



BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 58 Summer 2007

£1



Copyright photo courtesy David Flower

CONGRATULATIONS

Pictured above are Fred and June Siford, who are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary. Raising a glass with them are their son, Les and daughter-in-law, Wendy. See page 6 for full story

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Editorial

For the first time in eight years there was a Parish Council election in Forrabury and Minster.

In 2003 there were only ten candidates for the ten available seats. This time there were thirteen candidates. Eight were members of the previous council. Five others stood for

the first time and four of them were elected. Forty-four percent of those eligible voted and this is considered to be a good turnout for a parish council election.

The enthusiasm of the new members together with the experience of the others makes an ideal council and many

aspects of village life are represented in the diverse interests of our councillors. A lot of work has to be done in the years ahead and now is a good time for more people to take an interest in the affairs of the village. The introduction of a public participation period has

already attracted a growing number of residents who take advantage of this opportunity.

A profile of each councillor appears elsewhere in this issue together with more information about meetings.

AB

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 September. The deadline for copy is 29th August. Please ensure that your copy reaches us by then or we may be unable to include it, and it may mean that the publication date is delayed. Thanks

For advertising queries, contact Daphne Rogers 01840 250244

Copies of the Blowhole are available by post at a cost of £1.95 per issue email the Blowhole or phone 01840 250483 for subscription enquiries.

Communications to the Blowhole can be sent c/o Boscastle Post Office, Dunn Street, Boscastle, PL35 0AA or by email to boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk

The Blowhole is published 4 times a year and printed by Easyprint of Red Post, Nr Bude.



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Views of the Village

Overloaded Sewer

David Lane, Senior Officer at Ofwat, is very keen to know of any current or previous episodes of sewer flooding in or around people's property in the village.

OFWAT are looking into the problems created by the overloaded sewer and would like to hear from everyone in the village who has experienced sewer overflow or blockage in or around their property in recent years.

It would be very helpful if anyone affected would drop a note to - care of a Blowhole team member or c/o the Post Office, or email the Blowhole at boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk.

Best-kept Village Competition

Boscastle won first place in this competition in 1995 and was presented with an engraved slate plaque. This was displayed in the Visitors' Centre and unfortunately, it was washed away in the flood of 2004.

Let's work together as a village to win this year. The judges come round in June and July. Maximum points

are awarded for well-kept fences, hedges and gardens and the elimination of litter and weeds.

We have a beautiful village and should proudly show it off at its best – so residents and holiday homeowners alike – go outside and look at your property – Are you doing your bit to make Boscastle the best-kept Village of 2007?

Open Gardens

The gardens at Half Acre and Wildwood will be open again this year on Saturday 23rd June and Sunday 24th June from 1.30pm-6pm. The combined admission charge of £3 goes to the National Garden Scheme which supports a variety of charities. There will be a painting exhibition at Half Acre and teas will be provided by the combined churches.

Trevalga Coffee Morning

Due to bad weather, the coffee morning on 10 May in aid of Trevalga Church was held in the Parish Hall. Thanks to all those who helped to raise a grand total of £465 60



Malcolm Barneclutt now run the Boscastle bakery. Pictured in front of the shop are the staff.

Copyright photo courtesy David Flower

WI Coffee Morning

A chilly wind kept everyone in the house but a sum of £245.00 was raised at a coffee morning held at Aeolus in Green Lane on the 16 May.

Proceeds were in aid of WI and the Air Ambulance.

Oops

Apologies to the Napoleon Inn whose telephone number was printed incorrectly in the last issue, also to the person who had to redirect prospective customers to the correct number of 01840 250204.

July Flower Festival

Lanteglos Church, near Camelford are holding a Flower Festival on July 20th/21st/22nd.

The church will be open from 10am until dusk, with refreshments being served all day.

The theme for the festival is 'Book Titles'. Everyone is most welcome.

Is this a record?

Eric Smith has had blue tits nesting in his garden. There were 13 eggs that hatched. Unfortunately one baby bird was smothered but 12 were raised successfully and flew away.

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Cornwall's Rugged Skin

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Woodturning by John Theobald

30 July - 24 August

Cornish Landscapes

Paintings by Lucy Toop

27 August - 29 Sept

Clouds

Paintings by Bridget Holden

Pottery by Svend Bayer

The Gallery and Museum are open Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm., 1 April - 30 September

(Wheelchair access to Museum only)

Fire Training



Copyright photo courtesy David Flower

Members of the Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce took the decision to comply with the new fire regulations brought in last year by having a fire safety training session. They experienced a room full of smoke and using fire extinguishers on real fires. Mart Rogers from Classic

Fire Ltd came along and trained 30 people during the day.

It is hoped to do this annually so if you missed the last course please contact a committee member from the Chamber of Commerce for a training session later in the year.

Boscastle Bowls Club

The Bowls Club came bottom of the Northern Area Short Mat Bowls League Division 1 and have been relegated to the second division for next Winter.

The Summer league has now started and a better result is hoped for. New members are always welcome on a Monday evening at 7pm or Friday afternoons at 2pm in the Sports & Recreation Centre.

Boscastle Pantomime

A lot of interest has been expressed in performing a pantomime in the Village Hall during next winter.

Auditions will be held in the autumn to find the cast and people willing to give a hand backstage and with costumes. Notices will be displayed around the village with more information.

For further details, please contact Carole Flower, (01840) 250558

Cornwall Air Care's 10th Anniversary



Barbara with her commemorative plaque

Cornwall Air Care - the Air Ambulance fundraising charity recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary at a 'do' in the Shire House Suite in Bodmin.

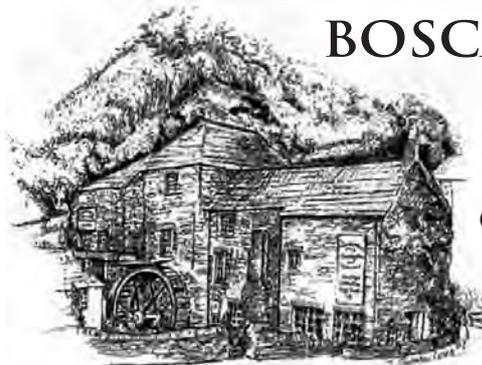
Local agents were presented with a plaque by FFAST chairman Harold Chapman in acknowledgement of the dedication and service to the charity. As he said 'Without lottery income there would

be no Air Ambulance'.

Barbara Hopkins, who collects lottery contributions from a number of Boscastle households attended and is pictured above with her plaque.

If you would like to support this deserving charity and also having the chance to win a variety of prizes, please phone Barbara on 250347 for details.

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Children's Hospice & CLIC Sargent Coffee Morning

We held our annual fund raising event this year at the Old Coach House at the kind invitation of Mrs Jackie Horwell. It was a beautiful spring day so we enjoyed relaxing on the patio and the conservatory.

Generous raffle prizes, many donations and items for sale, with refreshments meant a busy time for helpers. This all contributed to a very happy and successful morning when £375 was raised.

We wish to thank all who gave generously and helped in any way, especially to Jackie and Geoff Horwell and Carole Flower.

The Children's Hospice, at Fremington, North Devon, is a haven of peace, comfort and care for the many children in the South West suffering from cancer and related illnesses. The children stay here with their families for care and respite. CLIC Sargent also helps children and their families

and trains nurses to give support and help in hospital and at home to children with cancer and leukaemia. We have supported CLIC Sargent for 25 years in memory of Adrian Ferrett.

Vivien and Marion

Air Ambulance Charity Shop Delabole

The Shop was busy during April with the exceptionally warm weather bringing customers in looking for summer clothes.

Sales & Donations totalled £1764.23 gross. This included £80 raised from the Easter Draw and £120.00 donated by the Tintagel Indoor Bowling Club, to whom grateful thanks are due.

Bags are still being left outside the doors of the shop. Please do not leave them there - they are a fire hazard and often get wet, & so are not suitable for sale and end up being put out with the rubbish. Please only bring items the shop during opening hours, which are posted on the door. Thank you. JS

Top Marks for Local Childminder



Kizzy & friends

When Kizzy Lockyear recently received the highest OFSTED award of 'Outstanding' in every area of assessment which includes Helping children achieve, Healthy children, Positive contributions, Protecting children from harm and neglect and Organisation. This is the first time that Valerie Button, the OFSTED assessor for the North Cornwall area has awarded such a high grading to a child-minder and Kizzy is thrilled.

Placing the main care centre within her home, Kizzy has dedicated herself to making this a vibrant, safe place for children to learn through play. She has also undertaken many training courses to improve and develop her skills and the service she can provide.

Fortunately, all of this effort has paid off; Kizzy

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Kizzy is currently looking for larger properties so as to be able to further expand her business. As she eloquently put it, "This is an encouraging tale of local business flourishing through dedication, hard work and community support".

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THE BOSCASTLE SKETCHBOOK



Explore the landscape of this unique and historic location. Author/artist and qualified lecturer, Deborah King, invites you to work with her to create your own sketchbook, visual diary, portrait of a place.

For further details please ring: 01840 250456
www.boscastle-sketchbook.co.uk

DIAMOND PAIR



Here's to the Happy Couple

Copyright photo courtesy David Flower

Boscastle couple, Fred and June Siford, celebrated their diamond-wedding anniversary in May. It was a lovely sunny day at Sunnyside, matched by the warmth of greeting for relatives and friends from Fred and June. The fizzy flowed freely and there was a delicious buffet made by son Les and daughter in law Wendy. The cake, a wonderful creation by Wendy, was decorated with a photograph transferred on to rice paper of the happy couple on their wedding day.

Fred, a Gloucestershire boy and June, a Boscastle girl, met when they were both serving in the RAF at Stafford. They were married in Northleach in 1947 and

spent their honeymoon in Boscastle. They lived in Gloucestershire for the first 27 years of their marriage and their son was born there.

The Sifords moved to Boscastle in 1974 and Fred & June have lived in the same cottage at the harbour since then. June has been providing bed and breakfast at Sunnyside for over 30 years. On moving to the village, Fred continued his carpentry business until he retired. He has been the harbourmaster for the past thirteen years and a member of the coastguard. Fred said, "One of the best things we have done in our lives is to move to Boscastle" And so say all of us – a pair of diamonds!

Introducing Terry Groves Police Community Support Officer



I am your new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), covering St. Teath, Delabole Boscastle, Crackington, Tintagel and the surrounding areas.

My role will be to get to know the Communities in order to build confidence and develop relationships and trust between the Police and the public. I shall be providing a consistent high visible presence that enables direct contact with the police. This will give me and the Police officers covering the area, the chance to promote public safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime within the Community. I will be finding out directly what

are the concerns within each Neighbourhood and assisting in the tackling of such issues, if you have a problem, please let me know.

I will also be building relationships with other establishments, such as Schools to promote a partnership approach to help in dealing with the concerns of each Community.

I will soon be supplying cards with contact numbers and an e-mail address, however I can still be contacted via Camelford Police Station. I look forward to meeting you at some point, whether it is just to pass the time of day, or to assist or guide you in something.

Terry Groves



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Boscastle Gallery

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Paintings by local artists

A wide selection of prints and cards plus an unusual mix of gifts and gadgets.

A Village Full of Rubbish?

Charlie David & Verity Palk make a plea for 'clean' disposal of refuse - this applies to residents and traders as well as holidaymakers

We wouldn't want visitors to Boscastle to think in these terms when enjoying our very special village. North Cornwall District Council spends a tremendous amount of effort trying to keep the area clear of litter, emptying bins and collecting household and trade waste.

Doug Cleave turns up 7 days a week early in the morning to make sure all is clear and the waste collection crews are out in all weather collecting whatever you put out for the Thursday morning collection. We might miss items from time to time, or the volume of the litter in bins can be overwhelming on occasion but generally I think Boscastle is kept looking nice and tidy. I must acknowledge the work Jerry Adams does, particularly around the harbour, keeping it looking so clean.

But, and there is always a 'but' with an opening sentence like that, there are some problems that we have which I would urge you to assist us with. It relates to litter issuing from black bags of household waste that are put out ready for collection far too early. Bags put out days in advance; even hours in advance can be susceptible to attack by gulls, dogs, cats and foxes. This results in quantities of litter being strewn along the roads, highly unsightly and of course an attraction to vermin.

Most people are very good about putting out their rubbish

at the right time, the evening before the collection is due (the waste and recycling has to be out by 6.00am on the day of collection), but some are not and it is this minority we need to encourage to behave a little more reasonably.

I appreciate that if you have a holiday home, your tenants might be leaving well before collection day and they need to put their rubbish out as they leave. I must remind people that the owners of the holiday cottages have a responsibility to make sure waste from their property is contained and not allowed to spread.

I can't understand why people won't use bins for instance. A proper bin with a lid doesn't cost much and is less likely to be attacked than disposable plastic bags. If you have too many plastic bags to fit in a bin, why not put a tarpaulin over them, this has worked well in places like Looe and Polperro.

We do get complaints and we act on these complaints whenever we can. We now have an option of issuing fixed penalties of £100 and possible action in the magistrate's court which could result in fine of £50,000.

We are being encouraged by our Councillors to take a firm line of littering and flytipping and now we have the authority to issue Penalties, we will start to use it on those who will not act reasonably.

Verity Palk, Waste Management, Charlie David, Street Scene, NCDC. Tel 01208 262800

Trixie's Cross Stitch Gift



Trixie Webster was touched by a gift from Shirley, a visitor from Wales. She has given Trixie a cross stitch picture of the 'Pixie House' (now 'Harbour Light tearooms').

She had been an avid watcher of the series A Seaside Parish and was devastated when the ancient building was destroyed by the flood.

She had just suffered a massive stroke and was told by doctors she would be unlikely to survive for long, but her will to live was

strengthened by thoughts of Boscastle and its plight, and over a year produced a cross stitch picture of the former Pixie House. Now in recovery, her first thought was to give to Trixie this testament to her faith, which will hang in pride of place in the Harbour Light.

Trixie received over a hundred letters of support from well-wishers.

Friends of Forrabury & Minster

The Forrabury and Minster Friends launch/open day in the community centre during March was well received.

An abundance of information was on display about the churches, their links with nature, their contribution to the community and the works required for their continued upkeep.

The Friends of Forrabury and Minster has been set up to help maintain the fabric and fittings of these two fine historic buildings.

Since the open day the 'Friends' have repaired loose roof slates at Forrabury and

are currently having the outer gates at Minster refurbished.

The Friends committee would like to thank all those who came along to support and especially those who have offered to help with the upkeep of the Church buildings for future generations.

We are keen to receive offers of help with the production and content of the quarterly Friends newsletter.

If you would like to become a 'Friend' you can pick up a leaflet in either Forrabury or Minster church or contact Anne Prescott: 01840 250570 or Jennie Coles: 01840 212336.

THE BOSCASTLE SKETCHBOOK



Author and artist, Deborah King, most recently known for her work featuring the language, history and landscape of Cornwall has embarked on a new art project centred around Boscastle Harbour. The Boscastle Sketchbook courses will give everyone of any age, ability or experience a chance to create their own visual diary and portrait of a place.

Describing the project Deborah says, 'Come and explore the ancient harbour, valley and hills in a new and exciting way. Experiment with different marks and media and discover colourful and imaginative ways of expressing yourself in word and image, capturing

on paper your thoughts and ideas. You will have opportunity to develop your image-making and writing skills as you work towards more resolved pieces – paintings, a series of sketches/drawings, narrative or verse with images, or

story/documentary with illustrations. The courses run on Tues/Wed/Thurs afternoons.'

