



BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

PLANS FOR SCHOOL

Village School to get Much Needed Improvements

Plans for substantial new facilities at Boscastle School are poised to go ahead in the summer.

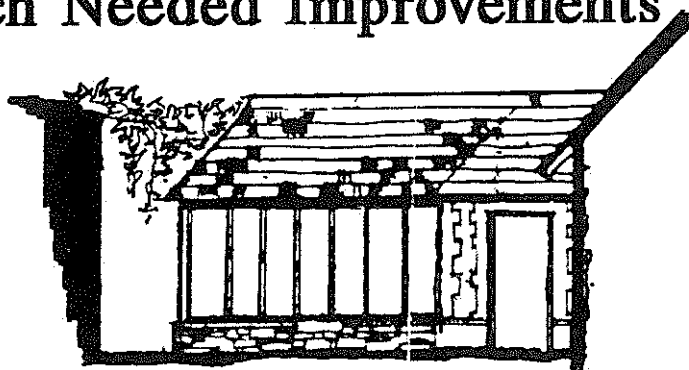
The temporary classroom at the far end of the school will make way for a new permanent building with features that are in keeping with the main building.

The outside toilet block will be demolished, leaving Cornwall with one less school that can boast of the joys of cold damp sojourns for staff and children in winter days!

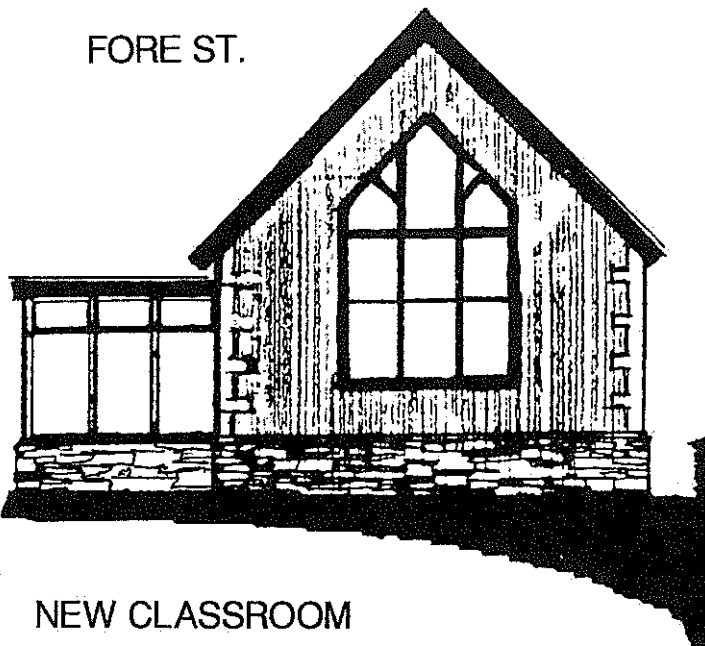
A much needed library is being built at the Fore Street end of the site and the Senior Pupil Librarians are gleefully casting eyes over library catalogues for items to compliment their new residence!

Purchase of land adjacent to the site is also going through, which will enable the siting of an environmental garden and infant play area as well as much needed grass space for children to use in the dryer months.

The original plans provided as a gesture to the school by Max Young (Architect) acted as a catalyst for subsequent thinking by the Council. The most recent plans drawn up by John Wilks (Architect) on behalf of Cornwall County Council reflect the original requirements, respond to planning demands and provide the basis for future additions which would further transform the village school.



NEW LIBRARY VIEWED FROM
FORE ST.



NEW CLASSROOM
VIEWED FROM 'TINKERS' GARDEN

CONTENTS:

Colour Souvenir - Victorian Music Hall - Centre Page

Defending our Coastguard 4 Parish Council 12 Church & Chapel 16 What's On 36

The Blowhole - Year 5

This edition marks the beginning of the fifth year of Blowhole publication. The fact that it grows - and, we hope, improves with each year, is a tribute to your community spirit. The goodwill of residents who write for us, send in snippets of information, lend us their precious photographs and point us in the direction of 'happenings' makes it possible to continue publication. Thank you.

It is sometimes difficult to squeeze in all the news. Boscastle's vibrant life ensures that there is material aplenty. In celebration of one outstanding example of village activity, we include a colour souvenir inset this time, in the expectation that many readers would like a permanent reminder of a first rate village production, which we hope will be the precursor of many more!

Editorial Panel: Philippa Arthan (Distribution), Yvonne Ayling, Jim Castling,
Joan Cork, Janet Lathom, Mac Reynolds, Ruth Turner (Advertising)

Communications may be addressed to: The Blowhole, c/o Boscastle Post Office, PL35 OAA

(The editorial panel reserves the right to accept or reject any material submitted for publication. The views expressed within the paper are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Blowhole team)

Copies of the BLOWHOLE are available by post at a cost of 75p per issue.

Contact Philippa Arthan (01840) 250483

Photographs: J. Castling, N. Ward. and others. Art Work and Photo-montage: J. Cork
Special Thanks to Sue Bowen for assistance with typing.

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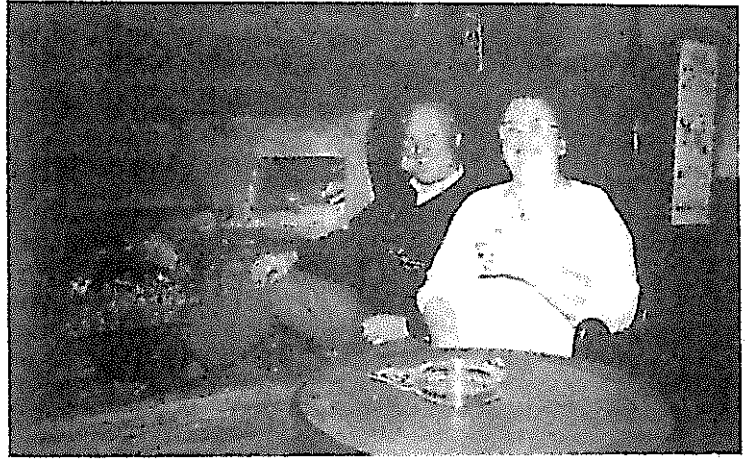
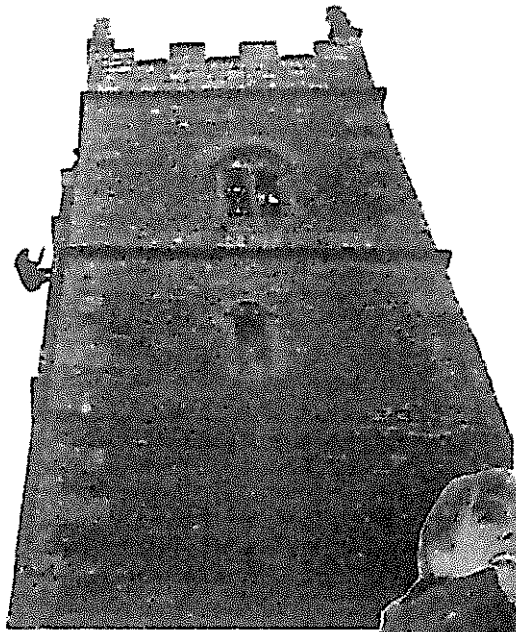


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UPS AND DOWNS OF VILLAGE LIFE

Repairs to Lesnewth Tower

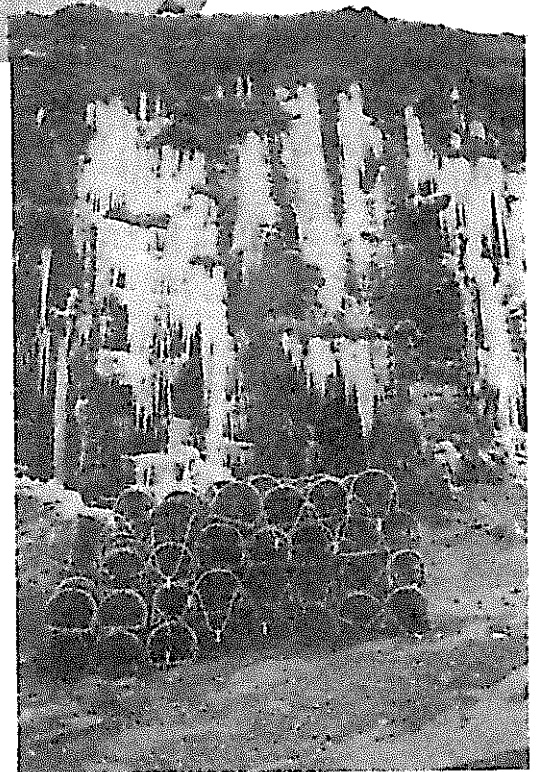


Ivor & Vera with feet up

Iced Up,

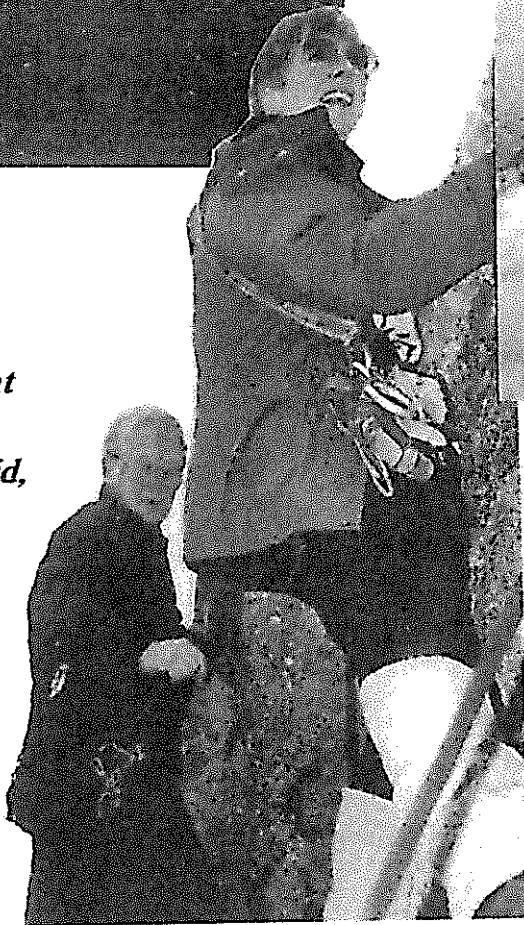


Before



Up they went

*(St. Peter said,
'Not Yet!')*



Down they came

Melt Down

In Defence of our Coastguard

“It is time for the Coastguard Service to unshackle itself from Government interference.”

Mac Reynolds is a slim, contemplative individual. Now in his forties, divorced, he lives at Lower Beeny, along with a collection of motorbikes, Triumph car bodies and sheds full of spares. He is the Vitesse Register Secretary of the Triumph sports Six Club, and something of an expert on the Triumph Vitesse marque. Piled high along the walls of his living room are hundreds of books, CD's and vinyl recordings: when I visited him he had just started a biography of Eva Peron, 'Evita' of the legend.

His bungalow overlooks a grey-green sweep of Atlantic coast from Boscastle past Pengargon to Cambeak and beyond. Originally built four square to the ocean by the late Phil Washer - sadly lost at sea while fishing one Easter day - it is a panorama thus even more poignantly fitting to a man who works shifts at the Dairy Crest cheese factory at Davidstow, but whose real interest and concern is the safety of those who sail or swim, surf the waves or walk the coastal path.

For Mac is one of a dwindling band of volunteers who carry out the largely unrecognised function of co-ordinating rescue services when an unwary child is swept off rocks by a wave, or an elderly tourist loses his footing on a cliff edge.

Since his youth Mac has been a Coast Guard, and is now auxiliary-in-charge of an eight-man team, in whose praise testimonials paper the walls of the operations room, from relatives and friends who have had good cause to salute the dedication of a few ordinary men who do an extraordinary job for nothing save their own satisfaction and sense of duty.

THE COSTS

Few of us stop to consider what all this costs in financial terms. We may guess vaguely that 'the government' and the taxpayer supports the Coast Guard Service. Or we might suppose that it is an entirely voluntary organisation, paid for through collecting boxes and jumbles sales. Neither judgement is accurate. Last year the Royal National Lifeboat Institution raised £67 million to save lives at sea. The Cornwall Air Ambulance somehow manages to find £50,000 a month to keep its helicopter flying. The government's privatised Coast Guard Agency pays only one member of the Boscastle team on a regular basis: Mac Reynolds receives the equivalent of five hours' pay at £2.68 per hour. Less deductions, the reward for his effort and responsibility is something under a tenner a week.

POLZEATH TRAGEDY

The recent deaths of two teenagers at Polzeath, 19-year-old Tom Balment, and his friend Nick Woods, 16, has now been so rehearsed in print and as the subject of television coverage, there is a danger we shall forget the iniquitous causes of the tragedy.

