with the mermaids on starry, bright nights, laughing at the phosphorescent waves.

So picture me, won't you, cavorting with my beloved, trailing wisps of purple in an emerald sea. And know that I have always been my own person, and know that I have found peace.



THE NATIONAL TRUST

New beginnings

With spring arriving, the National Trust is looking forward to a busy season at its new shop next to the visitor centre. The Old Forge (the site of the previous shop) will be vacated and the Trust is looking for expressions of interest for anyone interested in running their own business from this historic building.

From Easter, three refurbished holiday flats will be available on the floors above the visitor Centre.

Plans for converting the former 'Cornish Goodies' shop into a café should go ahead this year. Currently we are seeking a building company to carry out the works. The café will be called the Pilchards Cellar café to reflect the history of the building complex.

Lower Bridge: design development

The 'design group' which includes residents, parish council, English Heritage, National Trust and the Environment Agency met last November to look at the detail of this design – a large stone bridge was dismissed as it would be too dominant for its surroundings. The favoured option was a bridge with a thinner deck with metal uprights on the edges supporting horizontal cables or tubes.

At the time of writing this design is due to be

presented at a public meeting in the near future.

Valency Valley: Management of the Catchment

The Environment Agency and National Trust have been working together to produce a management plan for the Valency Valley. A report has been produced and the findings will be presented at a parish council meeting and an abridged version of the report will be available.

Jeff Cherrington,
National Trust, Assistant
Property Manager
01288 331372
jeff.cherrington@
nationaltrust.org.uk

Easter Egg Trail

Mike Simmonds will be organising Easter Egg Trails on Thurs 5th April.

There will be two different trails for which will be in the Harbour, Coast Path and Green Cut areas. One trail will be suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and buggies. You have to follow the clues to find the answers then you can claim your Easter treat and discover more about Boscastle!

The trails start from the National Trust shop in Boscastle Harbour. Trails will take place between 11am and 3 pm. Price(s) : Children: £1.50

For further info phone
01288 331372
or email:
mike.simmonds@
nationaltrust.org.uk

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Pave Paradise and Put Up a Parking Lot?

Would it be fair to say a general air of gloom lies across Boscastle? Shopkeepers and hoteliers are sincerely hoping that the car park will be usable by Easter. Carillion and NCDC have promised they will do their best to provide 240 spaces, after backing down in the face of the protest that greeted their proposal to use Penally Field as a temporary car park.

Apart from the reputed £110,000 it would have cost to lay down some sort of hard standing, the steepness of the slope would have deterred most visitors from attempting the walk down to the village. Add in the danger to pedestrians and the destruction of thirty five metres of Cornish hedge to provide a walk way, and the whole notion appeared one conceived by accountants,

anxious to preserve car park revenue, rather than anyone committed to the wellbeing of the community. This preposterous idea now seems to be on hold, so businesses may breathe easier come April.

Following the failure of South West Water to convince the Secretary of State that the chosen site at Bossiney was suitable for a treatment plant, they must await the outcome

of the ongoing inquiry into the "real" population (including visitor numbers) of Tintagel, linked to Bossiney. SWW,

Chris Rodda spoke to Colin Mitchell from Carillion to get the contractor's view of the works (see pages 6&7).

The following pages are a collection of photos taken over the winter/early spring of 2006/2007 illustrating the residents' view of the works.



*Above left:
Open 'As Usual';
Left - rear of
Riverside
Below right
- night works at
Harbour
Right - SWW
pit outside
Harbour Terrace*





The Image of construction



Above: View of carpark from Forrabury Common; Top left, The Image of construction; Left: New footpath up the Valency Valley - the white edging strip is the reptile path, a solid barrier that is designed to prevent reptiles from entering the site; Below left: Car park works; Below: Harbour area from Forrabury Common



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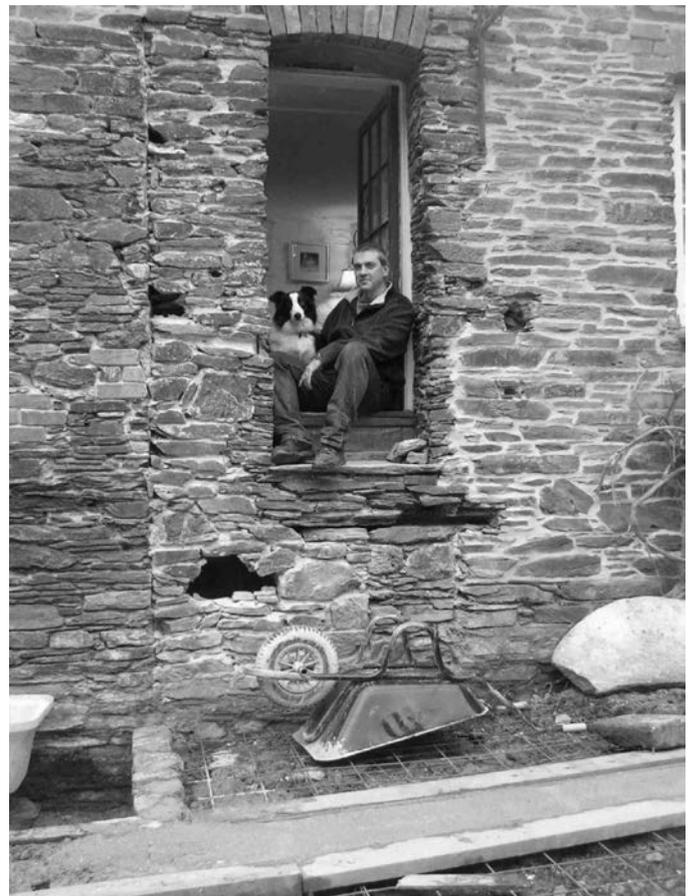
Outside the Old Mill



Hope they can build better than they can spell!



Widening the River Valency



Ian Dawson and friend survey the access from the doorstep at the Old Mill! photo by Barry Hedges



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Work in progress for SWW's pumping station at the Harbour



Above right: Wonder what the figure in the valley thinks of it all?



Left: Gary, dry thanks to the agitations of Jane Castling who could not rest easy seeing Gary & James exposed to the elements

Below: The Agencies involved



The stepping stones awash, & beyond, the peace of the valley

<p>The Team - Working to Safeguard the Environment</p> <p>Environment Agency Manley House Kestrel Way Sowton Exeter EX2 7LQ Project Manager: Philip Barlow Public Liaison Officer: Ken Adams Tel: 01872 526506 Tel: 01872 553969</p> <p>24-hour Hotline for reporting incidents Tel: 0800 807060</p>		<p>The Project</p> <p>Boscastle Flood Defence Scheme River Valency Works</p> <p>Works Include: Lowering and widening the river channel New main and overflow carparks Replacement lower bridge Catchment management strategy</p>	
<p>Design and Site Supervision</p> <p>Halcrow Ash House Falcon Road Sowton Exeter EX2 7LB Contact: Steve Dowling Tel: 07866 525592</p>		<p>Cost</p> <p>£4.5m</p>	<p>Completion</p> <p>Spring 2008</p>
<p>Cost Consultant</p> <p>EC HARRIS Compton House Pavilion 11 Harrier Way Exeter EX2 7AJ Tel: 01392 268100</p>		<p>Funding Partners</p> <p>Environment Agency NDC THE NATIONAL TRUST NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>HM Government Building for the future</p>	
<p>Contractor</p> <p>carillion Contact: Colin Mitchell 07803 263489</p>		<p>Carillon Chiltern House Sigford Road Exeter EX2 8NL</p>	



The new carpark and pathway stretches 500 metres up the valley

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Link into Learning: Computers Plus!