To launch this project, Deborah is offering some complimentary sessions, to be organized by request, as well as concessionary rates for those who live locally, on any other bookings. If you would like more information you can find The Boscastle Sketchbook leaflet in the Post Office, Visitor Centre, Boscastle Trading Co. and at Turnstones Studio. There is also a website: www.boscastle-sketchbook.co.uk, which provides more details as well as examples of Deborah's beautiful artwork. You can contact her by phone on 250456.

DAVID WASHER

Building Contractor

'Penlea', Tintagel Road, Boscastle

Tel: 01840 250635

Mobile: 07967 507457

Harbourmasters News

At last, we are beginning to see a few boats back on their moorings. We have three boats fishing full-time and three or four pleasure boats. Just hoping that the bank holiday will bring a few more in. One new mooring has been allocated to John Blunt after waiting several years. Hope he doesn't bring the "Queen Mary"!

The gig has made a welcome return to the harbour. It is outside Highwater Cottage behind the chains. hree more boats are also parked there. Owners have to pay a fee that includes daily landing for the season.



Peganina is doing the usual fishing trips. Book at the Rock Shop. Information received today is that mackerel and pollock are plentiful.

We wish Hedley Venning a speedy recovery from hospital. Hedley is now officially Assistant Harbourmaster and is a great help. *Fred Siford-
Harbourmaster.*

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THE NATIONAL TRUST

New beginnings

Plans for converting the former 'Cornish Goodies' shop into a café have been delayed until November 2007. The Trust is keen to assist local businesses where possible and following various conversations it was felt the works over the summer would be too disruptive. In order to reduce our financial losses the building has been let to a local consortium (Boscastle Trading Company) for the summer period.

Lower bridge; Design to be reviewed

At a meeting of the Boscastle bridge working group on Friday 18 May involving the National Trust, local residents, Parish Council and the Environment Agency, it was decided to withdraw the current planning application for the replacement lower bridge, proposed as part of the Boscastle Flood Defence Scheme.

The move follows concerns raised by the public at a meeting in the village on May 9 and it means that details of

the current design can be reviewed and amended to reflect comments made by the community.

Much of the May 9 meeting focussed on whether there was a need to replace the bridge and if so why this could not be built of stone. Whilst the bridge working group recognises the concerns raised by members of the local community, it was nevertheless agreed by all present at the bridge group meeting that the more modern design concept must remain.

Gordon Trapmore of the Environment Agency explains: The river bed is being widened as part of the Flood Defence Scheme to give greater capacity for flood water and the lower bridge has to be removed and replaced. Originally the plan was to reflect the appearance of the old bridge by building a traditional looking stone-clad new one."

However, having fully developed the 'traditional' design following the public exhibition, it became clear to the bridge working group

that a much bigger and higher arched stone bridge would have to be built than initially anticipated, if it was to both carry vehicles and allow for greater flood waters to pass underneath. It would dominate the harbour area and block views up and down the harbour.

This view was confirmed at a North Cornwall District Council Planning Committee site meeting in Boscastle last September - attended by many local residents - that this would become an unacceptable intrusion into this sensitive location. A contemporary design was therefore worked up.

Andrew Davey, the National Trust's Area Manager says: "Having to accept the fact that a stone bridge would be unworkable in this location, we are taking on board the suggestions of those who have commented on the detail of the new design, both at the recent public meeting and outside it. At the bridge working group meeting on the 18 May, it was agreed to look at ways of modifying the current design to reflect these ideas. This will involve looking at incorporating more 'natural' materials into the design. Possible changes may include redesigned railings, vertical uprights, simple posts, providing a painted black finish and a timber top rail.

"We appreciate that the idea of a contemporary structure in this sensitive location will not appeal to everyone, but there is simply no realistic alternative. It is therefore imperative that we get the design right, and that the reasons for it are properly explained. Once the revisions to the current designs are ready these will be circulated and explained widely in the local community, hopefully some time in June, when they are resubmitted for planning consent."

Valency Valley; Management of the Catchment

The Environment Agency and National Trust have presented the findings of the strategy to the Parish Council and produced abridged version of the full report. As suggested at the parish council meeting we would like to host a guided walk to show the proposals within the valley itself - see below for details.

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

24 July 2007

A walk with the Environment Agency and National Trust to see the future management proposals for the Valency Valley. Meet at 2pm, at the top (upstream) end of the pay and display car park in Boscastle.

SUE WALLIS

DESIGNER DRESSMAKER
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Forrabury and Minster Parish Council meet in the Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month. Members of the public are invited to attend and public participation is permitted before the start of the meeting at 7 pm.

Harbour Works report

At the March meeting Colin Mitchell of Carillion and Russell Corney of Halcrow gave an extensive update on progress so far. Wet weather had delayed progress and more work in the summer months may be necessary. Residents were concerned about the amount of dust, noise and access during the Easter break. They were told that all efforts were being made to minimise the disruption caused by the works in progress. A further meeting would be held to present the proposed plan for the lower bridge. At the May meeting a member of the public asked if a full copy of the planning application could be on display in the Visitor Centre. This was agreed.

Gateway Building:

At the April meeting Janey Comber from NCDC said that the planning department admitted responsibility for the problems with the Gateway building. The design is to be modified and will have to be submitted for planning approval in the usual way.

Tree Management Scheme

At the April meeting of the Council Andrew Houghton and James Burke of the Environment Agency and Jeff Cherrington from the National Trust outlined their plans for tree management in the Valency Valley. The work aims to reduce the risk of flood damage and will involve regular inspections of all trees in the floodplain, coppicing all trees growing on riverbanks and clearing of wood debris from the river. A full copy of the tree management study is available on request from Andrew Houghton at the Environment Agency on 01208 265154 or email Andrey.Houghton@environment.agency.gov.uk

Telephone Box

A decision has been reached on the type of telephone box that will be installed at the Gateway building. A member of the public expressed concern that the absence of a public telephone in the harbour was causing problems for some people. The Chairman said he would make further representations to BT to install a temporary telephone for the season.

Dog Bins

It was reported to the Parish Council that the single dog bin in the harbour area is frequently overflowing. It was suggested that either the bin should be emptied more often or more bins should be installed.

Playing field

Fencing of the area is in progress and equipment has been ordered. It was announced at the May meeting that it was hoped to open the playground later in the month.

Car Park

Residents parking: The council agreed that this should be discussed when the car park is completed.

Lighting: A scheme for lighting the car park is under consideration. The councillors wished

any lighting to be kept to a minimum. No decision has been reached.

Gate: The advisability of having a gate separating the overflow car park from the main parking area was discussed. The practicalities of operating such a gate might prove difficult.

Allotments

A Delabole slate plaque is to be placed by the gate to the allotments in recognition of the gift of land by Jeanne Wilson in memory of her Godmother Enid Andrews.

Police Community Support Officer

Terry Groves introduced himself at the May meeting. He will be patrolling the village and able to deal with issues as they arise.

A member of the public raised the issue of anti social behaviour in New Road. There has been a problem with speeding vehicles and noise after 11 pm.

New Council

On May 10th the newly elected Parish Council met for the first time. Election of officers was as follows: Chair: Cllr Bannister, Vice Chair Cllr Brewer. All sub-committee members would be decided at the June meeting.

For a full list of Council members see pages 22-24.



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May I start this piece for the Blowhole by thanking everyone who voted for me in the District Council election on 3rd May. I had wonderful support from the Boscastle and Trevalga area, and I much appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Councillor for another term. It was a real pleasure to meet so many people and such wonderful weather made it even better. I am always amazed at how much work goes in to the gardens of the village, but it adds a lot to the area, and is such a delight as you go past.

This coming couple of months will be dominated for me by the County Council Unitary bid. If it is accepted by Government I will do all I can to ensure that our area gets the best possible deal. I did not vote for the bid as I am very

concerned that services will suffer, and there will be a long period of change that will cause huge disruption, and I think that there are better ways of making the changes that are necessary. I also supported the defeated motion at County that called for the people of Cornwall to have a vote on the Unitary Bid, and I am very sorry that it was defeated.

Locally there is still a lot going on at the Harbour end of the village, and I thank everyone for being so patient and understanding, and mostly good tempered!! I am certain that it will all be worth it and that we can look forward to a party after the end of March 2008, and wave goodbye to the entire workforce. There is of course the Sewage work to be done, but at least the work affecting the Harbour will be out of the way.

I am happy to be contacted (at any reasonable time!) by phone, or alternatively by e-mail, letter or fax. My phone/fax is 230497, or e-mail at Janey.comber@ncdc.gov.uk

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Church and Chapel



From the Methodist Minister

We are constantly being reminded that we live in changing times, and over the past weeks this has become apparent to us with the announcement about the change of leadership in our national government as well as the changes in some local parish, town and district councils. Having worked in local government for nearly 30 years prior to becoming a Methodist Minister, I am always fascinated by the results of local government elections. My fascinations are in trying to understand what issues cause change, and in looking at what percentages of local people vote in local council elections.

One of the changes in society, which troubles me, is how the political parties use the 'political broadcasting slots', which are made available to them at the time of local elections. Invariably the broadcasts project the national party rather than focussing on the local issues, which are pertinent to localities. This has the danger of making many of us less interested than we should be in the whole range of issues, which affect our lives at local, national and international levels because we become tired of the constant political posturing and power retention strategies to which we are subjected.

I am also suspicious that many of the changes, which we are currently experiencing – at all levels of our lives - have their roots in these political posturing and power retention struggles.

Someone described modern national and local political life to me in the allegory of a football match – a few people who are tired because of all that they are involved in as members of the team are being watched by many who

would benefit from the experience of being active participants in the team. I am sure that our country and local communities would be very different places in which to live if all of us maintained a lively concern in national and local affairs at all times. Many things which become issues leading to strong representations, often when it is too late to bring about change, might well turn out differently. Apathy and complacency are dangerous traits in any society.

As I write I have in mind the concept of the 'common good', which was often a topic in our prayers of intercession in our weekly Church Services. In one of our Methodist forms of prayer, but also in other forms in other Churches we were asked to: -

Pray: For all nations and peoples of the world

For all who serve the common good

For our government and all in authority

That all nations may work for justice and peace

That people will honour one another and seek the common good.

It has been said that in these days we know the 'cost of everything' and the 'value of nothing'. There is a cost and value to pursuing the 'common good' – hopefully all of us will agitate and work for it.

Bryan Ede

Methodist Chapel:

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

Sunday services in Boscastle at 11am

From the C of E Minister

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every activity under heaven." So runs a verse from the Old Testament, the book of Ecclesiastes.

I have come to be much more aware of the seasons living here in North Cornwall; every day life here is dictated to by the seasons of the year and the weather more than in many other parts of the country. In winter we pretty much freeze in Church; in summer Strawberry Fayre can be fantastic - so long as the fog doesn't roll in off the sea, or the winds aren't howling! And everywhere in Cornwall - don't try and get anywhere in a hurry during the holiday season!

Just 18 seasons I have been here in Boscastle; a pretty short time really, but they have been pretty full and some unexpectedly eventful!

Now the time has come for me to go; to engage in 'activity' in Surrey, where apparently they don't have any sea, how thoughtless of them!

It is quite difficult to go; I have lived in Cornwall longer than anywhere else, so it feels more like home than anywhere else.

It is always hard to leave friends; and I have made many in those few seasons here with you all.

Thank you for your friendship, and your patience with a 'vicar' who had much to learn, and still does!

May God continue to bless you all as the seasons come and go.

Until we meet again, with much love,

Revd Chris Musser

'Ave Atque Vale' written by Chris Rodda on page 20



MP Dan Rogerson writes:

It's now two years since I was elected as North Cornwall's MP. It's been an incredibly rewarding time – and a sharp learning curve! Politicians get a pretty hard time in the national media – sometimes deservedly so, and sometimes less deservedly. But if being the Member of Parliament for the place in which I grew up has instilled one thing more than any other in me, it is that real politics is local. It's not about who is up and who is down; or who said what to whom behind closed doors. It's about solving problems and giving support – representing people whose voices otherwise simply wouldn't be heard.

Each week, I receive hundreds of letters from constituents who, try as they might to penetrate the enormous machinery of government, are unable to get past the call centres, the standard letters and the bureaucracy. As an MP, it's great to be able to step in and get to people who can really sort problems out – from maladministration of tax credits to the fiasco at the Rural Payments Agency, access to Ministers and senior officials allows me and my staff to shortcut what can otherwise be very lengthy processes.

And we have real successes – whether it's resolving someone's individual problems with the Child Support Agency, or getting people together in support of the Bowthick Tip, campaigning effectively for work on the A30 at Goss Moor, or persuading the government to crackdown on Serco for providing such a woeful out of hours GP service, Cornwall's five MPs, sometimes together, sometimes individually, really are able to make a difference.

It looks like there may be good news, too, for people power at the Harbour Bridge. It seems the National Trust, the Environment Agency and their contractors are ready to listen to our concerns. Although it's impossible to come up with a design that meets with 100% approval, I am delighted that they have withdrawn the application are reconsidering it in light of local views. Watch this space!

By the time I next write here, we will have a new Prime Minister. Gordon Brown, having spent ten years at the heart of the Blair administration, is undoubtedly attempting to appear 'new'. I don't believe a word of it, I'm afraid. While Cornwall has made some real progress in recent years, there is so much more that needs to be done. If Brown is to convince that he is genuinely different it's time to move for some real action on second homes; time to listen on Post Offices and time to scrap the hated Council Tax once and for all.

Let's see where we are when I write my next article in The Blowhole. If Gordon Brown can really prepared to listen and act on our concerns, all power to his elbow. But he has some convincing to do if people in North Cornwall are to believe that he isn't just more of the same.

In the meantime, if there's anything I can do to help, please just get in touch with my office.



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Thank You

Joan and Joanne Kinsman would like to thank all those who have offered and given them help and support during their recent bereavements.

Such kindnesses from friends and neighbours is much appreciated.



To those who have computers and access to the Internet, should you click on the WI website, you will see that the WI is not a stick in the mud organisation for "oldies". For those of you who prefer not to dabble with computer technology, here are a few quotes from the web page:

"The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI), is the largest voluntary organisation for women in the UK with 211,000 members in England, Wales and the Islands".

"We play a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities".



Recipe

East really meets West with this dessert - very simple to make. Serves 4

Thai Strawberries

450g (1lb) small whole, or halved/quartered large strawberries

300ml (1/2 pint) double cream

3 tablespoons coconut liqueur (Malibu, for example)

4 small almond biscuits (optional)

To decorate: Freshly grated coconut; a few halved fresh strawberries

Hull the strawberries and halve any large ones. Whip the cream with the coconut liqueur until the mixture stands in fairly stiff peaks. Fold in the strawberries with a metal spoon, taking care not to bruise the fruit.

Crush the biscuits, if used, and place in the base of 4 individual dessert glasses.

Divide the strawberry and coconut-flavoured cream between the glasses.

Decorate with freshly grated coconut and a few fresh strawberries and serve as soon as possible.



Congratulations to Boscastle WI who have won 3rd prize at the Royal Cornwall for their floral display 'The Corner Shop'. This was the first time they have entered.

"From the environment and dairy farming to excess packaging and children's diet, our campaigns make a real impact".

"Cooking and recipes, craft projects and a membership magazine. Our members have access to a wide-range of opportunities".

"Our adult education college offers a diverse range of courses including craft, cooking, wine tasting

and complementary therapies".