Their deaths were the direct consequence of a deliberate dismemberment of one of the nation's services which provide for safety and need. When the very staples of existence - water, fuel, housing, transport - are sold for personal profit, it is inevitable that the mechanisms for caring, health and safety will also be dismantled. It is a matter too plain to be a dispute between the parties who are united in their condemnation of the government's efforts to reduce the Coast Guard.



As they were - the Coastguards in 1986 (Arthur Olde not pictured) now reduced to eight men.

COST CUTTING

In December last year Chris Hanis, the Agency's Chief Executive, wrote to its members warning of considerable budget cuts in the years ahead, exhorting them "to maintain a tight control on expenditure while meeting operational targets." He noted, with an accountant's satisfaction, that in preceding years more lives had been saved at less expense.

In 1992 Mac Reynolds carried in the back of his rescue vehicle: a stretcher, two cliff-climbing harnesses, three 800-foot nylon cliff lines, a self-inflatable lifejacket with a floating line, a rescue line, steel stakes, gear for winching a casualty up a cliff, flares, a helicopter harness, cliff helmets, thermal jackets, blankets, a loud hailer and life lines. He could also carry a petrol generator, searchlight and tripod: all of which he insisted were vital for effective rescue. "We are not asking for more money or equipment," he said. "All we want is to keep what we've got and what we need to provide an effective rescue service." (Quoted from *The Sunday Telegraph*, 22nd March 1992).

Which was precisely what the government was then intent upon denying him. In the interests of efficiency (i.e. cost-cutting) the Coastguard Auxiliary Service was to be split into IRTS (Instant Response Teams) and BURTS (Backup Response Teams). IRT stations would lose practically all their equipment and become little more than impotent observers.

'An accident waiting to happen'

Such a scene was enacted at Polzeath. Ordinary members of the public, including, agonizingly, the brother of one of the drowning teenagers, tried desperately to haul one of them up the cliffs using a torpedo buoy, a piece of equipment unsuitable for the purpose. Under the strain, the rope parted and the youngster fell back into the sea. Lacking any equipment other than radiophones the Polzeath IRT team could only watch helplessly waiting for the backup team to arrive. 23 minutes later it was all over. A landrover equipped with a forward winch or even a stout rope might have saved the boys' lives.

It was, Mac later observed bitterly, an accident waiting to happen. In the very first issue of *The Blowhole* (Spring, 1992) he wrote: "It is now proposed to reduce the Boscastle Group to an Initial Response Team of six men, and the equipment levels to basic personal requirements - torches and first aid kit." As rescuers, this would have rendered them virtually useless, forced to wait for help from Bude or Port Isaac. With ominous presentiment Mac added: "Such a long delay could have serious consequences."

MEDIA SUPPORT

Then as now, Mac enlisted the aid of the media. The BBC featured the Boscastle team in its 'Country File' programme. The Agency backed down and agreed to defer re-organisation of the Boscastle Group for two years to allow it time to prove the need to preserve their status as a full team.

Nevertheless, there were serious losses. Budget cuts slashed manpower, which fell from the 24 members enrolled in 1981, when Mac first took over as auxiliary-in-charge, to just eight today. The breeches buoy was dismantled in 1988, its components scattered and lost; gas searchlights, the 'floating head' rocket used to assist swimmers (and, in one case, save a life off Bossinney), all disappeared.

NO PROPER PATROLS

Lack of team members means that no proper patrols can be maintained to check vital equipment, especially

during the frantically busy summer months, when vandals steal or destroy equipment and telephones. No permanent watch can be kept at the coastguard lookout point - anyone seeking help must run back to the village and harbourmaster who can then fire a maroon to summon any coastguards within range. The men's personal pagers cannot operate within the narrow confines of the village so telephones, word of mouth and the maroon is the only contact - providing someone is within range. To provide even this minimum cover stretches manpower dreadfully thin and allows nothing for emergencies or personal commitments: only the team's sense of duty maintains the fragile system.

Budget cuts slashed manpower from the 24 members in 1981

Recently I spoke about the situation in Boscastle with the aptly-named David Jones, RNLI Senior Area Organiser. He told me of his latest fund-raising experience at Rock where, following the drownings of five holiday makers in sailing accidents, the community swiftly got together to raise the £150,000 needed to buy a lifeboat and provide for a boathouse equipment and crew training.

David was justifiably proud of the Lifeboat Institute's high public profile and its ability to stir the hearts of people in time of crisis. "Who can ever forget," he asked me, "the night of 19 December 1981 when the entire crew of the Penlee Lifeboat were lost at sea?"

INDEPENDENCE?

It is time for the Coast Guard Service to unshackle itself from government interference. The men on the coastline know best what and how much is needed to effectively save lives: the public is all too aware of their value to stint their support. It might even be a case where the gaoler would be happy to let the prisoners escape, to save further embarrassment and expense.

Mac's honest and trenchant views have earned him the wrath of his superiors. But headline coverage, full-length BBC documentary in the 'Close Up' series and the unanimous support of West Country MPs has allowed him to shrug off their criticism.

As a result, life-saving procedures at Polzeath are to be improved. The number of auxiliary coastguard has been increased from five to eight and they will receive a four-wheel drive vehicle complete with cliffwork equipment.

All this may be of some consolation to Tor Balment's father, David, who was one of those who campaigned most vigorously for improvements in safety standards. The pity of it is that young death-grieving parents and men of the stamp of Mac Reynolds must together come to shame a government into doing the right thing.

Meanwhile the Coast Guard auxiliaries, despite the ineptitude of their superiors, will continue to maintain their round-the-clock watches: "I can't help what I do," Mac said to me, ruefully shaking his head, "it's just in the blood."

Chris Yallop

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance given in the preparation of this article by Mac Reynolds and David Jones of the RNLI.

New Hosts at the Nap.



Richard and Sherry Claridge have become tenants of Boscastle's famous Napolcon Inn on the retirement of Ivor and Vera Bright. Mrs. Claridge had worked in the pub for two years and is a familiar face to regular customers. Her husband, Richard, joins her in the licensed trade with great enthusiasm. Until now he has been a painter and decorator, also able to tackle other building work. "It certainly beats working in the rain on somebody's roof, as I was a week before Christmas," he said.

Sherry had worked in the trade for many years, particularly around the west-London area. She worked in the Dysart Arms at Petersham and the Hand and Flower on Ham Common. They are anxious not to change the atmosphere of the well-loved 'Nap'. Their only radical plan at the moment is to re-establish the restaurant in what is presently the pool-room.

Richard and Sherry are accompanied by their 11 year-old daughter Rebecca, who is already making a name in the village as a talented artist.

POST OFFICE

Please note a change in Post Office hours. We will be opening Friday afternoons and closing half day Wednesday. This change will take place during March but we will officially be told by Post Office Counters Ltd nearer the date. A notice will be posted in the Post Office window. I hope this does not inconvenience customers.

Tim Chadwick, Sub Postmaster

Sandra and Brian Abraham of Lower Meadows House and John Dillon of Trefleur Close, would like to express their gratitude for all the sympathy and support offered, following the death of Ellen Dillon, devoted wife, mother and grandmother, who only lived in this community for such a short time.

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EXHIBITIONS 1997

28th March - 2nd May

PAINTINGS BY THE NORTH CORNWALL 7

5th May - 30th May

PRINTS by JACQUELINE JARVIS

EARTHENWARE POTTERY

by CLIVE BOWEN

2nd June - 4th July

'QUALITY OF LIGHT'

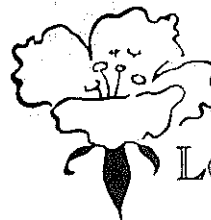
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A good year for the Club with various trips round the country.

Mini Bus Funding

Funding from the Village Hall Fund has ensured the Mini Bus to collect members who otherwise would not make it to the club, and grateful thanks to them.

Christmas Dinners

25 Senior Citizens enjoyed the hospitality of Graham and Hazel Mee's "Bottreaux Hotel" before Christmas, a lovely Christmas dinner followed by entertainment by Densil Flew with his accordion; an enjoyable time appreciated by all. Thanks also to Roger and Marion Ferrett who kindly offered their services to collect those who were without transport.

The Club's Christmas dinner was held as usual at the "Cobweb" and our thanks to Adrian and John for collecting those without transport.

Sadly Missed

It was with regret that we lost one of our long standing members Nora Biscoombe, who will be sadly missed.

We look forward to 1997 with more trips planned and welcoming any new members: first Monday in the month, Village Hall, 2-4 p.m.

Joan Weekes

A RINGING CELEBRATION

Gale-force winds failed to dampen the spirits of those who gathered at Lesnewth Church on February 19th to celebrate the centenary of the W.I.

Throughout the country, church bells pealed to celebrate the anniversary and about forty members, husbands and friends were present at Lesnewth.

Those present joined in the singing of Jerusalem, but an address from this year's president of Boscastle W.I. Mrs June Swanson, revealed that the movement is concerned with much more than the two Js. She outlined the W.I.'s history and purpose, illustrating the contribution made to the emancipation of women and to society in general. (And the bell ringing was as splendid as the supper!)

WANTED - ORGANIST

Lesnewth Church will be without an organist after Easter. The church has a harmonium, which any piano player can quickly adapt to, and the duties involve playing 4 hymns for the service twice a month. Can anyone out there help? Please contact the Rector on 250359.

CAMERA, CATS AND ARROWHEADS

A certain local amateur archaeologist and the maker of the odd pot or two, went on safari to Tanzania to become probably the only intrepid tourist to roam the vast Serengeti, popping off the wildlife with his trusty 35mm and incidentally scoring a personal best by 'bagging' 76 big cats; but also to return with a handful of 10,000 yearold stone tools and arrowheads.

MILLENNIUM PROJECT - PROGRESS

Since the last edition of the Blowhole, members of the Snooker Club have been bus behind the scenes working on the details of the proposal for new Community Venue.

A sub-committee headed by Malcolm Biddick, in collaboration with the Parish Council, County Council and F. Whiting, architects and solicitors are engaged in the inevitable form-filling and problem-solving that such an application entails. Watch this space for further progress.

Collectors' Corner and Madame Butterfly will be back next time.

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Millennium Bid for N. Cornwall

A Wadebridge Centre for the Visual Arts built on a Riverside Site?

This exciting community project was proposed by painter Henry Israel to a large gathering in Wadebridge Town Hall on January 24th. He had nurtured the vision of a gallery for North Cornwall's artists and crafts people for many years. Now the time had come to pass it into the public arena. This project had come from an alliance of Henry's vision with the business acumen of a newcomer to the area - Polly Mason. Polly has a background of working with Arts Councils and has had a lot of success in fund-raising for the arts. Independently from Henry she had seen the need in North Cornwall for a focal exhibiting venue.

An initial meeting had been held at sculptor Carole Vincent's Half Acre last November. Boscastle painter Raymund Rogers was one of those elected onto a steering committee which had set the agenda for the public meeting in Wadebridge. It was a mark of public interest in the project that 200 people turned out on a cold January night.

A Green Building?

Henry Israel wanted to invite entries from R.I.B.A. in a competition to produce the best design for the new building. It could be built using Delabole Slate and De Lank Granite and employ local crafts people. Even more exciting was the idea that the building could be self-sustainable, using renewable energy sources. This could make a huge difference to the running costs.

Three-fold Function

Wadebridge painter Stewart Lowden described his ideas for the building:

- A large custom-built gallery for major travelling exhibitions.
- Two other galleries to house on-going shows by artists of this area.

- Resource areas: studio space, a library, a photographic darkroom, and a room for educational projects, so that the centre could be used by local schools and adult education.

- A restaurant and a foyer shop, so visitors could eat there and enjoy a spectacular riverside ambience.

- Outside there would be parking space and an area for outdoor sculptures.

The enthusiasm of these two painters was infectious and one sensed it came from the heart.

Vitality and Wealth for North Cornwall

Polly Mason showed how, as well as being a resource for us, the proposal made sound economic sense. It would bring vitality and wealth to the area as the Tate had for St. Ives and the Burton Gallery for Bideford. The latter's opening exhibition of the pre-Raphaelites had brought a huge influx of visitors to Bideford. She believed the first need was for a feasibility study which she thought could be funded by Lottery money.

Good Luck to this New Venture

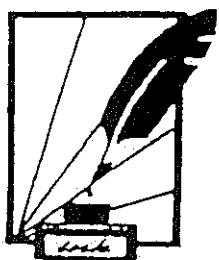
At the end of the meeting those present gave names and addresses in order to be kept informed of new developments. Members of the public with different and useful skills were invited to form a new committee. Jane Castling, from Boscastle, who is experienced in raising money for charity, was one who came forward.

Blowhole readers will be kept informed. Anyone wishing to become involved or wanting more information should contact:

Jane Castling (01840) 250046 or

Henry Israel (01840) 770811.

R.T.



