



# BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 55 Autumn 2006

£1



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## *Wanda Larrett & Liz Gregory Book Signing*

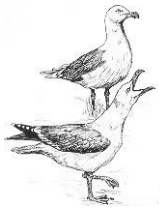
*Full story and Book Review on page 24*

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# Seagulls - Friend or Foe?



Seagulls are part of our local ecology but have been ruffling a few feathers recently. There are people who love them and others who view them as a nuisance.

Regular feeding of gulls should be discouraged as it encourages abnormal numbers of birds to an area. This can cause nuisance to neighbouring properties.

The natural foodstuff of seagulls is fish and fish offal, carrion, crustaceans, molluscs, earthworms small birds and mammals - a diet of bread, pasties etc does not keep them healthy. However if you offer it to them then they will eat it as they are supremely opportunistic and take advantage of whatever is available - if it is edible then they will eat it. Any food left out for them that they do miss is attractive to rats.

Gulls are scavengers and will feed amongst discarded litter and waste, often tearing plastic rubbish bags that contain waste food. Gulls which regularly feed in the same location sometimes decide to nest on the roofs of nearby properties. This can lead to properties being damaged by bird droppings, blocked roof gutters and broken roof tiles / slates as well as an increase in noise.

Gulls sometimes make swooping attacks on people (usually only in the nesting season, April - June) to protect their young and they will also snatch food from people.

Gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act & it is illegal to do anything that will cause suffering to gulls.



## 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, Chris Rodda, Daphne Rogers, Noel Ward and Mary Wright.

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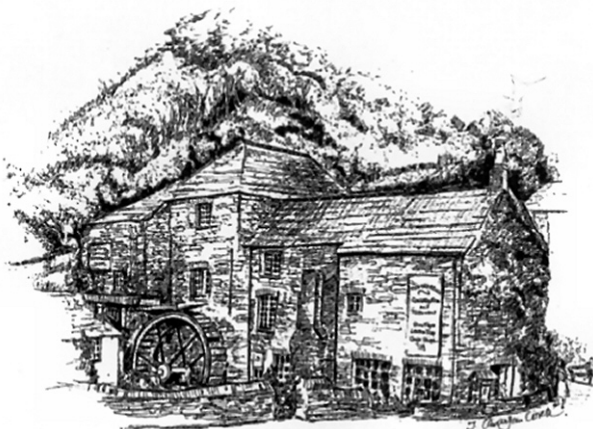
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The next Blowhole will be published in mid December. Please ensure that your copy reaches us by 17th November or we may be unable to include it.

Many thanks to all our contributors, without whom the Blowhole would be a much slimmer publication.



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# Here and There

## Openings:

### YHA Hostel

The YHA hostel will open on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006. A report of the occasion will be published in the next edition of the Blowhole

### Harbour Light

The Harbour Light opens on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Further details appear on page 15.

### Orchard Lodge

Welcome to Geoff and Shelley Barratt who have recently taken over Orchard Lodge B&B in Gunpool Lane. Bed and breakfast is a new venture for them and they have had something of a baptism of fire, opening up just at the start of a busy season. They are hoping to get to know more of the community when they can get out of the kitchen.

### Open Garden Helps to Keep The Lid on St Juliot Church Tower

The St Juliot Church tower fund was increased by the substantial sum of £880 when Sally and Chris Searle of the Old Rectory St Juliot, opened their historic garden at the beginning of June. Funds were needed to replace the lead that has been on the tower since it was restored and rebuilt in 1870. Hopefully, work can now go ahead in September of this year.

Visitors were able to enjoy the 3-acre garden, with its mature palms and yews and rather special monkey puzzle which is more than 100 years old

and the half acre walled kitchen garden which produces a variety of fruit and vegetables, including peaches nectarines and figs.

The rectory has been the home of Sally and Chris for the past 10 years and is now run as bed and breakfast accommodation. Sally's grandparents bought the house in 1956 when the Church of England sold it. Family links reach back to World War II when her grandfather Cannon Welch was a rector there.

There are also special links with the Victorian literary giant Thomas Hardy. As a young architect, Hardy was asked to visit St Juliot church to draw up plans for the proposed restoration. Whilst staying at the rectory he fell in love with the rector's sister-in-law, Emma Gifford, whom he later married. It was their love and subsequent problems that became the inspiration for much of Hardy's finest poetry

### In the Pink

Davidstow parish church was the venue for a three day festival of arts and crafts recently. Entitled "In The Pink" all proceeds were for the benefit of The Mermaid Appeal, the Cornish breast cancer charity. The concept and organisation of the event were to the credit of Jackie Jones who has recently



Jackie Jones 'in the pink' at Davidstow Church

Copyright photos courtesy David Flower

undergone treatment at the Mermaid Centre for breast cancer. Because of the remarkable level of care and understanding and in recognition of everything that they were able to do for her she felt a real need to show her appreciation in a tangible way - and "In The Pink" has fulfilled that need. Clearly the event hit the right note with the local and wider communities attracting exhibitors from a broad spectrum of the arts and craft world.

On the first evening of the event over eighty ladies filled the church for a demonstration of floral art given by popular, local florists Elaine Bromell and Caroline Crabb who, appropriately, used only pink flowers and accessories for their creations,

all of which were raffled at the end of the evening.

The climax of the event was a very packed house on Sunday night for a Pasty and Pudding supper which preceded an evening concert given by the very popular Church Town Unity Jazz Band. Jackie comments that she could not have envisaged such a successful outcome without the support of her husband Chris and children, Philip, Laura and Thomas and her many supporters in the community who have given in time and kind to ensure the success of the festival.

In all, with moneys still to be counted, the final total will exceed £4,400 - a truly remarkable outcome.



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(beginners or advanced) to have

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## Car Park

Residents in Tintagel enjoy the benefit of limited free parking in the NCDC car park. Several spaces have been allocated adjacent to the Post Office that they can use, for a stipulated period, provided they display the special badge, which has been issued to them.

NCDC have indicated that they will consider something for Boscastle residents although they see possible problems using a similar system. What do you suggest? If you have any ideas pass them on to our Parish Clerk, Bob Smith preferably in writing to Rock-Moor, Forrabury, Boscastle PL35 0DH or by email -

formin.parish@virgin.net

## Questionnaire

Included with your copy of the Blowhole (locally delivered copies only) is a Sustainable Energy Questionnaire.

Whilst the questionnaire was not prepared by the Editorial Panel it was considered to be a worthy cause and may well provide us with useful information. (The author extends her thanks to our distributors).

## A Drop of Nelsons Blood!

Last year, the band Tinkers Bag played a great gig in the Village Hall. The good news is that they are coming back again on Saturday 23rd September. The theme for the night is 'A Drop of Nelsons Blood', based on a show written to celebrate the Trafalgar celebration in October 2005. with songs of the sea.

Expect great tunes, some rousing shanties, and great readings peppered with good humour and great fun, and above all another storming night's entertainment with songs, music, dancing and all sorts of other traditional folk fare.

The gig starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5. Bring along something to drink if you fancy it. Tickets are available from the Museum of Witchcraft, either in person or reserve by phone on 250111, or, subject to availability, on the door.

For more information about Tinkers Bag please call Bob Berry on 07714 550990.

## Johnny Cowling Fundraising Event

Camelford and District Cardiology Foundation **HeartSWell** — are presenting an evening with Johnny Cowling at Bowood Golf Club on Thursday 19 October 2006 at 7.30pm. Tickets are strictly limited tickets and cost £10 each, including a buffet supper. Payment with booking on 01840 770671.

## Residents Association

Several people have suggested that a residents association be formed in Boscastle.

In order to discuss this proposal the Village Hall has been booked for Wednesday 18th October at 7.00pm.

## Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning

This year's Macmillan event takes place on Friday 29th September, at The Willows, White Smock Meadow, from 10am until 12 noon.

Donations, cakes or other items for sale to Lynn Biddick, tel: 250448

## What's On?

### September:

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> National Children's Hospice Cream Tea, 2pm, see p13  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Tinkers Bag, see left  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival, Chapel, 11am, see p12  
Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Harvest Auction,  
Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Parish Council  
Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning, see left  
Fri 29<sup>th</sup>: Superheroes & Villains Charity Night, Wellington

### October

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> YHA reopening  
Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night, Wellington  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> & Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Festival of Food, Arts & Crafts, see p37  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Harbour Light reopens, see p15  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Hollow Bones, Welly  
Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Residents' Association Meeting, see left  
Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> HeartSWell with Johnny Cowling, see left  
Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Parish Council  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Hallowe'en Party in aid of First Responders, Wellington

### November

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Bonfire Night Barbeque with live music from Firefish, Wellington  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> GMW, Welly  
Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Parish Council

### December

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Emma & The Professor, Welly  
Also live music on Friday evenings at the Napoleon and at the Cobweb on Saturday evenings.

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# Centenary Camelford Show



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This was the Centenary Show held at Halwill Barton, Camelford, on Wednesday August 9th 2006

Freddy Ruscomb-King is pictured above with 'Trafalgar Echo' the Ewe which won 1st Prize & Reserve in the Ewe Any Age Native Breed competition

Pictured below are Sam and Robin Haddy with Minster Blue 2.

Minster Blue 2 won the Best Devon cow or Heifer in milk or in Calf class at the show. She is one of the North Devon pedigrees in the Minster Herd at Home Farm, Boscastle.



Copyright photos courtesy David Flower

# Ten Years ago in the Blowhole

## Wellington

Victor and Solange at the Wellington are becoming well accustomed to film folk amongst their clientele - they recently played host to a BBC film crew here to produce an item for Breakfast TV. (A rarity in those halcyon days)

## Unforgettable

Roger Little was astonished when a young woman browsing through his shop asked if he had enjoyed his holiday. It seems that she worked in the Passport Office in Cardiff and recognised him from his passport photograph.

## Discoloured Water

An article, accompanied by cartoons, in the summer edition of the Blowhole that year was read by the Water Distribution Manager at South West Water. He wrote to the Editor to apologise and promised immediate action. (Drekly)

## Welcome

Carole and Paul Lynam together with their children moved into the Londis shop. Charlie and Rebecca David along with their family moved into Forrabury House

## No place for us

Ross Yates, writing on behalf of the 'young ones' complained about the fact that there was nowhere to play after school. "I've asked Ron Hart if the Parish Council have ever thought about a playground in



Boscastle. He said yes, on the Castle Site. The Royal Marines would build it free of charge but the insurance company said it would have to be inspected every day. This, he said, is impossible!" (Work on the playground in Under Road has begun. When finished and in use it will be inspected every day)

## Chapel

A warm welcome to The Rev. Leslie Barnes, the new Methodist Minister (The new Methodist Minister, The Rev. Bryan Ede is now in residence at The Manse. A Delabole man, he had planned to retire but has agreed to stay on for a couple of years.

The telephone number at Manse is 01840 770274)

## Football

Boscastle first team defeated St Stephens FC in the St Breward Cup final and brought the trophy home for the first time in the club's history

## Short Mat Bowls

On Monday evening 2nd September 1996, Boscastle Short Mat Bowls Club held their first session in the Village Hall

# DAVIDSTOW MOOR RAF MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Davidstow Moor Memorial Museum is a small private museum. It opened on the 30th July 2006. It contains a collection of airfield and aeronautical items together with personal accounts of the wartime experiences of those who were stationed there.

Davidstow hosted many squadrons from RAF Coastal, Bomber and Transport Commands, the USAAF and US Navy. Amongst the aircraft types to be seen were: Hudsons, Whitleys, Wellingtons, Lancasters, Beaufighters, Liberators, PB4Y-1, Fortresses, Halifaxes, Stirlings, Warwicks,



*Beaufighter 404 Canadian Squadron, Davistow Moor; May 1944*



*304 Polish Squadron Wellingtons, Davidstow Moor Sept 1943*



*Wellington M Mk X 304 Polish Squadron from Davidstow Moor*

The museum building was once part of the NCOs ablution facilities. It was a shower block and evidence of this has been left with the pipe work and shower heads still in situ. Since the war the building has had several uses. For many years it was a piggery and prior to its recent renovation it was used for farm storage and as a stable block.

The museum is helping to preserve the history of RAF Davidstow Moor and to commemorate the men and women who served there during the life of this WW II airfield which opened on the 1st October 1942 as part of 19 Group Coastal Command.

On the 5th November 1942, 19 group declared the station ready for operations.

Mosquitoes, Spitfires, Martinets, Walrus, a Hurricane, C47 (Dakotas), C46 (Commandos) and C54 (Skymasters).

The air base was used by the Americans and Canadians for training in the run up to D-Day and was visited by General Eisenhower during 1944.

The last operational flying was carried out by No. 282 Squadron with Warwick Air Sea Rescue aircraft. They left on 19th September 1944. The airfield continued under Care and Maintenance with diversion facilities until it closed in October 1945.

The museum is open daily from 10.30am to 3.30pm until the end of September. Admission is by donation.



*Museum Site Davidstow*

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## It Seemed Like a Good Idea!!!

The decision was made, give up work and lead a life with much less stress. Unfortunately, that would also mean less money, but "what the heck".

What shall we do with our time? We could buy a motor home and tour Europe and Scandinavia, a possibility. Or find a building plot and build our retirement home, also a good idea. On the other hand, we could find a nice little easy to maintain house with a reasonable garden, not too big, just enough to keep us occupied.

Decision time! – Touring Europe would be OK, but what do you do when you're fed up with travelling, maybe not the best option. Building plots in the right location are like looking for a needle in a haystack, perhaps we'll give up on that idea. Therefore, it seems like we look for that easy to maintain house with a reasonably easy to maintain garden. That was three years ago.

After much searching we happened upon our retirement home. The owner, a lovely lady, had lived there for 20 years or

more and was very sad to leave. She had been happy there and hoped that we too would be happy. Without doubt we were now acquainted with someone who would go "that extra mile", to tell us who to contact for this and that and took time to explain the special little quirks about our new home that would have taken us ages to find or sort out ourselves. We have been very lucky. We now think upon that lady as a very dear friend. She has introduced us to all sorts of people, groups and venues. That special lady is June Swanson, who seems to know just about everyone in the village. June has recently celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday; many of you reading this would have attended her party. We would like to wish June belated birthday wishes and say a special thank you to her for all her help.

We are not sure what happened to "the easy to maintain house with reasonably sized garden" idea, but who cares, we have the rest of our retirement to get there. Maybe it will get done . . . drekly. *MW*

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*Forrabury and Minster Parish Council meet in the Village Hall usually on the last Thursday of each month. Members of the public are invited to attend with public participation at the beginning of the meeting at 7 pm.*

Since the last edition of the Blowhole the Parish Council has been dealing in the main with planning applications from the Environment Agency and from the National Trust for work to be carried out on the car park and the harbour area.

Chris Green from HALCRO, Andrew Houghton from the Environment Agency and Ian Kemp of the National Trust attended the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> July and did their best to answer concerns from members of the public about these applications. It was emphasised that the public had been consulted throughout the planning process with three public exhibitions and through regular Regeneration newsletters.

At the meeting members of the public were particularly concerned with the following points:-

1 The proposal by the National Trust to allow food to be taken off the premises from Cornish Goodies. There was wide spread concern that this would result in litter in the Harbour area. The National Trust assured the meeting that this would not be allowed to happen.

2 The work on the car park would cause great disruption for businesses in the area, particularly those running B & B's.

3. Loss of trees in a conservation area. The EA assured the meeting that more trees would be planted in the car park area though not in the overflow car park.

4 Change of use of Valency Field. This field had been given to the NT as a memorial and a plaque commemorated this. Ian Kemp responded that the land bequeathed was

not the Valency Field and suggested that a plaque and information board be placed at the exit of the car park into the valley when work on the car park is completed.

It was proposed that there be a site meeting before a decision was made on these various schemes and this is now scheduled to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> September

**Bus Service** Janey Comber the District Councillor reported that there was now a service bus from Boscastle to Exeter or Plymouth via Camelford. This will be a valuable community asset.

**Toilets in Harbour:** A member of the public made a plea for public toilets in the harbour area. Lack of such a facility is causing problems and is a potential health hazard.