Anne Rodda makes the most of learning facilities provided in the village

I have been the proud, but neglectful, owner of a Laptop for some months now. Purchased thoughtfully for me by a loving spouse, ('the' not 'a' actually, I have but the one) it has remained quietly and unobtrusively in its executive-style case, just waiting to be taken on board a transatlantic flight to enable me to marshal my thoughts on my international portfolio of investments. To no avail. Gathering dust, but uncomplaining, it has been a silent, perhaps slightly reproachful, witness to the idle years of my retirement.

But now, begone thoughts of idleness and time wasting! Spurred into action by the 'Computers Plus!' flier in the window of the Post Office, so conveniently adjacent to our residence, (I have up-



Theresa, Dorothy and Hilary

graded us to a 'residence' rather than a mere 'house' on a whim), we both decided the time had come to fight the battle against incipient illiteracy, innumeracy and technophobia. So we enrolled and, like the good Silver Surfers we are, arrived ten minutes early.

I was unsurprised to find that most of the other members of the group of twelve appeared to know far more about computers than I did. Although I am sure I will climb higher mountains over the next

10 weeks, I am pleased to be able to report that I am now, after only one class, able to add to my existing portfolio of time wasting occupations of cryptic crosswords, codewords and sudoku, the entire programme of games on the computer, - raging from Freecell to Solitaire! It is also to my advantage that I have mastered the art of plugging in the machine, not before time.

We were given a short 'numeracy' test, probably in the interests of meeting one or other of the government's 'targets'. Given the relatively mature (apologies to Teresa) average age of the group and the fact that we probably all

received a decent education untarnished by bureaucratic red tape, and accompanied by the occasional jolly good thrashing, we all managed to accomplish the required adding up, taking away, multiplying and dividing without mishap or suffering severe emotional stress, requiring counselling, being excluded or getting an ASBO.

I am faintly anxious that, if I become too skilled at such a variety of complex technological tasks, I shall not be able to find the time to fit them all in to my already full day of puzzles. Week two, however, set my mind at rest: I found the Spreadsheet Formulae sufficiently challenging for

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Link into Learning continued

me not to have to worry about mastering the whole thing too quickly. I am now in a position to be able to calculate the average of pretty well anything I can reduce to a number, such as the average number of glasses of wine consumed by myself in any one week. On reflection, I am by no means certain that I can handle such large numbers, or, indeed that I have any desire to know the answer. I might feel the need to beat my own average and then, sadly, turn the answer into a bar chart, or some such thing, possibly a bubble chart, a new one to me. Tempting new horizons lie tantalisingly close. During any party I could be the life and soul by producing comparative illustrative charts of the wine consumption of all those unwise enough to attend: could this be the chance to produce a Venn diagram?

Week three gave us further opportunities to 'enter formulae', enabling us to calculate, potentially, a bewildering array of statistics. I almost feel equipped to hazard an informed guess at such

startlingly small sums as the possible value of the Zimbabwean dollar at any time over the next two days: enough to purchase a quarter of a grape, possibly, if they're going cheap. There again, this skill could come in extremely useful for predicting correspondingly large quantities, such as, perhaps, the next hike in Council Tax, possible road toll costs or surcharges on the gradually diminishing amount of luggage one may put in the hold of an aircraft.

Week four, sadly, I was obliged to miss, owing to my coach trip to Bonnie Scotland which I took with two friends: my husband magnanimously sacrificed his holiday because one of our two elderly cats was smitten with a sudden illness. (Just for background, and please skip this section if you can stand no more, we have, in cat terms, Millie, mother, aged twenty three and her one remaining kitten, Leonard, aged twenty two: it was Leonard's 'turn' on the very morning of our proposed departure which forced my husband's sacrifice. I will

just say that on my return, Leonard not only looked extremely well, but quite smug. I think he possibly attended the class in my place and now knows more than me on the formula front). My husband has been quite vague on the contents of the class: I feel that this week may find me far behind.

Nonetheless, I would recommend that anyone wishing to face up to the demon computer, should take advantage of the splendid opportunities offered by the Adult Education Service, despite the most merciless cuts in budget. The tutors, Dominic Penny and Hilary Allen are well informed, welcoming and helpful, and, most importantly, endlessly patient, even in the face of brute incomprehension and a mindlessly determined effort to get things wrong on the part of the student. I refer of course only to myself. The future of technology in



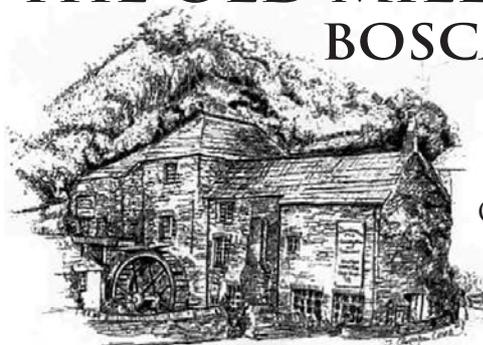
Dominic in full flow

North Cornwall is now safe in the hands of the attending students who are (in alphabetical order: no suggestion that anyone is better than anyone else) Rosemary Armer, Geoff and Shirley Barrett, Dorothy Eyre, Pauline Goldsmith, Judith Headon, Jeanne Herrington, Mike Hircok, Teresa Lloyd, Jackie Miller, Angela Pethick, Chris and Ann Rodda.

Watch out! There may be a wave of fancy posters suddenly appearing on a notice board near you; if it has a coloured chart in it somewhere, you have a list of thirteen suspects.

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COMING

HOME

By Anne Knight

Fifteen names are read out each year at the Boscastle War Memorial during the Remembrance Day service. I wonder how many people nowadays know who these people were or how big a sacrifice they made?

World War 1 (1914 – 1918) was between the Central European Powers (Germany, Austria, Hungary and their allies) and the Triple Entente (Britain and the British Empire, France and Russia). The USA entered the war in 1917. An estimated 10 million lives were lost and twice that number were wounded. It was fought on the Eastern and Western Fronts, the Middle East, Africa and at sea.

It was deemed to be the war to end all wars. It followed closely on the Boer War. The nation was almost bankrupt. Britain went to war in 1914 with a small highly trained,

experienced volunteer army. It was minute compared to other European armies. It was named “The contemptible little army” by the Kaiser. But the army was proud to call itself the ‘Old Contemptibles’. They fought against huge odds with great valour. Kitcheners call for a new volunteer army was met by huge response and no less by the countries of the empire.