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Golden Year

The Blowhole knows of at least five couples in the village who will share the Queen's 'Golden Year'. One of those couples had a splendid celebration in January, as Philippa Arthan reports:

Audrey and Bill Bickle were married at Lanteglos Church on 21st January 1947. To celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary they planned an 'At Home' from 2 til 5. Their grand-daughter, Joanne, phoned explaining that she would be at work in London then, but could be in Boscastle on the 18th, and would like to take them out to dinner at Wadebridge. Son-in-law and daughter, John and Joan Kinsman arrived to pick them up and drove them, not to Wadebridge, but to the Village Hall. Something was afoot! Joan said there were not many inside, so they went in to find, to their astonishment, the Doollally Tappers Jazz Band playing 'Congratulations' and the hall full of family and friends cheering.

The party came as a complete surprise to them, so well had the secret been kept - though in the days leading upto the event some



1947

invitees had found it easier to keep the secret by avoiding conversation, making Bill and Audrey wonder what they had done to offend! Joan had prepared a delicious buffet and was assisted as hostess by Sonia Whitehand and Janet Latham. The tables were beautifully decorated by David and Sylvia Pinn. It was a really good get-together, with guests from London, Launceston, Bodmin, Bristol, Newquay and Camelford, some of whom Bill and Audrey had not seen for years. Incidentally, the 'At Home' went ahead as arranged, though the departure time stretched from 5 to 11.30pm!

Donations, totalling £280, in lieu of presents, were given to the Camelford and District Cardiology Foundation. Bill and Audrey would like to thank Joan, Joanne, John and everyone who helped make it a very special celebration. They have applied for invitations to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 15th July.



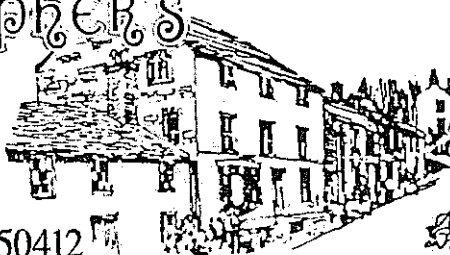
1997

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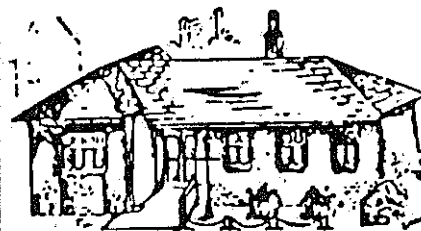
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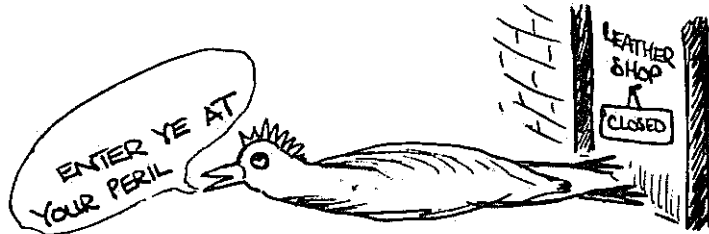
Crimewatch

Report (and graphics) by P.C. Alcock

Hello Everyone,

Where are the days going to? Easter will soon be upon us and the visitors pouring in.

Well I am very pleased to report that - 'touch wood' - we have had a reasonably quiet time crime-wise in Boscastle over the last couple of months. That's not so for other parts of North Cornwall, so we must be doing something right. There have been a few isolated incidents, but not the constant problems such as we had last year, with a lot of the holiday homes being attacked. As many of you will have learned by now, Rob Lloyd's Leather Shop was broken into again (mind you I did try to tell him a rubber chicken as a guard dog won't deter anyone!) But this is probably down to criminals travelling into the area, which will always be a problem for



us. We do however seem to be keeping pace with our more local un-potty trained brethren.

Only one moan this time around and this is about PARKING. (Oh no, cry the ones who think walking was something they did when they were children.) If any of you drive into the metropolis of Camelford, can you please remember there is a large free car park to use and not block up the main street



by parking on double yellow lines. We are getting so many complaints regarding the traffic flow being interrupted that now, people who would have been warned and asked to move on, will get tickets. Furthermore, I was standing in the Police Station at Camelford recently when a lady came in waving a parking ticket at me, that she intimated had been issued by a Traffic Warden with an obvious heart of stone (actually, I had issued it!). She told me that she couldn't possibly be given a ticket because she had a disabled badge showing. She had been parked right outside the Co-op in Camelford where there is a free car park for customers at the side. She had parked on double yellow lines to save walking an extra ten paces at most, when her disability did not affect her walking. Not only did she have to pay the fine but abuse of the orange badge scheme can lead to its withdrawal...

Oh well it will soon be summer and then there won't be room for any of us to park anywhere and we will all have to walk! What a splendid thought.

Cheers all...

Michael Alcock

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ADRIAN FERRETT MEMORIAL SALE

The sum of £180 was raised at the Jumble Sale held in the Village Hall on Saturday 25th January, in memory of Adrian Ferrett. The proceeds were divided between Children's Hospice South West and C.L.I.C. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported us.

Vivien Hircock

FOOTBALLERS SUPPORT AIR AMBULANCE

Each Christmas, the Boscastle footballers organise a non-profit making Fancy Dress/Disco which is held at Lanteglos Hotel. At the latest event, Simon Biddick was challenged to wear his costume to the following Saturday's match. He said he would do better than that if the players and friends would sponsor him; he would still keep it on at the Cobweb in the evening. As a result he was able to send £104.93 to the Cornwall Air Ambulance Fund.

On January 22nd Boscastle Football Club's First Team Manager reached the "big 40". At his Birthday Party on the following Saturday at the Bullers Arms, Steve Dray allowed two lady barbers to shave off his beard, and a lady hairdresser to trim his hair rather close to his head! Steve named the Cornwall Air Ambulance as the charity to benefit, and a collection made "in situ" raised £157.20.

JOSIE YOUNG - COFFEE MORNING

Josie Young has returned to Romania with the White Cross Mission for a further three months to work with disadvantaged children.

At a Coffee Morning held at the Rectory on 22nd January, £230 was raised to help her with her air fare, plus donations of knicker elastic, music tapes, shoe laces and coffee! Many thanks to all who helped. JMA

BOSCASTLE SCHOOL - COFFEE MORNING

The 'Sunset Group', Mrs. Margaret Manning and her friends, are set to support our school at their next Coffee Morning. It is hoped that many parents, as well as other local supporters, will be at Sunset, Under Rd., from 10.30am on Wednesday 12th March.

EASTER EGG BIKE RUN - To any Bikers out there!

Sunday 30th March (Easter Day) at 1400hrs. Leaving from Davidstow Airfield (by the control tower) travelling to the National Children's Home at Bodmin, where we will present the children with Easter Eggs. Continuing to the National Children's Home at Liskeard. Refreshments provided (Hot tea!). A sensible, gentle ride. Bring yourself, your bike and an Easter egg. For information, phone Andy on (01840) 213996 or Mark on (01566) 781512

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Parish Council News

HARBOUR SEATS

(1) Penally Cliff: The Clerk was instructed to ask the National Trust whether there would be any objection to the replacement of the broken seat near Queen's Head. This matter will be considered at a site meeting.

(2) Bridge Corner: A seat has been ordered at a cost of £85 incl. VAT from Kerensa, a local handicapped persons' organisation. Delivery is expected in April.

CHESTNUT STEPS CULVERT

No agreement has yet been reached on who is responsible for maintenance of the culvert.

LITTLE ST. HUGH

The National Trust has written to the council stating that a brick built chimney was not required by planning and that no original flue within the building was available to support it. The council instructed the Clerk to write to the Trust pointing out that the owner of St. Hugh, the adjacent property, had to remove a steel flue and replace it with a brick chimney to comply with planning regulations.

M.O.B.I.

The Clerk has requested that Dist. Cllr. J. Lugg should try to arrange a collection in Boscastle of plastics etc. for recycling.

ROAD GRITTING

The B3266 Boscastle to Camelford Station Road is still not on the road-gritting programme, due to strict central government limits on spending, which force Land Use & Transportation to economise on time and salt. Cllr. Vincent pointed out that the road is frequently icy in winter and that school buses use this route. She suggested that Highways erect signs to warn people that the road is not gritted. Cllrs. are to question the A.G.M. speaker on this matter.

PHOTOCOPIER

This has been purchased at a cost of £498.99.

WWII FUNDS

It was suggested that the monies remaining from the WWII Anniversary Fund be spent on purchasing a pair of night sight binoculars to be donated to the Boscastle Coastguards.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

The plaque given to the village for third place in the 1996 competition is to be hung in the Snooker Club.

HARBOUR AND HOME FARM


Mr. Andrew Davey and Mr. Simon Ford attended the February meeting in order to discuss National trust plans for Boscastle.

Mr. Davey explained the Trust's policy with regard to the harbour area and sought councillors' opinions. He explained that the N.T.'s aim was to preserve the landscape and character of the harbour; it was concerned with long-term preservation. In order to guard against possible unsuitable development, the Trust had decided to purchase more harbourside dwellings. Ideally N.T. properties would be the subject of long-term leases, with occupants required to live in them for at least 45 weeks each year.

He was in sympathy with the councillor who believed that too many holiday lets and too much commercialisation would be detrimental to the harbour, although he could not guarantee that N.T. property would not become holiday property if the long-term leasehold proved difficult to arrange.

(Cont. on p. 13)

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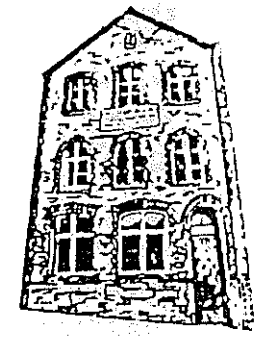
	Day	Evening
Mon.	12-2.00	5.30-9.30
Tues.	Closed	-
Wed.	-	5.30-9.30
Thurs.	12-2.00	5.30-9.30
Fri.	12-2.00	5.30-11.30
Sat.	12-2.30	5.30-11.30
Sun.	-	6.00-10.00

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New Faces at the Post Office

Tim and Pat Chadwick have already settled into their new home and very new life style at the Post Office. They came to Boscastle from a village near Whitchurch in Shropshire, the family having had a rather traumatic build-up to the move. Living for a short period in a small cottage, they put many of their possessions in store - and lost them all in the disastrous fire at Pickford's Chester Warehouse.

The Chadwicks bring a wealth of experience to their new business. Tim was a civil servant, so the process of learning Post Office procedures is less daunting than it might have been, whilst Pat's working life encompassed spells in a Local Authority Surveyor's Department, a period in the Control Centre of the Ambulance Service, involvement as a 'dinner lady' and two years as a carer for an elderly lady. She has also been involved as a volunteer for the Save the Children organisation.

Like so many Boscastle residents the Chadwicks first discovered this area as holiday makers, and it was medical advice that sea air would be good for Tim's asthma that prompted them to move here. Their fourteen year old daughter has quickly taken the change in hand. Having lost most of her childhood toys and other possessions in the fire, as well as two much-loved pets in recent months, 'animal-lover' Kathryn has started school at Camelford and is already making friends. Her brother Matthew, a university student whose subject is Computer Studies, also had very little to pack - virtually all his possessions had gone up in smoke!

The Chadwicks see the Post Office as the traditional village centre and are keen to continue the Sellars' support for village life. They hope to extend and develop the service on offer and would like residents to make suggestions for stock.

Parish Council News (Cont.)

A site meeting is to be held, with Cllr. Olde, in order to consider aspects of harbour development. The 'restoration' of the old lime-kiln, the possibility of facilitating wheel chair access to parts of the harbour, the positioning of fence posts, preservation of paths and harbour seats would be considered on that occasion.

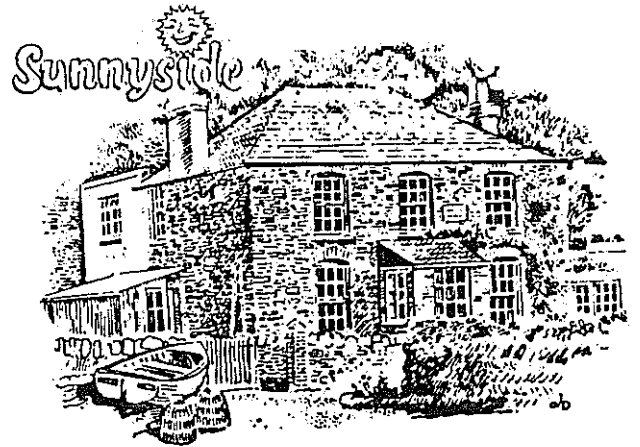
Mr. Simon Ford confirmed that it was the National Trust's intention to purchase Home Farm. The plan was to let the farm to a local person, so that traditional farming would continue.

There would be some fencing to preserve Minster Wood, and the National Trust would implement a programme of woodland management, but the essential character of the land would be kept 'very much as it is'.