**Development of Bottreaux Garage site by Belsham Properties:**

Planning applications were considered at the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> August for demolition of existing sheds and garages and the erection of 15 new dwellings including two affordable units.

There was considerable public interest and participation at the meeting and concerns expressed about the proposed development The main points raised were:

1. Access to the site on what is already a very congested section of road opposite the surgery
2. Run off of water from the site
3. Height of the buildings

and the general design which is not in keeping with the conservation area.

4. These houses would possibly become second homes and there was a strong feeling that there was a greater need for more affordable housing .

The Council discussed all of the above points and rejected the application on the following grounds:

- Poor access and visibility
- Over development of the site, the height of the buildings and resultant loss of privacy.
- Surface water. A Flood risk assessment was required
- Insufficient affordable housing
- Overloading of the sewage pipe which runs under the Wellington Hotel

All councillors were in agreement apart from one council member who declared an interest and abstained from voting.

**Bus Shelter** No further development regarding the provision of a shelter.

**Children's play area** Cllr Findlay is in contact with suppliers of play equipment. An agreement with the National Trust for use of the land will have to be scrutinised and legal advice obtained.

**Park and Ride Scheme** There have been unfavourable comments from people living near the route used. Cllr Smith proposed that the Parish Council should not get involved in the scheme and this was carried by majority vote.

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County Cllr Glenton Brown writes

August is a quiet month at County Hall, holiday time for some of the staff, making the most of the School holidays, perhaps off to faraway places, or doing things together as a family.

However for key Officers and Managers in Social Services & Health Services, pertinent questions are being asked and must be asked and solutions must be found sooner rather than later.

You are probably aware of 3½ Million cuts in Social Services this year, and I don't think the Books will balance at year end either. The impact of these cuts is going to be difficult to implement, and I fear there will be many instances where people will face hardship. If you find you are not receiving the help and assistance you need, please contact me, I may be able to press your case.

Our other concern is what's happening to our County Hospitals, hints of closing an operating theatre

and ward at Treliske is not what we want to hear. Turnaround Schemes must be introduced promptly. I recall raising the question two years ago how would the historic debt of seven or eight million be paid, and was told plans were in hand!! This pales into insignificance as to the position today!

Devon and some other Shire Counties are also in trouble, but the Government refuses to help, pointing out that other Health Authorities are quite solvent.

I believe our problems stem from under funding by Government. It is a fact that our Education budget falls over £100 short per pupil, and I believe it is probably more per person to our Senior Citizens. The South West is the most popular retirement area these days, and that itself demands more Health Care facilities and services.

I am meeting up with Dan Rogerson our local MP, to appeal to him to seek a united County wide support of our MPs, to mount all the pressure they possibly can on the Minister of Health, to promote extra Funding.

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## Harbourmasters News

Most of the boats are back on their moorings hoping for good weather to get a few mackerel etc. Peganina is carrying on with fishing trips and potting.

One of our fishing boats broke down just outside the harbour. The Coastguards were alerted and with the help of Hedley Venning with his boat, took off some of the passengers. The boat was towed in by the ILB Port Isaac (RNLI), and all ended well.

The National Trust has provided a slip way for launching the smaller boats until our main slipway is ready. Slipway launches are £3.00 daily please pay either myself or Hedley Venning at Harbour Lights. Hedley has been co-opted to help



with the harbour with National Trust approval; hopefully next season will see much improvement.

It is nice to see the gig Torrent in action - a big attraction for the harbour. Well done Chris and the crew and also the Lady rowers.

The Coastwatch Barbecue was held at Sunnyside on the 19th August and once again was a big success, enjoyed by 45 to 50 members and guests.

Fred Siford, Harbour Master.



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# Would be Bottreaux Garage Development - Update

An official planning application has now been submitted to North Cornwall District Council by Belsham Court Properties to build fifteen houses on the site of Bottreaux Garage.

When the application came before the Parish Council on 24th August detailed drawings of the new development were placed on view and the subject opened for public debate. Alex Stewart led the discussion by reiterating a number of important reasons, both public and personal, for rejecting the application and produced her own computer projections illustrating the visual impact the development would have on the area.

The Parish Council had previously written to the Planning Department objecting to further development in an area already over-burdened with second homes and holiday lets. The design and cost of the proposed properties, not to mention small gardens, would make them unsuited to local needs, especially the elderly and young families. The properties would most likely appeal instead to second-home owners, several additional features in their layout seeming to cater for this market. They would have first floor living rooms extending out to full length balconies, some

reached by outside spiral staircases. Apart from the visual impact, this would intrude on the privacy of nearby residents.

## *gazing at balconies*

Alex and Ian Stewart's property would be one of those most severely affected, overlooked by seven three storey houses, built on raised land. Belsham's suggested screening of the Stewart's and other properties with trees or shrubs would be, in Alex's opinion, ridiculously inadequate. The effects on other residents in Paradise Road would be equally dire. Instead of distant views of Forrabury Church or the sea they would instead be gazing at first floor balconies at the same level as their roof eaves, only fifteen metres away. Likewise Michael Turner's fine manor house would face the backs of three new properties.

Alex also expressed some doubt that development was permitted over the whole of the designated area. Some of it, prior to the flood, had been woodland, and only cleared to allow contractors' vehicles to park there.

Belsham's design statement maintained the development would be "sympathetic to the local character of Boscastle without resorting to pastiche." A juxtaposition of various roof lines would reflect the village's "jumbled

mix of slate roofs of different styles sitting cheek-by-jowl." Their suggestion for incorporating dormer windows in the roofs was based on single example in the area. Each house would have an integrated garage, to avoid a 'suburban' feel, they claimed. Timber cladding and a variety of wall colourings would be "a reference to traditional slate hanging but in a modern, more ecological and more colourful form." Its impact would be softened by landscaping, installing tree and shrub cover along the boundaries and the use of natural stone walls and planters.

Critics, such as Myrna Lester, focused on the abandonment of traditional materials to create "trendy" exteriors with an urban ambience. Many of the additional features, she alleged, were installed for cosmetic purposes only, and given that many would be holiday homes, would quickly deteriorate without constant maintenance. Others commented that

although Belsham appeared to believe its architectural style would integrate easily within the village previous experience had shown that in reality their work failed to meet expectations.

Latterly the report regarding the Clease Road development at Camelford has become publically available. The planning officer, Simon King, rejected the application on similar grounds. The site, consisting of closely-packed three storey houses, would be "over-dominant and over-developed", contrary to Policy DVS1 of the District Local Plan. It would have an adverse effect on the amenities of the surrounding area, overlooking adjoining houses (Policy DVS3). He deplored the extensive use of timber cladding as inappropriate, and expressed fears of damage to existing trees as detrimental to the general appearance of the site.

The proposed height of the development would make it clearly visible

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from as far away as the coastal path, and wholly overwhelm the area of Doctor's Hill, Doctor's Corner and Paradise Road.

#### *reduce available parking*

It would have a further detrimental effect on road usage, already under stress at the junction of Doctor's Corner, and reduce available parking. In fact extra parking would have to be found for the new residents, as the site allocation is inadequate. Belsham has stated the question of access had already been agreed with the Highways Department, but when contacted the Department were unable to confirm this.

The dangers of flooding have long been recognized. The Environment Agency and Highways Department are aware of the possibility of future overflows from the River Jordan and currently planning improvements to the culverts at Paradise and Gunpool, but this will not prevent surface water from cascading down the village street. The new site would

increase the likelihood of surface runoff and on this basis planning applications in the area have been routinely turned down. In NCDC's own judgment "Any development within the catchment area of the River Jordan would exacerbate the present unsatisfactory surface water drainage problem." (93/1383).

#### *overburdened sewage pipe*

Lightening the discussion slightly, it was commented that any additional development would put further strain on the already-overburdened six inch pipe beneath the Wellington Hotel which already carries the entire effluent of the village.

It has been noted that two recent planning applications, in Camelford and St Erth, have both been rejected by district councils on the grounds that they represented an "unsympathetic suburban form of development." And at St Erth the developers had offered ten affordable

homes out of a total of thirty five. By contrast Belsham was providing just two flats. As these would have only two bedrooms and no gardens it was felt these would be unlikely to benefit young families and especially not the elderly or disabled.

Those members of the public present at the meeting were unanimous in condemning the application. After discussing the matter at some length the Parish Council resolved by a majority vote (one abstention) to reject both of Belsham's applications, to demolish present buildings on the site and erect new dwellings.

While Cornwall, in accordance with government policy, is obliged to develop so-called "brownfield" sites

to provide more housing, this is not a carte blanche permission to ignore local considerations. The Structure Plan specifically allows for the needs of residents to be weighed against the value of any proposed development.

It is likely that the Bottreaux site at some point will be used for housing, but perhaps concerted efforts by residents will ensure these are low-rise, fewer in number, fit in architecturally and include a significant proportion of affordable homes.

Anyone who has views on the subject should write to NCDC as soon as possible. Letters should be addressed to: NCDC Development Control, 3/5 Barn Lane, Bodmin PL31 1LZ, quoting Application No.2006/01578.

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# Church and Chapel



The Reverend Brian Ede, who originally hails from Delabole, starts as Methodist Minister this September. We wish him well and look forward to reading his message in the next edition of the Blowhole.

Harvest Festival will be at 11 am on Sunday 24th September, with Mr Edward Elson from Tresparett, and at 6pm with the Rev Ede.

On Monday 25th at 7pm there will be a short service with Glenton Brown, followed by the auction of harvest gifts. refreshments will be available.

---

## *Revd Chris Musser writes:*

My apologies for not writing in the last issue of 'Blowhole', despite my best efforts I am always late with my contribution; last time I was just too late!

It's been quite a summer and I daresay you, like me, have been watching with horror the latest developments in the Middle East and the 'war on terrorism'.

It has been pointed out to me, as a representative of one of them, that it is the three main religions of the world, all who profess a God of love, that are involved in killing on a massive scale at the present time.

Which is brutally ironic to say the least, but I do think it can be too easy to blame the religion or the God it professes, when in fact it is people who do these things, and people will always find justification for their actions; if not religion there would be something else.

It can also be a little too easy to blame the 'people of power' who give the command for others to start hurling missiles at each other. While

condemning such actions and feeling deeply that there has to be a better way, I for one would not want to be in Bush, Blair or Olmert's shoes at the present time.

It does seem to be a particular kind of madness though, that can view mass destruction and huge loss of life as any kind of answer, whether in New York, London, Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, or Israel.

Madness that, most recently, will cause as much destruction to the 'other side' as possible for weeks, then agree to a ceasefire with others to police it, and the only thing that has changed is the level of suffering of those caught in between.

There are no simple answers of course, but surely history should have taught us something by now. Conflict of any sort arises out of differences between individuals, nations and faiths; and insecurity. The insecurity that dictates that I need to know that the system I operate under is the right one because it defines who I am. If I am right and you are different to me, then you must be wrong and I have a duty to show you the error of your ways, and impose my system on you.

It takes a certain kind of arrogance that says that my democracy is the right one, or my understanding of God is the only one. Human arrogance of course, that seems able to ignore the clues all around us; that this glorious world that God created, however 'she' or 'he' created it, is a fantastic multiplicity of different organisms, life systems, climates, peoples, languages, faiths and so on and so on, all of which contribute to the rich diversity that is life.

As Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks has said: "Any proposed reduction of that diversity through the many forms of fundamentalism that exist today – market, scientific or religious – would result in a diminution of the rich texture of our shared life, a potentially disastrous narrowing of the horizons of possibility...there are many cultures, civilisations and faiths, but God has given us only one world in which to live together – and it's getting smaller all the time."

Maybe a topic for a 'What About...?' discussion, which begins again this autumn, 1st Thursday of every month in the Village Hall at 7pm. And if you think that it's useless to talk about such things here, because we can't affect what goes on anyway, you are missing the point. It all starts with individuals on a very personal level, discovering how we deal with the differences between us and learn to live together, hopefully one day in the peace and harmony that God intends us to enjoy.

*Revd Chris Musser*

## **Contact Details:**

### **Boscastle Methodist Chapel:**

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

### **Roman Catholic Church:**

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

### **Religious Society of Friends:**

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

### **Church of England:**

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



*Revd Chris Musser continues:*

On a different subject altogether, you may have heard by now that Brett began a new teaching post as Head of Music at a school in Surrey from the start of this term, which begins a new way of operating for both of us.

As with many other couples, it means that he will now be away during the week, returning home here as many weekends as is possible for him.

I have spoken with Bishop Bill about our changed circumstances, and sought his advice and prayers for us both. While it was never likely that I would remain here until I retired, the Bishop agrees that it does mean that I now need to be thinking about where my future ministry will be rather sooner than we originally thought.

I shall not be leaving these parishes yet, certainly not this side of Christmas, and when the time comes it will be a wrench for both of us. Brett and I would be grateful for the support of your prayers as he faces new challenges, and I begin exploring where God can use me in the future; that I may be able to fulfil the promises I have made in my calling both to serve Him in His Church, and in my marriage.

*Revd. Chris Musser*

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### Methodist Church:

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### Forrabury Church, Boscastle:

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

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

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

### St. Juliot Church, Boscastle:

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

3rd Sunday each month:  
10am Mattins

### Davidstow Church:

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

### Lesnewth Church:

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

2nd Sundays:  
9am Said Prayer Book Communion

### Otterham Church:

1st Sunday each month:  
11.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday each month:  
3pm Holy Communion

4th Sunday Each Month:  
11.30am Morning Worship

### Trevalga Church:

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11.30am Holy Communion

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

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# Thoughts of an Ex-Pat over a glass of Port

Earlier this year my brother Simon 'came home' from Melbourne, Australia to visit the family. Our family came to Corentin in the late 1950's from Rustington, Sussex; Simon, Hugh, Jon and I spent our formative teenage years in the village. My sisters Sally and Frances spent all of their childhood here.



*Simon & Hugh Mills in Rustington*

Although Simon was only in Boscastle for a few years and is now an Australian citizen, like many others who live abroad, the village is very special to him. After far too large a meal Simon, Rod and I sat together one evening reminiscing over a glass of port. These are a few of Simon's thoughts about his time here.

Like many many other people he says there is nowhere else in the world like it. As you come down over Tredorn hill from Camelford the vista opens out in front of you, displaying just part of the houses nestling in the folds of the hills with Forrabury Church standing guardian over the village and Willa Park protecting those at sea. Coming down from New Bridge the trees seem to envelop you with open arms welcoming you home. Like every Cornishman you speak to about Cornwall, Simon says it gets into your heart and soul. On a wet, cold and windy day there is a warmth in the fabric of the village which is very comforting.

Simon met his wife Ann at the Cobweb when she was on holiday in the 1960's. Sadly Ann died shortly before Simon's visit but walking on the cliffs and looking out to sea helped to gather his thoughts and start the process of getting his life back into perspective.

We had a wonderful stress-free childhood, just magic. The village saw little if no crime and

everyone knew everyone. If there was a wedding or a funeral everyone turned up. The holiday season was restricted mainly to the school holidays and so Easter was eagerly awaited for the arrival of the first holiday makers. In Simon's words 'more birds to pull'. By the end of the summer we had our village back for ourselves. Day trippers were



*swimming at the harbour*

not so common. People didn't travel then like they do now. There were no motorways and the old A30 would grind to a halt in every town you travelled through. Okehampton was a notorious bottleneck and climbing the hill from

Polson Bridge and on through Launceston town was a nightmare. People used trains, coaches and buses to visit. It would be all hands to the pump in Piper's Café when Mrs Piper spotted coaches coming around Hairpin Bend. We spent many happy hours beside the jukebox with a cup of coffee in the summer or winter.

During our school holidays we lived at the harbour. We had our own special places where we left our clothes and sandwiches and changed into swimming trunks in boy's or man's pit. If the weather was right we would go out fishing with Les Stedman or Fred Swan who owned Lundy View. On one occasion a heavy sea mist came in off Beeny Head and we had to keep the coast in view. Simon, in the bow, had to keep an eye out for the rocks known as Beeny Sisters. Too late he spotted them. Disaster was averted only when a large swell lifted the boat and carried it right over them. Pulling up lobster pots was not without hazard either as they sometimes contained a Conger eel. You then had

*continued on next page*



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continued from previous page

to put your hand in and pull it out. On the way back to harbour we would throw out lines with little silver spinners on and catch mackerel to sell to tourists.