We often hear today, of the generosity of the Cornish – they will do anything for you. We hear about ‘locals’ and local families and of people ‘coming home’ when in fact their families emigrated in the 17 or 1800’s! Family and roots are important to the Cornish, more important than reward or boundaries or status. It struck me when looking at those of Boscastle who died in World War 1 there

I Never Forget you Dad



*As I look at your portrait, laddie,
It always would seem to say—
“Cheer up, dear Mother, I’m doing my bit.
And we’ll meet again, someday;”
Then my old heart throbs with love and pride,
For the son who’s far away.*

WWI Postcard - Lest We Forget

were four young men who ‘came home’ from their new homes abroad to fight alongside their friends and family.

The Canadians

Among the Canadian expatriots was Private

Edwin Gard. (Service No: 426323). He was the son of John and Millicent Gard whose memorial is outside Forrabury Church door. The memorial includes Edwin “Killed in action in France. February 19 1917,



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COMING

HOME *continued*

aged 34 years". Edwin had returned from Canada to fight with the 46 Battalion of the Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan Regiment). He is buried at Villers Station Cemetery in the Pas de Calais near to the headquarters of the Canadian Corps. Many of the graves there date from the 17 April 1917 and the battle of Vimy Ridge. Thelus village, which stands on Vimy Ridge was captured by the Canadian Corps on 9 April 1917 and it remained in British hands until the end of the war. Fighting there was 22 year old Private James Olde. (Service No: 401015), the son of Mark and Mary Olde of Pillar House. He had lived there with his three brothers and three sisters. He was sent abroad to work for the Olde family in Canada and came over with the Canadian Expeditionary



Newly Erected War Memorial

Force. He fought with the 4 Battalion the Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment). He was killed on 9 April 1917 and is buried at the Bois – Carre British Cemetery, Thelus.

The Australians

Trooper Richard (Dick) Bowering (Service No: 880). Dick's mother died

when he was 10 or 11 years old and his father remarried. When he was 18 he emigrated to Australia to seek his fortune. He fought with the Australian Light Horse at Gallipoli. He was killed in action on 7 August 1915, at Lone Pine and is buried at Lone Pine Cemetery, Turkey.

Fighting alongside Dick Bowering was fellow Australian Trooper Harry Hoskin. (Service No: 897). He was also with the 8 Australian Light Horse at Gallipoli, Turkey. The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardenelles and the Black Sea, The climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on three fronts. Lone Pine was a strategically important



Remembrance Day March

plateau. It was in Turkish hands from May to July 1915 when it became known as Kanli Sirt (Bloody Ridge). On the 6 August the position was stormed by the Australian Troopers who held it until the peninsula was evacuated in December. Lone Pine Memorial commemorates both Dick Bowering and Harry Hoskin together with another 4,900 Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in the area. AK & RK

Extract from

THE BAND PLAYED WALTZING MATILDA

(written by Eric Bogle c. 1960)

How well I remember that terrible day
When blood stained the sand and the sea
And how in that hell they called Surla Bay
We were butchered like lambs at the slaughter
Johnny Turk he was ready, he primed himself well
He showered us in bullets, he rained us with shells
And in five minutes flat he'd blown us all to hell
Nearly blew us right back to Australia
But the band played Waltzing Matilda
As we stopped to bury our slain
And we buried ours and the Turks buried theirs
Then it started all over again.

With many thanks to Marion Ferrett for her work in collecting the information for this item.

COLLECTING CORNISH



Queen Mary's tin, Peace & Plenty tobacco tin and Digger pipe

People often ask, what's collectable? The answer is, whatever you are interested in and can afford, whether motorbikes or matchstick models. The question of 'worth' is entirely subjective, and given the vagaries of the market, fashion and tastes, is pretty much irrelevant.

The attraction of collectables lies in their human interest and history. One such item is known as Princess Mary's Gift Box. Princess Mary of Teck, the seventeen year old daughter of George V, was determined that, during the first Christmas of the Great War, Britain's

fighting men should not feel forgotten. By first using her own allowance and then inspiring public subscription, she raised enough money to send half a million brass tins to all troops overseas. Each contained a pipe and an ounce of tobacco, together with 20 cigarettes, a tinder lighter, a Christmas Card and a photograph. Non-smokers got presents of chocolate.

By Christmas 1914, according to the politicians, the war would be over. Every village memorial belies their misplaced optimism. In succeeding years a less jolly gift was

received by a million wives and mothers from the War Office, a round bronze plaque bearing the names of their loved ones. These soon acquired the macabre title of "Dead Men's Pennies."

The "Digger" pipe commemorates the selfless sacrifice of many thousands of Australians, from the Boer War to Vietnam, who defended the idea of the British Empire, (ironically, one that many had escaped or been transported from), in struggles which they neither caused nor benefited from the outcome.

Wildly politically incorrect now, we tend to forget what a universal panacea for troubles that smoking, and particularly pipe-smoking once was, for all classes. The small brass box featured belonged to a local miner, J.O. Ball, Penryn, 1923. It contained just

enough tobacco for a his daily puff, and its oval shape fitted neatly into a waistcoat pocket. During the years of toil, often driven hard by rapacious mine owners, the ideal of "Peace and Plenty" was one upheld by each worker who claimed union membership.

John D. McKenzie founded the Newlyn Industrial Class in 1890 to provide winter employment for local fishermen. Copper



Newlyn Copper Teacaddy

mined and smelted in the area was fashioned into an array of household items - trays, dishes, bowls and caddies - right up until the 1930s, much prized

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COLLECTING CORNISH, CONTINUED

today for not only their maritime associations, but also for a high level of craftsmanship.

Honest, well-made functional items like these have a lasting value. Many a modern kitchen boasts old fashioned scales which don't need batteries. Modern "Retro" collectables like Dualit or Alessi hark back to classic designs which seem difficult to improve upon.

Even the most mundane items display a designer's flair. Reputedly there were once up to eighteen pubs and 'kiddleywinks' in Boscastle. Each was well served by brewers like Sloggett, Langford, Rosevear and Bowering, still local families, whose finely made salt glaze flagons and pots can still be admired (and used) a century later. The term "salt glaze" incidentally, comes from the handfuls of salt flung into the baking kiln and which oxidize on contact, providing a hard



Boscastle Breweriana

glassy sheen to the stone ware. Variations in colour and pattern are caused by changes in temperature, the way the kiln is stacked, and the direction and manner in which the salt is flung.

Cornwall has always attracted artists and writers, both native and naturalized. Daphne du Maurier (of course), Denys Val Baker, Jack Clemo, John Betjeman, our own Thomas Hardy, Colin Wilson, AL Rowse, EV Thompson, Winston Graham, and most recently

the village's John Tyrrel Williams and Howard Jacobson, whose rare early works now command huge interest. While the works of the Pre-Raphaelites and Newlyn School are now beyond most people's pockets, contemporary artists like Kurt Jackson, Raymund Rogers, John

Blight and Nicholas St John Ross have built a huge reputation from relatively modest beginnings.