The purchase of the land would enable the Trust to create a new circuit for walkers; with increased public access from Minster Church, through Minster Wood, it might be possible to link up with the knoll which lies above the Wellington.

A.G.M.

The AGM of the Parish Council has been arranged for Thursday 27th March at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. The Speaker will be Mr. D. Brown, Chief Executive of the NCDC.



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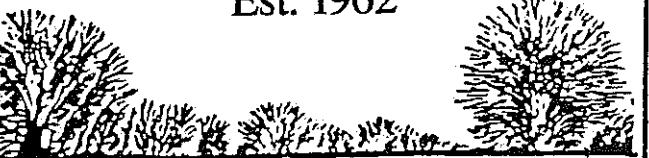
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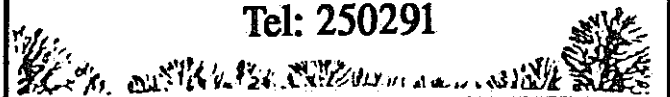
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End of an Era

Dave Scott's Green Shop had been Home to Many Businesses

It is not easy to imagine how the Green Shop, which until recently stood on that spit of land between the New and Old Roads at the foot of Forrabury Hill, could once have been a bustling centre of trade and human transactions.

How were they not all killed by the traffic? The answer, of course, is that the steady stream of cars, trucks and buses on the New Road is a modern phenomenon. When the original building was put up in the late 1860's, the New Road had not yet been built. The main traffic would have been on foot with the odd horse gingerly negotiating the steep slope down to the harbour. The new shop would have been very strategically placed in the near-middle of the village at the junction of the busy road up to the church.

It was Arthur Olde's grandfather, Mark, who built it. He was a saddler who made his products on the premises and sold them there. But he was fated not to work there very long. Having the additional role of carrying the mail from Boscastle to Camelford, very early one morning he had a stroke on the way and died, tragically, at the age of 54.

His son John, Arthur's uncle, took over the business and carried on trade as a saddler. But he had other irons in the fire which took his attention away from the shop. (Always something of an entrepreneur, apparently, the old school records reveal John Olde's occasional absences as a boy when he was taking tourists around the district.) His eldest daughter Marie then turned it into a haberdashery

selling wool, especially, but other items such as china, cigarettes and post-cards. In the base of the building, which fronted onto the Old Road, she sold paraffin.

There was a large tank inside the door from which her customers would fill their own receptacles; paraffin lamps would have been the main means of lighting in those days.

Started Lending Library

Marie's trade prospered and, by the early 1930's, she and her father decided to add an extension. The new, upper part of the building was bought ready-made, having already given distinguished service as a cricket score-hut. The young Jim Ferrett helped with bringing it over from Plymouth. With the extra space Marie started a lending library. It must have been a hive of activity. Also rate-collecting agent for the District Council, she would deliver rate-demands, door-to-door, and people would come into the shop to pay them.

In those early days, in addition to the shop and its extension, there were two garages and a coach-house on the site; filling the pointed end in the harbour direction. It seems the coach house is especially remembered as a favourite place for courting.

Marie, Arthur's cousin, carried on business in the shop until the late 1950's. It then became unoccupied for several years until 1974 when it was bought by Muriel Phelps to sell antiques and bric-a-brac. In 1977 Mrs. Phelps, now living in Northumberland, sold the shop to Mrs Wendy Hawthorn. The Green Shop then started a new life



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Green Shop (Cont.)

as a home-made cake shop, although not exclusively. Wendy's mother was rather clever at making dolls so the top half of the shop (the other side of the passage-way) became a craft-shop in which mother's dolls took pride of place. Annie Hillerman, an early collaborator with the Blowhole, managed the craft side of the business for a while.

Trade seemed to go from strength to strength and Wendy found difficulty keeping up with demand for her cakes. It was then she took a Camelford baker into partnership. He ran the shop selling his own bakery goods and Wendy, who still owned the shop, baked cakes for him at home. But that formula did not work out for long, not helped by the zealous enforcement of double yellow lines on the road outside.

Freshly-landed fish

Determined not to be beaten, Mrs. Hawthorn had a bright idea; here is this famous sea-side village with fishing boats in the harbour, and there is nowhere to buy fish. So it was that, in the early 1980's, the Green Shop started its penultimate life as a fresh fish shop. With high hopes, Wendy equipped it with expensive cooled display counters and made an arrangement with a wholesaler in Plymouth, who dealt in freshly-landed fish, to take her order by telephone at night and deliver that very night's catch to Launceston the following day. Wendy would collect it herself and set it out in her shop.

Much to her disappointment there was little demand in the village for her fresh fish. "People just seemed to prefer to walk down to the Spar Shop and buy fish-fingers," she said. The shop then fell empty for some time. Mrs. Hawthorn had, by this time, taken up farming and, one day, a Boscastle electrician came to do some work in her house.

They fell to talking about her experiences as a retailer in the village and Dave Scott realised there



Mrs Wendy Hawthorn

was an opportunity to acquire the storage facility he needed and an electrical appliances shop at the same time. So in 1985 the Green Shop came into the possession of the site's present owner. But Dave found, quite early on, that running a retail store was not straight-forward these days. The introduction of Uniform Business Rate, coming with the recession, brought the viability of the enterprise into question. At the same time, the strictures of gaining conservation-area planning consent for essential alterations brought the realisation that the business was not going to work.

Meantime, Dave had to pay 50% of the business rate, even though the premises were empty of goods or fittings. There was nothing for it but to remove the shop from the site altogether; a process which was hastened by a wayward rocket last Guy Fawkes night. And so we come up to date and the present works on the famous site. The Scotts are building a small dwelling there where Dave's father Frank will live. The final irony is that, after years of complaints Dave has heard about the 'eye-sore' of his Green Shop he is now getting even more about the loss of one of the village's best-known landmarks. J.C



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HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

C of E	<i>(Holy Communion except where indicated)</i>
PALM SUNDAY:	9.00am at Forrabury. 10.15am (Mattins) St. Juliot
MAUNDY THURSDAY	8.00pm at Lesnewth
GOOD FRIDAY	1.00 - 2.00pm Devotional Service at Forrabury
EASTER DAY	8.00am Forrabury (said) 9.00am Trevalga 10.15am Lesnewth 11.00am Minster Church.

BOSCASTLE METHODIST

GOOD FRIDAY	9.45am Communion Service - Revd. Barnes 5 Churches walk. Dep. Forrabury Church 2.15pm
EASTER DAY	11.00am Service - Mrs. Manders 6.00pm Service with Communion - Revd. Holmes

ROMAN CATHOLIC (at Tintagel)

MAUNDY THURS	6.00pm Mass of Last Supper
GOOD FRIDAY	3.00pm Afternoon Liturgy with Communion
HOLY SATURDAY	8.30pm Easter Liturgy and First Mass
EASTER DAY	10.00am Mass

Dear Friends,

Time! We look back and call it history. We look forward and call it the future, and we think of the bit in the middle as the present. These three ideas are vital to us. Before I go any further I'd like to take a step sideways - if you'll bear with me.

Are you fortunate enough to have a holiday away this year? If so, you will probably be making arrangements already, or at least beginning to save up. The thing is, that to have that holiday you will have engaged in the three time elements. You will have had to do something about it in the past; in other words, booked the holiday. Then engage in doing something about it now; saving up the money, so that finally you can look forward to the holiday.

This brings me back to where I started; past, present and future. Now what has this to do with anything? Simply this: the Church is completely involved in time and all three of its elements.

The Church looks back to wonderful happenings in the past; God sending his Son Jesus Christ into the world for us. The Church is involved in the 'now' of our lives because it calls us to recognise Jesus in the life of the world and each one of us.

'Now' for the Church is the time of Lent when Christians reflect on their faith, and in doing so prepare themselves for the glorious celebration of Easter.

So the 'now' is Lent to us, and the future is assured in Jesus, and that future is going to be far more glorious than any holiday could possibly be.

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Holy Communion at Forrabury Church each Sunday at 9.00am (except 3rd and 5th Sun.) Family Service 10.15am. on 3rd Sun.

The Boscastle Group of Churches includes the 7 local churches. The 'Group Gazette' gives details of services and events.

BOSCASTLE METHODIST CHURCH

Church Steward: Arthur Olde, The Glen, Fore St. (Next door to church) (250422).

Minister: Revd. Leslie Barnes, The Manse, Tintagel. (770274)

Services each Sunday at 11.00am and 6.00pm, (2nd Sunday, 11.00am Family Service).

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In November of last year I had the opportunity to travel to Marblehead, nr. Boston U.S.A. to take part in a student drama exchange. Despite my original excitement I was not prepared for the differences in life style between an English teenager and that of a young girl in an American school.

As part of the exchange I had to spend a certain amount of time in Marblehead High School which struck me immediately as being very similar to those in most U.S. T.V. shows. There appears to be much more money spent on the actual technology within the school than at most English Comprehensive schools I have visited, but apart from that I found that it lacked the more personal relationship that students and teachers have here in England.

Personally I do find the teachers here spend more time individually with the students and they certainly appear to care far more than in the classes I visited. In this respect, I returned to England feeling that although my college may not have such generous funding as its American counterpart, it certainly makes up for it with its more personal approach to study.

7 - Up Fun!

Also there were many differences to be found in my exchange partner's personal life. I found my home life to be far more 'laid-back'; for as long as I can remember we have drunk wine with our dinner, in most homes the over-18 drinking laws are not enforced! Whereas in all of the families I visited the over-21 drinking law was obeyed. I admit that I was staying in quite a privileged area of America and in no-way is this true of the whole country, but many 17/18 year olds I met had never even drunk a drop of alcohol, which to a regular pub goer like me seemed rather strange. It was fun though to go to a party with a load of 18yr olds drinking Coke and not one person was moaning about finding any alcohol for the night. It was amazing to find how similar the atmosphere could be to an alcohol induced one, when only 7-Up was present!

I found the whole experience a very enjoyable and extremely interesting one and would recommend the U.S.A. as a place to visit for any young person who has the opportunity.

Ness

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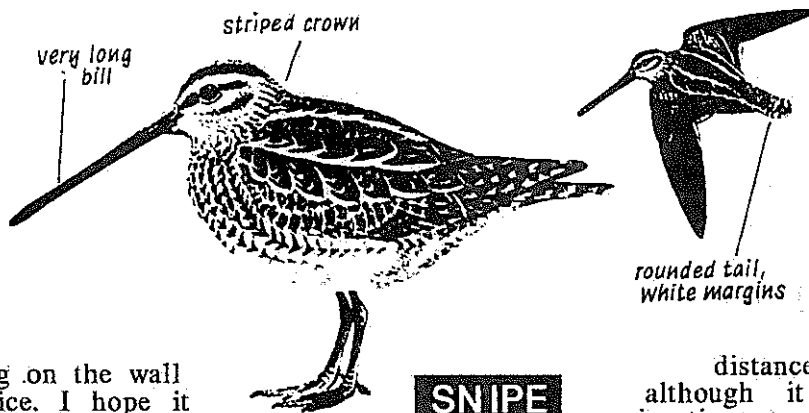


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One Froze Over

What a cold winter we have had, with several weeks of temperatures at or below freezing. My thermometer indicated minus nine degrees Celsius in the village early one morning in January, so the ground was very hard for a long time. It was even worse up country, so many birds headed south-west hoping for better feeding here. Many Fieldfares and Redwings were seen in the village and surroundings, but food was scarce and many died unless they were brave enough to come to the gardens of people who spread food on the ground (and who kept their cats indoors). All birds had difficulty keeping warm and I heard of a Robin and a Wren pulling feathers from the body of a dead Redwing to line their roosts. Some summer visitors over-wintered here, as usual, and Debbie Beszant told me that the normally aggressive Robins were being kept off their food by even more aggressive Blackcaps.

One unusual bird which came right in to the village centre one cold day was a Snipe. I watched it probing on the edge of the small unfrozen stream behind the Boscastle Stores and later Mike Hircock saw it standing on the wall opposite the Post Office. I hope it survived. The Snipe has the longest bill relative to its body length of any European bird and its name derives from the same nose-related roots as snuffle, snuff, snub, snout and snot. A lot of Snipe come over from Scandinavia each winter and can most commonly be seen at Maer Lake, north of Bude. A few snipe nest each summer on Bodmin Moor, where they can sometimes be heard overhead "drumming", a noise produced by the two outer tail feathers during a display dive. This sound has also been described as "bleating" and Robbie Burns called the Snipe "the Blitter frae the boggie", soft boggy ground being its normal habitat. A small group of flying Snipe is called a "Wisp", just as a group of roosting Starlings is called a "Murmuration" and a family of Goldfinches is called a "Charm".