As summer turned to autumn the boys would go up to Home Farm to help load hay bales onto trailers for 2s.6d a day. We'd pick crab apples, blackberries, elderberries, sloes and rowan berries for mum to turn into jams, jellies and wine for Christmas. We'd look forward to bonfire night with the Willet family at Beeny or the Bamford and Burgess families and to shopping trips to Plymouth. Simon refers to these days as the days when Frank Bridge was an outsider!

Simon and Ann's daughter Tina never lived in Boscastle but it is still a special place to her. Like so many people worldwide she watched the 2004 flood event unfold on television and when the Harbour Light was destroyed she said 'oh no! That's Boscastle gone!' I'm sure that she will be thrilled to bits to see what a wonderful job Trixie and Hedley have done on the new Harbour Light.

Anne Knight

## The Harbour Light shines again

*After two years' absence, and months of hard work by Hedley and his team, Trixie Webster's shop, the Harbour Light is about to be back in action.*

*Trixie hopes to have an official opening on October 7th at 11am inviting Chrisitine Musser to open it and she would like to welcome all members of the village to attend.*

*The following write-up was written by Kate Painter of the North Cornwall Advertiser and Trixie asked that we reproduce it here:*

Sincetimeimmemorial the Harbour Light, standing at the head of Boscastle harbour, has offered a welcome. Greeting sailors home from the sea in one direction and visitors to the village from the other, the building had become a landmark. With a roof that seemed to defy gravity and higgledy-piggledy walls, it evoked childhood images of a gingerbread cottage and was photographed thousands of times.

August 16th 2004 brought a brutal end to



the Harbour Light 2006

the life of the building. The flood waters that swept through the village gathered devastating force as they headed for the sea - and the last building directly in their path was the Harbour Light. It seemed that a very old slice of Boscastle's history had been literally washed away.

The owner of the Light, Trixie Webster, was determined to rebuild and not only to rebuild but to recreate it as nearly as possible to the original, that roof included.

Her father, Norman, had first converted the building into a shop and Trixie felt that it wasn't just a business but an important part of Boscastle's community. Sustained by her Christian faith she began the clean-up

operation. Picking through the mud of the harbour to salvage building materials, Trixie was heard to say, "Anything that's painted white is mine," and duly any chunks of granite that bore a lick of white paint were gathered, piece by piece, ready for rebuilding. Trixie was left with a huge, incomplete jigsaw.

Now, two years later, on reaching the harbour, it lifts one's heart to see the Harbour Light risen again. Trixie has decided to re-open as a tea shop in the near future and it stands as a testament to her dedication and faith that once again the Harbour Light offers a welcome to seafarers and landlubbers alike.

Kate Painter



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# Will's 7 Summit Challenge

*Brian Holland meets a Boscastle youth with a passion for mountain climbing and a zest for adventure*



*Will reaches the top of a cliff climb*

Boscastle teenager Will Sharp has set his sights high, in more ways than one, as I found out recently when I called to see him about his 7 Summit Challenge. Rather appropriately he lives up at the top of the village and has set himself the goal of climbing the world's 7 highest mountains before he reaches age 20, which would put him in the record books as the youngest ever Briton to achieve this. At the same time he is looking to raise in the region of £40,000 for his chosen Charities, which are likely to be something which

will benefit the disabled or those connected to outside sports.

Will is presently studying at Duchy College for a national diploma in outdoor education and is looking to eventually carve himself a career in mountaineering and outdoor education. However, before that he is aiming to climb Mount Elbrus in Europe, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, Mount Denali in North America, Mount Aconcagua in South America, Mount Kosciusko in Australasia, Mount

Vinson in Antarctica – and not forgetting the highest, Mount Everest, in Asia.

Talking with Will about his challenge it's clear to see that he's well organised, determined and has the enthusiasm and commitment necessary to see this through. His aim is to split the challenge into three phases, the first being to tackle Mounts Elbrus and Kilimanjaro as these are not too high an altitude and therefore comparatively easy – although for someone who gets dizzy walking up to the lookout tower, I needed some convincing of that!

Along with his studies, Will has been working in the evenings and at weekends to raise funds towards

the necessary equipment, guides and his travel costs, having so far raised over £1000 that he has spent on kit. His parents are helping too, but he still needs to raise around £2000 for this first phase and is looking for sponsorship from local companies etc and anyone who might be able to help, both from within and outside Cornwall.

I asked Will about the training necessary to achieve his challenge and so far he has already completed the Three Peaks climbing challenge here in the UK, along with winter ice climbing and mountaineering in Scotland. Long distance running, cycling, swimming

*concludes on page 17*



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## Will's 7 Summit Challenge



*tackling a slope near Long Island - more usually host only to seabirds!*

and other sports are all part of the endurance training necessary to tackle what lies before him, with the goal of completing the challenge by Christmas 2008.

"I am really looking forward to it" Will told me. "It will be a massive experience meeting the people and travelling to all these different countries, and at the same time raising money for those less fortunate than myself".

Details about Will's Challenge has already made some of the local newspapers, including interviews with Radio Cornwall, Pirate FM and Westcountry Live TV, but he hopes that as more people get to hear about his

challenge that sponsorship and further support will be forthcoming.

Anyone who wants to find out more can contact Will on 01840-250401 or look up his website at [www.wills7.com](http://www.wills7.com) which explains all about his challenge.

As I was leaving Will was about to set off on yet another long distance run and from speaking with him I was definitely impressed. Personally I have no doubt at all that he will achieve his goal, but it will be interesting to see if those who are in a position to help the lad will be forthcoming with sponsorship and support. I really hope so - he certainly deserves it!

*Brian Holland*



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## NHS or NHS.plc?

form. Many readers of this article, my own family included, have reason to praise this particular hospital for its very high quality of care. Wearing my professional hat I must also commend it on its ability to communicate information to patients' GPs.

It would appear that St Michael's is under threat because of 'significant overspends' in the County's health budget. This at a time when the new Bodmin Treatment Centre has been opened to reduce NHS waiting lists. I suspect that few people are aware that the Bodmin Treatment Centre lies within the private sector – that is to say that it is privately owned and its services are sold to the NHS. Albeit on favourable terms in respect of the fees paid to the Centre and also of its ability to provide shorter waiting times than the standard NHS.

This is just one part of a rather quiet and very major change which has been occurring in the NHS over the last few years and which is gathering momentum. I think the first sight of it was when private hospitals were contracted to provide surgery to NHS patients as a means of reducing waiting lists – a scheme known as the waiting list initiative. In essence I might refer you to Derriford hospital and if the waiting lists there became too long – the NHS purchased your care at the Nuffield.

This has all gone much further. You may remember

that the 'Out of Hours' provider formerly known as *Kernowdoc* became *Kernow Urgent Care*. This was not just a re-branding – but a fundamental shift in who was providing the service. *Kernowdoc* was a co-operative of local GPs who worked together in a non-profit making manner to provide evening, night and weekend medical care. When the service came up for re-contracting earlier this year it was awarded to *Serco* – a commercial company.

In the last couple of weeks the Appeal Court ruled in Derbyshire that the local Primary Care Trust had failed in its duty to consult with patients before embarking on plans to transfer two local GP Practices to the US private health provider United Healthcare. It seems curious that a multinational with no NHS experience or local knowledge managed to win the contract against a consortium of local GPs. I have to say that very few doctors or nurses believe

that we have much to learn from the American system of Health care where ability to pay largely defines the outcome. No doubt the Department of Health will be watching closely the outcome of the Derbyshire case.

All the above are significant changes in the way that health funds are being utilised and I'm hard pressed to remember anything related to this in the Labour manifesto for the last election. If there was something in there I'm sure an informed reader will contact the Blowhole to correct me.

It looks very much as if the current trend towards partial privatisation will continue. It is clearly driven by central government and also presumably by the civil service. I don't have a particular axe to grind on a limited privatisation within the NHS but as they say – I thought you should know – because if you do you'll be able to ask the right questions if problems arise.

Chris Jarvis 4 Sept 06

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## Open Gardens

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July both dawned dry and fair for the annual National Garden Scheme's open gardens event in Boscastle. 'Half Acre' looked really lovely and was much admired by the many visitors who made this their first port of call, many of them took advantage of being able to enjoy tea in the beautiful Blue Circle garden. A delightful exhibition of garden paintings by painters who have studied with Carole Vincent for over fifteen years was an added treat at this venue and plant-lovers were not able to resist the good range of plants offered for sale.



*Yvonne & John Ayling showing off the peas in their allotment*

There is a marked contrast between Carole's garden and 'Wildwood'; although both gardens face north there is an appreciable difference in what plants can tolerate the more elevated and exposed 'Half Acre' location and the very noticeable protected warm 'bowl' of 'Wildwood'.

It was evident that a lot of hard work had been undertaken at 'Wildwood' which allowed visitors to enjoy the formal and woodland aspects of this challenging garden with its wonderfully imaginative plantingschemes throughout

the lower garden and the woodland walk with its lovely shaded areas accommodating a wide variety of shrubs, trees, architectural plantings and wild flowers.

I think both Carole and Alex and Ian Stewart can be proud of the declaration by the Treasurer of the National Gardens Scheme that they are included in the top four fund-raising gardens in Cornwall - so well done to you three!

The event raised £575 at the gates, £181 on refreshments, £17 from plant sales and £52.25 from commission on paintings sold - a marvellous total of £825.25, of which £644 was donated to the National Gardens Scheme and £181 to the church.

A propos of gardens - I spent a great one-night stop-over up in Leominster with John and Yvonne Ayling in June. It was lovely to see them both looking so well and happy. Their garden is an absolute delight, but their latest pride and joy is the allotment they acquired in April and I was more than happy to be given the grand tour of their plot and sample some of the abundant produce! They send warmest greetings to all their Boscastle friends.

*Myrna Lester.*

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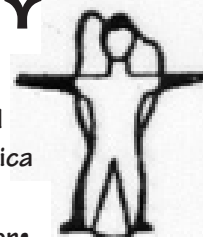
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**THELMA STEWART BOSCASTLE 250444**

*Member of the Association of Reflexologists*





“Pure indulgence”: It would seem that Boscastle WI ladies have been enjoying themselves far too much this summer - charming male speakers and guides, days out in the sunshine, cream teas and therapy. What happened to Jam and Jerusalem?

June commenced with a talk about “Collectables with a Feminine Interest”, by David Lamond of Pickwick Antiques. Members were delighted to view the beautiful glass, silver and jewellery items as David told them, in his usual charming and amusing style, about the history and changes in fashion for those items that would be deemed to adorn a ladies dressing table from Victorian and times past, to items that would be pleasing to the senses today. Sharing his wealth of knowledge, members were afforded a brief insight into social history.

Young men and their modern day flying machines were next on the agenda. The ladies who visited RNAS Culdrose, the Royal Navy base for training aircrews, support staff, and engineers, enjoyed a very interesting guided tour of the base. A special treat was to be permitted to climb aboard the Sea King Helicopters, some of which had been involved in the Boscastle Flood Rescue. On visiting

the Air Traffic Control tower they were able to watch the movement of live aircraft on radar and witness the low level fly past by a Hawk Jet.

The “Birthday” cream tea hosted by Camelford WI, was thoroughly enjoyed by all, having rained it was a bit muddy underfoot, but worth it to see the donkeys.

July’s weather was the icing on the cake for the annual outing. Commencing with a picnic lunch in a shaded spot overlooking the water at Sibbyback Lake, watching the antics of young people trying to keep their sailing boats the right way up, this was followed by a guided tour by Kenneth Willcock around the four-acre Ken-Caro Gardens at Bicton. The garden was awash with colour, day lilies ranging from pale yellow to deep red and hydrangeas, deep blue, almost purple. The day ended with tea, taken in the Summer House, enjoying the panoramic views across the countryside.

The speaker at the July meeting was Ros Thomas, an Art therapist who works for the Cornwall Partnership Trust in adult mental health and with the elderly at Bodmin Hospital. Ros shared some of her amazing work experiences and explained how art therapy was able to liberate some people who were unable to express themselves in other ways. Members were invited to “introduce themselves” using art, and amazed that they were able to identify

one another through the artwork they had produced.

The month ended with another garden visit. A special thank you to Basil and Jean Jose for inviting members to look around their lovely garden, with its hanging baskets and pots cascading with colourful begonias and fuchsias, flower gardens, well stocked fruit and vegetables and even melons in the greenhouse. The afternoon

was rounded off with tea, scones and cake at Jill, our president’s home.

Who said WI was boring? If you have enjoyed reading about our activities and feel you would like to join us, as a visitor or member, then do come along to our next meeting, in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12th September, where Valerie Tomlinson will be talking to us about “Climate Change”.

### **WI Recipe: Edna’s Biscuits**

12ozs Self Raising Flour

8ozs Soft Margarine

8ozs Caster Sugar

2 Level Teaspoons Bicarbonate of Soda

1 Desert Spoon Syrup

Method: Mix margarine and sugar together, and then add syrup, flour and bicarbonate of soda.. Put small amount, the size of a walnut, on greased baking tray.

Bake at 140° C (275° F), for about 15 minutes or until golden brown.

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The District Council has a bit of a break from meetings in August, but the day to day business keeps on going. For a lot of the services it is the busiest time of year, especially for the rubbish collections and services like the Lifeguards and Leisure Centres. The amount of traffic on the roads has a big impact on the work of the Council, with all travelling taking so much longer. As North Cornwall covers one third of the whole of Cornwall it has quite a big effect on how the Council runs.

Without the deadline of meetings it is often a good opportunity to bend a few ears, and Glenton and myself are still progressing matters concerning Bowthick Tip, and we are both very hopeful of a successful outcome, with District and County Councils working in partnership.

I am delighted that the Bus Service from Camelford to Exeter has

been restored, and you can now travel direct from Boscastle to Exeter six days a week. If you have a bus pass you can even travel for free!! I do hope that this service will be well used, as it took a lot of work to get it running.

The-Environment Agency planning application is now being considered by the District Council, which if passed will bring a lot of benefits to the village, but also a lot of disruption. As always these projects are a balancing act between benefits and drawbacks, and we want to get it as right as possible. Most of the agencies involved in the future work around the Harbour have joined together to employ a coordinator to try and ensure that all the work progresses as smoothly as possible. Unfortunately, South West Water did not feel able to join with the others which I feel is a great pity. However I do hope that it will not affect the works too much.

Please do contact me if you think that I might be able to assist you in any way.

*Janey Comber*

tel: 230497

[jcomber@ncdc.gov.uk](mailto:jcomber@ncdc.gov.uk)



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# 80th Birthday Celebration



*cutting the cake*

June Swanson had her 80th birthday recently. A large crowd of friends and family helped her celebrate the occasion at a party in the Village Hall. June performed a brilliant recitation of Jenny Joseph's poem, 'Warning - When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple', reproduced alongside.



*June and her daughter Polly*

When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple  
with a red hat that doesn't go,  
and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy  
and summer gloves  
and satin sandals, and say we've  
no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when  
I am tired  
and gobble up samples in shops  
and press alarm bells  
and run my stick along the public railings  
and make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
and pick the flowers in other people's gardens  
and learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat  
and eat three pounds of sausages at a go  
or only bread and pickles for a week  
and hoard pens and pencils and beer mats  
and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry  
and pay our rent and not swear in the street  
and set a good example for the children.  
We must have friends to dinner and read the  
papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?  
So people who know me are not  
too shocked and surprised  
When suddenly I am old,  
and start to wear purple.

Jenny Joseph

*June writes:* Thank you to all my friends who made my birthday such a happy occasion. Your generous donations amounted to £250 which I have sent to Mount Edgcumbe Hospice.