Boscastle WI is no exception; whilst there are some serious matters like supporting dairy farmers over the derisory payment they receive per litre for milk and supporting the resolution "to urge the Government to stop the closure of community hospitals", a great deal more goes on.

Recent visits have included a tour of the 150-year-old, Launceston Based, Cornish and Devon Post, the only broadsheet newspaper in the country that still has advertisements on the front cover, and a tour of the award winning, largest manufacturer of cheese in Europe, Davidstow Creamery. We enjoyed an evening walk in Fowey, where we learned much about the history of the town from a local tour guide. Particularly the links the town has with Daphne du Maurier. What a quaint little place.

The speaker at the March meeting, Mrs Cooper shared her embroidery and creativity skills, with her wonderful display of patchwork, quilting, fancy handbags and pictures. Thankfully, she didn't bring along the first item she had ever made - a pair of knickers!.

Entertainment and fun is very much a part of WI life, and the group meeting at Tintagel was not exception. There was a great deal of fun and laughter with the troop of cheerleaders from Camelford, performing

their exhausting routine. Marshgate recited poems, including "When I grow old I shall wear purple", as a tribute to June Swanson. Tintagel ladies sang and acted the jingles from old advertisements for everyone to guess the product. Boscastle ladies performed short sketches about swooning librarians, deaf Mrs Scott with her 17 children, an English lady desperate to find a WC at her holiday lodgings and the singing gardeners.

During the summer months we enjoy afternoon visits to various members' gardens, to view the plants and garden and above all enjoy tea, cakes and a good "natter". Jenny Brown's garden with its beautiful clematis and riot of colour was just superb.

Coffee mornings are an important part of village life and the recent coffee morning hosted by the WI, to raise funds for the air ambulance was generously supported. Many thanks to Shirley and Arthur for letting us use their home for the event.

Looking at the programme of speakers for the year we have some very interesting topics coming up. Such as: - "The Cornish Language", "Colour me Beautiful", (the colours to wear to suit our complexion) and "The work of the Woodland Trust" to name but a few. We are always pleased to welcome visitors at our meetings, which are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the village Hall. 7.30pm, April to September and 2.00 pm October to March.

"They think they own the road"

Whether it is on two wheels, two legs, four wheels or four legs, the roads are for all to use. Sue Venning gives the horse rider's view:

Locals, visitors are they lost or just late? We all rush around in our cars with so much to do and so much going on in our heads but do we ever take time to stop, think and slow down. This is a plea by the horse riders of the area, you know the ones who get in your way and delay you all of a few seconds, take up the road and never say thank you!!

We ride two abreast as it safer, the Highway code states that riders may ride in double file, especially when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Taking up a more visible position on the road encourages vehicles to slow down when they overtake.

When riding in single file motorists can see a wider gap to pass and often they don't feel the need to slow down whereas riding two abreast automatically slows them down and it is easy to drop back to single file when the road narrows. Remember riders can hear the car coming drivers are not aware what is ahead or around the corner.

When overtaking please pass wide and slow, so many times I have nearly touched the roof of the vehicle as it brushes pass, sometimes trying to avoid the mud on the other side of the road or afraid of crossing the white line! And please don't

overtake when another car is the coming the other way there's just not enough room. We do not deliberately hold motorists up and always wave them on when it is safe to pass.

Consideration and courtesy should be a two way thing. Verbal abuse from drivers is becoming quite common and is totally unacceptable. If a vehicle slows down a smile and a 'thank you' or nod of the head are usually sufficient to acknowledge considerate drivers. It is unnecessary to take the hand from the reins, both hands on reins spell better control. Also it is unsafe to take your hand off the reins, especially with a young horse.

It is frightening to both horse and rider to see and hear a car coming towards you at speed, please heed a request to slow down or stop, treat all horses as a potential hazard. We ask politely not obstructively.

Not all horses are experienced in traffic and have to learn - unless drivers are considerate an accident will happen, metal can be replaced lives cannot.

Horses are powerful unpredictable animals and easily frightened, they can panic around fast-moving cars, please slow down, give plenty of room and be patient.

Thank you, your consideration is very much appreciated.

Sue Venning

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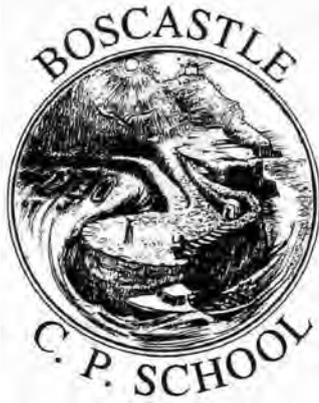
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Do you remember being forced into cross country running at school? Well... each year our children volunteer for such an event and even give up their Saturday morning to compete! The event is 'The Deli Farm Run' a proper run across fields and tracks and through suitably gloopy mud that sucks your shoes off! 104 children ran the course of which 17 children belonged to us - our team came fourth overall with Sam Haddy our first runner in in 6th place.

As part of our 'Playtime' display at the Flower Festival Class 1 (age 4,5,6) and Class 2 (age 6,7,8) wrote some poems. We include a selection for your enjoyment.

Many of you will know that Mrs Dunn has decided that she will retire from teaching at the end of the summer term. Mrs Dunn has been at Boscastle for many years and is held in the highest esteem by staff, pupils and parents. We will miss Mrs D immensely but wish her the very best for a long, happy and much deserved retirement.

Playtime fun

Playtime fun in the sun
We eat our snack
We talk and chat.

Playtime fun we love to play
We will do it all day.

Playtime games
We chase and race
We will hide and ride.

LEGO bricks
Cheeky tricks
Hopping, hopping never stopping

We eat our lunch
We crunch and munch
Skipping, skipping never slipping

That's our playtime rap
by Ben Nicholls and Mavi Degener

Passionate playtimes
Get a drink,
have some fun,
playtime has just begun.

Tuck-in-tuckshop,
have some food,
but remember don't be rude!

Jolly Jumping,
frantic fun,
everybody likes to run.

Chomping chocolate,
run a race,
don't forget to tie your laces.

Toilet time,
get a drink,
Open the door and start to think.

by Emily Venning
and Helena Showell

The Playtime

Carrots crunching, apples munching,
Chit chat, chit chat.

Playing with my friends is so much fun,
That's what makes playtime done,
Chit chat, chit chat.

I have fun sliding,
I have fun skipping,
Chit chat, chit chat. Yer!

By Georgia Reed and David Littlejohns

Brilliant Break

Playtime promises,
Lucky lead,
Altogether anywhere.
Yelping and yapping,
chitter chatter pitter patter.
Ticklish Tuckshop.

Imagination immediately.
Messy madness,
Ending entertainment.
Time to end our brilliant break time "yeah".
By Elishia Buchanan and Sophie Blake

Sunny Playtime

We like to play footy, we like to have fun.
It's a sunny playtime, a sunny playtime.
We like to skip, we like to eat sweets.
It's a sunny playtime, a sunny playtime.
We like to play basketball, we like to hopscotch.
It's a sunny playtime, a sunny playtime "yeh".

By Nathan Buchanan and Conor Stripe



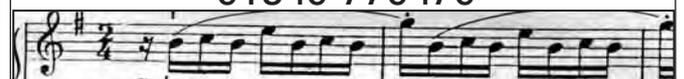
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Precious Playtime

At the beginning of playtime we got to tuck in tuck shop.

Playtimes are precious, playtimes are precious.

Then toilet time eating jelly slime.

Playtimes are precious, playtimes are precious.

Tuck in to tasty treats.

Playtimes are precious, playtimes are precious.

Walking a fast race

So that means we're in a race.

Playtimes are precious, playtimes are precious.

You can only be cool if you play football.

Playtimes are precious, playtimes are precious.

How about some yummy yogurts

or maybe even beautiful buns

but you would be very lucky to have chocolate chums.

By Harry Lockyear and Charlie Reynolds

Playtime is really fun!

We like to hop,
We like hopscotch,
Playtime is fun,
Playtime is fun.

We like jumping,
We like munching,
Playtime is fun,
Playtime is fun.

We like to do skipping,
We like whipping,
Playtime is fun,

Playtime is fun.
We like to do
mumbling,
We like grumbling,
Playtime is fun,
Playtime is fun.
We love swinging,
We love singing,
Playtime is fun,
Playtime is fun.

by Lucy & Megan



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COASTGUARDS' REPORT



Hello readers here's the update on Boscastle CoastGuard since the last report.

Not a lot happening at the moment but we know it's going to come.

7/3/07 13:20hrs Call from Falmouth surfer in trouble at Trebarwith Strand rescue 193 on scene all ended well returned to station 14:37hrs.

In Attendance :Frank Jones North Cornwall Sector Manager - L.Siford(S/O) G.King(D.S.O) - T.Little-A.Williams-S&D. Stewardson-S.Roberts

20/4/07 22:12hrs Call from Falmouth report of lights on the cliff at Trebarwith-Treknow area

Investigated (Fisherman) returned to station 23:20hrs

In Attendance : L.Siford(S/O) G.King(D.S.O) - D.Roots.

And that's it folks just two call outs training continues the new recruits are coming along fine, the new equipment is slowly arriving to us we hope to get most of it by the start of the mad 3 months.

By the next issue I hope to have a photo of the new Boscastle Cliff Rescue Team.

That's all for now please take care on our coastline.

*Les Siford
Station Officer.*

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Doctor's Corner

Julie Tomlinson, Nurse Practitioner. points out some of the health issues connected with being overweight

The Obesity Epidemic and the rising tide of Diabetes: how we can help you to lose weight and improve health status.

None of us could have failed to see on the television or read in the newspapers about the so-called obesity epidemic across the Western World. Being told that one is 'Clinically Obese' could be shocking for many, as it conjures up images of people too large to get out of bed or leave the house. However, this is a common misconception people often have. Obesity is a medical term that describes someone whose Body Mass Index (a calculation between height and weight) is 30 or above. Normal weight is a body mass index (BMI) of 20 - 24.9 and those between 25 - 29.9 are termed 'overweight'. Often we see people at the surgery who are 2 or 3 stone overweight

but because of their height, their BMI is over 30 and they are therefore clinically obese.

Obesity is known to be associated with many health issues and illnesses from heart disease to hip and knee problems and even some forms of cancer. However, what seems to be causing a great deal of concern for patients, health professionals and the government alike, is the correlation between the rise in obesity and the increase in the prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes. This type of diabetes, formerly called 'Late Onset Diabetes' used to be thought of as a disease of old age but this is no longer so. Lifestyle changes have resulted in a general reduction in exercise levels and an increase in the volume of calories we consume - partly because portion sizes are often bigger but also because of the types of food we now consume. As a result, the age of onset for Type 2 Diabetes is reducing and it is not uncommon

for us to see people develop Type 2 Diabetes in young adulthood. Worse still, even teenagers have begun to develop the disease. Here at Boscastle and Tintagel surgeries, I have seen an increase in the prevalence rate from 2.3% in 2002 to 4.4% in 2006 - almost 100% increase over the last 4 years. This trend is predicted to continue just as quickly over the next decade across the Western World and it is thought that for the first time in many decades, life expectancy rates in developed countries will begin to fall.

So what health professionals do to help people lose weight and improve their health? Enormous amounts of NHS money are spent on medications and operations to 'undo' the harm caused by obesity and diabetes so it makes sense for us to tackle this area and prevent health issues from arising.

Practice Nurses can provide information on how to reduce weight by healthier eating and increasing exercise. Often people are so used to eating large quantities or high calorie foods that they do not realise

how many extra calories they are consuming. The Practice Nurse can give free leaflets on healthy eating, portion size and ideas for menu planning. Alternatively you may prefer to attend a weight loss group and so the Nurse can advise you where slimming clubs are held. These are often successful because they provide peer support from fellow 'dieters' and have regular weigh-ins.

The Doctors and Nurses can also refer patients to designated sports centres with an 'exercise prescription' for an induction and exercise programme. Patients referred by us will not only see the benefits of increasing their fitness levels but will also be entitled to reduced rates for the gym.

For some patients we may be able to prescribe medications that help weight loss. These are limited to people who fulfil certain criteria and have regular follow-up to ensure they are achieving good results but not causing side effects. If you would like to discuss these, again speak to your Doctor or Nurse who can advise whether these would be suitable for you.



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Doctor's Corner continued



Research has shown that obese people only need to lose 5-10% of their body weight before seeing a substantial reduction in the risk to their health. This means that a person who weighs 15 stone for example, would begin to significantly improve their health after losing 10.5 – 21 pounds in weight. For most people with an average weight loss of 1-2 lbs per week, this could be achieved in 6 – 10 weeks. All of a sudden, the idea that reducing weight to improve our health doesn't seem so unachievable. We aren't suggesting people slim down to the infamous 'size zero' but aim for a 5-10% loss initially....after that, if you still need to lose more and feel motivated to do so, you will continue to see health benefits the nearer to your ideal weight you become.

If you feel that your weight is creeping up, whether you are overweight or clinically obese, please feel free to contact the surgery for advice from your Nurse or Doctor.

News from the Lookout



In the last few weeks NCI Coastwatch have said "Hello" to hundreds of people and "Goodbye" to one particular individual.

Always one of the first to spot the visitors, we can tell that people have been coming back to Boscastle in increasing numbers this year. Just by looking out of our windows. In fact our watchkeepers logged well over 800 walkers on the Coastal Path during the Easter weekend alone and it only takes one burst of good weather to bring people out to enjoy the view and read the weather information we have on the outside of the Lookout.

But we have also had to bid farewell to our manager, Mike Morell,

one of the original team who built up the organisation in Boscastle. Mike was involved from the beginning in the initial fund raising and renovation that began in 2002 and continued for 12 long months. Since then he has seen the group grow until we now have over 45 members and a setup that include equipment that the pioneers would have given their eye teeth to have.

We all owe him a lot. Taking over as manager is someone you might know, John Davis of Forrabury, who has played a major part in the structural, operational and equipment development of the Lookout. Among the latest developments are the installation of a sophisticated new weather instrument and the continuing improvement of our wind generating system- the sign that we're making our contribution to the environment.

This winter, three additional Watchkeepers have completed their training and three new members are currently at various stages in their programme. However, we could always do with a few more as we are hoping to extend our weekend opening hours this summer.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in joining the team, John Davis 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 01840 250741.



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AVE ATQUE VALE:

Farewell to the Reverend Christine Musser



*Rev Christine on the Valency Lawn,
photo taken by Jim Castling soon after her arrival in the village*

It hardly seems four and a half years since the Reverend Christine Musser was welcomed by *The Blowhole* to her first full-time ministry. On 28th January 2003, she became priest-in-charge of the seven churches of Davidstow, Forrabury, Minster, Lesnewth, Otterham, St Juliot and Trelvalga.

The experiences of her first incumbency hardly need recounting: as the central figure in BBC's highly successful series, *A Seaside Parish*, the extra demands placed on her in the aftermath of the 2004 flood, and her much-publicized visit to victims of the tsunami in Thailand. "It was a steep learning curve," she comments wryly.

When Christine arrived she confessed she knew nothing about ministering to a large, rural parish. In her previous post at Torpoint most people had a street address, relatively easy to find. Here she spent a lot of

time getting lost, wandering the byways and back lanes of North Cornwall.

However her new parishioners could not have been more friendly or welcoming to a new, and female, priest, still something of a rarity in this area. Was being a woman a handicap? Hardly, she rejects the notion, the argument over gender differences being much overblown.