Come the demise of the Cornish tin industry, one of the last working pits, South Crofty, still managed to produce a memento of the Eclipse of 1999, in the shape of a map of the County, to be worn as a pin. The traditions of mining have spread with Cornishmen across the globe and perhaps most eagerly sought after by collectors interested in Cornish heritage are those brooches, featuring white and yellow gold from Africa, Alaska and Australia, in the shape of picks and shovels, which were sent back to wives and sweethearts from overseas. As so often, an expression of artless emotion produces the best-loved of artefacts.

Boscastle Pottery

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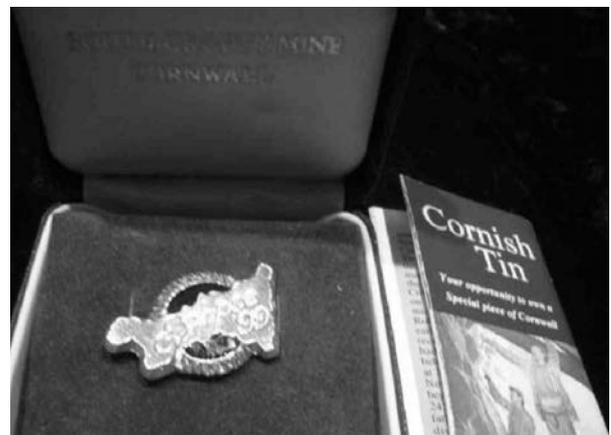


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South Crofty Mine Eclipse memento

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TRAVELLERS' TALES

Deborah & Stephen have left the delights of Paradise Road to spend a year travelling. Here is the latest installment of their adventures.

A Taste Of The Cooks

I don't need to open my eyes to know that it's warm, very warm, even at this early hour of the morning. I can hear the heat. The cockerels in their huge numbers, announce day break. Below the window, hens are scratching at the gritty soil and fussing their chicks as they rustle in the leaves behind. All around the exotic sounds of birds are singing. Palm fronds rustle in the very occasional breeze, there is a thud as a coconut hits the ground, then the sound of an Apple Cake fruit as it falls through the leaves and splats open on the ground in a huge, sticky, sugary mass. Apart from this noisiness of nature, everything is silent. I open my eyes and another blue heated, tropical, lushness awaits, again. It's getting warmer by the minute.

In my backpacker's best I climb off the scooter. I reach the doors of the Cook Islands Ngatangha Christian Church just as it strikes ten. The interior is vaulted and cavernous. Painted white, the ceiling is decorated in Cook Island Blue. Electric fans work hard to cool the congregation of three hundred or more, they have no effect at all. Side and rear doors are open for a draught that isn't there. The altar is decorated with bright red Hibiscus and Tipani flowers which fill the church with their heady scents. From the balcony I look down onto the congregation, all dressed in their Sunday best of white dresses and decorated straw hats over dark skins, their men wear three piece dark suits, collar and tie, how unfair!

We have come for the Christmas Service. Pastor



Home on an island in the sun

Iana Aitau is a lively, happy character with an enormous white smile, he entertains us with his humour throughout. He speaks perfect English for the visitors today and switches to Maori for the regular congregation. Then the peace is disturbed with the first rousing hymn which nearly brings the roof down. During prayers the sounds of the islands wildlife float in through the open doors to join us. During a two hour service, children wander in and out of the church, babies fall asleep, little girls twiddle with boredom at their shiny black plaits and pretty white ribbons, they put their bare feet on the backs of the pews, until a cutting from Sunday School give the last part of the service, not in their mother tongue, Maori, as they would like, but in English for the visitors, 'We welcome you to our church and our special Christmas Service'. The children from the ages of three up to sixteen take

it in turns to act out their Christmas messages. At last the eldest girl wishes all the visitors a 'Happy Christmas and New Year, and may God go with you and take you safely home to your families'. For the first time I think of home, well nearly. This was our Christmas.

We sadly have to leave Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. It's time to start travelling again. However, our departure from this paradise might be held up. There are troubles all around this little island. An earthquake hits Japan, which causes a mini Tsunami that hits Hawaii, which in turn sends storms to the shores of Rarotonga. The uprising in Tonga has halted all flights to Tonga and stranded people on the island. The Coup in Fiji is tragically serious and extra flights are sent to get people out. We have just heard the news on the radio, the Government of Rarotonga has spent its entire annual budget a few months early and has run out of money. This threatens all services on the island,

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TRAVELLERS' TALES CONTINUED

transportation, hospitals, schools and the airport, which is state owned and run, so all flights might be grounded. The press will report again on Monday.

We spend the rest of the weekend cycling round the island, which is only 32 kilometres right round. We pass the island's prison with a population of only twenty seven, its immaculately

press, reports a last minute advance from next year's budget, approved by the Queen's representative. So we leave after all.

Early Summer - Down Under

Flying across the International Date Line we lose a whole day on one short flight, I feel cheated. The sprawling



Deborah cycling in Rarotonga

tended vegetable gardens and livestock, we decide not to visit. We meet and get to know locals as we cycle the inner roads and at the market we shop for the weekend. From makeshift trestles, smiley ladies with babies slung across their backs sell home made food and fruits and vegetables from their gardens, brightly coloured Hibiscus and Tipani print sarongs hang from stalls and garlands of Tipani fill the air with perfume. A little thing like the country grinding to a halt seems to hold little interest today. This is all too easy to get used to as a way of life. Then Monday's

city of Auckland, the hub of New Zealand, has ground to a halt for the annual Christmas Parade. We stand in a fierce heat watching everyone slapping on factor 60 sun cream while the floats come past us, each with scenes such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Cinderella. Then comes the highlight with Santa Claus, all the reindeer and Santa's helpers handing out lollies. Everyone is singing Christmas Carols, 'A Winter Wonderland' and 'Frosty the Snowman'. What! The shops are playing Christmas Carols as we browse around in

our T-shirts and shorts. Black plastic Christmas Trees, artfully decorated in silver baubles, decorate the shop windows. Everyone is making the most of the icy air conditioning in the shops before heading back out into the searing heat. This is just unreal. I mean it should be snowing, and log fires, and mulled wine!

We need to stay long enough to buy an old vehicle to travel around the two islands that make up New Zealand. We buy Susy, a people carrier. A mattress in the back means we can save a few pennies. And now we're off to explore New Zealand.

New Zealand is a little larger than the UK but with a population of only four million people and sixty million sheep and not quite so many cows. We head out of Auckland as quickly as possible. During the next ten weeks we drive 10,000 kilometres throughout the North and South Islands, from the most Northern tip of North Island, Cape Reinga to the farthest tip

of the South Island, the Bluff at Stirling Point, New Zealand's Lands End. The signpost reads: Equator 5,133, South Pole 4,810 and London 18,958 kilometres. Without going to the South Pole we are as far away from home as it's possible to be.