## Air Ambulance Charity Shop, Delabole

July was quite a busy month with a number of visitors coming into the shop mostly seeking bargains in summer clothes. Lots of babies' and children's clothes, books and toys have been donated and at the time of writing there are some school dresses, shirts and trousers on the rails.

Takings for July totalled to £658.65 which is an excellent amount - many thanks to customers who have supported the shop.

Quite a number of Carnival costumes were made from items bought in the shop and some stunning outfits were produced. The Toy Tombola on Carnival Night raised £70. so thanks are due to all who 'had a go'.

Opening hours are posted on the smart new shop doors - but are, of course, subject to the availability of volunteers. JS

## Carn Awn Singers

The Singers ended their summer season with two very successful concerts, their Annual Concert at St. Peter's Church, Port Isaac and the 125th Anniversary Concert at Bethel Chapel, Hallworthy. Both the concerts were well attended by very appreciative audiences and the ladies at Bethel provided a wonderful supper after the concert which was compered, at short notice, by Jeremy Ward who kept the audience and Singers well entertained.

Carn Awn Singers are now taking a break until October but if you are planning a concert and would like the Singers to take part or require further information please contact Jane Sadleir on 01840 213796.

## 'Bubbles'

Ron Hart & David Flower are driving a 1929 Austin 7 from John O'Groats to Lands End, raising money for Shelter Boxes & Rotary Charities as the Blowhole goes to press. Bonne Route!



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# THE NATIONAL TRUST

**Planning Applications for both the Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Lower Bridge replacement** have been lodged by the Environment Agency with North Cornwall District Council. Also **South West Water** have lodged a planning application for pumping stations and control room in the lower harbour with the County Council.

The National Trust in principle supports the plans submitted. In deciding upon this support, the Trust has taken advice from many different sources into account, balancing the hydrological perspective with the vital need to preserve the historic environment that underpins so much of the economic life of the village. We will continue to discuss the various plans with the agencies to agree upon the finer detail and co-ordination of work programmes.

- **Work begins . . .** if planning consent is given then work on the flood alleviation scheme will start in October – this will include reptile fencing, tree removal and office installation for the work compound. Work would then begin in the lower harbour in November.

- **Cornish Goodies**

The owners of Cornish Goodies have agreed to sell their premises and business to the National Trust. Planning permission has been received to convert this into a café. The conversion work is currently planned to commence over the winter period but will have to be co-ordinated with other works within the lower harbour area.

- **Youth Hostel**

With the building works progressing well, the plans for an opening ceremony are being arranged.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Lord Tyler has been invited to officially open the refurbished youth hostel.

- **Visitor Centre and Shop** (former Harbour Restaurant):

This is progressing well but experiencing a slight delay due to extra walls needing renovating and the need to change lighting circuits. Building work due to finish in September 2006. Internal fittings of displays will then follow before opening to the public.

- **Slipway** (north side)

Once the work to the Youth Hostel has been completed the slipway will become available again, after safety inspections have been carried out.

- **BT phone kiosk**

Discussions are under way with BT payphones to look at the most appropriate provision within the lower village.

*Jeff Cherrington*

01288 331372

[jeff.cherrington@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:jeff.cherrington@nationaltrust.org.uk)



*Youth Hostel, showing the access ramp*



*view across the harbour from YHA window*

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Headteacher Sarah Duffy explains:  
 Whilst searching for a birthday present for my Mum I came across a book entitled 'To Brave Every banger - The epic life of Mary Bryant (nee Broad) of Fowey'. I'll admit to being a little wary of biographies or historical factual accounts as I don't always find them easy to read and know that Mum feels the same. However, on the basis that I'd bought a goodly supply of her favourite chocolate, and the book was about a Cornish Maid, I though I'd risk the purchase! Four days later the book was read ... it must have been good there was still chocolate left! After I had read the book I decided that Class 3 would also find the story interesting and were ready to tackle some of the 'issues' the book raised. We wrote stories and poems, acted parts of the stories, learned a great deal about life in 1786 and discussed prejudice, poverty, Government, justice/injustice and tolerance. All of the children's work was superb and I have enclosed a selection for your pleasure.

#### Court

Locked up in a prison.  
 Door shut tight.  
 Rats on the floor.  
 Lice in our hair and people growing sick.  
 Food is rationed, water too.  
 Shackled together my legs rubbed raw.  
 It's ever so cold when you sleep on the floor  
 No privacy for me nor no one else  
 Still shackled together four by four,  
 People throwing rotten fruit and stones,  
 Shouting 'Rot in hell'  
 Why do you people think it's funny?  
 Every where we go we get mocked by the crowd ...  
 'Die in hell'  
 'You're a disgrace  
 'Get off our land'  
 A slam of a hammer, the posh self centred voice.  
 A strange grey wig,  
 A long magnificent robe,  
 I put my hand on the book,  
 Confessed to the crime.  
 Everything just seemed to slow down,  
 'YOU ARE TO BE HUNG!'  
 Wait ...  
 You are to be transported.  
 The hammer dropped.

Issy Morgan Yr 5



#### Mary Broad

In 1784 a disaster struck an already poor county called Cornwall. This was such a devastating effect on Cornwall because they were already struggling with poverty. People were dying from starvation. This led to people stealing from others to look after their family, and Mary Broad was one of them. Mary was only young, 19 in fact, and she knew how to sail a boat. She decided to go to Plymouth so she could get a job and make some friends. Mary had to walk and sometimes try to get a lift. Even though it was a long hard journey she eventually got to Devonport in Plymouth.

Soon after she arrived she met two women walking across a cobbled road. These women were nasty robbers but Mary soon got to like them. About two weeks later they decided to plan a robbery in the streets of Devonport. This was Mary's first attempt at robbery but the other two were regular thieves. They had planned and rehearsed it over and over again but this was the real thing. Mary was scared. This was getting serious. Robbery was a hanging offence but they went for it.

They spotted a grand woman and were sure she was carrying a lot of money. Mary pounced on the woman knocking her to the ground and ferociously throwing punches at her body while the other two grabbed as much money and jewellery as they could. Then they legged it leaving the woman lying helplessly on the ground.

As they were running away from the assault they were spotted by some soldiers and they instantly recognised the two women robbers. The soldiers ran towards the women. Now they were worried. They were getting closer and closer. The soldier grabbed Mary and handcuffed her. The other two were quickly captured. They knew they were in serious trouble.

. Danny Frohlick Year 5

#### Mary Broad

Old rusty shackles rubbing into the bare flesh,  
 Empty stomach,  
 Throbbing pain increasing in my head.  
 Old rotten compost flying through the air.

The posh snooty Judge bellows,  
 'Silence, silence in the court,  
 I declare Mary Broad to be hung  
 By the neck til death.'

She leaves court upset and down,  
 Head full of terrible thoughts,  
 Back to gaol feeling uneasy.

Three months later...  
 Feeling better than before,  
 No more gaol,  
 She's set free from this terrible place,  
 And transported instead.

Faye Haywood & Abbie Brooks Yr 5

#### Agnes Lakeman's Thoughts

Walking to the court  
 Many unforgivable souls to see  
 Judges in front acting high-class  
 At the back of the procession  
 It's me

In court  
 Judge in power  
 In stumbled Mary  
 Dressed like scum  
 She smelt like human waste  
 Fortunately I was at the other end of the courtroom  
 Sentence echoed  
 Justice done  
 Mary was to be hung.  
 Justice is sweet  
 The scoundrel Mary  
 Irons around her feet and neck  
 Feeling the pain I felt

Joe Henderson and Jack Reed Yr 6

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### Mary Broad at Court

Cramped,  
Shacked  
Torture,  
Will this be my end ....  
Or my future?  
Silence,  
Tension  
Justice,  
In the haunting walls of the  
court  
I was sentenced to be hung.  
Grief  
And  
Shame.  
In the cart  
The journey back starts  
Harriet Dawson Y5

### Mary Broad

It was the year 1784, the country had gone bankrupt due to the war with America. Taxes had soared, you had to pay for salt, glass, candles, animals and much more. The farming, fishing and mining industries had collapsed which caused poverty and diseases.

I, Mary Broad, lived in Cornwall in a small fishing village called Fowey. My house was down a cobbled road. It has no windows or candles, in fact it had no lighting at all.

As time progressed and fresh food and water became scarce more and more people took to robbery. Me and my friends Catherine and Mary took to highway robbery. This was punishable by death which is why we had to get in and out as quickly as possible.

1785 This was the last robbery I committed and by far the most scary. The person we robbed was called Agnes Lakeman. Mary lay on the road pretending to be hurt and when Agnes got out of her carriage to help her Catherine jumped out from the bushes to attack her. But Agnes was tough, she charged at us. She knocked Catherine to the ground and started hitting her. Mary got up and kicked her. Agnes just lay on the ground whimpering. We stole £12 6s. We left her right there but she got up and chased us off down the road straight towards Plymouth and straight into a group of soldiers.

We were tied up and dragged away.

Robert Brakes Year 6

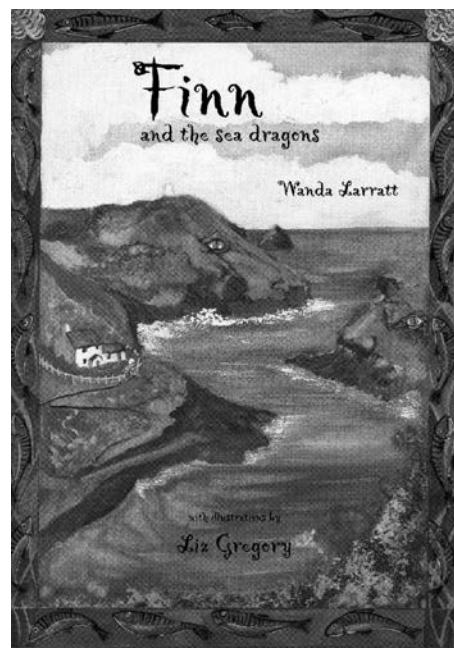
# Finn & the Sea Dragon

On a Sunday in August, in perfect weather, the Wellington Beer Garden was re-opened to the public and to celebrate the event there was music, sangria, a barbecue and . . . a book launch. A crowd of people arrived and both the author's and the illustrator's pens were kept busy signing copies of the book, which has been reviewed for the Blowhole by Cheryl Maughan:-

### Finn & the Sea Dragon

Take one small boy, a couple of sea dragons and a pair of seals. Add a shining shoal of mackerel, stir in a storm of stampeding sea horses. Mix well together and you have the perfect recipe for the just published children's book, Finn and the Sea Dragons. The author is Wanda Larratt who created the story for Finn, her grandson. She has told it to many children, including those she worked with at Boscastle School who loved the fantasy tale about their own village.

Wanda was encouraged to publish the story and was delighted to find the perfect illustrator in Liz Gregory, a local artist. Cornwall and its ever-changing landscapes and seascapes, clouds and skies are her inspiration. This quality is displayed in her depiction of Finn and his adventure.



Special thanks must go to Dave Precious for his help in the final production. The book is available (price £4.99) from many outlets in Boscastle, including the garage & the National Trust Shop. You can contact Wanda by email [wlarratt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wlarratt@yahoo.co.uk) and Liz through her website [www.lizgregory.com](http://www.lizgregory.com), where you can see more of her wonderful paintings.

So next time you visit Boscastle harbour, look out for the dragons, Willa and Penn – they really do exist. You might even see Finn setting off on another mackerel hunt.

CM

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# Pickwick Papers

It has been a luxuriously long hot summer and once again Boscastle has attracted a fair few visitors, each with their own agenda - mostly though to check out the progress of our recovery from that fateful day in August two years ago.

For my part I have enjoyed making new acquaintances and meeting regular visitors who I now consider to be friends so I was a little alarmed when I heard earlier in the summer that someone had telephoned to the local radio station complaining about the shopkeepers of Boscastle. Apparently some, if not all, were spending too much time reading magazines and not enough time talking to customers - presumably about the flood or whether the vicar was still in situ! I felt a pang of guilt since I do like to make inroads on the Telegraph crossword over my first cup of coffee of the business day and from the description given I did feel she might have been referring to me, although I hope that she wasn't. To the lady concerned I would just say point taken, and I do now take a quick look

over my shoulder to ensure that the coast is clear before opening the daily paper.

Good customer relation skills do involve things like politeness, a ready smile and a broad back but in a busy time with a shop full of people it really is not possible to hold a meaningful conversation with anyone for any length of time if you are to give good service to others in the queue. I expect that, like me, you must wander around your favourite supermarket not usually having long, in depth conversations with the shelf fillers or check out staff; in fact the actual extent of any conversation usually amounts to "are you alright with your packing?"

By now I am word perfect on the flood and Seaside Parish too and feel I have an answer for most enquirers, except that one person who just the other day aired the view that perhaps the flood had been no bad thing since we all, well some, now had better establishments than before - heigho another conversation stopper if ever I heard one, so eyes smartly back on the crossword to avoid responding.

I am convinced that my co-conspirators with businesses in the village do go to great lengths to keep the punters happy even if

it does mean re-living with great regularity the events of two years ago and reassuring them that the vicar is still here (just)!!!

On a similar tack I read a letter submitted to the local newspaper by a visitor to Boscastle complaining that there were not enough locally produced goods in the shops and this seemed a little bizarre to me bearing in mind that she was living in Cornwall and could buy locally sourced goods anywhere. I suspect though that she meant we were not doing our bit to support the local economy whereas in fact I believe we are. Of course there are goods that are not from hereabouts - even one or two of the more exotic things from far away places - but that is, as they say, business and wouldn't it be boring if all the shops in Cornwall sold the same goods - all from Cornwall? I happen to believe that Boscastle offers a very eclectic mix of well set out shops offering

something for everyone and which even attracts such style gurus as Laurence and Jaqui Llewellyn-Bowen to name but two.

On the whole question of talking or not talking I could not help but recall an incident concerning my parents, who, after a particular "falling out" managed to resist talking to each other for a day or so and this irritated my mother as she did not want to be the one to yield and break the silence. On the second day, as my father came through the door from the office, he discovered my mother on her hands and knees, half under the sideboard with a lighted candle in her hand and clearly searching for something. Curiosity getting the better of him my father immediately asked what she was looking for - my mother, blowing out the candle announced that she had now found it - the silence was broken and normal life resumed.



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# THEY ALWAYS COME BACK!

Ken Browse was a crab and lobster fisherman who fished out of Boscastle for a number of years in the 1950's. He recently came back for a day visit in July and below is an account of the memories that came flooding back with such clarity.

"It all started back in the early fifties as a result of a conversation between my father, Maurice Browse and Jim Bath who lived in a cottage overlooking the harbour on the Queens Head side. My dad had an inkling that there could be good fishing to be had off this part of the North Cornish coast and a long chat with Jim confirmed everything that he had expected. We came in 1953 with two boats, the Happy Venturer and the Torbay Bell. Lobsters were than selling at the market in Billingsgate at one and ninepence a pound and our catches were exceptional.

"We fished the grounds around the Beeny sisters, Dizzard Point, off Crackington Haven and up to Millook, Bude and

Hartland Point. We came for 7 seasons to 1960 from May (after the May rag) and up until mid August.

"Hearing of the floods in 2004 reminded me of the floods back in 1957 which I guess few folk outside of the village will know of. I remember (how could I forget) helping to retrieve the body from under one of our own boats of Charles Berryman (the town band leader) who was drowned in the flood. I had a brand new Austin Healey, which was in a garage owned by Mr Webber at the bottom of the village. Within 10 minutes of the flood entering the garage the car was afloat and then in no time at all it sank under the water. Mr Tonkins of Tintagel, and one of his employees, Roy Pickard, did a great job in getting it back on the road.

"Another character that I remember well was Mr Stedman, an accountant who actually made his own canoes. Michael Webber and I went out to Pentargon one day in a couple of the canoes and found over 200



Ken Browse

glass floats washed ashore. Mr Good from the Antique shop (currently Cornish Goodies) offered to pay us £2 for each float until he realised we had so many and no business materialised!