Her main difficulty was one she shares with all clerics, an enormous burden of paperwork. Only recently has she had secretarial help two mornings a week, and at first the job of looking after so many parishes was almost overwhelming. She applauds the work of each church council and its treasurer, but attending meetings takes up the equivalent of a full month a year, never mind the demands of many diocesan and parochial organisations. If she has any regrets it is that these commitments prevented her spending as

much time visiting people as she would have liked.

What was the impact of *A Seaside Parish*? Well, she snorts, it certainly increased visitor numbers. But she felt it also improved the profile of the Church, made it a more human and approachable institution, and gave the public a fresh view of a priest's work within it. Many people were attracted to the image of Boscastle, the way of life it portrayed, of an essentially caring community where people looked out for each other. Many viewers wrote to her to say how much they had been affected by the programme, how it had given them fresh hope for the future.

Does she manage any leisure time? No time for it now, but before the priesthood Christine was a keen amateur dramatist. Quite a good preparation, she quips, "All that dressing up." On Mondays, the telephone goes off the hook, not literally, for hers is a full-time job, but when space is available, she is enormously devoted to her family. At present it is somewhat scattered. Her eldest daughter, Emma, is

in Oxford, and Sarah, the youngest, in Southampton. The middle daughter, Heather, provided her mother with one final pleasurable duty, marrying her to Andrew Leighton at Forrabury on May 26th. The sun smiled on the occasion of a true family gathering with her husband, daughters and grandchildren. Heather's two girls Hazel, 10, and Freya, 7, acted as bridesmaids, and the latest addition, Emma's little Phoebe, vastly enjoyed herself in granny's arms.

Christine's departure coincides with that of Bishop Bill Ind. "In many ways," she remarks, "I would not have liked going on without him." A most wonderful, down-to-earth character, whom she got on with like the proverbial house fire. A kindly man whose cheerful demeanour belied a fierce intellect. "A very clever man," mused Christine. "A hard act to follow."

Since taking up his new teaching post as Head of Music at the Priory School in Dorking, husband Brett and Christine have perforce been separated. But in July she will be joining him in her new family home in Pirbright, a pretty inland

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Rev Christine with one of her granddaughters

Surrey village, before taking up her new post. We all wish her well. Another hard act to follow.

Any advice to a successor? Be patient. Listen. Be open and friendly. Be prepared to get stuck in. Buy a lot of maps, or better still, a SatNav.

Discussing Christine's imminent departure *The Blowhole* team acknowledged that, even if none of us were religiously inclined ("Although I read a lot of Trollope," said Philippa) we agreed that hers had been a profound influence in the village.

Few have cause to regret her leaving us more than Jane Castling. She and Jim were the first couple Christine met and who set the stamp on her relationship with the village from the very beginning. Although they were not churchgoers, Christine's ministry embraced them equally, and provided a huge support and comfort to Jane after Jim's passing. She remembers particularly how Christine lifted her spirits by inviting her to sit with her to watch *A Seaside Parish* together. For her kindness and help throughout the years Jane will remain forever grateful.

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Know Your Parish Councillors



Anthony Brewer

Reddivallen Farm, Trevalga, Boscastle
Age 50 married with one son. Born in Cornwall at Trewince, St Issey near Wadebridge. Head Boy at Wadebridge Comprehensive School

Farmed with family at Trewince and then moved to Reddivallen Farm in January 2001. Produces Organic Beef and Lamb. Also does Bed and Breakfast and Self Catering. Was a member of St Issey Parish Council for 14 years and a North Cornwall District Councillor for 2 years before moving to Boscastle.

Vice-Chairman and Groundsman Boscastle F.C.

Hobbies: Snooker, Football, Competition Ploughing and Wadebridge and District Farmers Club.



Arthur Bannister

Born in Warwickshire. Educated at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield and the Birmingham School of Architecture.

Served two years National Service in the Royal Artillery. Retired. Former occupations: Architectural profession

and international building industry. Served on British Standards Institution technical committees for European Co-ordination.

First visited Boscastle in 1960, returned every year and finally settled in the village eleven years ago.

Married to Shirley who is an active member of the local WI and Church. Two sons.

Became a member of Boscastle Village Hall Committee and joined the Blowhole Editorial Team in 1997. Served on Forrabury and Minster Parish Council since 1999.

Interests include interior design, architecture, building construction and the countryside.



Chris Jarvis

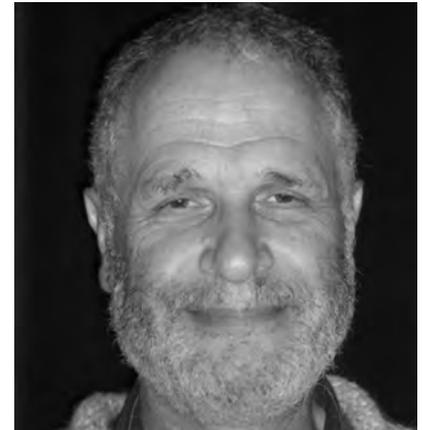
Trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital London and qualified in 1970. I was briefly in the Royal Air Force as a Medical Officer then had 5 years working as a GP/Anaesthetist in rural Ontario, Canada before coming back to the UK and this practice in 1979

I joined Tintagel-Boscastle practice (then with Drs Young and Weir) in 1979. I had previously worked as a junior doctor at the Royal Cornwall Hospital from 1971-72 ... that's how I became attached to Cornwall. Over the last 20 years I have trained junior doctors in practice and also I work for the Primary care Trust as an appraiser of other GPs.

I have two sons, aged 35 and 32, - both attended Boscastle Primary School, Sir James Smith's School Camelford and then London University - the older one is a freelance journalist, the youngest an IT guru. My wife Peg (aka Jacqueline) originally trained as a nurse, subsequently obtained a BA in Fine Art at Falmouth and did postgraduate study at Exeter University - is now a painter and printmaker.

I've worked with sport for 30 + years - originally with cycling. I have worked with teams at a number of Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games and World Championships. I am a member of the British Olympic Association Medical Committee and Medical Advisor to the Commonwealth Games Council for England

My hobbies are music - in which I have a pretty eclectic tastes, also cycling and philately.



Chris Rodda

Born in an army family, India 1943. Parents moved to St Minver 1948.

Schools: Tredrizzick CP, St Boniface's College, Plymouth, Bodmin Grammar School.

Teacher/lecturer 30 years, St Austell College, Sir James Smith's, Camelford. Retired. Also sometime librarian, personnel officer, market researcher, postman, pottery assistant, quality control inspector, failed writer.

Lived Trevalga and Boscastle since 1973. Married Ann in Greece 1999, two step children, two grandchildren (third on way). *(continued on next page)*

Know Your Parish Councillors *continues*

(Cllr Rodda cont.) Hobbies: antiques and general rubbish collection, travel. Supporter of Air Ambulance and animal charities. Member Ramblers' Association, NT.

Intentions: try to maintain the best from the past, encourage organic change.



George Findlay

Born Trevalga Trehorne Farm in Trevalga Parish. Schools: Boscastle CP and Sir James Smith's Grammar School.

Left school to work on family farm at Trehorne. Joined Camelford YFC and held office as Chairman and Treasurer. Represented the Club at county in various competitions.

Married Gill in 1967. Family: Julian, who still lives at home. Sonya, married and works in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Left farming in 1988 and has worked in construction, engineering, gardening, building and even as a relief postman. Now retired.

Parish Councillor since 1994. Striving to secure the best for the parish.

<i>NCDC Election Valency Ward</i>		
Candidate	Description	Votes
Janey Comber	Lib Dem	700
Abigail Ann Kirby-Harris	Local Conservatives	314
<i>Electorate</i>	<i>1944</i>	
<i>Turnout</i>	<i>53.3%</i>	



Ian Dawson

Born in the "Black Country" in 1959. Lived and worked in Hampshire 1967 – 1985 then became resident of Boscastle. Married Amanda in 1991, one daughter Harriet aged 11. Parent Governor at Boscastle CP School, acting on Health & safety & buildings committee also ASA Child Welfare Officer for Stingers – Camelford swimming club.

Began career as engineering technician with major US company, then set up own business. Semi-retired due to ill-health 1995, returned to full time education. Obtained first class honours degree (M.Eng) University of Plymouth 2003 and first prize in British Institute of Steel design competition.

At present combine I summertime working with Amanda in the antiques and interiors shop that we set up with Barry Knowles at the Old Mill, & during the winter months I concentrate on civil and structural engineering design projects.

Hobbies: Sports were my first love. I represented England at junior (under 21's) and at senior level in Roller Hockey. Keen Motor cyclist in 80's but kept falling off! Other likes: walking, cycling, swimming, surfing, Ice & Roller Skating. Also Sea Angling from the shore. Restoration and preservation of historic buildings and structure particular favourite bridges



Nanette Little

Age: 44. Married to Roger Irving-Little for 22 years.

Career details: Born and raised at Edwistowe, Nottinghamshire. (The village is the home of the Major Oak and the legend of Robin Hood).

Arrived in Boscastle 22 years ago for a job interview at The Riverside Hotel, having studied Hotel and Catering at college, and has never looked back.

Met Roger and now works full time at the Boscastle Pottery (handling, glazing, etc)

Hobbies: collecting old postcards of Boscastle, reading, gardening, knitting and sewing.

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Know Your Parish Councillors continues



Pat Day

I have lived in Boscastle since 1964, originally coming to the village to run the Youth Hostel. I have been a parish councillor since 1983. Now semi-retired as a gardener, I was caretaker of the War Memorial for 11 years before passing the job over to Olaf Sargint last November.

Since Boscastle joined the National Coast Watch in 2003, I, along with many others, have volunteered to do a 4 hour Coast Watch per week to take note of fishing boats, shipping, coast path walkers.

I am also particularly interested in the environment. I am an active supporter of the Best Kept Village competition which Boscastle won several years ago.



Philippa Arthan

Born in North Wales, 1953 and raised a farmer's daughter in Cheshire, I was educated at grammar school in Shropshire and University in Sheffield. I have lived in Boscastle since 1980 – originally coming to the area to do a government survey on 'Women & Employment'.

I have done a stint on various village committees – Playgroup, Boscastle School Parent Governor, Village Hall, Community Centre and WEA. I have been on the editorial team of the Blowhole since its inception and a parish councillor since 1999.

I have two, twenty-something children, who both attended Boscastle CP and Sir James Smith's School. I currently work as an interviewer for a Market and Social Research company.

Interests include music, natural history, messing about on my computer, enjoying our lovely countryside and reading. I love gardening, favouring the wild approach and am particularly concerned about environmental issues.

Forrabury and Minster Parish Council meet in the Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend and public participation is permitted at the start of the meeting.

Clerk to the Council is Bob Smith, telephone number 01840 250440, email formin.parish@virgin.net.

Website: www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk



Royston Hancock

Age: 61. Born at Half Acre, fourth generation to have lived in the village. Educated Boscastle Primary School and Sir James Smith's Grammar School, Camelford.

Moved to Tresuck in 1956 where still lives and farms.

Married to Josephine (Jo in the Newsagents) for 35 years. No children.

Parish Councillor for ten years. 25 years working for North Cornwall Conservative Association, eleven years on the Executive Council and seven years as Area Chairman.

Past hobbies: horse riding and badmington.

<i>FMPC Election, May 2007</i>	
Candidate	Votes
Philippa Arthan	223
Arthur Bannister	252
Anthony Brewer	188
Ian Dawson	165
Pat Day	174
George Findlay	198
Kerriann Godwin	148
Royston Hancock	197
Chris Jarvis	294
Nanette Little	255
Michael Parsons	112
Chris Rodda	160
Eric Smith	86
<i>Electorate</i>	<i>841</i>
<i>Turnout</i>	<i>44%</i>

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Local Churches:

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Methodist 01840 770274

Catholic 01840 770663

Harbourmaster: 01840 250453

Parish Council:

website: www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk

clerk: 01840 250440

email clerk: formin.pariah@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

Boscastle & Crackington Gig Club

Crews out in force at World Gig Championship

The ability to send six teams to compete in this year's World Championship is a measure of just how far the club has progressed over the last 12 months. Last year we exceeded expectations by returning with a trophy, and amazingly we were able to repeat that this year, but our real achievement was having a total of 36 members rowing and supporting over the weekend. Taking both Torrent and Rival enabled us to enter men's and ladies' crews in the A, B and Vets races.

Results were really encouraging
Men's A - 57th from 103
Men's B - 96th from 103

and winners of Group I Men's Vets - 32nd from 48

Ladies' A - 81st from 95
Ladies' B - 95th, with a scratch crew, dependent on 2 'borrowed rowers'
Ladies' Vets - 24th from 27 starters

It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, so many boats, so many races (most people raced 5 times), fantastic weather and really memorable social evenings - which were replicated on Saturday May 19th, when most of the club members turned up at the Cobweb to handover the latest trophies for safe keeping.

Torrent returning to Boscastle

After a winter refurbishment, some time spent at Port Gaverne and on the Scillies for the world Championships, Torrent is returning home to Boscastle Harbour for the summer, with rowing



Ladies B Team at the Cobweb

on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

However, due to varying tide and weather conditions we will have to continue to row both Torrent and Rival from Port Gaverne on some evenings. In addition, the on-going work in the harbour area does make

launching doubly difficult and once work starts on the new bridge it will not be possible to get to the YHA slipway to launch.

Please rest assured though that the club is committed to keeping Torrent at Boscastle and we are very hopeful that



Men's B team crossing the finishing line



Ladies' A team at the World Gig Championships with cox Trevor

our on-going discussions with the National Trust will enable us to secure the Rocket Store as a long term base and boatshed.

Don't forget we are still looking for new members so if you fancy a try, just come along between 6.30pm and 7.00pm on Fridays, which will be a club 'open' night, you won't regret it.

To check for the latest rowing and launching information, go to the club's website: www.boscastleigclub.org.uk.

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7th July: Flamingos	1st Sept: Blue Slate
14th July: Unsung Hero	8th Sept: Memphis
21st July: Billy Mac	15th Sept: Johnny Cowling
28th July: Atlantic Highway	22nd Sept: Inside Out
4th Aug: Whiskey Thieves	29th Sept: Jailhouse

Unitary Authority

Most of us are unaware of the consequences of a unitary authority. It is cloaked in political jargon and to understand fully it would involve a lot of background reading.

The OneCornwall team say that a unitary authority would cut both bureaucracy and council tax. They claim that large savings could be made, though other bodies, including NCDC, dispute their figures. The new authority would be directly responsible for all aspects of Local Government, thus concentrating a lot of power into the hands of relatively few people.

The key to good local government is local accountability and accessibility - you know your local councillors **because** they are local, and you can easily get hold of them when you need. The bigger the local government unit, the more remote and less accessible it becomes.

Nobody has asked if we wish to abolish the district councils, yet any reorganisation will impact on us all. Obviously, it would mean that we would no longer have a district councillor - who lives locally and understands the realities

of life here. Yes, we will still have a county representative, but they will be one voice out of 80-100. Also is easy to attend NCDC council meetings, which take place in Camelford, a trip to Truro is not so simple.

Sixteen 'Community Networks' are proposed but the details of precisely how these will work seems fairly sketchy. Suggestions include delegating responsibility to local councils - sounds fine, but it could result in a greater workload for unpaid volunteers - and what if a parish or town council was unwilling to accept any extra responsibilities?

The consultation period on the proposal is coming to a close and will finish on the 22nd June. The Government are keen to hear the views of local people, you can send comments by email to: structures@communities.gsi.gov.uk or by post to:

Unitary Structures
Consultation Team,
Zone 5/E8, Eland House,
Bressenden Place,
LONDON, SW1E 5DU.