The landscape of New Zealand is so diverse, it is many countries in one. On North Island, we saw the largest sand dunes in the world; we rescued someone's car from the rising tide on ninety mile beach; then the jewels in the east, that are the Bay of Islands, we could have stayed forever. Inland to Rotorua, a unique volcanic wonderland of gushing geysers, violent and spectacular boiling mud and volcanic craters, we climb up to live volcanic peaks, drive through deep sub tropical gorges and up into the never ending high, rolling hills to some of the largest sheep stations in the world. We take a breath before catching the ferry.

continued on page XX



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TRAVELLERS' TALES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33



Steve celebrates Christmas Day

On the South Island, it even more peaceful, with a population of only one million people. We visit Gisborne, supposedly the first city in the world to see sunrise, we kayak through mangrove swamps and tropical inlets, tramp through bush and forest, walk up the worlds steepest street in Dunedin, climb up to the Haast pass and stand at the bottom of awe inspiring glaciers. In New Zealand's Fiordland we fly over Doubtful Sound and the Southern

Alps, sail through steep sided Milford Sound with its cascading waterfalls, drive alone for over 300 kilometres through scenery that would rival anything Scotland could throw at you, and rest in Lord of the Rings country. The roads that hug the coast rival that of the Pacific Highway in America and are an understatement of natural beauty. Every square inch of land is either a thick carpet of lush grass or covered over with semi tropical trees and palms that grow

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right down to the waters and road edges. All good things come to an end so sadly, and very reluctantly, we sold Susy as it was time to move on.

We flew on to Perth, Australia. We have only one week here in the hope we can catch up with a girlfriend who has just emigrated. We miss our Susy, and are back to rubbing shoulders with other backpackers in hostels again. We drove south down the Indian Ocean to the farthest south west corner of Australia. In three days we covered 1,000 kilometres through semi-desert between towns, passing Kangaroo and Emu along the way. Australia is in the grip of one of its worst droughts. Every time you turn on a tap you are reminded of this with big

notices everywhere. Waste water is already being recycled and soon beer will be cheaper than water, and tastes better too, so I'm told! We arrived back at the airport, dirty, dusty and just in time to catch our flight.

We have spent the last five months in similar cultures as our own back home, with a language we can mostly, understand. It really is time to move on to something new, something challenging. We will be crossing the equator for the last time now as we head towards a new continent of extraordinary diversity, with challenging languages, customs, foods, climates and politics thrown in too. I cannot wait!

Deborah Halliday



Deborah & Stephen after a bumpy flight in New Zealand

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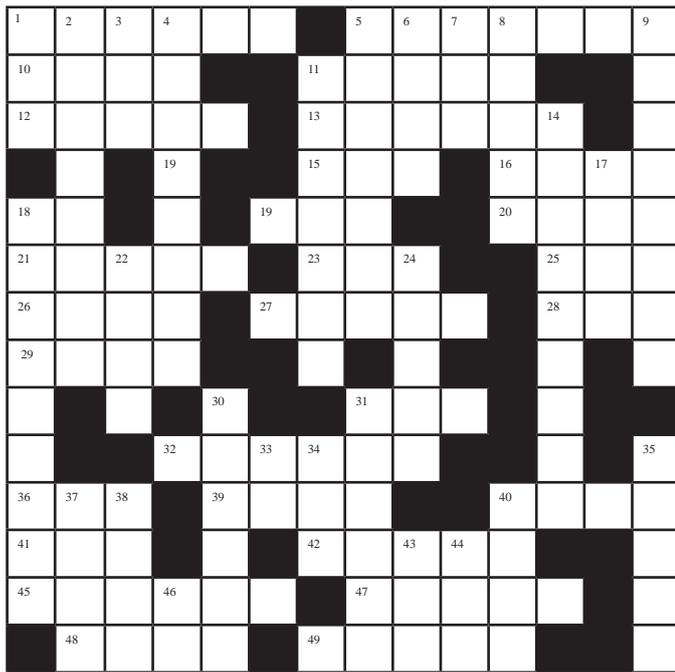
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Moira Hart's Fiendish Crossword



Across

- 1 fruit
- 5 inhabitant
- 10 nurse
- 11 iris
- 13 Asian country
- 15 employ
- 16 man's name
- 18 musical note
- 19 aged
- 20 cab
- 21 religious leader
- 23 fish
- 25 expire
- 26 combination of groups
- 27 boredom
- 28 man's name
- 29 unpleasant smell
- 31 urge on
- 32 stupid
- 36 insect
- 39 kiln
- 40 consider
- 41 drink
- 42 nest
- 45 enlarge
- 47 duck
- 48 incline
- 49 fossil resin

Down

- 1 small buoy
- 2 tractable
- 3 chart
- 4 trefoil
- 5 type of china
- 7 parasite's egg
- 8 small island
- 9 ignorant
- 11 abundant
- 14 get rid of
- 17 plant
- 18 manufacture
- 22 South African Dutch
- 24 thrust
- 30 overflow
- 31 respect
- 33 thank you
- 34 country
- 35 vacant
- 37 subsequent
- 38 art gallery
- 40 animal
- 43 bone
- 44 fish
- 46 printing measure

answers on page

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COASTGUARDS' REPORT

Hello again readers. Well what a turn around this last 12 months has been, 10 to 15 years ago Boscastle Company was cut down to 8 members, turning us into an I.R.T. Team (Initial Response Team). Our job on call outs was to assess the situation and then call for backup from one of our flank Teams. Depending which side of Boscastle we were, north, it would have been Bude, and to the south Port Isaac. And now 10 to 15 years later we have been made back up to a full Rescue Team with 12 members. Hopefully by the Summer we will have most of our new Equipment, slowly it is starting to arrive. What is more the term Auxiliary Coastguards does not exist any more. Our new title is Coastguard Rescue Officer.

The new members to the Company are Dean & Sue Stewardson (Camelford, transferred from Port Isaac), Suzanne Roberts (Wellington Hotel), Mark Smith (Tresuck Farm) both from Boscastle.



When they all have their uniform a picture will be done for the next Blowhole of the full team.

Since the last report we have had three callouts

26/11/07 11:38:

Assist Ambulance crew at Castle Beach Tintagel male collapsed on the cliff path, transferred to air ambulance Returned to Station 13:04. In Attendance L.Siford, G.King, D.Roots, D.Williams, R.Alexander.

7/1/07 04:00

Assist Police with a search for a lost person Trebarwith area last seen in the Mill House on his stag night search teams were deployed at Trebarwith Strand to search the beach and surrounding area nothing found. The casualty was found in a phone box in Tintagel asleep by the Police. Returned to station 06:35. In Attendance L.Siford, G. King, D.Roots, T.Little, D.Williams, D.Stewardson.

3/2/07 14:01

Report of a dog down a cliff with no owner at Backways cove, Bravo Team set of on foot to Backways from the Port William they met some walkers on the cliff path

which told them the dog had been rescued by its owner and all were safe. Returned to Station 14:46. In Attendance L.Siford, G.King, T.Little, D.Williams, A.Williams.

That's all for now please take care on our coastline
Les Siford Station Officer Boscastle Coastguard.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

'What About?' continues on the 1st Thursday of every month in **Boscastle Village Hall at 7pm**. Everyone is welcome to come to share drinks, supper and discussion on contemporary issues.

Sat 24th March 2pm Jumble Sale

Boscastle Village Hall, in aid of the Air Ambulance.