SNIPE

although it can be seen on migration occasionally in large flocks in Winter. The Rock Dove is the ancestor of domestic and Trafalgar Square type Feral Pigeons and, because of inter-breeding with these, probably no longer exists here in its pure form. The purest have white rumps and two black wing bands, but the feral pigeons on our cliffs can now be almost any colour. The Stool Pigeon used to be a domestic pigeon used as a decoy to catch birds of prey, but it is now usually a police informer. The Clay Pigeon flies like a small Frisbee and has a short life.

So what should we be looking out for, now that spring is nearly here? I watched the Dipper singing to mark out its territory as early as Christmas Day and Ravens are probably already sitting on their nests, followed in March by the Rooks. A group of Rooks is called a "Parliament", so is one Rook a Member of Parliament? Or vice versa? And, as they all have the same policies, how do you tell them apart at an election? And remember the old superstition: "It is unlucky to park your car under a rookery!" By mid-March the first summer arrivals should be here, starting with Wheatears on the cliff tops and Sand Martins flying over the Stitches, then suddenly the sycamores will be full of Chiff-chaffs arriving from Africa. Keep feeding the birds in your gardens, particularly seeds for the finches, as spring is a bad time for them with no natural seeds about. It is probably safe to put out peanuts all year as long as birds cannot take away whole ones, which can choke their young; but birds probably don't need them in late summer and autumn when natural food is plentiful.

Mike Metcalfe.

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February 13th, 1997: my first visit to Boscastle's Village Hall and what a light, bright, welcoming place, buzzing with a Full House audience most of them Victorianly dressed-up for the occasion, and at the stage end of the Hall...? a proscenium straight out of Pollock's 'Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured' toy theatre, but life-size and emblazoned with red, yellow and orange curlicues, announcing 'The Boscastle CAVE of HARMONY'.

The house lights dimmed, the chairman strolled politely down beside us, wishing a good evening, mounted his dais beside the stage, lit his two candles and off we all went - back to 1897 and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year. Before the show could start we were all rehearsed in 'enthusiastic Applause', in 'Groans' for receiving the villain, in 'hisses' for reacting to his foul deeds, in sympathetic 'Aaaah's for distressed maidens and 'Piercing Whistles' and 'Shouts of Approval' to be delivered whenever appropriate.

And then this wonderful evening really got under its merry way. The 'Gaslight Girls' and the 'Piccadilly Johnnies' led us in choruses of wedding songs ranging from 'A Bicycle made for Two' to 'At Trinity Church I Met my Doom', and then a sheaf of numbers from a variety of soloists. What a cast! Burly comedienness; delightful singers, with the tinkling silver of sopranos and the sounding brass of tenors robusto; exquisite miming through the sentimental items, (I had to stop myself rushing forward offering to buy *all* those 'Pretty Flowers' on the spot!), and the piece de resistance of Part One: the 'Potted Pantomime'.

'CINDERELLA' was solemnly recited by six ladies "d'un certain age", The Boscastle Barnstormers, in character and costume reciting, three or four words per speech, from 'scripts' held stiffly before them. The 'Prince' scarcely addressed poor Cinderella at all. The main thing he ever said was, "I am Handsome". Cinders was a depressed creature who never had much more to say than a resigned "All right". The Fairy Godmother spoke even less but punctuated everything with a half-hearted shake of her jingly magic wand. A 'Storyteller' - in an Ascot hat - held the whole thing together. At the 'Glass Slipper' denouement, when the Ugly Sisters, copying the Prince, announced "I am Beautiful", the entire audience shouted, quite instinctively and as one man, "OH NO YOU'RE NOT!" You will appreciate that it was 'that sort of evening', where everybody felt involved in the fun of it.

After the interval the Chairman invited us to join him in a 'Loyal Toast' to the health of the Queeb (in beverages bought by the audience from the bar!). No occasion in Cornwall in complete without a raffle, so we had a 'Lucky Number Programme' draw from the Chairman's top hat. Then on to Part Two.

You will never believe this, but for the 'Maritime Malodrame' known as 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter' we were presented on this mini-stage with a working lighthouse, the open sea, complete with a boat for two persons, and three hundred and sixty-five

spiral stairs to the top of the lighthouse from 1 rocks below, (freely, frequently and hysterically ascended and descended throughout the action of 1 Melodrama). We also were presented with a ferocious villain who was groaned at and hissed by 'le t Boscastle'. This fellow nearly murdered the wort lighthouse keeper, who was saved, eventually, by t 'Kindly Doctor' - rowed across from the distant she by the faithful and fearsomely energetic Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter. What a performance!

One of the delights of the show was the rich n of popular songs, comic and sentimental. One remember was the temperance ballad 'Come Home Father' in which a pert and petite daughter of the lo drunkard, supported by a four-part chorus of wing angels, broke our hearts as she collapsed on stage, o to be swept off to heaven by the angels. Then th were the three 'Gaslight Girls' in a doleful t hilarious plaint that they were always the bridesma and never the blushing bride

The recitation, 'T Green Eye of the Little Yell God', was given m impressively by the Corn Major of the Khazi Car Corps, and all the World W Two veterans in the t audience roared their hea off. They knew what a Kh

I really don't think I've ever seen such an entertaining and wonderfully managed non-professional show as this one.

really was!

I really don't think I've ever seen such entertaining and wonderfully managed no professional show as this one. Everything was spot and full of ideas! The proscenium has a small curtain built-in, that rose each time a fresh performer enter from the wings, to reveal an appropriate oval picture behind it, and fell at the end of the item. All t costumes were first rate, (thanks in part to t wardrobe department of neighbouring drama societies) and they had been chosen and matched by real 'show biz' eye. All the ladies positively glitter with wonderful stage jewellery - just the right amount - that glamorised them and entranced us.

It's unfair to select any particular aspect of t super evening for special notice. Twenty-eight talented artists backed up by twenty-five back-stage and front-of-house bods, not to mention two musicians and the urbane and resourceful Chairman, gave us a real 'night out'. I haven't laughed so much in theatre or enjoyed myself as much as in this 'Cave Harmony' since the hilarious, knockabout production of the Royal Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Theatre Royal. And that's an honour fact!

All theatrical experiences must have behind them someone with good ideas and the skill to get them together, hold it together and put it over. Whoever we must say, as Schumann wrote after his first hearing of Chopin playing his own composition "Hats off, gentlemen - a genius!"

The 'Boscastle Village Hall'? Nothing of the kind! After February 1997 it has to be known as 'The Little Theatre - Boscastle'.

Joe Mendel



Victorian Music Hall - February 1997



THE BOSCASTLE CAVE OF HARMONY.

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Designed & Directed by Mr. MICHAEL TURNER.

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Mlles. MYRNA LESTER, MARIANNE PRIVETT
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& JOHN BOLITHO.

The Seraphic Serenaders
Mlles. ZOË HODGES & MARIA NICHOLLS;
Messrs. NICKY & ROGER NICHOLLS.

Miss ZOË HODGES
"The Toast of St. Tudy".

Miss WANDA LARRETT
"Pathos Personified".

Miss JENNY TARRING
"Every Inch a Gentleman".

Miss RUTH TURNER
"The Bird of Paradise".

Cornet-Major MICHAEL TURNER
of the Khazi Camel Corps.

Joan Carrigan Cork's
Company of Comedians
Mlles. JOAN CORK, WANDA LARRETT
& MOIRA HART; Messrs. TONY DOMINY,
MAURICE LOVELL & NOEL WARD.

The Boscastle Barnstormers
Mlles. EFFIE BREWER, MARION FERRETT,
ESME JONES, JUNE JORY,
PEGGY MOLESWORTH & JOAN SELDON.

Stage Manager:
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assisted by Mr. TIM LITTLE.

Lighting:
Mr. JAMIE BARNETT
assisted by Mr. DAVID FLETCHER.

Dance Directrice:
Mlle. CAROLINA.

Wardrobe: Mlles. JOAN CORK,
MOIRA HART & ODETTE RIGBY-JONES.

Auditorium Decorations & Properties:
Miss JANE CASTLING.

Maestro's Assistant:
Miss KATHRYN KEHOE.

Backstage Assistants:
Mlles. TAMSYN BARNICOT,
NICOLA SEENEY & KATY SNELL;
Messrs. PAUL LATHOM & FRANK PAGE.

Front of House Manager:
Mr. ARTHUR BANNISTER
assisted by Mlles. SHIRLEY BANNISTER,
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Afloat - after 16 year diversion

They came to Boscastle 'because of the sailing', stayed for sixteen years and rarely took to the sea - now Kevin and Lee Sellars and their 25ft boat are heading for the Mediterranean, fully intending to spend more time afloat. Another chapter in their romantic story begins.

It was in Kenya that they first met. Kevin, then an officer of the Coldstream Guards, was visiting friends. Lee had grown up in Africa, her childhood spent against a background of Mau Mau activity, although she remembers little of it. Eight years later, they met again in London and married soon afterwards.

There was little to suggest that Kevin would become Post Master and postman in a Cornish village; after 14 years in the forces, Kevin was working in the wine trade and although her family had left Kenya, Lee had had a spell back in Nairobi as a secretary.

The young couple decided that London was not the place they would choose to bring up a family. They discovered Boscastle and at that time boats were more in evidence. The harbour was less developed, Boscastle still had two banks (a third had only recently closed) and they found a 'unique' situation where 'real Cornish folk' gave them a warm welcome. They clearly remember Molly Statton who was the first to demonstrate the friendliness of Boscastle.

At that time, there was 'more freedom' for a postmaster; post-office officialdom has increased over the years. In a situation which depended on local custom (No business, no money!) the Sellars found that Boscastle people did support their post office.

Over the years, Kevin and Lee were also good customers - first of the playgroup and then the village school. At one time all three of their

daughters went to school within yards of their home, Kevin was a member of the PTA. The youngest of the daughters is presently the last of the family to be complete her education at Launceston College. The girls, says Lee with a smile, spent all their childhood here, 'from playground to pub'.

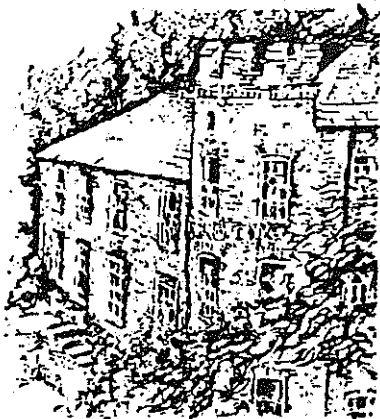
Kevin was for many years secretary of the Boscastle branch of the Royal British Legion as well as serving on the Parish Council. Perhaps it was the activity which kept him so fit for the apparent ease with which he traversed the length up from the harbour, delivering the post, has often drawn comment.

It was quite a wrench for them to set off in a caravan, towing the boat, to spend a year or so exploring Europe. The romance continues, and we shall have to wait for the next chapter, as they sail off into the Spanish sunset. YN



Lee & Kevin

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Boscastle Born

First of an Occasional Series in which Jim Castling talks to some of the best-known families in the Village.

THE HANCOCKS

You cannot spend much time in Boscastle without hearing the name 'Hancock' in some connection. If you follow football, you soon learn that Doreen, Mrs. Ronald Hancock, is President, no less, of Boscastle Football Club. In my case, quite soon after we moved into Valency House, Delia, Mrs. Sam Hancock, came to call and told us that she had once run it as a Hotel and had been responsible for building what became the Coffee Shop. At the time that was the only history we had of the place. Then, when I became involved with the VE Day 50th Anniversary celebrations, I heard from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hancock at Penally Court. As we settled in we became more aware of the extent of this Boscastle family.

When the idea came to write about some of the born-and-bred Boscastle people, I picked up the telephone to Delia and asked her to sweet-talk Sam into giving me some of his family background. We shall have to gloss over the small fact that Sam was not actually born in Boscastle. I plead that, distant as Tresparrett may be, for the purposes of this article, it can safely be treated as home territory. And if Sam was not actually 'Boscastle Born', there are enough of his close relations who *were* for them to qualify.

Sam is one of a family of seven children born to Mary and William Hancock. William himself was one of a family of 13, several of whom are still leading full lives. Indeed, at the age of 80, Sam can still boast 5 uncles extant of whom Edward is the oldest and Kitchener (a splendid name marking the period of his birth) is the youngest. All his aunts died before any of their brothers were taken. John, the eldest of the family, died a few years ago at Lewannick aged 101.

Sam's grandfather originally came from Port Isaac. He moved to Fenterleigh at Bossiney for a time before taking a farm at Tresparrett, near Otterham. One of Sam's uncles, Martin, is still working the same farm there at the age of 89. William, Sam's father, moved out in 1927 shortly to take his own farm at Treworld at Lesnewth. A little before Treworld, they spent some time at Newmills, the fairy-tale cottage in the Valency Valley now the home of National Trust Warden, Geoff Campion.