Full details about the proposal can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk and follow the links to OneCornwall. Also, the parish council have copies of the proposal.

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Forrabury Church Flower Festival



*Mary Shepherd's depiction of 'The Blowhole'
(what other pic could we choose!)*

The theme for the festival that took place on the May bank holiday weekend, 25th – 28th May, was “Village Life”, which was truly reflected in the colourful and varied floral displays.

The flower Festival co-ordinator, Odette Rigby-Jones, not only successfully co-ordinated the arrangers and flowers, but managed to find the time to arrange the lovely displays depicting “Forrabury Church”, “Boscastle Harbour” and the “Boscastle School”, and a number of smaller displays. Very well done Odette!

“Cream Tea” on the font must be a first, a simple idea but very effective and pretty, was arranged by Pat Wood.

“The Blowhole” both the geological feature in the harbour and our very own magazine made for two very different arrangements by Mary Shepherd. One, in a stunning contrast of black and white to reflect the magazine and the other a construction of Penally Point squirting out a rush of white foam into the sea.

“The Pillars of the Community” beautifully

decorated by Jen Compton and Jess Brown. Pillars are very difficult to arrange and they looked a picture.

The very novel “Hatching, Matching and Dispatching”, by Anne and Adrian Prescott, reflecting the village life cycle was very cleverly executed.

Angela Pethick and Edith Gommoll showed how the “Craft Circle” could match colours not only for quilting, but also in their lovely posy pads.

“The Duck Race” by Sally Searle was a riot of colour and fun with its novel yellow plastic ducks.

“England’s Green and Pleasant Land”, a beautiful pedestal arrangement all in green, was arranged by Jenny Brown on behalf of the W.I.

Ruth and Michael Parsons complimented their colourful flowers with the clever addition of colourful models of little people to reflect “Together @3”.

Finally, “Village Life as a Whole” and “Out and About in the Village”, two very modern displays by Elaine Bromell and Emma Paul.



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Acquiring a taste for the high life through the kind Christmas gift from our son and daughter-in-law of a voucher to visit Jamie Oliver's 'Fifteen', we are now in an almost constant and desperate search for culinary excitement and perfection. Where to eat out next? It is by a stroke of luck that we have a set of friends who are willing to collude with us, to encourage us and to accompany us on our pursuit of pleasure and self indulgence. I have a feeling that this enthusiasm may have something to do with a not unreasonable desire to avoid eating my culinary efforts whenever possible. I take no offence. I agree unconditionally. If I am asked to chose between devising an edible menu, going out and doing the shopping, coming home and preparing said menu, serving the pretty non-Nigella results and doing the washing up or, as an alternative, being taken out for a meal, I see no difficulty in making a choice.

Such is our good fortune that not only do we live in a sensational part of the country and county, but we live within very easy reach of a restaurant which has several unexpected and major attributes: an excellent view, parking, delightful staff, a menu of absolutely stunning dishes WRITTEN DAILY, (I have to stress this point. What? Freshly prepared food? My God! I Hear you cry. Where is the NVQ Microwave

chef heating up the items prepared in some dark and distant cave and transported secretly in the still of the night?), and a wine list which includes, and this is my favourite, 'a fantastically easy drinking blend' of Australian wine. Now, I am all in favour of fantastically easy drinking. I have never pursued the path of difficult drinking, wherever that is. I like my guests to be happy, I like them to enjoy their glass of wine, or whatever tippie they choose. Heaven forbid that anyone should say, 'Dear me, this glass of wine is really very tricky. I'm not quite sure I will be able to master it before it's time to go home.' I suppose, having spent many years teaching, or being paid to teach, at least, I could prepare a series of worksheets on the topic of Overcoming Difficult Wines, or something like that. Maybe a textbook: I could attract an EU grant.

Eleven of us, slightly large and uncontrollable group of rather 'mature' adults arrived. I thought that the level of relief that I was not doing the cooking was pretty high, quite reasonably, I felt. The lunch menu offers a choice of five starters, five main courses, (with vegetarian options for those of you about to complain) and a choice of four desserts. Although I would class myself as a 'picky' eater, I actually ate three courses! This was remarked upon by one eagle-eyed friend, who actually said: 'I've never seen you leave a



clean plate before'; probably because she'd seen me trying to eat my own cooking. For me, the delightful aspect of this menu is that the dish one is served with contains the stated ingredients, beautifully prepared, with sensitively chosen and unusual flavourings which enhance the taste of the main component of the dish. If you feel you wish to have extra vegetables, these are available, at an unbelievably reasonable cost of £1.50 as a side dish. As I have a small appetite, and I don't want anyone remarking about my consumption of the easy drinking wine at this point, I am happy to have my main dish without extras. I had two fish dishes, mackerel as a starter and organic salmon with capers to follow: then, how did I do this? I actually ate raspberry brûlée as a dessert. The whole meal was delicious. I cannot remember the last time I ate three courses with pleasure. And there is absolutely no need for those comments from the crowd at the back.

In addition, the staff are absolutely delightful: they listen patiently to my wisecracks about 'fantastically easy drinking', which they must have heard

a thousand times before, without a single quiver.

The service is relaxed and friendly. Eleven people were all able to pay the various separate parts of the bill. In fact, it was so efficient, I was unable to pass my wine off on as belonging to anyone else. I am, of course, a member of the aristocracy, whereas my husband is a mere pleb who found the portions a bit small. Greedy little piglet. Where is this amazing place? Look no further than Widemouth Bay. Find '**Elements**'. It's amazing. I'm not saying I'm hoping to get a free meal out of this, but you never know. Go there. It is really worth a visit. And I would be happy to come with you in my capacity as restaurant critic. And consultant. That should do the trick.

I have to add an unhappy post script to this article: horror of horrors, **Elements** have stopped doing lunches except on Sundays! How dare they! Fortunately, they continue to produce their excellent and ever changing menu for evening repast, so all opportunity for fantastically easy drinking is not lost.

Ann Rodda

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER?

Or perhaps: Water under Troubled Bridge? Boscastle Regeneration Update June 2007



The remains of The Lord's Bridge

The construction company, Halcrow Group Limited, has withdrawn its current application to replace the old harbour bridge with one of more modern design.

Following a stormy meeting on May 9th at the Community Centre, called by local resident David Ferrett, a packed audience criticized representatives of the Bridge Working Group for producing a design which they had neither seen nor approved. Some 1600 signatures had been collected, over four hundred from local people, objecting to the contemporary style of bridge.

The Group defended their decision by stating that given its increased span, the design for a traditional bridge had turned out to be too cumbersome and intrusive, and therefore a contemporary design had been put forward as an alternative.

Impressed by the strength of feeling expressed at the meeting, Andrew Davey, the NT's Area Manager, stated, "At the bridge working group meeting on May 18, it was agreed to look at ways of modifying the current design to reflect these ideas." He promised that details of a revised version would

be circulated widely in the local community prior to resubmitting a planning application.

The problem is that their architects did not ask their customers what they wanted. The National Trust, EA and Halcrow must respect the wishes of the community, not assume they know what is good for them. Otherwise their plans will simply be rejected time and time again. The most important thing is to get right a design

argue that the direction of the flood was largely determined by the structure of the present road bridge, which has been rebuilt in its original form. Blockages caused by cars or tree pile ups should be eliminated by the reconfiguration of the car park and tree clearance further up the Valency.

If Halcrow could design a bridge with the "wow" factor, incorporating the best of modern design with a traditional feel, it might win



the 'overflow' carpark

which could be around for the next hundred years, not be pressured into a hasty decision. And if it takes time, so be it.

There are those, like local historian Anne Knight, who see little point in replacing the harbour bridge. They

over skeptics. Until then, the arguments will continue.

Overflow Car Park

The so-called "overflow" car park constitutes much of the available car parking space -140 out of the 240 bays - and is therefore



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Bunker? Toilet? Bus Shelter? One thing is certain, it is an eyesore

likely to be in use most of the tourist season. The site's owners, the National Trust, have agreed to its lease as long as visually the area resembles an open meadow, and are concerned about the durability of "greencrete" or cellular plastic grass surface. This is a plastic membrane sown with natural grass. Inspection of similar sites in other parts of the country reveal mixed results. Access points apparently wear out quickly, leaving the membrane exposed, and the whole site requires a lot of maintenance to resupply growing shoots. To reinforce the surface where there is hard vehicle wear there is a suggestion that green tarmac or gravel



A touch of the Mikado

could be incorporated into the design. What this would look like and how acceptable such a solution might both to NCDC and NT is still under discussion.

The Ugliest Building in Cornwall?

Work on the new public toilets or "Gateway Centre" has stopped while NCDC seeks retrospective planning

permission from itself to proceed with a design which, through an oversight, is 1.4 metres higher than intended. Various modifications are being considered which it is hoped will reduce its ugliness. A suggestion that the toilets be moved back to the original site alongside the river has been vetoed by the Environment Agency.



too close for comfort



nice view shame about the bins

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Pickwick Papers



Perhaps like me you have thought of yourself as being ageless; you know the sort of thing - you feel eighteen in your mind but are actually well into or past your prime! With a bit of luck, and some tweaking of the old bones by the doctor you seem capable of most things that life demands of you and one goes forward into life making it as full as possible. You might also in an elitist way think of yourself as, well special, and that is all to the good because in the eyes of some of course you are. Then one day something happens - it can be quite a minor event but often quite traumatic - that changes the whole pivot of your life and you get the feeling that things are changing and will never be quite the same again.

My recent, and continuing association with the medical profession brought me up with a start, because this young, enthusiastic man (I thought) was being told at most turns in the road back to health that what I was suffering was common (!) in men of my age and that I was lucky to have steered clear of hospitals over the last fifty years. I didn't feel particularly lucky, I still don't for as I write this I am awaiting what is described as a routine surgical procedure. Getting to this point has not been without difficulties, loss of medical notes at the hospital set the whole affair back very nearly six weeks and then a pre-operative procedure has already been put back by a week from the original appointment. So I'm not feeling too special now - one of a number of men of a certain age, seen only as a statistic waiting in the NHS

queue. Part of me, the coward, says 'Well, go on waiting', but another part of me is anxious to get the whole thing over and done with - after all men of a certain age really don't know how much life there is still left to live and I begrudge surrendering over six months of the residue to just hanging around awaiting the medics pleasure. The good news is they say they can put me right and my GP says in a month or two I will have put the whole event behind me.

Being in and around Boscastle at the moment is somewhat similar to my recent problems. The flood happened in this beautiful, timeless place and I suppose we all realised that things would never be the same again - so the plan was to recover as much of the "old" Boscastle as possible. The fruits of that recovery are being felt, particularly in the harbour area at present; a controversial bridge design, a sort of Martello tower at the car-park entrance and the new visitor attraction of diggers in the river; the latter proving quite a photo opportunity for a tremendous number of visitors. I suppose it is inevitable that no matter how hard you might try you can never totally put life back to where it was before disaster struck.

What we can do of course is to move on; after all the past is pretty much "another country", and impossible to re-visit. Boscastle has been changing and evolving over the centuries, and old photographs, many taken in our lifetime, revealsome of those changes; changes which doubtless caused controversy in their day too. I wonder what the youngsters of Boscastle make

of the re-generation - after all they will have to live with the results long after we have gone from this place - will they thank us or criticise us for the proposed improvements?

Whilst I am not in favour of what we loosely call modernisation I have to accept that it can, nevertheless, be an asset when sensitively applied - we are after all in the twenty first century, aren't we? For instance I am to have an operation using a laser and this procedure will reduce my hospitalisation to a mere day patient, in and out in twenty four hours whereas previous methods required a four to five day stay in hospital. I certainly applaud and embrace that area of modernisation - after all that is progress.

It is amazing how many people feel they own a piece of Boscastle. People from all over the country come here with expectations and whilst the question of whether or not the vicar is still here is no longer a priority the favourite now is - "whose idea was it build that new bridge?" Now this mere shopkeeper is used to taking the blame for the weather, when the sun doesn't shine, and a myriad of other minor problems raised by tourists, but please sort out the new bridge soon before Nigel Farrell of Seaside Parish fame, descends on us to make an eight episode docu-soap about it.

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Distinguished Trees of the Parish

by Mike Simmonds

In our Parish we are blessed with having considerable areas of broadleaved woodland compared with much of North Cornwall. In celebration of the fact I hope to highlight certain trees that I find remarkable during my wanderings and look into their ecology, history and value to us in the landscape.



Lime leaves

Limes

Our two native lime trees are the broad-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) and the small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*). The latter could well have been the dominant tree of the original wildwoods of southern England until 6000 years

ago. Pollen grains preserved in deep lake deposits give us this information. Since then, a cooling climate has meant that its seed seldom ripens and is now a rare and local tree of old hedges and ancient woodland. Broad-leaved lime is even scarcer, and is localised to the limestone soils of the Wye Valley and South Yorkshire and a handful of other sites. Others do crop up from time to time— it wasn't until the early 1990's that botanist Francis Rose 'discovered' dozens of wild stands at the foot of the South Downs.

A third species which is considered 'native' by virtue of it being introduced a long time ago is Common lime (*Tilia x europaea*, also *Tilia vulgaris*) and is a hybrid between the two above. True wild hybrids are a rarity. It is the planted version probably originating from imported European stock back in the mid-17th century with which we will be more familiar. About 400 years ago this hybrid became the essential tree for tree avenues in towns and



Common lime at Home Farm (aka the Bell tree)

cities and as feature trees on village greens and in churchyards. It is difficult to see why it went on to become such a favourite of local authorities. The hybrid has retained bad features from its parents – coarse, poorly arranged foliage, scrawny tall crowns, unsightly burrs and great masses of twisted lower branches and sprouts. It nourishes more aphids to the square inch than any other tree and the honey dew that rains down makes the leaves

shiny and sticky then black with sooty mould! Because of rapid growth shading out property, root damage to pavements and the sticky mess on peoples car paintwork we are nowadays more likely to see, in urban situations, avenues of stumpy limes which are regularly subjected to dramatic and aggressive lopping and pruning!

On the plus side it is often the tallest broadleaf around

continued on page 32

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Distinguished Trees of the Parish

continued from page 31

the district. It has copious strongly and sweetly scented flowers in July, can harbour quantities of mistletoe and is remarkably windfirm. The dense mass of sprouts and branches is ideal cover for wildlife and nesting birds – the spotted flycatcher is said to be particularly attracted.

The original limewoods would have had a long history of coppicing as the wildwood was cleared by our ancestors, as it has remarkable powers of regeneration much like hazel and to a lesser degree ash, oak and hornbeam. Cut poles would have been used for fuel, hop-poles etc. Larger poles were stripped to get at the 'bast' – the fibrous layer between bark and greenwood – which was twisted into ropes. The pale soft heartwood cuts cleanly and has been a favourite with wood carvers since the Middle Ages and still is today. Although I am told by my carving instructor, a craftsman of 35 years



The tangle of sprouting growth at the base

experience, that UK lime is 'no good', European grain carves better – especially German. (It would wouldn't it!)

Limes are tricky things for the tree-spotter! There are many planted species of lime around that have originated from Europe, or have been hybridised or grafted, thus masking true wild specimens, so it takes a skilled botanist to accurately identify it. With this thought in mind I set out to visit some large limes I knew of in Boscastle to have a go!