24th April 7.30pm Julliotter Garden Club

'Slugs & Snails' -talk by Tim Ellis. Otterham & St Juliot Hall.

Thurs 10th May – 10.30am Coffee Morning

Churchtown Farm, Trevalga in support of Trevalga Church.

22nd May 7.30pm Julliotter Garden Club

'How to photograph landscapes etc' ~ talk by photograher, Peter Levers. Otterham & St Juliot Hall

25th – 28th May - Flower Festival

at Forrabury Church on the theme 'Village Life'. If you would like to be involved in creating the flower displays, please ring the Rectory on 250359.

Sat 2nd June - 7pm - Concert:

Hartland Orchestra Concert in Minster Church

Sat June 9th 2.30pm FETE in the Methodist Church Grounds

15th – 17th June – Exhibition of Davidstow Brides at Davidstow Church

Sat 29th June 6pm Strawberry Fayre at Boscastle Rectory

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Correspondence

Abi Scott emailed the Blowhole boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk with the following news: Perhaps the various runners would like to write about their experience for the next edition.

Dear Blowhole

I have just secured a charity place in this years London marathon on the 22nd April, running and raising money for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The LAF is an international charity set up by the cyclist to educate and support people, who like him, have been diagnosed with cancer.

I need to raise a minimum of £1,800 in a very short space of time so all help and support is much appreciate. Contributions can be made up until the big day via Sue Scotts Hairdressing salon.

My dad, veteran runner Dave Scott will be joining me, along with Phil Higgs and fellow marathon virgin, Ian Nicholls. Despite being 'lucky' enough to obtain places through the normal ballot, they are also raising money for their chosen charity.

Thanks for your help.
Abi Scott

Dear Sir

I was amazed to read in the Letters page in Blowhole 56 of the very rude mysterious bearded Boscastle mercedes benz driver!

I have had the good fortune to visit your beautiful village both in 2005 and again 2006 and found everyone I met most cheerfull and helpfull especially the Patron, staff and customers at the Cobweb Inn

Yours faithfully
Alan Bannister
Bateau Bay, Australia

Hello Parish Council,

I am researching my family history and discover that my great grandfather, William Charles Affleck, lived in Boscastle.

In 1901 he is recorded as living at Harbour Cottage, Bridge Street, together with a housekeeper called Jessica Eastgate. I would love to hear any information regarding William or indeed the property. Did Harbour Cottage survive time and the floods? Any snippets of information would be welcome to add to the jigsaw.

Thanks, Jenni Randall
Lostwithiel
jenni.forest@virgin.net

Hi Parish Council

I wanted to get in touch as I am currently working for RDF Television on a documentary programme for Channel 4. I have popped a call-out below.

We are making an observational documentary series for Channel 4 that looks at family life in the UK, celebrating different lifestyles in modern Britain. The documentary is primarily about people learning from the way others lead their lives. It's an opportunity for families to open their doors and share their culture, way of life and family values.

We are very keen to feature a country-living family as part of our outreach; perhaps who can show what it's like to maintain a large estate and grounds or give viewers a taste of life on a farm. Or perhaps a family who can show the reality and rewards of village life. This would be a wonderful opportunity to reach city-dwelling viewers and open their eyes to the perks as well as the hard work of country life!

We are keen to reflect the different communities and groups of modern Britain, but ultimately it is about the universal themes and challenges of family life and how people deal with them. The format often enables people a greater insight and understanding into how others lead their lives, as well as affect a positive change in their own. It is this aspirational quality that is a key focus in producing the programme.

It would be fantastic if we could reach families through your website. Or perhaps you would be so kind as to include the [flyer] in your next news letter – or any other advice or contacts you could offer on how to reach families in your area would be greatly appreciated!

I hope we can find some great families that live in the Boscastle area through yourselves.

Best,
Melissa
See page 4 for the flyer

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Will conquers the 1st of the Seven!

Following on from my previous article in The Blowhole, I'm delighted to pass on the good news that Will Sharp reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (19,453 ft) in Africa on 17 January 2007.

As you will no doubt recall, Will has set himself the challenge of climbing the world's seven highest peaks before age 20 – which will not only put him in the record books as the youngest Briton to achieve this, but also hopefully raise in the region of £40,000 for his chosen charity, the NSPCC.

Will is currently studying at Duchy College and prior to his flight to Africa had undertaken a 'Long March' along the Cornish coastal path – from Bude to St.Ives in 60 hours – which raised £230 for the NSPCC. A further £107 was raised at the fundraising evening and our thanks to The Napoleon Inn for organising this and everyone who took part.

Leaving his chums behind at College he set off on 10 January, flying



On the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro

from London Heathrow out to the border region of Tanzania where the mountain is situated. Prior to leaving the UK his challenge was featured in both The Sunday Times and on Westcountry Live TV, so the village looks to have a couple of stars in the making, what with Albert's recent success too! He reached the summit of Kilimanjaro on the morning of 17 January, returning home later that same week.

The next challenge on Will's agenda is Mount Elbrus in Russia in April and naturally I will keep you posted on his progress.

There is no doubting Will's determination and commitment and personally I have little doubt that he will achieve his aims.

For a full report on his trip to Kilimanjaro, along with photographs and video footage then take a look at Will's website www.wills7.com which

also provides details of how you can help sponsor and raise funds for this incredible young man's chosen charity.

Brian Holland.



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*Glenton Brown,
Cornwall County
Councillor writes:*

NHS: I believe there was some good news to come out of the health issue at a meeting at County Hall in early February. The good news that the newly appointed Chief of the Cornwall Primary Care Trust Mrs. Ann James has delivered a speech which is really the result of a long consultation period out in the County and under the Chairmanship of Professor Nick Bosanquet. I hope this will lay some fears as to the National Health Service being free on the point of delivery, and that there is no hidden agenda in that the word independent does not mean private etc.

It will appear that Mrs. Patricia Hewitt's visit to Cornwall recently has resulted in her finding an extra seventy five million pounds to help Cornwall,

to restore full services at Hayle and West Cornwall Hospital. The debt of forty five million pounds must be repaid over the next three years, and the grant of this extra cash now is intended to help maintain hospital services to a very satisfactory level. There are plans to cater for more patients at the Community Hospitals around the County, and Stratton and Torpoint Hospitals will be updated. Also the admission time of patients arriving by ambulance at Treliske is to be speeded to overcome the long waiting periods which are distressing to patients and holding up ambulances which may be needed on another mission.

COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET: It looks very much that the Council Tax increase will be near the 5% and unfortunately we have had to make further cutbacks in services to meet the deficit that we were facing. If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me on 01840 770302.