"Mr Cyril Biddick kept pigs in the building known later as The Pixie Shop (now rebuilt after the August 16<sup>th</sup> flood) and the boat yard run by Mr Pearn which is now a beautiful cottage. I also remember watching Elizabeth Whitehouse in her pottery shop. My crew and I had lodgings at the Manor House, which was owned by Mrs Scott.

"The return visit to Boscastle came about as a result of a chance meeting in Paignton (where I live) between my sister and Trixie Webster. It was a ladies' Christian seminar at which both Trixie & my sister were the main speakers. They got together for a chat and it soon became obvious that there was a

very close connection. I was summoned by my sister to come to the hotel where the seminar was taking place and met up with Trixie for the first time in nearly 50 years and accepted her invitation to come back to Boscastle for a day.

"It was arranged that her son-in-law, Hedley Venning would take me out in his boat and the thrill of going out of that unique harbour for the first time in nearly 50 years was something that I will remember for the rest of my life. It was good to haul a few pots that Hedley has just outside the harbour and to see a few lobsters in each one, most of which were thrown back. The weather was beautiful and the views of those cliffs were magnificent.

"It was good to see the village buzzing with activity and to see Trixie and so many others back in business after the devastation back in 2004 which some friends of mine on the other side of the world had heard about on their national news programmes".

*David Morey (brother-in-law of Ken Browse)*

## Answers to Crossword:

Across 1 choleric 8 Chile 12 oasis 13 collar 15 rites 16 ideology 18 ill 19 cent 20 nip 21 eon 22 thy 24 st 25 nor 26 the 28 eat 30 sir 31 gleam 33 paean 34 briar 36 rural 38 atonal 39 stan 40 boa 42 guanaco 46 led 47 arc 48 chorio 52 sphere 53 ayah 54 ewer 55 needy

Down 1 coriander 2 hail 3 oster 4 lie 5 essential 6 icicle 7 code 8 cloth 9 hal 10 iron 11 Egypt 14 lentil 17 gist 23 yearn 27 ire 29 amiable 30 Spain 31 gnat 32 ebon 35 aloe 37 usurp 39 sol 41 ado 42 gash 43 ache 44 acre 45 chew 49 oar 50 Ian 51 the

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# HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

At the Parish Council meeting of 27 July the public were able to comment on a range of topics including North Cornwall District Council and the Environment Agency's joint plans for major reconstruction work in the harbour carpark, the Valency river, and lower bridge in the harbour. The National Trust submitted change of use plans for Cornish Goodies, from gift shop to tearooms. Chris Green and Andrew Houghton of the Environment Agency and Ian Kemp of the National Trust lent their presence to answer queries and field questions. In a lengthy, but generally good humoured session, the discussion ranged over a variety of topics.

The loss was mourned of the Memorial Field once, it was thought, a gift to the National Trust in memory of the fallen of two world wars. However it turns out the land did not belong to the Trust, but in respect to the dead, a sensitive "area of reflection" would be created instead. It means however that the village



*Bosccastle's Premier Tourist Attraction*

has lost the use of Valency Fields, and no longer has a real "village green" for public events.

We are all still awaiting the outcome of South West Water's planning applications for sewage works in Bosccastle, dependent on the results of separate public inquiries taking place in nearby Bossiney and Tintagel.

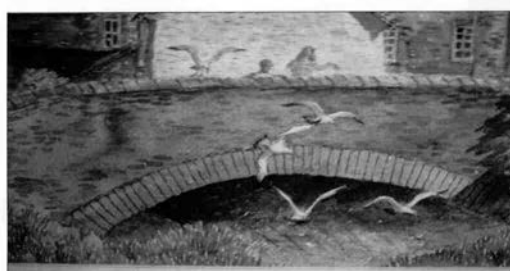
A number of residents feared that a revamped carpark, at present an unlovely expanse of treeless tarmac covering half the surface area of the village would make Bosccastle "look like a supermarket." The EA spokesmen were anxious to allay fears that bigger meant worse. The same number of spaces

- 248 - would be spread further up the valley, and river walks would be created alongside the Valency both as flood prevention, and landscaped with trees and shrubs to enhance the area. The overflow section of the carpark would not necessarily be in use all year and would consist of underpinned greensward, not more tarmac.

Residents like Adrian & Anne Prescott, whose bed and breakfast business adjoins the carpark was naturally worried that raising its level by 1.5 metres would destroy his outlook and his garden would suffer pollution from vehicle exhausts. The matter might be partially resolved by erecting a higher fence or, Adrian's preferred option, a decent Cornish hedge.

It was pointed out that there are only four coach parking bays, woefully inadequate, and there seem to be no specific plans to limit numbers of coaches attempting to visit Bosccastle. Traffic build up at peak times of the day at present causes mayhem, but some alleviation could be achieved by a longer waiting area inside the carpark.

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As one of those most severely affected by the flood, Graham King of the Museum of Witchcraft, had several views on changes to the harbour. Over the next two winters pumping stations will be installed underground on both sides of the harbour, and to increase river flow both the channel and pedestrian walkways would

proposed to shift the lower bridge to the harbour mouth. The new bridge, according to the EA, would be several metres wider and far less of an obstruction to debris. There is a strong body of opinion that would like to protect its listed status at its present site. Given that various statistics point out the unlikelihood of a repeat



*The Chapel like exterior of The Harbour Light*

be lowered by up to a metre. He is concerned by the level and type of noise emitted by turbines and the further disruption the construction work will cause to businesses.

Controversially, it is

flood, its removal would seem a very expensive and unnecessary reaction to events. Graham, however, was one of those in favour of its relocation, having experienced at first hand the powerful torrents of water



*The Harbour's Public Loos!*

swirling around the bridge which, he maintained, put people's lives in danger, which should be the main consideration when deciding its new position.

The National Trust's plan to open a new tearoom and takeaway was broadly welcomed, providing that litter could be controlled and an outside seating area provided. Curiously, the tearoom will not be providing customer toilets. Instead of replacing the much-needed public loos washed away by the flood, NCDC is leasing the ground floor of the Visitor Centre (once the Harbour Restaurant) and is providing toilet facilities available to the public at its discretion. This leaves the only lavatory provision in the harbour the ancient "long drop" at the far end, once the last resort of desperate fishermen. Local restaurant owners are already complaining that visitors are nipping in to 'spend a penny' - but not over the counter. Graham

also mentioned that less sensitive souls appear to have been relieving themselves along the coastal path. Combined with the stink from the leaking sewage pipe, not a welcoming atmosphere for visitors!

Approvals for both the EA schemes and the change of use for NT tearooms were approved by the Council, with provisos reflecting the concerns of parish residents.

Six applications regarding flood prevention schemes are currently being considered by NCDC and are the subject of a site meeting in Boscastle on September 1st.

CR

*Footnote: The site meeting on 1st Sept was well attended and a lot of searching questions were put to the planners, Halcrow, the National Trust and the Environment Agency. NCDC's next planning meeting is on 12th September, when these applications will be formally considered*

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# Duck Race Day 2006

*Young reporter, Helena Showell describes her school's annual fundraising and social event*



*Jane Castling opens the day's events*

On Sunday the 9th of July Boscastle School held its annual Duck Race Day around the harbour. It started with Mrs Castling opening the day for us as she kindly let us use her lawn. We then had a procession from the Wellie to the lawn with everyone in the school dressed in football kit and waving flags we'd made of all the World Cup teams. On our way we sang a Bob Marley song called "One World". Afterwards there was lots to do with a bouncy castle, skittles, coconut shy, balloon race, face painting, stalls, and entertainment. The weather was pretty good and not too hot so everyone enjoyed themselves.

For lunch I had a burger from the barbeque which was delicious.

After that Jenny, who works at school, sang with her friends and then a band called Memphis played some Rock and Roll. Mr Maughan also sang and raised money for the school. It was all great fun.

Then it was time for the Duck Race. Lots of plastic ducks are thrown into the river and float down to the finish by the lower bridge and the first three to get there win prizes. It took rather a long time as there was not much water in the river and only a few got to the end.

Lots of people worked very hard on the day, all of the teachers and other school staff and many of the parents and children. Everyone was very tired at the end but I think that they all enjoyed it.

*raised around £3000*

Later in the week there was an Auction, in the Cobweb, of things that had been given to us by local people and businesses in Boscastle and from further away. Everyone was very generous and together, the Duck Race day and auction raised around £3000 which is a fantastic amount. All the money will be used to buy things for the school. Last year we used Duck Race money to buy extra IT equipment and musical instruments so we wait to see what we'll get this year.



*Tom Showell in his England kit*

Everyone at the school would like to say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's Duck Race events such a great success.

*Helena Showell  
Class 2, Boscastle School*



*The procession arrives on the lawn*

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# Pete's Peeps at the Past

## 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 1810: Prize Ships at Fowey

For sale by auction, at the Ship Inn, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August, the good chasse mares "San Joseph" burthen 35 tons and "Saint Antonia L'Aventura", burthen 30 tons. Both strong well built vessels, calculated for the coasting trade, captured by the private ship of war "Violet", Henry Dare, Commander, and condemned as prizes in the High Court of Admiralty. (From 1807 any vessel sailing to a port under French control was seized as a prize by the British navy unless it had already paid duty on its cargo in a British port. Napoleon dominated the western European seaboard from whence these vessels sailed in 1810. Also Wellington's armies were fighting the French in Spain).

## 5<sup>th</sup> April 1811: The RCM

The Royal Cornwall Militia have been doing prison duty at Dartmoor. The French prisoners there have been forging banknotes, the militia refused bribes to distribute them out of the prison. (Dartmoor prison was built in 1809 to accommodate French prisoners of war).

## 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1811: A Public Whipping

At the Sessions, or Law Court, held at Launceston, on Wednesday last, Jonathan Barnes was found guilty of stealing oats, and sentenced to be publicly whipped.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1813: Falmouth Packets Fight

During the present war the Falmouth packets have distinguished themselves against superior vessels & also capturing some. The "Townshend" packet, Capt. Cock, heading for Jamaica came into conflict with 2 American privateers. They were well beaten and plundered, ten crew & 3 passengers injured. They limped into Barbados and buried their master Mr Seigemond. (The legal trade of packets was in bullion and passengers, but British ships at this time were intercepted by America because of the war between them, this because of the Navy stopping produce to France and impressing American merchantmen into the Navy).

## 26<sup>th</sup> July 1816: Smugglers Pressganged

The "Hind" revenue cutter sent into Falmouth a boat belonging to Cadgwith with 50 ankers or spirits. The 4 men on her have been sent to Plymouth to be put on board the fleet to sail with Lord Exmouth against the Algerines.

[This fleet bombarded Algiers to put an end to Barbary pirates and

the seizing of men off British ships for slavery. Fortunately it was a success so it is probable the 4 smugglers returned to England.]

## 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1820: Action by the Moonshine Brigade

The preventive boat under Sampson Woodcock, stationed at Boscastle went after smugglers at Mullhook (Millook Haven) and seized 500 tubs of foreign rum and remained to guard them, but two armed boats of smugglers came and firing on the beach overpowered them and took the tubs and the preventive boat. A £200 reward was placed.

## 25<sup>th</sup> June 1824: A Farmer's Search for a Witch

A man named French of Davidstow who maintained a large family with a team of horses for hire suffered a disaster when all four horses died without cause, he managed to buy 2 horses from neighbours

but they also died, thinking it was the work of a witch, he consulted a celebrated wizard in N. Devon who agreed with him. Before the witch could be found, without horses he sold his hay to a clergyman whose 3 horses died. The hay was found mixed with arsenic.

## 19<sup>th</sup> June 1812: Wrestling at Helston

There will be wrestling matches at the Helston Annual Games at Mr Ashe's farm on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, the prizes as follows – First best man, a silver watch with chain & seal, value £4.4s; second best man, a pair of buff breeches; third best man, a gold laced hat, value £1.11.6d; and fourth best man a gold laced hat value £1.6s. The conditions will be read at the ground. (Formerly wrestling was the most popular of all Cornish sports & the prizes to be won were usually of a kind to which only the gentry could aspire – fine gloves, elegant watches, gold laced hats).



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# HONEYMOON... THE WORLD!

*Deborah & Stephen have left the delights of Paradise Road to spend a year travelling and promised to keep the Blowhole informed about their adventures:*



*The Happy Couple*

I apologise if this sounds like two backpacking, honeymooners' travelogue from around the world, but . . . that's what it is! After a blissful wedding on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Minster Church, Stephen and I (Deborah) are finally off on our dream come true.

First continent, not unambitious, South America, Brazil. Sao Paulo is an amazing jungle of far, far reaching skyscrapers to rival New York, where police are more heavily armed, and stand back to back on all street corners. I will let you draw your own conclusions. After a few unnerving incidents on the subways and the complete lack of other tourists on the streets we decided it might be sensible to move on.

So up the coast to Rio de Janeiro to witness the famous Sugar Loaf Mountain, Copacabana and Ipanema beaches for ourselves. What you don't see in the pictures are the skyscrapers surrounding

both bays, and yes, they do all play volley ball. We both admitted to fantasies of very unspoiled Daymer Bay. Rio is truly a 24 hour city that doesn't sleep. Everything kicks off at midnight and each hour rolls into another. At 6.00am all are still working, singing and dancing in the streets. In fact they never stop and the traffic never sleeps.

### *mugged in broad daylight*

After just three days on this heady continent we had lost 14 kilos. in weight. You don't want the recipe for this diet though. We were mugged in broad daylight. Three men pulled the punches and eventually got away with both daypacks. A frightening experience for us, but one the locals are used to including the police who wouldn't leave their lunch and come to help, even though I was concussed! We recovered from the trauma, but not from the experience which has sadly left a bitter taste. We retreated to the safety of

our hostel and stayed their until the British Embassy opened on Monday.

### *Iguazu Falls*

With my new passport we promptly bussed twenty four hours inland. Two Hundred and Seventy Five waterfalls emerge into one of the highest waterfalls in the world. The stunning, thundering Iguazu Falls. We stayed in the countryside, met some lovely people, but padlocked our hostel window.

Argentina is the other side of the Iguazu Falls, so we decided to cross the border and try out my new passport. This took ages as I didn't officially exist in Brazil, no stamps in passport, so can't go to Argentina either. Thank goodness for the police report or I would still be in no mans land.

After another long overnight bus we arrived in Bueno Aires, a proud city of old, faded and tired

colonial facades hiding dilapidated buildings with more shades of grey than our Atlantic ocean beyond the stitches on a dull day.

We witness our first demonstration, a daily occurrence in the city centre. Eva Perron is still revered and everyone it seems, still makes a pilgrimage to her mausoleum in Recoletta, where all the nobility, rich and just famous, have tombs.

### *steaks as big as plates*

We are not dressed for the cold so head west towards the Chilean border. No pun intended. Many overnight buses take us North to the towns of Mendoza, famous for its wine. Wine tasting at sunrise, do we get away with it if I told you it was Sunday, holy communion? La Rioja, with wide streets and orange trees. Tucuman, surrounded by crops of fruit and sugar cane. All are not so famous for: steaks as big as plates, proud plazas, enormous gas guzzling

**Adrian & Staff**

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30th Sept: Jail House  
7th Oct: Memphis  
14th Oct: Fluid Druid  
21st Oct: The Big Three  
28th Oct: Unsung Hero

4th Nov: Mood Indigo  
11th Nov: Blue Slate  
18th Nov: Whiskey Thieves  
25th Nov: Inside Out  
2nd Dec: Flamingos  
16th Dec: Fluid Druid  
23rd Dec: Unsung Hero



## HONEYMOON... THE WORLD! CONTINUES

Dodge pickup trucks and rust bucket Chevies left over from the black and white films rubbing shoulders with mules and wagons and handcarts.

### *first taste of Andean music*

Then came Salta, laying in a flat basin with high peaks surrounding us, we chill out and enjoy what feels like our first rays of sunshine for ages and our first taste of Andean music. In one day we cover 500 kilometers into the heart of northern Argentina towards the border of Bolivia. Rattling across stone roads and higher into the mountains. We travel farther towards the Andes passing Vicuna, and Alpaca on the way to the Salt Plains. All the way peasants scratch a living raising scrawny livestock on a parched landscape.