Home Farm

In the pastures adjacent to the River Jordan near Treforda there is one very large lime and on the hedgerows close by six further smaller ones. I would have to conclude that they are the hybrid common lime. Our archaeology audit on Home Farm had some useful information about woodland features. A tithe map shows that the farm

effect of dedicated cattle grazing of every leaf and bud within reach. The tree is none the less attractive and a welcome broadleaf to have in the landscape. It is about 3.5 metres (11ft) in girth and must be 30 metres (90ft) tall – a significantly old tree.

On nearby hedgerows you will find the six smaller trees. Clues to them being



Hedgerow limes at Home Farm

was fairly fragmented by the early 19th century, with the oak coppice woodlands of Minster still under management. It indicates that it was consolidated and improved in the latter part of the century and this included the planting of three large stands of beech trees. The most obvious one is the avenue of trees you pass under on the B3266 approaching the village. It is conceivable that the limes were planted to similarly improve the estate with extra 'parkland' style trees. The larger tree shows the form of a common lime – uneven crown, dense sprouting growth at the base. Note how the base is very uniform and level – an

planted are given by their similar size and age and very even spacing! They all have a wonderful hunched over, wind pruned appearance after struggling to grow in the face of prevailing, salt laden south-westerlies. This climate stress makes it difficult to compare ages with other more sheltered trees. (The stunted oaks of the Dizzard are a prized example of this as they can be only head high yet still very old.)

You will see, if you visit, some lopping of lower branches has taken place in past years to remove some weight, in case they are tempted to topple.

article continues on page 33

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Distinguished Trees of the Parish

continued from page 32



Silver pendant lime tree at Minster Church?

Minster Churchyard

The churchyard at Minster has a fine collection of trees – planted specimens mixed in with naturally occurring sessile oaks. This sheltered hollow exudes a feeling of lush, luxuriant growth at this time of year. There is a lime next to the church path which simply towers over the graveyard and is, I think, easily the largest tree there. It is about 5mts (16ft) in girth.

However there is something all together different about the form of this massive lime. Note the splitting of the stem quite low down into three stems. Also the tall, narrow, densely foliated and evenly domed shape of the tree as a whole. This adds up to it being a European species like Silver Pendant lime (*Tilia petiolaris*). This originated in the Caucasus region and was brought over to Britain in the 1840's often being chosen for large gardens, parks and churchyards. They are always grafted – ie silver pendant shoots were grafted onto common or broadleaved lime rootstock at a height of 6-8 ft. The vigorously

growing silver pendant divides at once into three vertical stems, whose sinuous growth forms the tall narrow dome of a crown. This, it seems, is exactly what we have here.

If I am right, expect to see in late autumn the best colours of any lime, as leaves turn from lemon yellow to bronze to gold.

Let me know of your favourite trees or examples of 'distinguished' or rare trees in the Parish and hopefully they can feature in future articles.

Email: mike.simmonds@nationaltrust.org.uk



Grafted stems

'A Modern Herbal' by Mrs. M. Grieve, Edited by Mrs. C.F. Leyel includes the following information about lime:

Constituents: The flowers contain a fragrant, volatile oil, with no colour, tannin, sugar, gum and chlorophyll.

The bark contains a glucoside, tiliacin, and a neutral body, tiliadin.

The leaves exude a saccharine matter having the same composition as the manna of Mount Sinai.

Medicinal Action and Uses: Lime-flowers are only used in infusion or made into a distilled water as household remedies in indigestion or hysteria, nervous vomiting or palpitation. Prolonged baths prepared with the infused flowers are also good in hysteria.

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TRAVELLERS' TALES

Here's the 4th update of Deborah & Stephen's travels.

We have just flown over the Indian Ocean and below us I can see the tiny country of Singapore. Its reputation for orderliness can be seen clearly from the air, with neat rows of buildings stretching up into the sky toward us and far across the landscape. In no time a sealed, air conditioned, capsule of a space age rail system whisks us speedily into the heart of the city. I am told the system was designed to stop suicides and provide underground shelter for Singaporeans in the event of attack.

Today is Chinese New Years Day and we start our partying at Raffles Long Bar, where we had to do the done thing, and indulge in a 'Singapore Sling' amidst a floor strewn in monkey nuts, the only mess you will see in the whole of Singapore. Then off to the spectacular Chinatown Light-Up which transforms Chinatown into a cacophony of sights and sounds with festive Red and Yellow lanterns adorning the streets amongst the traditional bazaars and Chinese cultural performances.

Overlooking the River Hon Bao, with what might be the whole four million population of Singapore, we watched a spectacular firework display. Some exploded into dragonflies with blue bodies and butterflies with red bodies and yellow wings, and then a huge dandelion clock exploded continuously and

ever higher into showers of Blue, Yellow, Red then Purple. I have never seen such fantastically intricate fireworks. We called it a night after making auspicious wishes at the Wishing Tree in the cultural village. Oh I'm just loving every minute again.

Rumblings of unrest in countries we intend to visit keep us ever re-planning our route. With bombs in Delhi and Bangkok and an Earthquake in Indonesia we check our map and decide to move north into Malaysia.

Malaysia too, celebrate Chinese New Year, a few days later than Singapore, so for this pair of Hedonists its just one long party, we can't take credit for the planning, just coincidence. So we joined thousands of other people lining the streets of Malacca. The King, Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Watihiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktagi Billah Shah and his Queen are opening the celebrations. No I didn't fall asleep on the keyboard!

More than 2,000 people from groups of the Chinese, Malay, Indian, Baba Nyonya, Chitty and Portuguese communities took part in the parade. The Malaysians also love their fireworks and another amazing display closed the parade.

We have managed to dodge monsoon downpours which are a welcome break

from the astonishing temperatures and humidity, which we are still not getting used to. We are shying out of the heat into any cool building, the locals just laugh at us. We have become very comfortable in this delightful town with these lovely people and it's hard to make ourselves move on.

Kuala Lumpur. We stayed a few days in this frantic modern city to organise our visas for Vietnam. What can I say? K.L. (that's what the locals call it), has a monorail system which gives brilliant views of the city, a great economic sightseeing adventure for us on an ever dwindling budget.

Malaysia is two main Islands and with time running out we decided to fly to the east, to Sarawak. We survived a very rough flight through turbulent weather; it was not to be our last. A trip to Malaysia is not complete unless you get into Borneo to see the Wild Man of the Jungle, the Orang Utan. They behaved as though they

were unaware of us. The next day we journeyed deep into the countryside and closer to the border with Indonesia. For a long time we travelled with two locals by long boat. Weighted down with goods from the market we sat almost flush with the chocolate coloured water of the snaking river. We brushed under overhang for the whole journey. My imagination was running riot. I imagined tree snakes dropping onto me and crocodiles coming at us. A traditional Longhouse came into view high up on a bank above us. We were told to get out. You do as you are told out here in the middle of nowhere, so we climbed out of the dugout and scrambled up a steep bank in the middle of the jungle. This will be home, for a while, with one of the head hunting, Indigenous tribes of Borneo.

Earlier we shopped at the local market where you can buy everything from Python, to Tarantula and Sago Worms. At the Longhouse,

continues on page 35

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TRAVELLERS' TALES CONTINUED

we partied with the Village Chief and Medicine Man, then toasted, and chanted to invoke good spirits and talk with the dead! I should have worried at this point. Then Palm Wine drinking contests were order of the evening. We were showed an impressive array of heads taken in the years of headhunting, not so long ago.

I am grateful to the Palm Wine for Malaysia is an Agoraphobics nightmare and I was not sure how I was going to cope sleeping with all this boundless nature. Malaysia is home to the largest and most prolific population of spiders in the world, many of them very poisonous. In fact Malaysia is home to the largest snake in the world too. This should all be my worst nightmare, now I know why we didn't get around to visiting the Amazon.

The next morning I awoke to the noisiest cacophony of jungle sounds.

I looked out of my bed and straight down onto the chocolate coloured river below as the mist was rising. I had survived and loved this wonderful experience. I lay there for a long time listening to sounds I have never heard before or will again unless I go back, deep into the Malaysian jungle with the spiders and snakes and, and! I felt the farthest away from home that I have ever felt before, with a feeling of complete peace. I felt incredibly happy. Nothing to do with Palm Wine.

Back in the modern world we wandered the labyrinthine night markets of Kuching that sell everything from snakes to hedgehogs, vegetables and fruit in amazing disguises, flip-flops to drugs, and things that looked like they had just been dredged from the sea. The full moon tonight marks the end of celebrations for Chinese New Year. To chase the old year out fireworks exploded

all night long. By tomorrow morning all the red and gold lanterns will be removed for another 46 weeks. We think we will move on.

Vietnam was an interesting experience. The Cities of Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi are booming. The millions of bicycles have been taken over by millions of motorbikes which choke the cities to an almost grinding halt. Everything is transported by motorbike, from whole families, to large furniture items, panes of glass and sacks of goods piled so high it is common to see horrible accidents spill into the highway, only to be gathered up to teeter off down the road again. Crossing the road anywhere in the cities of Vietnam is an art form requiring courage, nerves of steel and a death wish. We went farther south into the Mekong Delta and the famous floating markets, then caught overnight trains north hugging the coast until we got to the far North.

In the South China Sea we sailed for a couple of days

and nights around a myriad of islands in a traditional Chinese Junk. We trekked farther north to the border with China. Visited and stayed with a lovely family of the Hmong tribe in the mountains and helped cook supper in an open pit. At this point I realised we had gone so far off the track for several days that I was feeling very at home. We sadly had to say goodbye.

Laos sits sandwiched between Vietnam and Thailand with China and Cambodia top and tailing it. We are flying in a Russian twin propeller plane. It is old, very, very old to my mind. It was another tortuous flight through storms, then we dropped suddenly out of the clouds and I immediately saw mountains all around us and in front. Where were we meant to land? Then a strip of runway appeared below in between two ranges.

We are in Luang Prabang. A unique town, it is a templed heaven of Monasteries and Wats and home to many

continues on page 36

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TRAVELLERS' TALES CONTINUED

hundred, orange robed monks who come out in the early hours of the morning to be handed alms from the locals. Century's old, beautiful architecture has survived the ravages of many wars and the remnants of French Colonialism, in the guise of patisseries, bistros and tasteful designer type boutiques line the main street of this incongruous, remote, world away town. We spent the next week wandering peacefully around in this special place.

Early in the mornings and late into the evenings we heard chantings of the Monks emanate from deep inside the Monasteries and Temples. We met many of the monks. Some, as young as eight, leave their homes in the countryside and come here for periods of religious education before returning home after six year apprenticeships.

Two more dodgy flights took us low across barren landscape as we flew south

over the country. We could see grey coloured cattle graze at nothing on a dusty landscape. It seems none of the relative wealth or lushness of Luang Prabang has filtered to any other parts of this arid land.

The scenery continued much the same across Cambodia. We have come to Siem Reap in Southern Cambodia, to visit Angkor Wat which is the centrepiece monument at the heart of the ancient site of Khmer history and culture. Covering over 100 Sq Kilometres with more than 100 monuments, Angkor Wat is the highlight. Nearly 2 kilometres of bas relief stone carvings which surround the inner walls tell the history of the ancient Khmer.

The town of Siem Reap enjoys great wealth brought in with the tourists who visit Cambodia for the temples, but amputees at every turn remind you of a cruel war that raged under the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot regimes.

The landmines museum, run by amputees was a grim education. The Cambodians are genuinely the loveliest people I have met on this trip. Most visitors I have spoken to return because of the warmth and hospitality of these people.

Driving through the town we saw a comical site. Ingenuity! How do you get a feisty pig to market? Get him drunk on Palm Wine until he collapses then strap him into a bamboo basket and tie to the back of a motorbike. Voila! Actually come to think of it that could have happened to us in the Jungle.

Outside of this town, life is very different. Meagre livelihoods are scratched out of a dusty nothingness. The roads suddenly cease to exist and are difficult to navigate. Deep pot-holed highways of thick dust and rubble continued through a deeply scarred landscape. Our breakneck journey continued for nearly four hours all the way to the border with Thailand. I have

never had such a frightening drive.

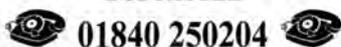
We cross the border easily and the 21st century hits us again. The modernity and opulence of the Golden temples of Bangkok, lay in stark contrast to her neighbour. It's surreal. English is not as widely spoken as I had expected and the tonal language is complicated. We are finding it excruciatingly difficult to navigate just short distances across town. Maybe we are being too adventurous.

We are off to the Wat Pa Luangta Bua Yannasampanno, a Buddhist monastery known as the Tiger Temple. It is about 250 kilometres away. Now we have to find it. Easy, lets just ask where the Bang Na-Bang Phli-Bang Pakong Expressway is, and remember to use the nasally, tonal accent. I think I'm losing the plot. Hopefully more to come if we don't get locked up!

Deborah Halliday

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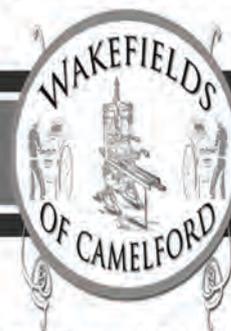
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THE BOSCASTLE TRADING CO.



Dave & Madi Precious, Jane Castling, Kerriann Godwin & Graham King outside the shop at the harbour

Copyright photo courtesy David Flower

Rather than leave the premises of the former Cornish Goodies empty over the summer an enterprising group of friends have leased it from the National Trust and converted it to a gallery for individual local artists and craftspeople.



Driftwood Picture by Mike Simmonds

From April 1st the brains behind the scheme - Graham King, Kerriann Godwin, David and Madi Precious - with the help of volunteers such as Peter Steege, Pat Day and Jane Castling - have created an exciting and original display area for both established artists, such as Raymund Rogers, Deborah King, Jacqueline Jarvis and Pete Rothwell, as well as encouraging a variety of new names.

What a wealth of talent is on display - Linda Frohlick's

stoneware artifacts, Heather Swain's pottery, Renate Forsyth's and Rory Te' Tigo's sculptures and Mike Simmonds' driftwood art provide a highly effective backdrop to Odette Rigby-Jones's knitted items, cards and bags, Fay Fisher's

jewellery, Deanne McCoul's embroidery and bags, Di Johnson's cards and Madi's chillies. The Boscastle Trading Company is also pleased to welcome a newcomer to the village, Anita Langham, who has created an innovative range of crafted bags.

Needing no introduction are John and Emily Maughan's wonderful CDs. John, who recently celebrated his 60th birthday, has just released a new disc,

Rise Again, which is reviewed on page X in this issue. It is on sale elsewhere at The Harbour Light and the Wellington Hotel, price £10.

The Green Glass Company's recycled glass items have proved extremely popular, as have the delightful products of St Kitt's Herbery. Sales of The Occult Art



Renate Forsyth sculpture

Indonesian industry and culture by importing its goods for sale.



Mirror by Pete Rothwell

The public have been firstly pleased and intrigued, and then tremendously supportive of a venture which

Company's prints have also demonstrated the public's continued fascination with the Other Side. World Art and Craft, a fair trade organization, is supporting

allows them to see and touch individual hand-crafted items, as well as get to know the artists behind the work.



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COLLEGE'S CONSPIRACY CORNER

Independent status has been allowed to Boscastle. High level talks between residents and the Ministry of Defence were held after the flood. Following the help that the U.S. navy gave in the aftermath, it was decided that Boscastle would be an ideal place to site a missile defence establishment.