BAKER ON HORSEBACK

Sam tells how, as a teenager, he and his brothers spent much of their time on horse-back; it was their main means of transport in those days. They would ride down the wooded valley from Minster Church, turning right at Minster Bridge and following the Valency riverside path to visit their grandparents at Tresparrett. It was well before the National Trust owned them and there were often bullocks grazing in Minster Woods. It was for that reason that the gate was built across the path near Newmills. Sam remembers when both the baker and the milkman made their deliveries on horse-back through the woods to Newmills.

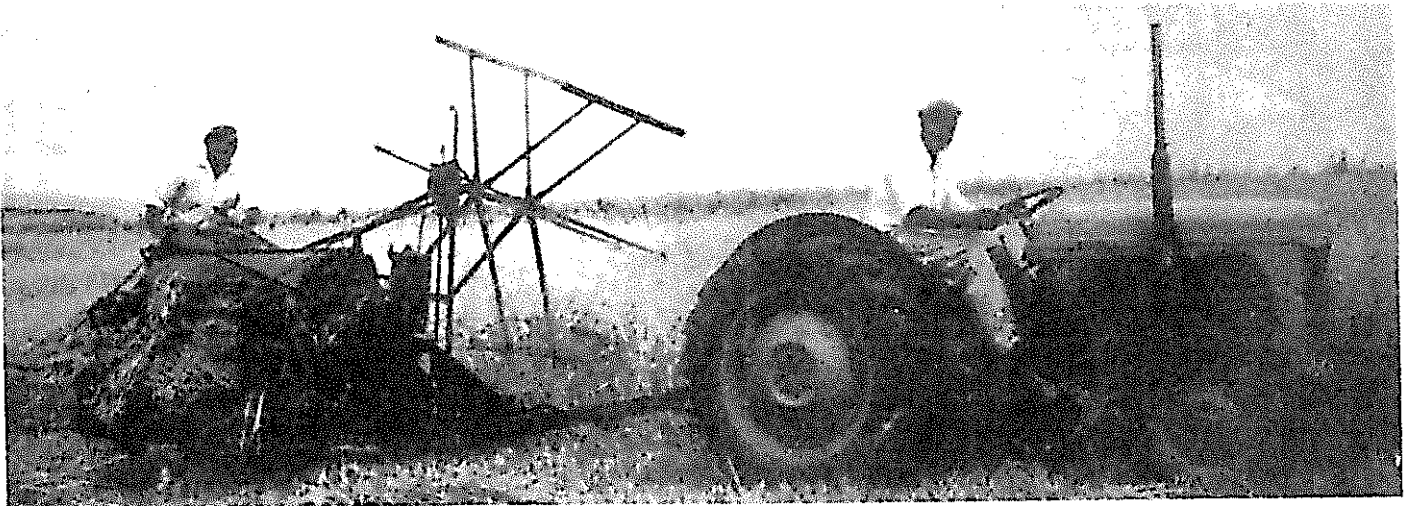
Of Sam's siblings, Mary, the eldest, and only sister and Leonard, the youngest brother, died some years ago. Den died very recently and received, according to Sam, a very moving service at Lesnewth Church. He had followed his father's footsteps, farming Treworld with his son Harold. Sam's surviving brothers, John, Charles and Ronald are, or have all been, farmers, all having started from scratch and acquired their own properties. Sometimes starting by renting from the Lord of the Manor, each gradually acquired his own land.

Brother John farms Tresuck, just outside the village on the Bude Road, helped by his son Royston. Ronald, now 70, farmed at Tintagel and Trafalgar (with the accent on the outer syllables) until he and Doreen retired to their magnificent view at the top of Green Lane. Sam still farms some land at Minster with fields at Forrabury stretching down to the cliff-top at Willapark. He is the longest-serving farmer on the stitches on Forrabury Common.

ROOM FOR WILD FLOWERS

Now owned by the National Trust, the stitches were, from mediaeval times, the property of the Parish.

Proceeds from their produce were shared with 'the poor of Boscastle'. Sam remembers when the stitches were ploughed with single-furrow, horse-drawn ploughs; they were turned much closer to the dividing banks then. These days, the banks are left so wide you



Sam Hancock and Frank Symons work 'the stitches'

can drive a tractor down them. Of course, that leaves more room for wild flowers to grow which, he feels, will be much to the delight of the National Trust. The picture shows him cutting corn on the stiches (he's the one on the binder) with Frank Symons many years ago.

A warm and welcoming host, Sam chuckles as he tells what it was like making a living from farming fifty years ago, working and ploughing with horses. All those years of a 5 a.m. start to the day to get the milking done; always at the mercy of the seasons: haytime and harvest time, "tilling of the tatties" and, when everything else is seen-to, the "stone-'edging".

This is the true 'every-day story of country-folk'. I hear about the family being woken by the dog barking and finding that a badger has eaten all the duck's eggs which were being hatched in a pen, and when the eggs were finished, the badger killed the duck itself, a performance which was repeated with sickening regularity. I had always understood that badgers never take livestock; what should I think now? Sam also tells of how he was lambing in the field next to Forrabury churchyard, with a ewe producing in one part of the field and another ewe about to give birth on the other side. Keeping watch between the two while the births were in progress, the fox managed to snaffle one lamb just when Sam was watching the other.

FINE SEAT ON A HORSE

Knowing a certain sensitivity of my wife, Jane, to the subject, Sam considerably avoids any discussion on fox-hunting. But it is obviously a pursuit which the Hancock brothers have followed with much enthusiasm. Delia's very impressive photograph albums show Sam's fine seat on a horse. And horses still occupy centre stage in the family. When it came to my turn to take pictures, Zorro the family pony, 27 years old and still going strong, was an essential member of the group. The other member is Sarah, Sam and Delia's very attractive sixteen-year old daughter.

The Hancock farmyard is well populated with fur and feather: both Muscovy and normal, domestic ducks, geese, hens and cockerels, exactly as you would hope for in a traditional yard. In the stable, Zorro's companions consist of a couple of miniature Shetland ponies (straight out of Thelwell), another pony, a smart cob and a fine dun horse with contrasting black mane and tail. The family clearly gets great pleasure from their animals, as do their visitors who occupy the self-catering, holiday cottage on the farm.

Family groups are something of a Hancock past-time. A few years ago they held a grand reunion at Otterham and, between brothers and sisters-in-law,



Sam, Delia and Sarah with Zorro

there were no less than 13 Hancocks present drawn their old-age pensions. As far as I can make out Boscastle is virtually ringed with Hancock land from Blackapits to Pentargon almost. That seems to me to be an entirely salutary enclave of the best of country lore and tradition, sealing us off from the harsh interferences of the outside world.

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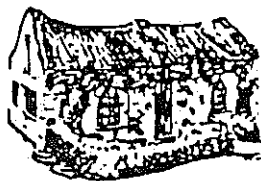
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Correspondence

From: The Museum of Witchcraft.

Dear Blowhole

Liz and I moved into the flat above the Museum late last October and are thoroughly enjoying life in Boscastle. We are amazed at the number of friends that we have made in a few months. We are also very impressed by the willingness of other traders and residents to assist us in our efforts to refurbish and rearrange the Museum.

We were however very surprised by the letters sent to the council opposing our recent application to retail goods from our foyer. Almost all the letters opposed our application on religious and moral grounds, many implying that the museum is a centre for Devil worship and Satanism.

I am writing this letter in the hope that we can assure residents of Boscastle that we are not Devil worshippers or Satanists and the museum is not a centre of evil activities.

Within days of purchasing the Museum we removed objects that could cause offence from the windows. We have changed many of the displays in an effort to portray a more accurate picture of Witchcraft, whilst removing some of the images that could possibly offend. We have even offered a local minister a space within the museum to display Christian views and attitudes to witchcraft.

Some of the letters received by the council described the Museum as 'the black spot of Boscastle'. We find it hard to believe that this is a

widely held view, will accept constructive criticism and will always welcome advice from locals.

Liz and I are keen walkers and are making the most of the beautiful countryside. We will often be seen tidying up litter left by less-caring individuals. We love Boscastle, its unspoilt countryside and friendly residents.

We are extremely busy refurbishing and cataloguing exhibits but will always find time for a cup of tea with residents who wish to discuss these issues further.

We will continue endeavouring to be courteous and polite to our neighbours and visitors and will remain tolerant of their differing religious beliefs.

Best Regards

Graham and Liz

Extract of a letter from Mr. N. Young, Headmaster of Boscastle School.

I am pleased to say that the children representing the school at this year's Youth Speaks were quite simply superb, and earned a great deal of praise from the judges and members of the audience. It was lovely to see their confidence and ability to put over points of view. My thanks again to Alison Sullivan for the work she has put into the teams. We look forward to 25th March when Anna David and Kieron and Lewis Sullivan will take on the best of Mid-Cornwall in the Area Final at Bodmin Community College.

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Farewell

Nora Biscombe



On January 24th, St Juliot Church was full to capacity as family and friends paid tribute to Mrs Nora Biscombe. Nora, who was born at New Mills, had been baptised, confirmed and married at St Juliot and was buried close to her husband Bill, who died twenty years ago.

Having spent most of her life as a farmer's wife at New Mills, Nora moved to Boscastle and lived for many years in Langfords Meadow.

She was the proud mother of two daughters, three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and her devotion to her family was mirrored in her love for St Juliot Church. It was Nora who instigated the Church Yard Fund which ensures that its quiet beauty is preserved, and she was a member of the PCC for many years, involved in the bi-annual Flower Festival and other church activities until ill health took its toll. She also gave time to Age Concern.

Nora was always there when others needed support and will be remembered for her courage during the years when she herself was ill.

Rest in Peace, Nora.

Old Soldier

The British Legion Standard was paraded at a Memorial Service in Forrabury Church for Mr. Alex Aitkin, who died in December. Alex, a Scotsman, had lived in Boscastle for 27 years. His military career began when he became a boy soldier in the Scots Dragoons. He served in the army of occupation in Germany after World War I, and in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in Egypt as well as in the Queen's Stables in London. After a spell as a civilian, he rejoined his old regiment in 1939, served again in Egypt and as Company Quarter Master Sergeant was involved in the North Africa campaign, the invasion of Sicily and the march through Italy.

He was a keen sportsman who loved cricket and swimming and became Featherweight Boxing Champion of the Army in Egypt.

After retirement here in Boscastle, Alex's preoccupations reflected his early life; he became President of the R.B.L., played snooker, loved fishing, and even in the last years of his life continued to enjoy Ballroom Dancing. He always said that he was fortunate to have lived in Boscastle, where he found happiness and many good friends.

Rest in Peace, Alex.

Den. Hancock

The very large congregation which gathered in and around Lesnewth Church for the funeral of 'Den' Hancock, paid a fitting tribute to a man who lived on and worked the land, within a few miles of the church, throughout his whole life.

Born at Tresparrett in 1914 and moving to Treworld with his family as a teenager, Den left school to work on the land.

As a young man he played football for Boscastle AFC and was also a member of the band. He took an active part in Boscastle Home Guard during the Second World War.

Farming has been described as his 'life and passion', and many residents remember him working the fields with horse-drawn plough. He

loved horses and regretted the introduction of the tractor. To the end of his life, he was a supporter of the North Cornwall Hunt and attended Point-to-Point meetings.

A drive to Lesnewth will never be quite the same - there was always the chance of a chat with Den on the way; his wonderful Cornish accent, sense of humour and news of 'world, as he called it, would brighten the day. He will be sadly missed by his family, the farming community for miles around - and by many other local residents.

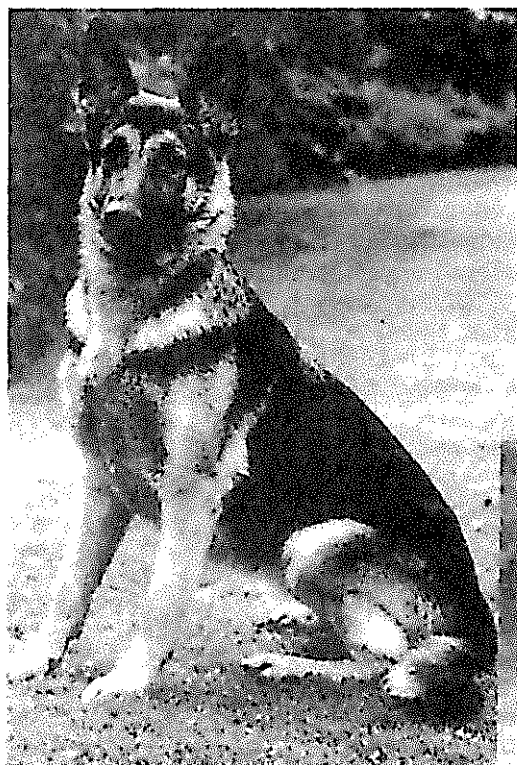
Rest in Peace, Den.