The next few nights we stay in two lovely Andean villages, surrounded by mountains. We are now miles away from the shoe

shine boys of the towns and cities. Time to enjoy the mountain air and local food. Stephen enjoyed the Alpaca steaks in particular, I went veggie.

We leave this little heaven for what turned out to be a horrendous journey. Two buses, two taxis, one border crossing into Bolivia, an eighteen hour train journey, and altitude sickness finally put us in a hostel in La Paz. A frantic, polluted city, with some colourful people and a lot of poverty rubbing shoulders with immense wealth. We recovered and moved on.

### *plaits under bowler hats*

My dream will soon be a reality. After a journey across a never ending, arid landscape, interspersed with small hamlets of mud homes, and the sight of Bolivian women tending ever scrawny livestock in their full petticoated, embroidered skirts and long, long plaits under

bowler hats. Now, below us, Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, straddling the borders of Bolivia and Peru. I have always dreamed of coming here and now we are sailing out to the the Islas de Flotantes. Literally floating islands where several hundred of the Uros tribe still live as they have always done, with the exception, the short tourist visits. The islands are layer upon layer of buoyant Totora reeds floating on the lake which are constantly replenished from the top as they rot away from underneath.

### *mayor made off with taxes*

We arrive in Cusco after being held up the wrong side of a road block. The locals of this remote town are unhappy with their mayor, he's made off with the taxes, and this is getting nasty. After a few hours we are allowed to move on through the blockade. Cusco is the stopping off point for Macchu Picchu.

We decided to skip Macchu Picchu, the high altitude is taking it's toll. Instead we visit Colca Canyon, the second deepest canyon in the world and home of the Andean Condor. There are fifty-five condors in this valley and they weren't shy today.

Our flight to Panama takes us across the equator again and the familiar heat of eight weeks ago hits us. Wonderful, the sun is still shining when we get to Caracas in Venezuela. A city we want to get out of as quickly as possible.

Now we have a rather large problem. We gave the last of our money to the taxi driver. The only Visa card we have left doesn't want to give us any money. Our bus leaves in ten minutes, and we haven't eaten. At the end of journey we will have no accommodation, money or food and the banks will be shut when we arrive. Oh what fun this all is.

Hopefully more to come next issue!

*Deborah Halliday*

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# Letters to the Blowhole

*From Oliver and Gill Smeeth:*

Those of you who avoided being dead, asleep or out of the country during last June will be aware that our daughter was married on the 24th; and we would like to thank all those who helped make it a great day.

Thanks to the Lady of the Rings who conducted a beautiful and meaningful service; to the churchwardens who let us rearrange their church, tidied up the churchyard and didn't complain when I strimmed the paths; to the organist and the choir; to the lady of the flowers who worked tirelessly to produce a magnificent display, and her husband who welded and repaired stands and arches, who, when we asked about the cost said "Don't worry about it, boy, we can settle up dreckly".

To the lady from Dunn St, people from Mount Pleasant and the folk from Welltown who allowed the flower lady to raid their gardens. To the dispenser of help and goodwill from Paradise, whose glowing face was the first I saw in the church.

To the mechanical wizard from Bottreaux who drove his yellow peril intermittently with a wig on and provided frustration and hilarity in equal measure. To the classic worthy gentleman from Paradise and his equal from Trebarwith who provided style and transport, and who when diffidently asked to help said "Don't worry about it, boy, and we can settle up dreckly".

To the football club for parking, who said "of course, boy; just drop in a donation dreckly". To worthy landowners from Paradise and Trevalga who offered the use of fields, almost before we asked, one even offered to run a 'lectric cable from his garage.

To the parish councillor who rang me to remonstrate about illicit strimming and promptly offered the use of his 'car park signs'. To the resident of Forrabury who inadvertently received the browse from my illicit strimming at the end of his garden, and who when I apologised said "Don't worry about it, boy, I'll clear it up dreckly".

To our loyal and hard working staff who enabled us to have the weekend off.

To all those who I have missed and to all those who wished us well. To the great provider who gave us the occasion, a beautiful place in which to hold it and fantastic weather; He also seems to have arranged for Sam Hancock to clear his stitches of grass so that we could take photos.

Having been raised in the Methodist tradition of 'Help when you can and worry about payment dreckly', it is so good to see the tradition is still alive and living in parts of Boscastle.

*Thank you all,  
Oliver and Gill Smeeth*

*Dear Blowhole:*

Recently my Mother's cousin Kay Davey visited Boscastle and met Anne Knight, and as a consequence of this an article appeared in the Blowhole. I have now received a copy of Arthur Biddick's 'by memory' version of my Great-great Grandfather's hymn tune from my mother Mrs. Hazel Bilham (nee Richards) after a recent stay in Boscastle with Kay and other members of her family.

*Andy's version is reproduced here - if you would like a larger version or a copy of the MIDI file, contact the Blowhole team.*

As a music teacher with the County Music Service here in Cornwall, I have brought this hymn tune up to date using music software which I employ on a daily basis. It still has some tinkering around with the notation to be done

I would very much like to reinstate this tune (which I have to admit is very inspiring), and will pass the music on to a colleague who is to start a choir at my daughter's school, Pennoweth Primary in Redruth in September. I will keep you informed if it is to be performed in the future.

*Best regards, Andy Bilham*

*Christine Robins sent this email:*  
I was horrified to read of the possible closure of Bowithick, and have sent off a letter of protest. Just thought you would like to know. Where will it all end? When all the playing fields hospitals some schools and now tips have been closed what else will the councils have to sell?

Look forward to the next Blowhole, my brother said he sat up till 2AM when he received his.

*Christine Robins*

**BOSCASTLE JACKS**

TACK DAVEY

The musical score is for a hymn tune titled 'BOSCASTLE JACKS' by Tack Davey. It is arranged for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the second system has four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The lyrics are: 'Boscastle Jacks, a fine old tune, / From my mother's memory, / It's a fine old tune, it's a fine old tune, / It's a fine old tune, it's a fine old tune.' The score is reproduced here as requested.



# Letters cont.

*Dear Blowhole,*

I am currently working on a history of Boscastle that was written in 1962 by my great-grandfather, William Francis Burnard (perhaps better remembered in Boscastle as Saddler Burnard). I am hoping to publish a small number of copies of the book shortly and I would like to include some drawings or photographs of Boscastle and the surrounding area. In particular, I need images of Minster, Forrabury and Trevalga Churches, Boscastle Methodist Chapel, Bridge House, Valency House and Boscastle Harbour. If any of your readers are able to help in this respect, I would be most grateful. I would also be interested in any photographs or anecdotes concerning Saddler Burnard.

I have attached an extract from the book that your readers may find interesting. Some Boscastle residents may remember Pamela, Miles, Perran and myself from our time spent in the village during 1996-1997. My first visit to Boscastle was at Christmas 1952, at the age of three months, when I was taken to the Napoleon Inn in a carrycot. I have visited the Napoleon many times since and so could, perhaps, claim to be one of the longest-established customers.

*Best regards, Andy Ross*

## *Daddy Tregellas*

*... I thought perhaps at this point, having reached so far in my story of Boscastle, I would relate a story told by S. Baring Gould MA when he was staying at Boscastle and which he states as being true.*

There lived in Boscastle an old seafaring man who had been one of Mr Avery's sailors. He had held the position as Captain of some of the merchant's ships, which had been built in the harbour.

Mr Gould had given him the name of Daddy Tregellas, his real name was forgotten. (There used to be a picture of Daddy Tregellas on the wall of the bar in the Wellington Hotel. It probably did not survive the 2004 floods.)

A widow in the village had died leaving a young daughter of eighteen, very delicate and consumptive, without home or relations. Daddy Tregellas had known the widow for a very long time and feeling great pity for the daughter, he wondered what he could do to help. After much turning the matter over in his mind, he thought that the only way in which he could help was to make a home for her and provide her with all the comforts which would be favourable to her and which she desired. The only way to do this without giving the gossips of the village something to talk about was to marry her.

In course of time, he married her. When the marriage took place, the people of the village, instead of speaking disfavouredly of the man's actions, said how tender hearted he was to take such notice of the young woman. His love was just like that of a father for his daughter.

How he watched her as there seemed to be no cure for her. He could see her body wasting away and he became more and more anxious as her cough seemed to be getting worse from day to day.

He took her out from time to time for fresh air, wrapping her in nice clothing. The beautiful girl was his idol, his pet.

She languished in spite of his care for her. He nursed her through her illness like a mother and nothing more could be done. He was as gentle as a woman with her. Eventually, the end came and she died, propped up in bed. This was a crushing blow for him. She was buried in Forrabury Churchyard, the light of his life seemed to be extinguished.

After she had been put to rest, he would often go to the Churchyard, and from there out to the cliffs, in sunshine and in storm, quietly worrying over his loss. He spoke to no one, almost broken hearted, he thought of her as his "Pet."

Mr Avery, who owned the shipbuilding yard had, at about this time, laid down the keel of another ship in the yard at the Harbour. The old sailor, on finding out about this, became very interested as the ship was progressing and, eventually, as the ship was completed and the figurehead set up. (In the days of the old wooden ships, a captain who loved his ship would certainly have a nice figurehead fixed, very beautifully designed and the pride of the crew).

The old sailor, as his eyes seemed to be centred on the design of the figure, fancied that he saw, in

*continues on page 36*

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## **Daddy Tregellas** *continued from page 35*

its tracings, the likeness of his "Pet", his wife. "It is, it is" he said as he looked up, "it is like her," he seemed to gasp. Mr Avery, who was not far away at the time, hearing the words of the old sailor, said "she shall be called the Pet. And so now the love which had wound itself around Daddy's wife began to attach itself to the little ship.

Every day, the old sailor was at the yard, watching the finishing touches being put to the ship. When it was nearing the time to launch the ship, Mr Avery offered the old sailor the position as Captain of the ship, knowing his capabilities and that he was competent to hold such a position. The old sailor's joy was overflowing and when the ship was launched and was eventually ready to sail, the first voyage was to Bristol for coal.

Everything went well for some considerable time. Voyages were made and cargoes brought but, up and down the Cornish coast, things are not always so favourable.

There are not always calm seas and there are storms to contend with, sometimes very bad ones. On one of these voyages, the Pet had the misfortune to be caught in a North-Westerly gale as she was approaching Boscastle Harbour. There were mountainous seas and the ship was, at times, almost submerged. The coast guard who was on duty at the time looked very intently at the slow progress which the ship was making and, as she was getting nearer, he realised that it was the Pet. (Nothing could be done, communications were not then as they are in these days.) All the coastguard could do was watch her bounding perilously at the mercy of the sea, now at the summit of a huge wave, then deep in its trough, till she was lost to sight, having disappeared.

That was the last seen of the Pet, she with Captain Tregellas and all on board were lost in this terrible storm. That was the last of a most noble, fearless and kind hearted man and his crew.

Boscastle men of the brave  
Tender, noble hearted and true,  
With spirits of love and willing to save  
Those who are in need,  
The weak, the destitute, the orphan,  
Motherless and fatherless,  
Daddy Tregellas, his Pets, he could not save  
*(Lines by W.F. Burnard)*

*To contact Andy, please write to him at: 53, Tanti Avenue, Mornington, Victoria 3931, Australia.*

*Or email: [across@surf.net.au](mailto:across@surf.net.au) (or you can contact him via the Blowhole - either to forward your messages or to scan and send copies of any photos - and we'll ask him to send a copy of his book for local reference!).*

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website: [www.thenaturalhealingclinic.co.uk](http://www.thenaturalhealingclinic.co.uk)



# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

**Have you ever thought ...** I wish I had done more at school, wasted less time, taken different subjects, gone to another school or even be allowed to have another go when you felt ready? Well, you can't turn back time but you could have another chance. We, Pete Donoghue and Dominic Penny, are tutors who work for Link into Learning and can offer you a second opportunity right

here in the village in the autumn and it's free!

You may have already seen our posters round the village publicizing courses which we ran earlier this year at the village hall. Already we have had some success- with students becoming more confident using computers and some have passed their National Tests in English (equivalent to the GCSE).



*Successful students from last year's courses*

*Copyright photos courtesy David Flower*

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Artists displaying their work

Cookery demonstrations with local chefs

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the opportunity to  
sample their produce

A variety of Craft stalls

Live music and real ales in the local inns

Adults £3 per day, accompanied children free



Organised by the Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce in association with Cornwall Taste of the West, North Cornwall District Council and the National Trust



### Are there catches?

Well, you may have to drive to the venue (village hall) but most can walk otherwise, everything else tuition, materials and any qualifications you may wish to take, are free.

### Who can join us?

Learning groups are usually between five and eight students and are open to anybody over the age of 16 and not in fulltime education. You might meet some of your neighbours as well as some new faces. Students join up for all sorts of reasons to improve their job chances, help family and friends or keep their brains active.

### What are the sessions like?

Well it's certainly not like school! The atmosphere is unstressed. We meet weekly, working informally around a table, learning in a relaxed atmosphere with breaks, when needed, for drinks and biscuits.

### What's on offer?

Learn as a beginner on computers, with "Computers Plus". Find out how to make sense of bills, statements, credit cards and all that tricky

paperwork needed to run a household budget, with the "Financial Literacy" course. Or, if you wish, improve your qualifications by taking the National Tests in English or Maths in the "Move On" course.

### What about those with needs?

Access is not a problem. Our courses run in the village hall which has wheelchair access, is on one level and has a new toilet block.

Apart from catering for those who need assistance moving around we can also support those with visual and hearing impairment.

So, we look forward to seeing you in mid September.

In the meantime if you want to find out more before the classes start, ring me, Pete Donoghue, on 01840 250311 and please leave a message if I'm not in and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Look forward to working with you soon.

PD

# MIKE'S NATURE NOTES

## Summer insect life

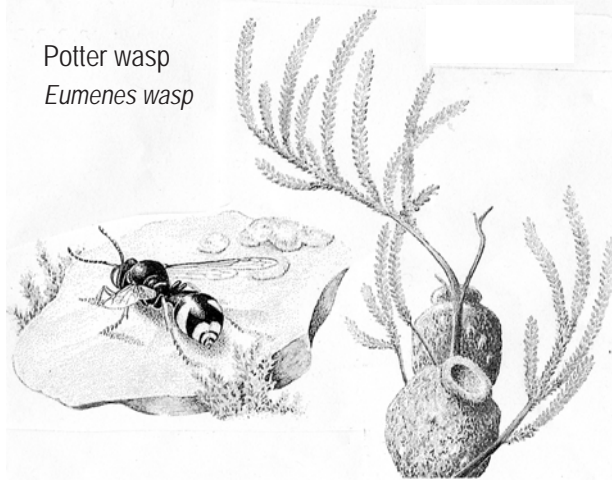
Whilst casting a glance at my bed of nasturtiums' the other day I noticed the huge number of caterpillars of the Large white, or 'cabbage white', butterfly busily munching their way through the leaves. I thought nothing of this until several days later when I saw them climbing the walls on route to finding shelter in the eaves to build their cocoons. However all was not well – surrounding many of them were clusters of bright yellow blobs. On reading up on this phenomenon I discovered the ghastly goings-on!

They had been killed by an ichneumon fly, a type of parasitic wasp which commonly attacks caterpillars, often wiping out up to 80% of a batch!

The female wasp injects up to 150 eggs into the young caterpillar which has no means of defence. Using its body as a host the grubs grow inside and feed on the body tissue, eventually emerging to form their bright yellow cocoons. The host rapidly dies of course.

This is common and widespread behaviour for many species of wasp, each having remarkable and grisly methods of nurturing their offspring! The potters wasp (one for Tim!) makes a 'pot' from sand and saliva before sealing in a paralysed caterpillar with an egg. There is a mason wasp which makes tunnels in loose mortar to stash

Potter wasp  
*Eumenes wasp*



its prey. There is one that detects the tunnel of the alder wood wasp through the bark of a tree and bores a hole to inject eggs into a larva, however when this egg develops it is likely to be parasitized by another wasp species (a hyper-parasite) in turn! Amazing stuff – you can't turn your back if you're an insect!