Mortar style silos have been excavated at the harbour entrance. However, the only place to put the ammunition dump was underneath the car park. Work is progressing with the concrete roof of the bunker that will be able to deliver the missiles at one per minute. Admittedly some people feel that the Gateway to the bunker is not "in Keeping" but the planners assure us that once the shopping mall connects the newsagents to the greengrocers now one will think it is anything other than a toilet.

The environment agency had to be overruled on the widening and deepening of the river but had their preferred choice of a replacement bridge accepted. The builders of old did not think ahead enough to allow ballistic missiles to float underneath, but their

efforts will be remembered in photographs.

Following lengthy consultation the residents of Forrabury and Minster Parish have been given independent powers to vote on whom to target the missiles. This held up the third reading of the Bill to update Trident in the House of Commons for some minutes. Funding for the project has been passed, but a technical problem at the printers has delayed the ballot papers being issued.

All this is good for the local economy as the building and military community attracted to the area will greatly enhance social and environmental concerns that were a huge problem in the past. Many businesses failed due to lack of visual stimulation and fear of uncontrolled activity.

Work on the shopping mall is due to start as soon as the Home Office has vetted the applicants who, due to the sensitive nature of the building, have to be educated. Ministers responsible estimate that this would coincide with finishing the car park, so providing continuity with the greatly enhanced local economy.

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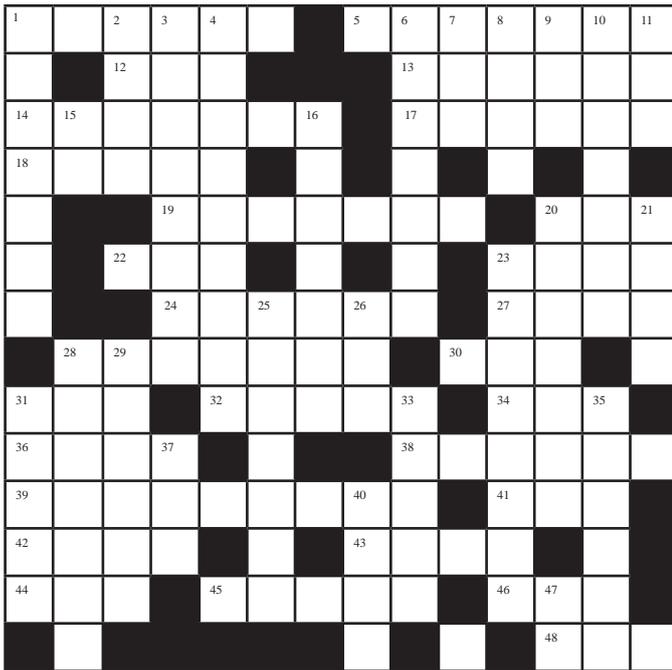
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Moira Hart's Fiendish Crossword



Across

- 1 shade of meaning
- 5 record of travel
- 12 intelligence agency
- 13 novice
- 14 Persian sun god
- 17 impress
- 18 red dye
- 19 piece of lampoon
- 20 animal
- 22 intelligence
- 23 run away
- 24 country
- 27 dead
- 28 repentance
- 30 lettuce
- 31 Turkish governor
- 32 wanderer
- 34 consumed
- 36 minerals
- 38 part of eye
- 39 religious receptacle
- 41 frozen matter
- 42 biblical garden
- 43 deserve
- 44 small spot
- 45 set upright
- 46 joke
- 48 alkaline solution

Down

- 1 goddess of retribution
- 2 deeds
- 3 negative doctrines
- 4 flower
- 6 set of three books
- 7 particle
- 8 nob on branch
- 9 to supplement
- 10 lack of hair
- 11 still
- 15 moon of Jupiter
- 16 false argument
- 20 springy
- 21 eager
- 23 hovering
- 25 game
- 26 grassland
- 28 ornamental screen
- 29 hole for lace
- 31 wearied
- 33 nymph
- 35 vigour
- 37 transgress
- 40 tear
- 47 man's name

answers on page 43

I hope the Blowhole has room to include a brief update on the new toilet building in the car park. It looks awful at the moment and we know that residents are concerned about it.

We need to sort out the height of the walls and the projected roof height of the toilets to bring them more into line with the original plans.

The reason things have gone adrift is that due to the flood alleviation scheme the finished level of the car park is much higher than it was before. However, this was not properly taken into account in the original planning drawings.

We should have picked up on this discrepancy much earlier – and we apologise for our mistake.

We've stopped work on the building and have been talking to the local ward member and village representatives about different options to modify the structure so that it won't be so dominant.

The options include changing the roof design to a hipped roof rather than a

gable and also lowering the height of the building.

When a new modified design has been agreed, a planning application will be submitted to NCDC's planning committee.

Some residents have been asking why we couldn't have just rebuilt the toilets in their original location near the river. The answer is that the Environment Agency would not have wanted us to do that because the building would then have interfered with the flood alleviation scheme.

The other thing people are worried about is that at the moment the front of the building is just a big blank wall. However it will look very different when finished because it will be faced with stone and have an overhanging roof forming a bus shelter.

When more information is available we will let you know through local noticeboards or displays or the next Regeneration newsletter.

Annie Moore, NCDC, 01208 893318
annie.moore@ncdc.gov.uk

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Memories

*The following was sent to the village website:
www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk*

Hello I thought you might like my memories of Boscastle.

I am 74 years of age now but have very, very fond memories of Boscastle in the late 40s. My mother worked as a young woman at the Wellington Hotel and loved Boscastle and Cornwall in general so when she married and had us (myself and twin sister) we spent several holidays in Boscastle.

At that time there was a large family called Old(Olde) in the village. The Olde sisters also ran a small shop halfway up the village street. I also remember Bowerings Bakers where we used to buy wonderful pasties and cornish splits and take them up the Valency Valley to eat. Bowerings might also have been a flour mill I am not sure. I also remember a wonderful old shop called Sharrocks (I think) where you could buy anything from a match to biscuits. It had a wonderful smell when you went down the step into the shop. I also remember a pub close by the beginning of the Valency Valley called The Cobwebs.

We used to stay in a cottage on the right hand side of the valley looking from Boscastle out to sea (there is still a row of whitewashed cottages there I notice) and the owners were a Mr. and Mrs. Bath (he had never been farther than Penzance). They were a lovely couple and he used

to go out and shoot rabbits which would be made into a lovely meal by Mrs. Bath. I always remember that she would always give my father a more generous portion than any of us and if it was boiled eggs he always got two. The man of the house always had to be looked after she said.

I can remember walking with my father up to Queen Victorias head and one time leaning over the edge with his walking stick hooked into the belt of my coat. My Mother who was watching from afar was horrified.

I can also see myself and my sister climbing up to the flagpole behind the cottage and bouncing down on the wonderful heather to the back of the cottages.

Another memory is of a rather gaunt elderly lady who used to drive a large car which was covered in gull droppings which she refused to remove as she said they were lucky!!

Happy Happy days.
Penny Bignell

Shelterbox Appeal

The Shelterbox Appeal arranged by Jane Castling at Valency House in May, raised over £600. This is more than enough to supply a box, costing £490, that contains a tent, sleeping bags, stove and utensils, tool kit, water carriers and purification equipment to provide warmth and shelter for up to ten people, victims of the 2004 Thailand tsunami disaster.

Funds were raised through a raffle and sale of goodies. Many thanks to the following for their generous contributions: Gill and Oliver Smeeth, the Visitor Centre, Peter and Margaret from the Riverside Hotel, Jack and Fay from Pencarmol, Mandy Washer, Pat Day, Trixie Webster, Chris Rodda and Kerriann Godwin.

The target sum was reached and exceeded within a couple of hours. Ron Hart and David Flower are joint supporters of the scheme (remember their adventures with "Bubbles" last summer?) and the area organizer Caroline Henderson, offer their congratulations to Jane, who provided both the incentive and venue for the morning's activities, and to all those kind folk who made the morning an outstanding success.

London Marathon

Four local runners did the run, Dave Scott writes:

We had a good run, starting very slowly due to the heat and the number of decorated runners in our section - it took us 45 minutes to cover the first 3 miles. After the slow start we managed to get into more of a race mode and motive to knock some miles off.

At the half distance we came across Ian Nicholls had a chat and stayed together for about 3 miles or so although Ian was having trouble with his foot at this point and we shortly lost contact with each other.

By now Abs was having a bit of trouble with her knee but managed to continue and at 21 miles we caught up with Phil Higgs and enjoyed somewhat of a dash to the finish with the energy conserved from the very slow start. We arrived in 4 hrs 57 mins so all in all a good run for Abs first marathon. Hopefully I can now throw my trainers away. DS

Virus Alert - dangerous virus

There is a dangerous virus being passed around electronically, orally, and by hand. This virus is called Worm-Overload-Recreational-Killer (WORK).

If you receive WORK from any of your colleagues, your boss, or anyone else via any means, DO NOT TOUCH IT. This virus will wipe out your private life completely.

If you should come into contact with WORK put your jacket on and take two good friends to the nearest grocery store. Purchase the antidote known as Work-Isolating-Neutralizer-Extract (WINE) or Bothersome-Employer-Elimination-Rebooter (BEER). Take the antidote repeatedly until WORK has been completely eliminated from your system.

You should forward this warning to 5 friends. If you do not have 5 friends, you are already infected and WORK is controlling your life.

STRANGE LANGUAGE

musings by Ann Rooda

I have to confess that I am somewhat confused. Having purchased, not bought, you realise, a beverage, rather than a drink, I'm not sure I can continue without some kind of state support, or possibly a grant of some kind. I will explain. I bought a set of dominoes, complete with instructions. I will not bore you with the complete set of instructions, although on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, I would be happy to forward a photocopy of the small and perfectly formed document.

This document tells me that 'the player who has the most double dots...starts putting his plates flatwise.' It was at this point that I became confused, as I had spent much of my childhood under the obviously mistaken impression that I had some faint grasp of the noble art of dominoes. Clearly, I was mistaken. My alarm increased when I read on. This is true. I quote. 'His heibour leftward has to ask between his plates such that in one of its (what a relief to find no aberrant apostrophe) halves has the same number of dots as the first plate laying on the table.' Right: I hope you've got that. Because I am quite definitely confused. I do not know how to ask between my plates.

I think I should confess at this point that I am pretty poor at dominoes. In fact, I would almost give it a capital letter out of sheer respect.

But then many things confuse me: mostly useful things, such as how to work the video recorder. I will not ramble on about that, because it seems to me that it is a fairly common cause of complaint. On the other hand, I am pretty smart at the pluperfect subjunctive: OK, so how useful is that? Had I but known. There's a joke for a few of you. Welcome to my sad club. I should also confess that the address on the instructions says Sofia, Bulgaria. Now, you might quite reasonably ask me about my skills at Bulgarian. The reply would be quite short, and certainly not in Bulgarian. In my defence I make the point that I am not employed to translate Domino instructions into Bulgarian.

I have to thank the National Trust, Basildon House branch, for the following gem of clarity: 'It is not our policy to sell alcohol to anyone who appears to be under the age of 21 without proof of being over the age of 18'. Yes, I think I know what you mean, although one might appreciate a small tincture of the said alcohol to help oneself recover from the ordeal of understanding the notice.

I may be forced to expound, irritatingly for some, on the presence of the above mentioned aberrant apostrophe, often attributed quite unfairly to the poor old grocer. I am certain that many grocers

are fine upstanding citizens and are thoroughly irritated by being unfairly linked to a wandering punctuation mark. To say nothing of 'apple's @ 49p per pound'. There is a small pub not a million miles from Boscastle which once claimed in proud lettering to have on offer an 'Exten'sive Me'nu'. Beat that. And not a grocer in sight. I hope the chef was better than the sign writer. No doubt all the mushrooms are 'morning gathered', the scallops 'pan seared' and all the ingredients 'nestle on a bed of crisp leaves'. What other choices of container are open to you if you wish to 'sear' a scallop? A pan sounds like a sensible choice to me.

I have mentioned elsewhere that serving suggestions on food packaging often veer dangerously near the patronising. Almost as irritating is the Serving Suggestion on, for example, a tin of Corned Beef. What? Open the tin and put the contents on a plate? I would never have managed to think of that unaided. Get the consultants in. I am increasingly irritated by the instructions on products.

Why do I need to be warned that a product may be hot when heated? If it were not hot, after I had gone to all the trouble of heating it, then would I be able to claim compensation? To cap it all the other day, I was advised to remove all packaging before placing an item (a pizza, I have to confess. Ever the gourmet.) in a hot oven: and I had been looking forward to eating the roasted cardboard box, even searing it in a pan. As luck would have it, many of the instructions now come in a charming range of languages: so we have gobbledegook in not only a range of European languages, but in many other less familiar tongues.

In fact, I am now actively seeking games with instructions translated from the original Bulgarian, Russian, or indeed any other foreign language, in the hope that the arcane secrets of, say, chess or bridge may be revealed to me. I am fundamentally incompetent at both bridge and chess, but if I have to ask between my plates when I play dominoes, who knows what may be expected of me, and indeed, what giant steps forward I could take with the properly written instructions.

Answers to Crossword:
Across 1 nuance 5 itinery 12 CIA
13 rookie 14 mithras 17 indent 18 eosin
19 lampoon 20 elk 22 wit 23 flee
24 Sicily 27 late 28 remorse 30 cos
31 bey 32 nomad 34 ate 36 ores
38 retina 39 rellinquiry 41 ice 42 Eden
43 earn 44 dot 45 stand 46 gag 48 lye
Down 1 nemesis 2 acts 3 nihilism
4 carnation 6 trilogy 7 ion 8 node 9 eke
10 ringlet 11 yet 15 to 16 sophism
20 elastic 23 floating 25 croquet 26 lea
28 rerodos 29 eyelid 31 bored 33 dryad 35 energy 37 sin
40 rend 47 al

In Praise of Smoking

It is almost impossible to imagine, in PC 2007, how people used to enjoy smoking. The last request before a firing squad was the pleasure of a cigarette. Servicemen were issued with two hundred freebies each week, and no squadron leader posed for a heroic photo without a briar clamped between pearly-white teeth.

From July 1st all pubs and clubs, the last refuge of reprobates, will become tobacco-free, along with all enclosed public spaces. Smoking in a workplace has long been verboten, and the ban has been extended to those who work from home if they employ someone or entertain a guest. The anti-smoking brigade is also lobbying to ban smoking in private vehicles. "It should not be allowed, as it is a distraction to driving." A fair point, as anyone will recognise who has taken the school run.

Where will it end? Presumably a ban on sale of tobacco products, except that when a similar draconian measure outlawing alcohol was tried in America during the Prohibition era, it led to widespread abuse and crime. Also the exchequer might miss the revenue. A stubborn minority, maybe a third of the population, persist in puffing for pleasure or addiction, despite all government blandishments to desist. They argue, with some justice, that they are picked out as an easy target. The freedom to endanger one's health



is enthusiastically shared by increasing numbers of over-eaters, but no politician dares suggest shutting down McDonalds, while drinkers have been encouraged to shorten their lives by extending licensing hours.

Most smokers are acutely conscious of their pariah status, and huddle miserably in the rain outside office buildings, beg permission before lighting up in friends' houses, and look forward to foreign holidays. It is still something of a surprise to see French bank clerks smoking contentedly at their desks, and there is a reputed notice in Corfu Airport which reads, "If the ashtray is full, please drop fag ends on the floor". Last year the Spanish government passed a law banning smoking in bars and restaurants. The Spanish totally ignored it.