Glenton Brown

An Extract from the marriage list of 'Silly Names' found on Cornwall County Council's Website

PHILLIP AIR *m.* PHILLIP GARLAND, St. Minver, 1722.
ABEDNEGO ALLEN *m.* ARABIA SANDRY, St. Clement, 1676.
JOHN BATH *m.* ELIZABETH DUCKEM, Launceston, 1650.
NICHOLAS BONE *m.* PRISCILLA SKIN, St. Stephens by Saltash, 1636.
JOHN BUCKET *m.* HANNAH ROCKET, Lawhitton, 1706-7.
JOHN DEERE *m.* JOH[A]N HEARDE, St. Columb Minor, 1576-7.
RICHARD DINNER *m.* MARY COOK, Bodmin, 1802.
HUGH HUNNY *m.* SUSANNA BEAR, Endellion, 1701.
CORNELYUS IRISH *m.* MARGARET CORNEWALL, Newlyn East, 1559.
FERDINANDO KATER *m.* PATIENT SHUTT, St. Minver, 1635.
JOHN MUTTON *m.* ANN VEALE, Stoke Climsland, 1791.
RUBEY ODGER *m.* BLANCH WIDGER, St. Cleer, 1775.
ERASMUS PASCOE *m.* ASENATH RANDLE, Ruan Minor, 1798-9.
POLLIDOR PHILP *m.* DOROTHY DONGYE, St. Minver, 1627.
SAVERY SHEVELL *m.* ELIZABETH FFICK, St. Minver, 1618.
CHARLES SWINE *m.* JANE HAM, Perranzabuloe, 1711

Jamie Oliver's Fifteen At Watergate Bay

Anne Rodda presents the first of an occasional series of restaurant reviews:

It is a marvellous thing to have successful and wealthy children: if only they could say the same thing about their parents. For our Christmas present our son and daughter-in-law generously gave us a £100 voucher to go to Jamie Oliver's new 'Fifteen' restaurant at Watergate Bay. On asking the cost of the house wine, I soon realised we would have no trouble at all in spending the generous total: I was gently informed that no change would be given in the unlikely event of us not reaching the £100 target. As luck would have it, 'Fifteen' was offering a special 3 course lunch deal on their Totally Cornish menu for £18.00, so we were able to invite two gourmet friends, (yes, we do have friends, and yes, some of them are gourmets. Some, on the other hand.... But I digress.)

I booked. As chez Rick Stein, (we do live high on the hog) one's credit card number is taken and a discreet mention made of the financial penalty

in the event of defaulting on the booking without giving twenty four hours notice. Quite right, too. The day dawned, a day of fierce winds blowing meaningfully in off the Atlantic. So fierce were these winds that 'Fifteen' was unable to fly its usual jolly flags and pennants, so it took us poor old codgers several moments of confused struggling around the foot of the building at beach level before spotting the entrance about three yards way from where we had parked. Fortunately, there are no speed tests to be taken in order to qualify for entry.

The atmosphere inside is lively and welcoming and our table was immediately ready for us. The double glazing must be of the highest quality, as, apart from the magnificent view of the spectacularly stormy sea, there was no evidence of the wicked wind which was howling outside. The staff are young, smiling and helpful. I thought the service was excellent. As a starter whilst ordering



restaurant serving area

we were provided with a selection of different tasty bread, such as sourdough and focaccia, no Mother's Pride, with some delicious olive oil to dip. Excellent.

As I would have expected to be, I was impressed by the menu. I sink into deep gloom when I am handed a fourteen page menu containing an example of almost every dish known to mankind. One can know for sure that most of this menu will have been pre-cooked in some distant location by elvish creatures and delivered to the 'kitchen' under cover of darkness in a refrigerated lorry, to

be magically re-heated by a microwave-trained 'chef' NVQ probably. Not the least offensive part of this experience is the effrontery required to describe, perhaps, the mushrooms as 'morning gathered'. At least one item will be on a 'bed' of something. I won't go on.

Fifteen's menu is a treat. There is a choice of four items under each of four headings, Starters, Pasta, Mains and Desserts, in addition to a cheese selection. Seven of these items were highlighted on the day of our visit for the Totally Cornish choice. Our party chose from the



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Fifteen At Watergate Bay continued

following: for starters, squash soup, pumpkin seed pesto and Golden beets, Deli Farm Coppa (a kind of salami) and micro herbs (organic, slightly peppery, delicious kind of cress). For main course, guinea fowl, smashed celeriac, chard, dragon cello salsa and pan fried hake, fennel, curly kale, chilli, garlic and lemon oil. For pudding, saffron bread and butter pudding, Cornish clotted cream and wild flower honey panna cotta, Boddington's preserved strawberry sauce, Cornish shortbread. All this washed down with a couple of bottles of splendid Australian Semillon Chardonnay: I think that the wine was the only not totally Cornish aspect of the meal.

We were given a comment sheet to fill in if we wished, covering greetings, service, quality of food, atmosphere and value for money. The sheet also has space for any further comments, and is entered into a monthly draw, culminating for he



view of the restaurant

winner in a complimentary (sic) bottle of Fifteen Prosecco.

I loved the food, particularly the golden beet starter and the truly tasty bread and butter pudding, and I found the portions entirely satisfactory. Possibly, those with a heartier appetite than mine might need some more bulky portions of carbohydrate. The dishes were very attractively presented, and served on elegant white plates and dishes. The table settings were most appealing. The staff were extremely courteous and helpful. The atmosphere is lively, possibly some might find it a little noisy, although I found the whole thing great

fun. The working kitchen area is fully visible from the restaurant area: I found that this enhanced the atmosphere. I am totally impressed that anyone can not only produce such superb food, not end up in a total shambles, and, furthermore, do it in public. When I first arrived

I was faintly horrified to see a number of small children, not my favourite eating companions as a rule, but my fears were unfounded: they were delicious. There is a special Kids' menu, offering three choices of main course, taglierini carbonara, ling, mussel and saffron broth and grilled rib-eye steak with prices ranging from £6.00 to £10.00 for the mains. So the average child guest is relatively sophisticated!

I think it is fair to say one would expect high standards from this well publicised venture with the well known TV chef a figurehead, and one would not expect it to be the cheapest of outings; having said that, I enjoyed the food, the company and the ambience.....and I look forward to my next voucher so I can go again.



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Martin's Sporting Briefs

◆ Past president of Boscastle AFC, Doreen Hancock sadly passed away just before Christmas. She was a staunch supporter of the football club and she will be greatly missed by everyone.

◆ Boscastle's 1st team are in a real battle to retain their Premier League status. They probably need another 4 wins from their remaining 9 games to achieve their goal.

◆ Julian Findlay, Boscastle's 1st team regular, seems to be just like a fine wine – "he is maturing with age". He put in a vintage performance in the fine victory over the current league leaders, Bere Alston.

◆ On Christmas Eve, head grounds man and Boscastle Parish Councillor, Anthony Brewer, was unable to find a stocking to hang-up by

the fireplace, so he took off his trousers and used them instead.

◆ Is Steve Martin changing his allegiance?? He has always been known to be a staunch Spurs supporter but only recently he went to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United play.

◆ After an indifferent start to the season, Boscastle's 2nd team, under the joint leadership of Sam Washer, Daniel Boyde and Ian Nicholls, are doing well in the league and cup competitions. On the odd occasion when they have been short on numbers, they have even persuaded veteran Roger Perry to don his boots.