## Butterflies

We have been surveying butterflies along the Valency Valley once again this summer. This year has been a good year for butterflies, and we have recorded the rare pearl and small pearl-bordered fritillaries once more. There is a healthy population of the more widespread silver-washed fritillary which is probably the largest British species and can't be missed despite its rapid flight.

Both here and on the cliffs I have noticed large numbers of the clouded yellow butterfly this year (dark yellow with black wing tips). This is a migrant summer species from southern Europe and as such numbers fluctuate from year to

year. In its warm native countries this strong, fast flyer is a prolific breeder producing up to four broods a year. Occasionally there is a big influx into Britain when the European population has swollen in favourable conditions. Eggs are laid in great numbers on clover, lucerne and trefoils.

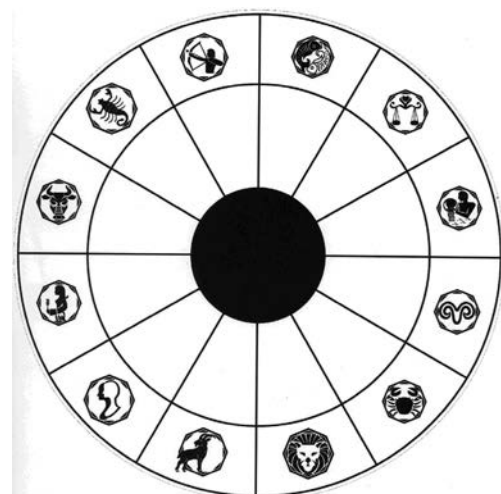
Spring migrants will have time to breed in the UK producing a single brood in the autumn, but none can survive the cold damp November weather.

## Moths

Moths are perceived as the rather dull cousins of butterflies but when you look into them they are equally fascinating. They are part of the family of insects called Lepidoptera as are butterflies. This is a Latin word literally meaning 'tile-winged' – obviously a reference to the scales on the wings. There are about 2500 species recorded in the UK, but only 900 or so of these are the more commonly studied macro moths which are larger and more easily identifiable. The rest are micro moths and are just impossible!

The main difference between moths and butterflies anatomically is the shape of antennae. Butterflies have

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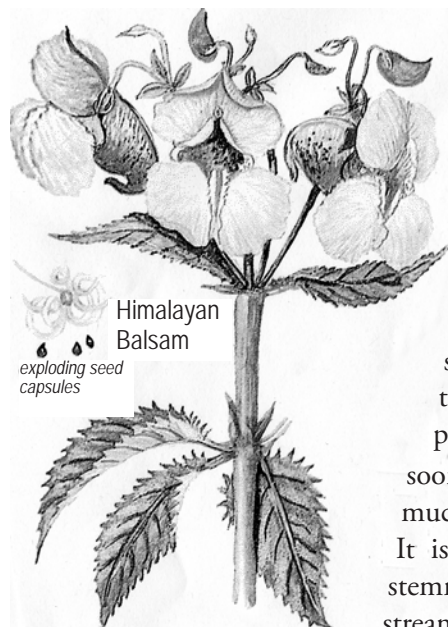
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'clubbed' antenna, moths, in the main, do not. Moths, of course, mostly fly by night and rest in the day. There are several day fliers – the brightly coloured cinnabar and burnets, the garden tiger and the humming bird moth are all examples which are prolific towards the end of summer.

The moth lifecycle is the same as butterflies, but typically adults do not live as long. Interestingly, though, there are a few species that do not feed as adults and have no developed mouth parts – their short adult life is sustained purely from the stored fats and carbohydrates gained as a feeding larva.

The commonest way of studying moths is to set up a light trap overnight, which allows you to identify them the following day. You need a special bulb – one that emits partly UV light called a mercury vapour bulb to work best. Apparently, the reason moths so readily come to light is linked to the moon



– a bright moon helps 'light up' nectar sources on food plants in the natural scenario. A bright light bulb causes confusion and disorientation and draws them close.

### Invasive plants

Ever since the flood, we have been keeping a watchful eye on the appearance of invasive plants along the valleys. We all know about Japanese knotweed, and this hasn't emerged as a problem. What have turned up though, especially this

summer, are large quantities of Himalayan balsam.

This garden escape has found its way into the Valencycatchment, and has begun to spring up all over the place. It spreads prolifically and can soon take over an area, much like knotweed. It is a tall very fleshy stemmed plant that likes stream-sides and damp grassland. It has a very

ornate pink flower and the ability to fling its seed a great distance once the ripened seed pods explode – some of you may have seen this filmed on BBC Wildlife shows!

Because of this we have been pulling up the plant whenever we see it in the Valley before this occurs! I have seen whole fields of the stuff when out walking in other parts of the country, where it's obviously not been managed, so would hate it to get out of control here.

MS

## AGE CONCERN BUS - CAMELFORD & DISTRICT

This is a voluntary service to all retired people in the areas of Boscastle, Tintagel, Delabole, St Teath etc covering an area about 7 miles radius around Camelford.

A monthly programme is available detailing the trips organised each month; the volunteer drivers are all very helpful and put themselves out to make the trips enjoyable.

Any drivers with a clean car licence who could spare a day or so in a month (not at weekends) would be most welcome, and would be performing a very worthwhile service to local people to get out and meet others. We are looking for more drivers to ensure that this valuable service can continue successfully.

If you are interested in helping, or wish to find out more about the service, please contact  
John Smyth on 01840 261531.

The monthly programme of outings is available from the Post Office.

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# In Praise of CATS



Dogs, they say, have owners. Cats have staff.

Celia Haddon, of the Sunday Telegraph, is the arbiter of all things feline. "You think you own your cat," she notes, "But the cat knows it owns you. Bear this in mind. It will make sense of the cat-human relationship." (*One Hundred Ways to Make a Cat Happy*).

Dogs are uncritically adoring, cats have reservations, a bit like people, and their trust has to be earned. The first cat I ever "owned" (that is, consented to be fed by me) I literally ran over. I stopped, picked up the squirming but undamaged bundle, and after trying unsuccessfully to find its owner, reluctantly installed it temporarily in my bachelor flat. At the end of the working day, its greeting of a "silent mew" as I came through the door, was unfailingly touching and exasperating. Since then my wife and I have been slaves, housing up to thirteen of the beasts at one time. Invariably each new arrival is a typical product of the welfare state, homeless, pregnant and expensive. Dr Johnson, of dictionary fame, used to send his manservant to buy oysters for his cat, Hodge. Oysters were a lot cheaper then, but now I reckon each moggie costs about £3 a week to look after. A simple calculation reveals that over the last thirty years my little hobby has cost a Spanish villa.

Cats, like children, respond to love, warmth and comfort, regular meals, games, territorial confidence and petting. Unlike children, they retain their kittenish qualities throughout life. "Cats do pounces, not walkies," says Celia. "Give your indoor cat thirty pounces a day using a toy fishing rod or piece of string. And then watch it sneer at your efforts." Actually, most cats enjoy walks. I discovered this when living one winter down at the harbour.

My rambles on the cliffs were usually accompanied first by senior cat, and then also, unprompted, by junior.

Cats love company. They join our guests at dinner, usually lying on the table. Once we had, for a brief time, only a single cat, Wally, a big black and white job, who missed his sister, killed on the road. One evening he discovered a poor stray who was creeping into the kitchen to steal his food. But instead of attacking him, Wally literally danced around Teddy, who had rolled over in submission, inviting him in. So began a lifelong friendship between two most unlike males, he so tough and uncompromising, Teddy small and vulnerable.

Strays are at first incredibly grateful for human kindness but within days become snotty about food - anything prepared more than five minutes ago is ignored, and you are driven by despair into providing warm greasy chicken, grilled sardines or freshly roasted beef to satisfy their newly acquired epicurean tastes. One of our local vets told me that over a dozen generations he had observed significant changes in feline behaviour, from farmyard renegades, barely tolerated, to indoor master/mistress of all they surveyed.

Years ago I started to feed a small and, I thought, starving white cat who lived in a field at Treven. One foul winter's day I took pity, picked it up and drove home, a quarter of a mile away. Within minutes not one, but two police cars arrived. The farmer's young daughter, whose pet I had abducted, had taken my number. But all ended happily, and Humphrey lived with me thereafter, with special extra treats provided by his former owner.

Our last brood of cats, twenty one years ago, were born squeaking on our duvet at five in the morning. The duvet was wrecked but we still have mum and one surviving kitten, a large and demanding auburn tom called "Lennard" - named by our spelling-challenged nine year old son.

Each has a memorable, unique character. Cat lovers will bore you for hours with tales of Tiddles' adventures, and the conversations they've had, but nothing quite explains the pleasure of stretching out a hand in the dark to meet the solid, wet, furry head of a returning moggie frantically clawing

the bedspread for attention, until you stagger downstairs, blurred with sleep, to open up the Whiskas.

But not all are fans. Cats are the scourge of wild birds, which makes them much disliked by naturalists and gardeners, and they tend to prowl arrogantly through your kitchen in search of food. Looking for a comfy place to kip they scatter ornaments off tables and shelves, seemingly intrigued by the sound of breaking china, and I have had at least two sofas ripped to shreds in a matter of days. They are fond too of



depositing small gifts at inappropriate times and places. For a time I lived in a remote part of North Wales (cat heaven) and one dawn Wally landed on me from a great height - cats have the unique ability of making themselves heavier - jaws clenched around a fairly angry rat, both of whom took some sorting out.

A cat retains its health nearly up to the end. The steep trajectory from active interest in life to quiet solitude often took us by surprise. Even in her final days our little Princess, though blinded by a stroke, would insist in paddling in the stream at the bottom of our garden.

It is at this time that an owner needs to be most caring. Do not make the mistake of hanging on too long, hoping for a miracle. "Give your cat the last gift of all," writes Celia Haddon, "the blessing of an easy death."

Take me where my needs they'll tend

But please stay with me 'til the end

To hold me close and speak to me

Until my eyes no longer see.

(from *If It Should Be* - Anon)

**In memory of Princess, Squeak and Bolly, who were all put to rest this last twelvemonth, and all the others who have given so much pleasure over the years.**

CR



# Boscastle & Crackington Gig Club

Our first summer season has been going really well and the club is expanding too! We now have two Gig boats and membership is on the up. To complement 'Torrent' we now have a sibling boat called 'Rival' a second hand boat purchased off the South coast of Cornwall. This means that we can get two teams out together maximising the short times we have for training and racing.

With the nights drawing in, strange weather patterns and tides, and increasing numbers of rowers the two gigs will do well. There is some great potential talent coming through and with patience and passion we will see in the not too distant future an award winning club. One particular area that is striving forward is the Ladies crew led by Sarah Jones so watch this space for their trophy news.

This winter we are intending to operate several courses on Gig Seamanship so that we are really toolled up for what lies ahead.

A big thank you goes out to Alan Zoftig for all his hard efforts in organising a beach gala down on Crackington Haven beach. Proceeds were for the club and our sincere thanks go out to all that took part and supported in any way. We all had fun playing volleyball, building giant sandcastles whilst defending them from being battered by the sea. There was a Tug 'o' War, Chariot racing and the event culminated in a run - swim - run.

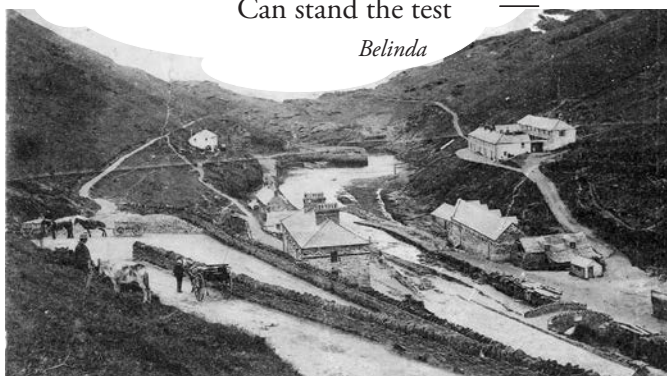
Contacts: Chris Ingram 230097; Pete Feehan 230335; Charlie Tippet 230338  
email: [info@boscastlegigclub.org.uk](mailto:info@boscastlegigclub.org.uk)  
[www.boscastlegigclub.org.uk](http://www.boscastlegigclub.org.uk)

## Ode of the Lord's Bridge



I have stood here  
For a very long time  
Knocked and battered  
From time to time  
Nature has done its very best  
The waves have tried  
From the West  
The Valency river  
With the help of Jordan  
Thrash my bottom  
So very often  
So come on nature  
Do your best  
See if my replacement  
Can stand the test

*Belinda*



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# VALENCY FIELDS by Anne Knight

Because they are about to become part of the proposed car park extension, I've been asked to write about Valency Fields and their history as a memorial to those who died in the WWII. At the side of the footpath, at the entrance to the two fields known locally as Valency Fields there is a sign post. On the post is a National Trust sign which reads:

*The National Trust, Valency Fields, Boscastle. Transferred in 1958 to the National Trust through the National Heritage Fund in memory of those who died in the Second World War.*

Before the manor was sold in the 1950's these two fields were part of the package of land that went with the Wellington Hotel with the Ordnance Survey Nos 733 and 734. Within this parcel were the hotel, stables, coach houses, wagon houses with various parcels of land and part of the river Valency.

The church at one time owned Checklands and housed at least three curates there. My husband, Rod, remembers a sign at

the entrance to Valency Fields which preceded the National Trust sign. His memory is that two ladies were named on the sign and a reference to a memorial to WWII. I also spoke to Michael Webber. He said that Mr. Patterson bought both Checklands and Valency Fields hoping to develop them as a caravan park. He was refused planning permission, much to the relief of the villagers who used the fields for village fêtes and celebrations, and the LSA, who used it for rocket practice. Mike said he remembered two ladies bought the fields to stop them being developed. After the death of one of them they were given to the village in memory of those who died in the Second World War. He also remembers a plaque at the entrance to the fields that included the names of the two ladies, one of whom was Nancy Sherwood.

I have doing some research on Nancy Sherwood who came to Boscastle with the Ginner-Mawer School of Dance

and Drama during the Second World War. Several months ago, during my researches, I spoke to Jeremy Pearson of the National Trust at Lanhydrock House. He confirmed that the original documents were held at Lanhydrock and showed that, in 1968, Nancy Sherwood and her husband Harry transferred 2.8 hectares to the National Trust together with Harbour View Cottage in memory of Nancy's friend, Barbara Rawling.

This information does not agree with that supplied by the National Trust to Mike Davy in June 2006. He was told that the land where the car park extension is proposed was acquired by the Trust from Mrs England at a price of £1,000 for 7 acres. And the plot thickens! Peter Steege has received a letter from the National Trust Director for Devon and Cornwall. In his letter he states the land known as Valency Fields was purchased in 1968 and the sign was placed at the start of the path to make people aware of a completely different

area of land in the vicinity of Peter's Wood which was the intended war memorial. After providing the National Trust with details held in the Boscastle Archive they now state that they acquired Valency Fields in 1968 with funds left to the Trust by Nancy Sherwood but at this point they make no mention of her husband Harry.

Linda Bucket who has been in correspondence with HRH Prince Charles has yet another similar but different version.

I'm not quite sure what to make of it all but what is certain is that there has been a sign at the entrance to Valency Fields for between 40 to 50 years. It has always referred to the Valency Fields as being a war memorial. People in the village and from away have told me that they have in the past used the fields for quiet contemplation and at least three families have scattered their loved ones ashes there.

In the words of a piece in a previous Blowhole:

'At the going down of the sun and in the carpark we will remember them!'