According to the economists, we face a pensions time-bomb. Increased longevity has meant fewer private companies now afford guaranteed pension schemes, and the state pension is barely able to maintain existence. Today's youngsters can only dream of a villa in Spain and the extended golfing holidays enjoyed by their parents. To avoid a dismal future, a shorter rollicking life is the answer, more kebabs, booze and ciggies, keel over at sixty, sparing oneself several decades of staring at daytime TV in Incontinence-By-Sea. Meet George Best, Oliver Reed and Richard Harris in heaven.

These were the film stars and celebrities who provided a role model for us all, but especially the young.

James Bond, in his first incarnation in 1953, was described as a 60-a-day man, (specially made for him by Morlands of Grosvenor Street) and also in the habit of imbibing considerable quantities of seventy proof spirits. Hollywood has now sanitised its heroes, and Daniel Craig, having defeated the villains and got the girl, celebrates with a refreshing cup of camomile tea.

For years the major tobacco producers connived with the medical profession to convince smokers it was good for them, and only after paying billions in damages did they admit that for decades they had suppressed the results of their own research. Such duplicity by big business interests is by no means unusual, whether testing dodgy medical products on poor Africans or selling them guns, but we Westerners felt particularly wronged and our fury at the producers then turned against the users, even if they were fully conscious of the risks they posed to themselves and others. Came the notion of "passive smoking" so that even if one sells a second-hand tea strainer on Ebay it has to come from a "smoke-free" home so as not to spread the plague.

Interestingly, it is not considered as dangerous as an item from central Manchester or even Exeter, where toxicity levels caused by traffic are equally as damaging to health.

There is always the temptation to invent a bogeyman. Comment that someone's smoking habits are disgusting, cheers all round. Suggest ever so tactfully a neighbour might like to enrol with Weight Watchers and be prepared to leave the area under cover, at night.

For a brief period staff rooms in colleges and elsewhere divided into smoking and non-smoking zones or firms allowed smokers to settle happily in their own designated areas causing, one assumes, no harm to anyone. It soon became apparent that both groups were still fraternizing, despite the risk, which quickly sowed the destruction of such an amicable arrangement. One is reminded of Macaulay's comment that the Puritans banned bear-baiting not because it caused pain to the bear, but pleasure to the spectators.
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Pete's Deeps at the Past

There is a slight change to my column this quarter. As our village has been in upheaval for the last three years, I thought I would introduce you to a poem written by my late father, about the village he loved so much



MEMORIES OF BOSCASTLE

by WJ Kinsman

Fond memories of Bottreaux
With its peaceful vales and hills
Where the Jordan and Valency
Fed the corn and flour mills.
The ploughman on the hillside
Would whistle all day long
Cutting a furrow straight and true
Till daylight had almost gone.
"It's time to go my faithful friends."
The ploughman kindly said
Old Bess and Prince to corn and hay
Old Tom to homemade bread.
Out at sea the sailing ships
Bringing the coal from Wales
Would welcome the sight of
Willapark
Whilst running before a gale.
And there beneath the Old Queen's
Head
The Hobble boat would wait
To guide them to a safe retreat
Between those walls of slate.
In sheds beside the lower Bridge
Small fishing boats were made
And opposite the Manor House
Tallow candles was the trade.
The village had its merchants
Of coal and corn and seed
And tradesmen with their many skills
To serve our every need.
Our cottages were painted white
Our doors and windows green
We kept our gardens tidy
And scrubbed the doorsteps clean.
The gutters and the Village Street
Were swept with loving care
And once a month on Tuesdays
There was a sheep and cattle Fair.
In the Churches and the Chapels
On the seventh day we would meet
For Sunday School and Evensong
And anniversary treats.

On looking back our holidays
Seem blessed with sunny days
We earned pennies helping with
the corn
And had fun in many ways.
In November it was Carnival
With bonfires and a guy
Grand Tableaux and fancy
dress
And fireworks lighting the sky.
With Xmas came the presents
The carols and the inn
We celebrated in every way
The birth of the Heavenly Son.
Those days now seem so long
ago
And lime has changed the score
The values that we cherished
Are gone for evermore.
But our memories are priceless
Wherever we may roam
To each and everyone of us
This village of ours is Home.



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Carn Awn Singers

Musical Director: Mary Hooper

Accompanist: Maureen Wakeham.

The Singers are looking forward to a busy Summer and are working hard on some new pieces to add to the repertoire for their forthcoming concerts.

The Annual Concert will be at St. Peter's Church, Port Isaac on Wed 11th July at 7.45pm. The Special Guests will be the St. Columba Celtic Male Voice Choir, Musical Director Tony Tournoff. Ray Shaddick, from Radio Cornwall, has kindly agreed to be Chairman for the concert. Programmes will be on sale nearer the time.

Diary Dates:

Carn Awn Singers will be performing at a concert at Blisland Church on Sun 26th Aug in aid of the Betjeman Appeal Fund for roof repairs.

The Singers have also been invited by the St Minver Band to take part in a concert at St. Minver Church on Sun Sept 16th.

Lesnewth Rainfall Station

	2007	2006
March	86.7mm	138.2mm
April	22.2mm	45.8mm
May	144.2mm	118.5mm

The most rainfall in one day in May was 27.3mm on the 10th May



MILLER'S PANTRY

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Martin's Sporting Briefs

◆ Ian Nicholls did well to complete the London marathon in just over six hours despite suffering an ankle injury part way round. His efforts raised around £7000 for the Cancer Charity.

◆ We were all saddened to hear of the loss of two people who were keen and active members of Boscastle Football Club for many years. As a player, John Kinsman was a "rock" at the heart of the Boscastle defence and when his playing days were over, he became an avid supporter of the club. So was his mother-in-law, Audrey Bickle, who was not only a staunch follower but also one of the faithful band of tea ladies. Our thoughts go out to Joan and Joanne at this difficult time.

◆ In the Boscastle and District Darts League, Cobweb 'A' took the runners-up award in the First Division, with Steve Jose, Richard Pethick and

Mark Bailey winning the 3-a-side Knockout. Cobweb 'B' finished mid-table in the Second Division, with the Napoleon team unable to complete their season because of a lack of players, but they are hopefully entering a team again next year. Both the Cobweb and the Napoleon Ladies' Darts Teams had successful seasons, finishing third and sixth respectively, but were unable to secure any silverware in the knockouts.

◆ Players (past and present) of the Cobweb cricket team would like to congratulate Fred and June Siford on the occasion of their diamond-wedding anniversary. Fred was a well-respected member of the team, still playing beyond his seventieth birthday.

◆ Boscastle 1st football team, having maintained Premier League status for over fifteen years, were relegated after a disappointing season. They flirted around the drop zone for most of the season, but it wasn't until the last couple of weeks that their fate was sealed. One highlight of an

unsuccessful season, was reaching the final of the Lanson and District K.O. cup, even though a strong Lamerton team beat them. Hopefully it won't be long before they make a return to the top tier where they belong.

◆ Boscastle 2nd team had a good start to the season, which was just as well as, since Christmas, results haven't gone their way and they have slipped down the table. This was mainly through injuries and losing key players to the first team. There was one particular match when they were so short; they had to persuade a few of the "golden oldies" to play with the average age of the side being forty. Well done to Sam, Gary and Ian for keeping it going!

◆ Following the excellent meal at this year's Dinner and Dance, at Bowood Golf Club, were the presentations of the cups and trophies. The 1st team's choice of Players' Player was Robert Heal with club stalwart Johnny Bosky taking the manager's award. The 2nd team's choice of

Players' Player and Manager's Player award went to Darren Hambley, playing in his first season for the team.

◆ Playing his first ever cricket season, Stephen Wickett (Is there a joke there somewhere??) was so keen to impress the Tintagel second team captain that he went off and purchased a brand new cricket kit; only to find on his return that he had bought wicket keeper pads and left-handed gloves by mistake – not bad for a left-handed batsman!!

◆ Boscastle's 'A' team were joint winners in the 2nd division of the Camelford & District Snooker League, thus gaining promotion to the 1st Division at the first attempt, following relegation last year. Johnny Brewer and Martin Seldon won the pairs knock-out final, with Martin also claiming the award for most league wins.

◆ Finally – It's all quiet on the Emma Goreham front, except to say how radiant she looked when carrying out her chief bridesmaid's duties at Jason and Debbie's wedding. Butch described it as "the biggest wedding" he has been to so far this year!!!



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BEATRICE BEER

by Anne Knight



Beatrice on the piano at the Cobweb

My husband Rods father, Claude Knight, was a musician playing on the Boscastle scene in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. He was a member of the Boscastle Syncopators together with Percy Nicholls, Charlie Hiscock and Beatrice Foley who played piano. Beatrice married Bill Beer and became resident pianist at the Cobweb Inn.

She was born in Boscastle on January 1 1913. She later went with her family to live in Marshgate. Her mother very sadly died at the age of 26 when Beatrice was 6 years old and her brother Fernley 4. The children were raised by their grandmother, Ada Stone. Beatrice and her grandmother later moved back to Boscastle and lived

at No 3, Penally Terrace where they ran a bed and breakfast.

Ada Stone's sister Beatrice's great aunt, Alma Pickard and her husband Luxon also lived in Boscastle. They had a daughter, Monica, who still lives here with her husband Bert.

Beatrice was an accomplished pianist and married Charlie Hiscock, a baker, in 1939. They had a daughter Elizabeth born in 1945. Unfortunately, the couple were later divorced.

In 1950 Beatrice married Bill Beer, a railway porter who worked at Otterham Station. Bill had a son Brian. Beatrice and Elizabeth then moved to No 2 Valency Row.

Beatrice continued to play the piano and joined the Black and White Dance Band in the mid 1950's together with George Martin from Coads Green, Bill Baker from Launceston and Bob and Stewart Biddick from Boscastle. Together they played at various village halls including Otterham, Padstow, St Gennys and of course Harbour Café, Boscastle (run by Lilian Piper). The band kept the local people well entertained on a Saturday night!

Later came the age of the discothèque & entertainment like the Black & White Dance Band was no longer fashionable and the band folded. However, Beatrice did not let the grass grow under her feet. She became resident pianist at the Cobweb Inn Boscastle. Beatrice loved to play folk and sing-a-long music and the rafters at the Cobweb rang to the sound of singing and tinkling ivories!

Beatrice continued to play at the Cobweb for several years until she had to give up because her husband Bill's ill health. Bill sadly died in 1980. Beatrice continued to live in Boscastle until she, too suffered ill health. She then moved to Plymouth to be near her daughter, Elizabeth. Beatrice died in September 1985 aged 72.

I am grateful to my teenage friend Elizabeth, Beatrice's daughter for the



Charlie Jose & Beatrice

information she has supplied for this article. Do you have any information about members of your family that you would like to include in the Blowhole? If so, please let me know at: boscastle-archive@sky.com or ring me on 01840 250 381. AK



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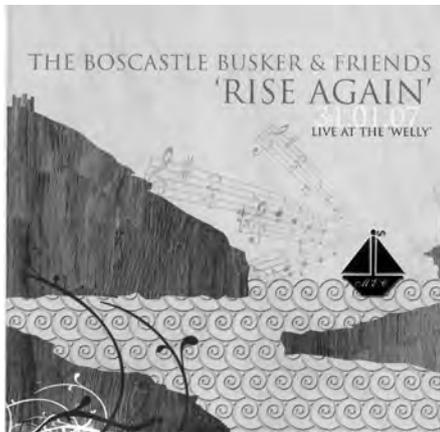
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CD Reviews:

This Spring two new cds have been released in Boscastle. You can buy them from several local outlets, including the Boscastle Trading Company, or via the websites: www.boscastlebusker.com and www.museumofwitchcraft.com



Rise Again

Far, far away from manufactured pop and vacuous celebrity the authentic music of old England lives on. Trouble is, these days you have to seek it out in the clubs and pubs and back bars. Like for instance the minstrels' gallery of Boscastle's Wellington Hotel, where, on 31st January 2007, John Maughan, aka the Boscastle Busker, hit the stage accompanied by Cheryl Maughan, Julie Boreham, Mike Silver, Martin Frith and Ben Maughan to cut a live set. Captured for posterity on this CD, the show kicks off with an acapella 'come all ye' promising an evening of aural pleasure in store. Next up is a warm rendition of Johnny Duhan's paean to family life, *The Voyage*. These opening tunes set the tone for the CD, which unfolds through a mix of gorgeous unaccompanied vocal numbers, interspersed with band tracks, in which John's keening voice floats over a luminous backdrop of guitar, fiddle and accordion.

An early high spot is *New York Girls*, a cautionary tale from a jilted sailor, out cruising the ladies of the Big Apple. This segues into the rocking *Boscastle Breakdown*, where squeezebox player Ben Maughan's flashing fingers dazzle

on the keys. The song selection which follows is wonderfully apt, given the show's setting, evoking both the security of home and the adventures of the seafaring life, as we travel in song to Australia, America and India. A fine version of Eric Bogle's 'Safe in Harbour' provides the album's emotional core, juxtaposing the metaphor of the sea voyage as spiritual quest with the meaner spirits of those whose 'only horizon is profit and loss'.

The show heads to its close with a rousing take on the old String Band classic 'Black Jack Davy', followed by a violin instrumental which heralds the show-stopper, 'Mary Ellen Carter'. This powerful tale of a shipwreck, with its emotive 'Rise again!' chorus has become something of a signature song for post-flood Boscastle. As the story of wreck and salvage builds to its joyful close the voices ring in unison, celebrating the endeavour of the common people who raise their ship against the odds. To the performers and audience though, it's also a celebration of the rejuvenation of the village, after the wreckage of 2004.

Songs of Witchcraft & Magic

The prospect of a CD of songs and ballads compiled by Boscastle's Museum of Witchcraft might raise eyebrows in some quarters. Will this be a vapid exercise in New Age packaging, or worse still, the commercial trivialisation of Europe's old religion? Happily, this superb collection dodges these potential pitfalls. The Museum has set out to gather songs from the British folk tradition which explore the theme of magic, and it succeeds brilliantly. Beautifully packaged, the cover illustration shows a night-flying witch whisking away her familiar and a bemused passenger. Inside the lyrics of each song are lovingly reprinted, complete with brief commentary describing the source and illuminating the imagery. Credit for this scholarship goes to Joyce Froome, along with Doug Bailey of Wild Goose Records who edited the set.



All this may sound a bit dour and didactic, and admittedly this may not be a disc for light background listening. Instead, find a darkened room, light a candle and let the music cast a spell. For spell-binding stuff it is. The instrumentation is mostly sparse and the settings traditional, directing attention to the human voice and its complex stories. The musical high spot comes early in the set. First up is Alva's haunting *Bells of Paradise*, a single image of a wounded knight, lying bleeding in a chapel. Touching on the Grail legend, Robin Hood and Christian myth, the dreamy vocal depicts the doomed cycle of human endeavour. Next comes Martin Carthy on cracking form with 'Willie's Lady'. This is a masterclass from the doyen of English folk, the lyrics tumbling forth over a driving guitar. The story is of a protective spell which foils a witch and saves a newborn babe from death, the mysterious symbolism of combs, knots and braids threading through the verses but remaining just beyond the listener's grasp.

Drawing together these songs from the canon you may start hearing the association of magic and witchery with the primal experiences: courtship, adultery, unwanted pregnancy and childbirth. In the pain and puzzlement of life events such as these, the miraculous intrudes, its poetry offering respite and hope for helpless humanity. Or, failing that, you may just find yourself slipping under the spell of the Queen of the Elves. Something here for rationalists and neo-pagans alike!

MG