Alex Aitkin

The 'Boscastle' Guide Dogs

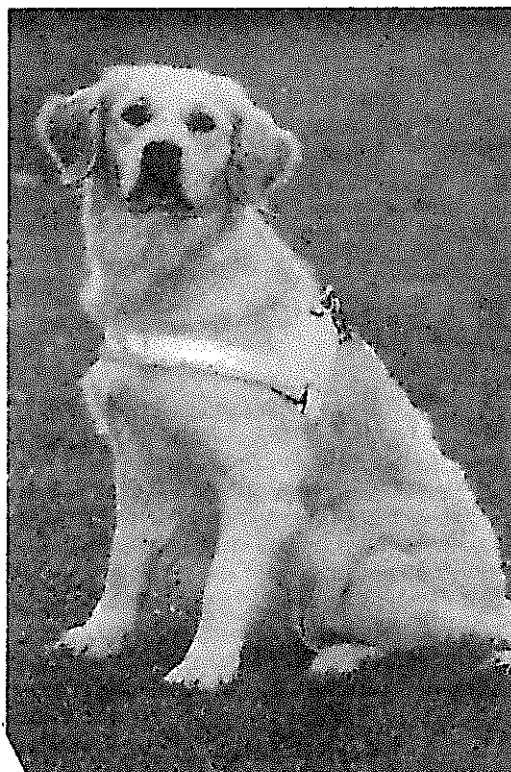
Resident's devoted and continuing efforts for the visually impaired



Minster - trained 1995



Meachard - trained 1996



Paradise - trained 1994

It is about four years since Bernice Lewis, inspired by a word from Jim Ferrett, contacted the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. So began a village effort which has so far provided for the training of three dogs. The first, with sponsorship name Paradise, was trained in 1994, and was followed by Minster (1995) and the most recent, a handsome black labrador, Meachard.

Bernice decided from the outset to aim at providing the money for Basic Training (£1,000 per dog) and developed an annual programme with this goal in mind. Each year, she has five fundraisers - at the Duck Race in May and Pongo Day in August, a stall (with support) at the Camelford Show, a coffee morning during Guide Dog Week and a collection at Normans in Launceston.

Her efforts are supported by various friends, and pupils at Boscastle School. She is grateful to Headmaster Neil Young and his pupils who collect stamps for her. (Used postage stamps, with a portion of the envelope still intact, can be utilised by the Association and Bernice would be pleased to receive them.)

She also has help at her coffee morning from a number of village residents - Beth and Angela Ferrett, Marion Ferrett, Vivienne Hircock, Barbara Kenyon, Annette Coker and others, some of whom join her in wielding collecting tins.

'Guide Dogs for the Blind' is now a very well-known charity, having been established in this county in 1934, but its very familiarity may mask for many of us, the enormity and importance of its work. There are now 4,320 guide dogs, each one specially bred and 'matched' to an individual, the

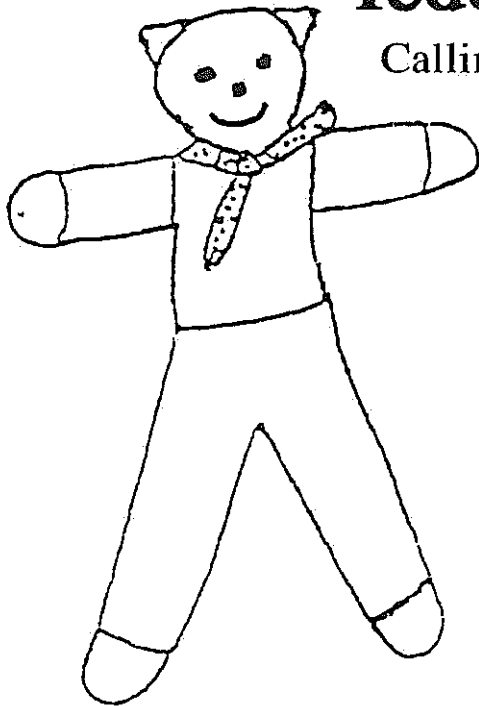
breeding stock numbers 270, puppies 960, dogs in training 720 - and 660 guide dogs have now retired.

The enormous cost of maintaining the breeding, puppy-walking, training and aftercare programme is met entirely from funds donated by the public. A blind person is charged only a nominal 50p for his or her 'canine eyes' and the association offers a feeding allowance to help with costs as well as paying vets' bills. Other help is available for the visually impaired; long cane training, daily living skills advice, an adventure activities group and a hotel created especially for guide dog owners and their dogs. It also funds ophthalmic and veterinary studies to improve the quality of life for visually-impaired people.

Groups which would like to know more of the association can contact Bernice (250217). She can arrange speakers, visits etc. We should make sure that in future, Familiarity breeds Support!

Teddies for Tragedies

Calling all knitters - can you help?



TEDDIES KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS

Double knitting wool. Size 10 needles. Main colour - for head and paws. Trouser colour. Jumper colour. Scarf colour.

Cast on 10 stitches main colour. (Garter St.) Knit 10 rows. Change to trouser colour and knit 30 rows. Make another leg the same way. Knit across all 20 stitches and work 16 rows. Change to jumper colour and knit 24 rows. Change to main colour for head and also change to stocking stitch. Work for one and a half inches and change to jumper colour. Continue remainder of Teddy in reverse order. Stitch down the sides of the head. With jumper colour, pick up 8 stitches either side of neck join (16 stitches in all) and knit 20 rows. Change to main colour and knit 10 rows for paws.

Sew up Teddy leaving opening in crotch. Sew diagonal to corners for ears before stuffing. Please stuff Teddy with one polyester or other healthy padding. Foam rubber is not recommended as babies may chew it. Then run a thread through the knitting around the neck to draw it in. Sew happy face on Teddy. For mouth please use either stem stitch or back stitch.

Scarf: Cast on 75 stitches. Knit 4 rows and cast off. Tie scarf on Teddy and sew firmly to back of neck. Do not sew down at front.

Please do not deviate from the pattern as we like all Teddies to look the same.

Teddies also require little bags made from material with drawstring at the top. Finished size 10" x 13". Please do not use elastic as drawstring.


Completed Teddies should be sent to Mrs. Audrey Pegrum, St. Nicholas, Glebe Road, Ramsden Bellhouse, Billericay, Essex CM11 1RJ. Enquiries? Phone 01268-710757

Could you spare an hour or two to knit a teddy? Doctors who treat children in Third World or worn-torn countries are asking for them. Children who have teddies to cuddle get better more quickly. Each teddy becomes the personal property of one child - a continuous supply is needed.

If you are willing to help, please follow the instructions below.

- Avoid the use of white wool, which is associated with funerals in some recipient countries.
- If possible, make a drawstring bag, measuring 10" by 13". (No elastic to be used)

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Our Representatives



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LONDON SW1A 0AA

After nearly five years back in Parliament I must confess that the aspect of the job I least enjoy is having to witness the absurd, irrelevant and disorderly exchanges between Messrs. Major and Blair, and their minions. They seem rather like the mock mediaeval jousting tournaments our Victorian predecessors invented.

The work I enjoy most is less visible. Cooperation across party lines make less good television but much better law.

I was elected an officer of the All Party Water Group and the All Party Tourism Group soon after I took my seat. Clearly, the issues of water charges, the bathing water clean up and the failure to invest in the promotion of our holiday industry are all of a very considerable importance to North Cornwall. I and my fellow officers, from other parties and other parts of Britain, are able to investigate problems, question the commercial interests and challenge Ministers.

Most satisfying of all, however, have been the activities of the All Party Groups I have myself initiated. . . one on Coastal issues and one to monitor the use of organophosphate (OP) pesticides. Both arose out of concerns here in Cornwall.

The first grew out of anxiety expressed to me by local full-time and auxiliary coastguards. They wanted a Parliamentary voice to express their concerns at the likely effects of 20 per cent funding and manpower cuts. Tragically, the three fatalities at Polzeath last summer seem to suggest that they were right to warn us.

When I led a Commons debate on this subject, I was supported by Conservative and Labour MPs as well.

Similarly, my role as convenor of the OP Group has nothing to do with my responsibilities as Liberal Democrat Rural Affairs Spokesman in Parliament. It stems directly from hearing the experience of many Cornish sheep farmers, whose lives have been blighted by exposure to these lethal chemicals, without adequate warning or protection. Again I have had loyal support from MPs of other parties.

When school and college students from North Cornwall visit me at Westminster I always try to take them to a Committee Room, away from the noisy confrontation of the Commons Chamber. There I demonstrate to them how members can perform their true function as Parliamentarians ... acting as watchdogs, checking the Government's legislation and reflecting the mood of the nation.

And I make no apology for spending more time on this constructive work than on the Party games on the floor of the House!
(7th February 1997)

Paul Tyler



one and all *onen hag oll*
CORNWALL
COUNTY COUNCIL

There is a Chinese curse, that says: "May you live in interesting times". As far as Council work goes, these are interesting, by which I mean difficult, times.

Whitehall decides how much money will come from Central Government funds to local councils and also we are told how much in total we may spend, which is not enough to maintain existing services. The trouble is that Cornwall County Council, which has always been economically run, gets the same treatment as the extravagant ones, so we increasingly find more savings hard to make.

BOSCASTLE PROBLEMS

This winter Boscastle has been affected, because budget cuts have meant that road gritting has suffered in this area. But, balanced against that, money is to be spent on the village school, to provide newer accommodation. The Council has to give with one hand, while taking away with the other.

Recently, I have been to two meetings with Government Ministers in London to talk about money - but to little avail. It is as Pharoah said to his Israelite slaves:

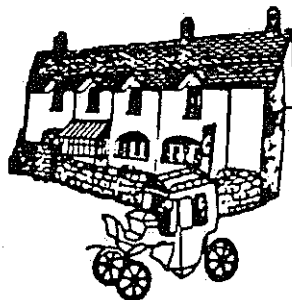
"Now get back to work; you will not be given any straw, but you must make the same number of bricks."
- Exodus Ch.5 v.18

So, I will continue to work to make sure that the money we have is spent as fairly and, economically, as possible.

By the way, this report is nothing to do with Party Politics - no matter who wins the General Election, they will not make Cornwall's problems go away just like that.

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Doctor's Corner: | A Year in the Life of a G.P. Registrar

In September 1995 Dr. Ian Birch joined the Boscastle Surgery as a G.P. Registrar, as part of his training. Here he reflects on his experiences.

A year in Boscastle has passed very quickly. It is now over and I am heading to New Zealand for a 6 month working holiday. So now seems a good time to reflect on my 12 months spent in this beautiful part of Cornwall.

It all began when I applied for a post on the Cornwall GP Training Scheme. In order to become a GP, Doctors need to spend at least 3 further years of training after their initial qualification. The first two years I spent in Truliske Hospital, Truro working in 6 monthly posts of paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry and geriatrics. It was time to spend one year at Boscastle Surgery as a GP Registrar.

This year must be spent at a designated training practice. There is a good choice of these in Cornwall, but I chose Boscastle and Tintagel because of the picturesque location and relaxed, informal attitude of the staff who were equally willing to share a joke, as to be serious, when the opportunity arose.

At first I found General Practice to be unfamiliar and it took some time to settle in. The style of consulting is very different from the hospital setting. In a hospital you may spend up to one hour with a new patient. In General Practice you have only 10 minutes. And the patients are varied - from babies to grandmothers, from a sore throat to a heart attack. So you have to learn a new method of seeing patients - gathering information, determining the problem and coming to an agreed plan of action in a fairly short space of time.

This is not easy, but to help with the learning process I had a weekly tutorial with Dr. Jarvis, a half-day release to Truro to meet up with other GP Registrars, and also limitless informal help from Drs. Garrod and Abbott and the other Practice Staff. I also had joint surgeries with Chris and videotaped myself consulting to help highlight areas where I might make improvements!

Furthermore, I found my relationship with patients had changed. No longer were they anonymous faces that I would never see again - as can be the case in

hospitals. I was dealing with people over a long period of time and with people I might well meet the 'Cobweb' or play football with. Although strange at first, I found this to be far more rewarding and enjoyable. At times, I learnt that it can be moving to be involved with families when they are experiencing major life events - both happy and sad. Living in close proximity to your patients also means there is nowhere to hide if you make a mistake.

I felt some details had not been properly covered in medical school. For example, how to follow directions across Bodmin Moor on a dark, foggy night, or the meaning of certain words such as 'Emmett' and 'matey' or phrases such as 'where are you to?!' There were also some circumstances I was not prepared for - on one occasion I had to climb through a window to see a child because the front door key had been lost. Another time I was locked out of the branch surgery in Jacobstow, and considered seeing people in my car, before being rescued by the Headmistress of the Primary School who let me use her room. The large amount of time driving alone eventually took its toll, when my car succumbed to a combination of sharp bend, milk lorry and icy road!