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**THINGS - Boscastle**

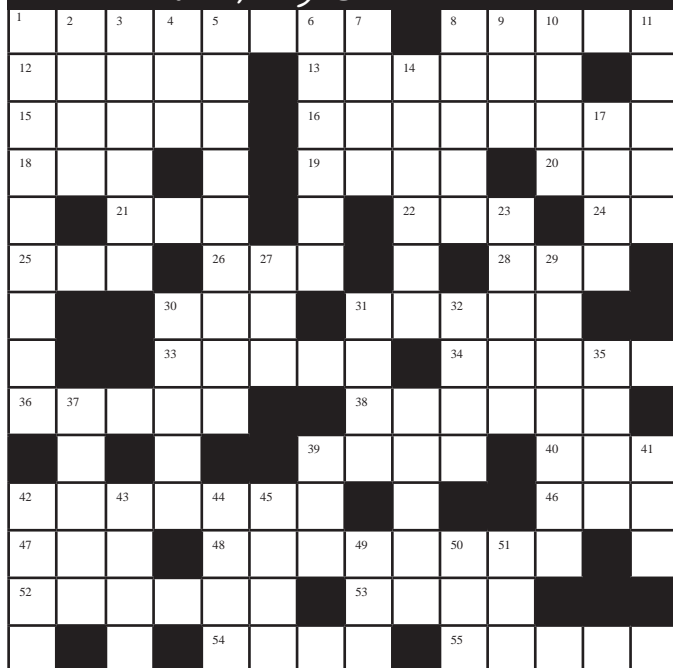
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## Moira Hart's Fiendish Crossword



### Across

- 1 bad tempered
- 8 South American country
- 12 fertile spot in desert
- 13 band of material
- 15 religious ceremonies
- 16 set of beliefs
- 18 sick
- 19 coin
- 20 pinch
- 21 period of time
- 22 your
- 24 weight (abbrev)
- 25 neither
- 26 fasten
- 28 consume
- 30 title
- 33 song of praise
- 34 prickly shrub
- 36 of the countryside
- 38 not in any key
- 39 man's name
- 40 large snake
- 42 andean llama
- 46 headed
- 44 card game
- 47 curve
- 48 dark green mineral
- 52 globe
- 53 nursemaid
- 54 large jug
- 55 wanting

### Down

- 1 herb
- 2 frozen rain
- 3 stableman
- 4 deceive
- 5 indispensable
- 6 frozen water
- 7 system of symbols
- 8 material
- 9 man's name
- 10 metal
- 11 Arab country
- 14 pulse
- 17 substance
- 23 long for
- 27 anger
- 29 easy going
- 30 european country
- 31 insect
- 32 dark colour
- 35 plant
- 37 seize power
- 39 the sun
- 41 fuss
- 42 deep cut
- 43 pain
- 44 measure of land
- 45 masticate
- 49 rower
- 50 man's name
- 51 definite article

*Answers on Page 27*

## News from the Lookout

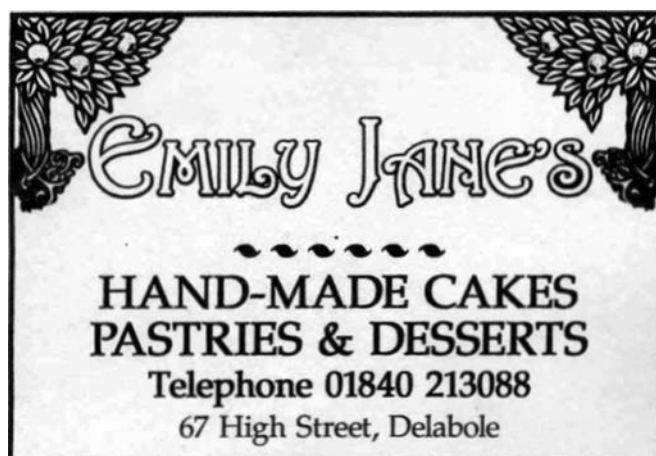
Things have been pretty busy for the National Coastwatch up at the Lookout and not just from the number of visitors we've seen.

Certainly July brought lots of people out to sample the delights of the Coastal Path, although some of them were a little disappointed to discover that we couldn't offer them water or ice creams from the lookout. But then one of the first things new Watchkeepers learn is to carry everything they'll need for their shift with them on the way up, as we all know it's a long way down if you need a clean handkerchief or refreshments.

Things have been busy on the social side as well. So far this year we've had talks from Customs and Excise, and had an insight into wrecks around the Cornish Coast. Locally we had the Table Top Sale in Valency Gardens which raised over £500 towards the cost of running the station and a big thank you to Jane Casting for hosting the event and to everyone who helped out by donating items and more

importantly by buying them. The highlight of the Summer Social Scene was the Barbecue. Once again Fred and June Siford were kind enough to act as our hosts and allowed us to trample over their garden with tables chairs, barbecues etc. In spite of the weather over 40 Watchkeepers, families and friends enjoyed a wide range of skilfully cooked meats, elegantly prepared salads and mouthwatering puddings as well as a chance to meet Mike and Sylvia's new dog, Diesel - a welcome addition to the team. Another £20 was raised after expenses and thanks to all those who worked so hard to organise the entire evening.

We've welcomed some new recruits this Summer who are now at various stages in the training programme but we could always do with a few more. Our Station Manager, Mike Morrell can arrange for you to visit the lookout and spend some time with an experienced watchkeeper to get feel for what is involved. You'll find him on 01288 321384.





## COASTGUARDS' REPORT

Hello again readers since our last report we have had seven callouts.

### 27/5/06 Call from Falmouth

**L.Siford (paged):** Missing person gleebe cliff Tintagel called to assist police the casualty was found safe. In Attendance: L.Siford G.King. D.Roots. T.Little. D. Williams. A.Williams.

### 9/6/06 L.Siford paged by

**Falmouth:** to assist lifeguards at Trebarwith Strand with one or more casualty's trapped on the cliffs all ended well turned out to be an exercise.

**28/7/06 L.Siford & G.King paged by Falmouth:** fishing boat in trouble just outside Boscastle Harbour, the fishing boat THREE JAYS E507 from Boscastle had engine failure, Hedley Venning went out in his boat and took off 2 adults and a boy. Port Isaac ILB was on scene to tow the boat back into Boscastle Harbour all safe. In Attendance: L.Siford. G.King. D.Roots. T.Little.

**6/8/06 Missing person Bossiney cliffs Boscastle tasked 21:49:** the missing person from Tintagel was last heard of at Devils Jump Rocky Valley a full search was done from Rocky Valley back to Bossiney, nothing found. In Attendance: L.Siford, G.King. D.Roots, T.Little, D.Williams, A.Williams. R.Alexander; Frank Jones (search manager officer in charge) Port Isaac mobile and team, Rescue 169 and police.

### 7/8/06 Continuation of the search from the night before:

**10:09am** at Bossiney several locals have already searched the area, these were called together to form 4 teams accompanied by one coastguard per team all teams were sent out to search specific fields around Bossiney. **10:40** rescue 169 completes search of local area. **11:28** ILB Yankee confirm they have a man ashore below Willapark cliffs casualty found deceased. **11:55** Les Siford and Dan Roots were picked up by the ILB on Bossiney beach and taken to the location of the casualty. **12:30** ILB crew and coastguards report that they can and are recovering the casualty. At **12:50** the Coastguards went to Bossiney beach to collect the casualty from the ILB. A sad day for all in Tintagel who knew the casualty.

On behalf of myself and Boscastle coastguard I wish to thank all the local search teams who took part in the search they were very professional in the job they were doing the casualty's name has not been mentioned in respect to the family.

**22/8/06 Call from Falmouth:** to assist Ambulance crew 6yr old girl fell approx 15ft. In Attendance L.Siford ,G.King. D.Roots. T.Little, D.Williams.A.Williams.

### 23/8/06 L.Siford called by Falmouth (landline):

**16:53** two missing boys Tintagel –Trebarwith areas

**17:13** stood down as boys found safe and well.

In Attendance: L.Siford G.King. D.Roots.T.Little, D.Williams, A.Williams, R.Alexander, J.Mills, D.Stewardson.

Boscastle have now got one more in the company, Dean Stewardson, transferred from Port Isaac.

Boscastle Coastguard welcomes Dean to the company.

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

*Les Siford Station Officer  
Boscastle Coastguard.*

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# ROBBERIES IN BOSCASTLE

There is local disquiet at two recent burglaries in Boscastle. On the night of Friday August 11<sup>th</sup> thieves smashed in a metal side door of the Bottreaux filling station, run by Aubery and Anne Cronin. They first clambered onto the roof and disabled the alarm system using a flame throwing device, such as an oxyacetylene cutter, and then ripped out the internal wiring. They got away with the garage's stock of cigarettes, spirits and wines, and the contents of the till. They also succeeded in removing a safe which had been bolted to the floor. Given the amount of equipment the burglars used, the police reckon the break-in was carried out by a professional gang, who had planned the robbery in advance.

## *not directly overlooked*

Unfortunately the filling station is not directly overlooked by another property and despite the noise the burglars must have produced while breaking in, no-one heard or saw anything suspicious.

This is the second robbery Aubery and Anne have suffered this year. The first was a more amateur affair, when a side door was entered and the alarm

scared off the thieves. Nevertheless they are understandably concerned they are a target for villains, and have installed a more sophisticated system which should hopefully defeat attempts to disable it.

## *consumed brandy*

Curiously the burglars had time to consume half a bottle of brandy, perhaps to steady their nerves, while carrying out the robbery. This should aid DNA identification of the burglars if tracked down for questioning.

An opportunist thief also stole an expensive piece of hairdressing equipment on display in the window of Sue Scott's hairdressing salon facing Old Road. He/she smashed a hole through the toughened glass window pane, presumably with a stone or other hard object, reached in and snatched a GHD (Good Hair Day) pair of electric hair straighteners, worth £99.

Sue emphasizes that this particular piece of equipment is available only through recognized salons, and is not available from high street retailers. Therefore anyone owning one should be able to produce proof of purchase from a limited number of outlets.

The robbery occurred between 5pm on the afternoon of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and early the next morning, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, while Sue and David Scott were away. Acting on information received, the police are now proceeding with their enquiries.

It seems that every tourist season there is an outbreak of burglaries in the area, no doubt the result of outsiders exploiting opportunities for crime. Unfortunately there are also a few local undesirables, and a side-effect of drug-dependency is to destroy any sense of morality, so residents must be extra vigilant at this time.

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# Opening Hours and Useful Phone Numbers

## Boscastle Post Office

**Tel: 01840 250259**

Monday	8.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Tuesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Thursday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Friday	9.00 - 12.30	Closed
Saturday	9.00 - 12.00	Closed
Sunday	Closed all day	

Cash machine during business hours for  
Alliance & Leicester and Barclays  
Cheques cashable for Alliance & Leicester  
Lloyds TSB, Co-op and Barclays

## Boscastle Newsagent

**Tel: 01840 250419**

Cash machine during business hours  
Open daily at 7.00 am

## Mobile Library

**Tel: 01208 812202**

Calls on alternate Thursdays:

14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September

12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October

9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November

7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December

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

## Waste Tip, Bowithick Quarry

**Sanding Road, Tintagel**

**Tel: 01840 770778**

Monday to Friday	8.30 - 4.15
Saturday	8.30 - 12.00

## Camelford Library

**Town Hall, Market Place**

**Tel: 01840 212409**

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

**Emergency Services:** Coastguard,

Fire, Police, Ambulance:

**Dial 999**

## Police Station:

For non-urgent issues: eg to report a crime  
or criminal damage, to request police  
advice or attendance, to enquire about lost  
property, to be connected to a police sta-  
tion, service or department:

08452 777 444

## Doctors' Surgery and out-of-hours

emergency doctor: 01840 250209

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

## Hospitals: (with \*Minor Injuries Units)

\*Bodmin - East Cornwall 01208 251555

\*Launceston General 01566 765650

\*Stratton 01288 287700

Truro -Treliske 01872 250000

Plymouth - Derriford 01752 777111

**Dental Helpline:** 0800 371192

**RSPCA:** 08705 555999

**Boscastle Visitor Centre:** 01840 250010

## Local Churches:

Church of England 01840 250359

Methodist 01840 770274

Catholic 01840 770663

**Harbourmaster:** 01840 250453

## Parish Council:

website: [www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk](http://www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk)

clerk: 01840 250440

email clerk: [formin.parish@virgin.net](mailto:formin.parish@virgin.net)

## Village Hall:

Bookings: 01840 250558

Pay phone: 01840 250171

## Community & Recreation Centre:

Bookings: 01840 250442

## Cornwall County Council:

Switchboard: 01872 322000

website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

## North Cornwall District Council:

Main Switchboard 01208 893333

website [www.ncdc.gov.uk](http://www.ncdc.gov.uk)



*MP Dan Rogerson writes:*



the Liberal Democrats oppose a tourism tax. Unsurprisingly, the dramatic increase in visitor numbers in the summer months puts a great strain on our infrastructure and environment. Therefore, it is important that we ensure that the tourism sector is well planned and well managed so that we can enjoy the important social and economic benefits it brings.

I am also aware that many of you have been concerned about South West Water's proposals for a sewage treatment works at Hillsborough. Consequently, I am sure that many of you are pleased with the Council's recent decision to reject the plans for this site so close to Boscastle. Whilst I accept the need for sewage treatment works in North Cornwall, I believe that in this particular case the most economically and environmentally viable solution is a joint facility rather than the three proposed systems

at Boscastle, Bossiney and Tintagel. Therefore, I hope that South West Water will take this opportunity to reassess alternative solutions which will better serve the people of North Cornwall. Furthermore, I recently met with the Environment Agency and will be maintaining a close interest in their progress.

Boscastle is once again thriving with tourism and I look forward to the Boscastle Food, Arts & Crafts Festival in early October, which will mark the end of a successful summer season. Whilst the memories of the destruction of August 2004 are still fresh, so too is the positive spirit that has restored Boscastle to its former glory.

*Dan Rogerson*

Two years on from the devastating floods, it is wonderful to see that Boscastle is once again flourishing in the summer months. The rise in visitor numbers is a true testament to the spirit of the people of Boscastle, who have worked tirelessly in the reconstruction and regeneration of the village. On speaking to residents I have been extremely proud of the positive and determined attitude of the community which has been at the heart of the recovery.

Tourism is crucial to the Boscastle economy and to our area, with tourism-related employment constituting 27% of employment in North Cornwall. Any the importance of tourism to our region is why

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# THE SAD TALE OF THREE LOVELY TREES

In June 2004, Graham King wrote to NCDC asking them to put a preservation order on three mature pine trees. The picture, shown to the right, was sent with the letter.

NCDC replied saying that the trees were already protected as they were in a conservation area.



Pat, Sarah, Graham and other residents would sit outside their cottages in the evening and watch the tawny owls in the treest and enjoy the bats that danced around them at dusk. This was a lovely way to spend an evening, especially as they knew that the trees were protected.

One day in July 2006, the sound of chain saws disturbed the peace of the cottages.

"We have permission from NCDC to cut the trees down" said the tree fellers.

"But what about the bats and owls?" the residents asked. They phoned NCDC

**"Our protected trees are being cut down!"**



Notices were put on the trees stating that it is illegal to cut down trees where bats roost.

NCDC said:

"We looked at them, they are healthy and safe but old, so we let the owner cut them down".

The anxious residents emailed NCDC **"One tree is already down, we urgently need your help to save the others"**.

"We will respond in 10 days" said NCDC.

**"GO AWAY"** (or words to that effect), said the tree feller ... and cut down the trees.

- **The bats, the owls, the trees are gone for no reason other than that the trees were old.**
- The County Forestry Officer said that there was no immediate need to fell these trees.
- Conservation areas are established to 'protect the character of an area'.

## A Question for NCDC:

- Do you think that your decision to allow these trees to be cut down helped protect the character of the conservation area?



## LESNEWITH OFFICIAL RAIN STATION

Rainfall totals:



	2005	2006
May	76.8mm	118.5mm
June	50.5mm	41.5mm
July	92.4mm	64.9mm
August	78.1mm	48.9mm

There were not very many days in **May** this year when it did not rain, however two days of heavy rain were

recorded. On the 19th 28.2mm and on the 24th 25.1mm.

**June** was a different story, only 7 days of rain, the most being on the 26th 14.3mm.

**July** from the 12th to the 28th was very hot and dry, with only 2.6mm in that period. Heaviest rain fall day was 8th 15.2mm.

Take care every one and enjoy the rest of the summer.

*Valerie Gill*