◆ Sam Washer's dedication to his new managerial post is highly impressive. The other Saturday he turned down the chance to go on the Cobweb mystery trip as he was putting his football responsibilities first. But, as luck would have it, the 2nd teams match was called off

due to a waterlogged pitch, so he missed out on both. As he had a free weekend, he went shopping instead!

◆ Martin Seldon attended a New Years Eve fancy dress party dressed in a ghost outfit. When he returned home in the early hours of the next morning he must have thought he was a real ghost as he tried to walk through a locked door!

◆ In an attempt to remain in peak condition in order to run marathons for many years to come, Janet Lathom has acquired the services of her own personal dietician. He is a very able chef who makes sure Janet eats all the right things.

◆ Ian Nicholls is to run in this year's London Marathon and is raising money in aid of Cancer charities.

◆ Boscastle Bowls Club are struggling at the wrong end of the Cornwall Short Mat Bowling Association 1st division, but they are still enjoying a good 'natter' during the tea interval.

◆ It's looking like a fight to the wire between Napoleon and Cobweb 'A' for the runners-up spot in the

Boscastle & District darts league. In the Camelot ladies Darts League, Napoleon and Cobweb are also doing very well, with the Cobweb team under the leadership of Belinda Adams & Val Gill in with a good chance of league honours.

◆ Steve Taylor is putting in a late bid for a place in the Great Britain boxing team for the 2012 Olympics.

◆ In the Camelford & District Snooker League, Boscastle 'A' team look like bouncing straight back to the 1st division after relegation last season. The 'B' team under the leadership of Robin Haddy have enjoyed a better second half to the season after a disastrous start.

◆ In the next edition we will find out why Emma Goreham enjoyed her walk home from the pub the other Saturday night, even though she was "Mugged" and why Stephen Jose had to have the base of the spare-bed "reinforced" after the Christmas festivities.

◆ And finally: - Phil Higgs is offering an all expenses paid trip to Australia to attend the wedding of his daughter Cathy. Details next time

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Tuesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Thursday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Friday	9.00 - 12.30	Closed
Saturday	9.00 - 12.00	Closed
Sunday	Closed all day	

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4th & 18th January

1st & 15th February

1st, 15th & 29th March

Wellington Hotel: 11.30 – 11.40
Barn Park, Tintagel Road: 11.45 – 12.05

Waste Tip, Bowthick Quarry

Sanding Road, Tintagel

Tel: 01840 770778

Camelford Library

Town Hall, Market Place

Tel: 01840 212409

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Thursday	10.00 - 5.00
Friday	10.00 - 4.00
Saturday	09.30 - 12.30
Sunday	Closed all day

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Police Station:

For non-urgent issues: eg to report a crime or criminal damage, to request police advice or attendance, to enquire about lost property, to be connected to a police station, service or department: **08452 777 444**

Doctors' Surgery and out-of-hours

emergency doctor: **01840 250209**

NHS Direct (24 hour helpline): **0845 4647**

Hospitals:

Bodmin - East Cornwall **01208 251555**

Minor Injuries Unit open 8 am – 10 pm, seven days a week

Launceston General **01566 765650**

Minor Injuries Unit open 8 am – 10 pm, seven days a week

Stratton **01288 287700**

Minor Injuries Unit open 24hrs, seven days a week

Truro -Treliske **01872 250000**

Plymouth - Derriford **08451 558155**

Dental Helpline: **0800 371192**

RSPCA: **08705 555999**

Boscastle Visitor Centre: **01840 250010**

Local Churches:

Church of England **01840 250359**

Methodist **01840 770274**

Catholic **01840 770663**

Harbourmaster: **01840 250453**

Parish Council:

website: www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk

clerk: **01840 250440**

email clerk: formin.parish@virgin.net

Village Hall:

Bookings: **01840 250558**

Pay phone: **01840 250171**

Community & Recreation Centre:

Bookings: **01840 250442**

Cornwall County Council:

Switchboard: **01872 322000**

website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

North Cornwall District Council:

Main Switchboard **01208 893333**

website www.ncdc.gov.uk

Democracy Counts! ~Local Elections 2007

On Thursday 3rd May 2007 voting will take place to elect new District, Town and Parish Councils.

North Cornwall District Council:

There are 23 District Council Wards electing a total of 36 Councillors who will remain in office for four years.

Forrabury and Minster Parish Council:

There are 10 seats on Forrabury and Minster Parish Council. Like the District Council, those elected will remain in office for four years. *(The Council meets once a month with occasional planning meetings between. However, there is far more work that needs to be done outside these meetings. Being a Councillor is an onerous task. It can be frustrating and time consuming but it can also be very rewarding.)*

Applying to become a councillor

Even those who have stood as councillors before may forget what the process was like 4 years ago. Whilst relatively easy it is strict and if not followed exactly, will result in disappointment and rejection for the wrong reasons! The rules are there to ensure that only those who are eligible to stand for election in your community are considered and that those put forward have agreed to stand for election.

Parish Councillors are elected by the public and serve four year terms in office; these were unpaid positions until 2004 when allowance schemes were introduced to encourage more people to stand for election. Allowances, which tend not to be very large, are at the discretion of the individual councils and most, including Forrabury & Minster, still choose to maintain an unpaid status.

Qualifications

Potential candidates must be eighteen or above and a Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen. They must also satisfy **one** of four criteria:

- 1 Be on the Electoral Roll for the parish
- 2 Have been resident in the parish for twelve months prior to the election
- 3 Principal or only place of work during the twelve months prior to the date of nomination to have been in the parish.
- 4 Have resided within 3 miles (4.8kms) of the parish boundary for twelve months prior to the election

Each candidate requires two nominees who must be registered electors of the parish.

You cannot stand for election if you:

- Are bankrupt, bankrupt and an Order or Interim Restriction Order has been imposed.
- Have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
- Work for the council where you are intending to standing for election (but you can work for other local authorities, including the principal authorities that represent the same area).

Nomination forms

You will need to fill in all your personal details and those of the people nominating you. You and those nominating will be asked to fill in your Electoral Register number. This is the district code on the front of the Electoral Register followed by the number that appears next to your

name, or next to the name of the person nominating you. The entry in this box will therefore read something like 'SX 413'.

You must get your form completed and signed by those nominating you and it will help to copy the numbers of those nominating you when you obtain your own Electoral Register number.

It is imperative that you submit your forms in accordance with the Timetable of Proceedings. Failure to do so will render your application null and void!

2007 Timetable

Tuesday 27th March

The Notice of Election will be published and nomination papers made available from the NCDC offices at Wadebridge. The papers may be collected in person or sent in the post by telephoning 01208 893171. They can be ordered in advance and will be sent out as soon as they become available.

Wednesday 4th April

Completed papers must be returned before noon

Tuesday 10th April

The official list of nominees will be posted on parish notice boards and the NCDC website.

Wednesday 25th April

The Notice of Poll will be published giving details of candidates and Polling Stations.

Thursday 3rd May

Elections will take place

Proxy and Postal Votes

If you will be away from home on the day of the election you can still vote. Details of proxy and postal voting can be obtained from NCDC at Wadebridge. The last date for submitting a new application for proxy or postal voting is Wednesday 18th April 2007.