Out of hours, I found I was quickly made to feel welcome. I was fortunate enough to play football for the Boscastle team and found a regular running partner. Contacts made here also led to many evenings in the local hostels.

Indeed, I would say that the overriding memory of Boscastle and Tintagel is the friendly nature of the people. It is easy to say - but I do not mean to sound glib. I think you are lucky if people wave to you on the way to work. Compare this with the anonymity and hustle and bustle of the city.

There are now quite a lot of exams and tests to take in the registrar year, which is unfortunate because it is also a time of adapting to change. However, I managed to pass them and so have now qualified as a GP. I will eventually return to the UK and get a 'proper job', when my given portion of call will be Cornwall.

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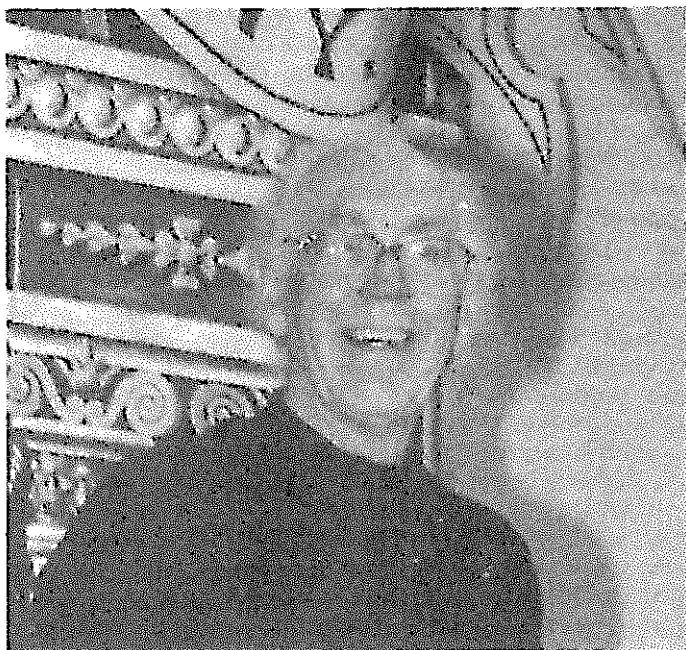
Thelma Stewart Boscastle 250444

Member of the Association of Reflexologists



Clerihew

Michael Turner, secret Thespian dreamer;
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(Assuming Ruth, herself, has no objection.)



Enquire Within

Mrs. Garbett has divulged the meanings of last edition's queries:

EGLETS are hawthorn berries. Mrs. Garbett says they were eaten by children, but they are mostly hard stone-seed. Haws being a cardiac tonic and a diuretic, it is fortunate that they are not too palatable. They make an excellent liqueur when mixed with brandy, according to one herbalist. Young hawthorn leaves, picked in April, can be added to salads; they have a pleasantly nutty taste.

BULLOMS: "First a sloe, then a bullom, then a plum". The sloe or blackthorn is *Prunus Spinosa*. Interestingly, sloes are known in Shropshire as bullens. The bullace is *Prunus Domestica*. The fruits are like large egg-shaped sloes, though of variable colours. The bullace was the domestic plum before cultivation produced more succulent varieties. The fruit is not quite as sour as the sloe, but is still usually left on the branch until early frosts have helped to reduce its acidity.

For the other explanations I shall quote Mrs. Garbett:

"All used **SKIPPERS** to truckle their hoops. In my day they were metal hoops, not wood.

"**MASHING** - I remember where I heard it first. I said to Jim Ferrett's mother 'Is Dell courting Mr. Beasley?' She said, 'Not just courting, they are mashing serious'."

P.A.



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Mac's Tracks

Film

Hi! Again only one visit to the cinema since the last Blowhole. Strangely out of character for me, as I normally dislike film musicals, I went to see 'Evita'. I have to say I was amazed at the film's power. Madonna played the lead role of Eva Peron, a remarkable woman who hypnotised a nation of 18 million people before her untimely death due to cancer in 1952, aged 33. Her story is recounted through the eyes of Che (Antonio Banderas), who links together the whole film superbly. This film has to be seen; Madonna (of whom I have never been a great fan) lives and breathes every scene, historically true, moving and most intriguing. I have since started to read her biography - and did you see the Channel programme 'The Unquiet Grave', which followed her body's movements after her death? Enlightening, but chilling, as you follow the sequence of events of her embalming, and continuing power even after death until her final return to her family tomb in 1970. Quite an unusual story!

Music

Music this issue is quite varied, starting with Suede 'Coming Up' released last September. This is rather too smooth (as in Suede) for me. A little too 'Bowie', a vocal style that I find grating, almost irritating, but a good selection of three-minute pop songs in a league alongside Blur and Oasis. Not for me - it's at times like these you are thankful to friends for the loan of their CDs!

Next, 'Beautiful South'. 'Blue is the colour'; 11 tracks following on from their 'Best Of' Double Album. This is another collection of pretty tunes, sometimes jolly with a singalong accessibility, with one exception, a track called 'Liars Bar' in which Paul Heaton twists his voice into tortured Tom Waits soundalike style. (Why?) This is one album which I good to sing along to by the radio, but would I buy it?

Mentioning buying CDs, there are a couple of releases that I'm looking forward to. John Lee Hooker with 'Don't Look Back' (on Feb. 17th) and 'Van Morrison' (title not known) in first week in March. Two good old faithfuls that I hope won't disappoint the soul.

Finally as promised in the last issue a review of the Little Axe CD, 'Slow Fuse'. This is the second offering from Skip McDonald, exploring the blues and gospel in an astonishingly modern approach. It is an assortment of strong, soulful songs ensuring that underneath all this modern technology, a human heart can still be heard to beat. I find that this creeps back to my stereo quite often!

Until the next Blowhole. Enjoy your leisure time.

Mac





The Harbour

That was a winter, that was.

'Ice, winds and high tides' - that is the story of the harbour in recent weeks. Photographers and intrepid explorers have braved the harbour paths, ducks have been grateful for the scraps thrown across the ice and Pixie Pete has been resting, his 'boat' home having been demolished by the wind.

An impression of the 'Night of the Great Hurricane', October 1996

Having watched a television weather-forecast, one was expecting some pretty horrid stuff. But that afternoon, having been forewarned by realist Phil Smith, that the worst of the storm might well co-incide with an extra-high tide, I hurried home with my shopping to batten down all possible hatches and prepare for the worst! I started with the back yard and withdrew a few precious potted plants into my rear hall-way.

From my lounge windows I saw a steady stream of rain-coated intrepid tourists, heading towards the sea, presumably to watch the waves. Later, one or two determined ones were seen battling their way along the southern track towards the lobster pot area, cameras flashing at intervals.

Quite suddenly, the wind, which had been blowing strongly, increased with screaming intensity. By now daylight was fading and the heaving seas could just be seen battling decisively forwards up the inner harbour. 'Now is the time to catch a harmless tourist and ask for help to place my sandbags at the front door,' I thought! Luckily a couple approached and, after hearing of my plight, were keen to assist.

The harbour had for some time been invaded by South West Water's 'Brent' contractors. Works had included excavating a very large hole near the lower bridge, outside the shop now belonging to 'Cornish Goodies'. This hole had been protected by encasing metal

railings. The gale soon blew these flat. A single workman arrived and tried vainly to re-erect the barriers, muttering as he did so: "Do you *always* have weather like this down here?" Shortly after this a severe gust blew him down the hole, luckily still clinging to part of the barrier. People rushed to help but he emerged unscathed and was assisted in laying all the barriers flat on the grass beside the Valency stream.

The huge waves drew even nearer! Spray flew diagonally across the harbour, spectacularly rising to some 150 feet into the night sky. Most tourists took cover, but a group of figures could be seen standing, silhouetted on the bridge, gripping the parapet to remain upright, and ducking for safety when the larger waves broke over the bridge.

At this point I withdrew, temporarily, indoors. It was intimidating to see the reflection of my *fixed* ceiling-lights in the dining room swinging up and down in the plate glass of my patio doors! I hastily switched the lights off and returned to my front door; at least there was some company outside!

Here a strange sight met my eyes: a line of tourists facing *inwards*, cheeks protected by hands, pressed against my front wall! "Flying glass!" they screamed. Apparently, the new wooden 'waste-bin crate', belonging to Cornish Goodies, had been bodily picked up by the gale. Its contents of broken glass and pots were flying around at eye-level! Soon, luckily, the fragments were grounded or blown into the Valency. At this point the recovering tourists were approached by a determined spectre, fully storm-clad plus waders, who said "Have you seen any of my lifebuoys? If so, *please* let me know." On closer inspection, he *had* one, safely threaded up his arm!

Large metal dustbins banged up and down the Valency; all types of debris from slates and drain covers to seaweed blew around everywhere. The noise was supplemented by the approach of Brent's heavy 'lifting' vehicles, yellow beacons flashing atop!

Suspended by chains they carried enormous steel plates. They were intent on covering those holes, somehow! This was a feat of endurance and ingenuity, in the face of gusts to some 110 mph!

Meanwhile, Linda from the Youth Hostel came to see how I was faring. She said: "It is a *new* experience sitting in the Y.H. dining-room, and admiring the view *beneath* the waves as they sweep past the windows!"

One can only echo Norman Webber's subsequent T.V. interview: "I've never seen anything like it!" S.J. Hunt

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Weather Report



LESNEWTH STATION.

Rainfall figures:-

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Nov.	138.9 mm	233.2 mm
Dec.	118.0 mm	60.1 mm
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Jan.	215.6 mm	29.0 mm

Greetings to you all.

November began wet and windy. The 11th, 12th and 13th were frosty mornings. Thereafter it rained daily to the end of the month, this being the wettest November since 1992 when 262.2 mm was recorded.

December 1st, misty wet beginnings, rain cleared by mid morning only to return by evening with very strong winds. 6th & 7th; two severe frosts. The middle of the month became very mild for a few days, which of course brought mist and drizzle. I actually rather enjoy these misty days which probably make me a little odd. The shortest day brought drastic changes on the weather front. It became very cold with biting easterly winds. December continued in this vogue. There were beautiful sunny days, Christmas Day being one of them. As the ground froze harder, the birds were constant visitors at their feeders. Rainfall lowest since 1991, when 52.0 mm was recorded.

January and still no respite from the cold; in fact it was even colder. Frozen pipes were common place. Plumbers smiling and busy - well, definitely the latter. Crawling around under floor boards and in dark dusty roofs probably does not make one smile too much. Towards the end of January, the temperature eased somewhat. Most days were quite dull and grey. Rainfall lowest since 1987 when 22.4 mm was recorded.

February and some rain has arrived, thank the Lord. Snowdrops have popped up to brighten our days and daffodils are appearing. There is much to look forward to now, with spring approaching and daylight hours lengthening. Full February report next time.

Take Care.

Val Gill.

On a personal note I wish to make a plea - Lesnewth Church requires an organist. Is there a person out there who could help us please? See p. 7

DAVID WASHER

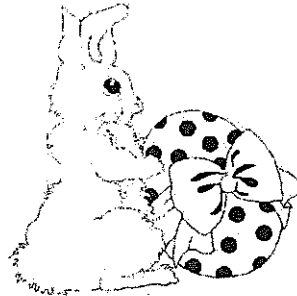
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1st Mondays, 2.00pm -
Over 50s Club
2nd Tuesday - W.I.
Tues, Thurs. & Fri a.m. -
Playschool
Wednesday a.m. -
Mothers and Toddlers
Wednesday 7.30pm (till 19th March) -
Gardening Class
Saturdays 8th & 15th March (all day) -
WEA Basketmaking Class
• For other events, see calendar

BOOKINGS: Ring 250500

A Chance to Paint

Rosalind Eastman has again responded to popular demand and is holding a number of Water Colour Workshops on Wednesday afternoons.

Ring her for details: 250670

Triple Chancel

An exhibition at Carol Vincent's studio, Half Acre on March 29th and 30th will have much to offer Boscastle residents and visitors. The work of the very accomplished Monday and Tuesday artists will be complemented by that of eight 'A' Level students and younger children, and will also afford a chance to wander Carole's unusual and colourful garden.

The studios and garden will be open from 11am to 5pm on both days; works on display will include both paintings and three dimensional work.

Devon Exhibition - Colour Concrete.

An exhibition entitled 'A Celebration of Colour Concrete' is to be held in the Wheel Room of the Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey from April 26th to May 18th. This solo exhibition will show examples of the innovative, unique work of Boscastle's Carole Vincent.

Readers may have seen photographs of some works in the national press; Carole's work was featured in colour in the Guardian's Weekend Colour Section recently, engendering great interest throughout the country.

As the Blowhole goes to press, we mourn the passing of Norman Webber. Tribute will be paid to him in a later edition.

What's On

MARCH

Sun. 9th Mothering Sunday Family Service -
10.15am Forrabury Church.
Special lunch, £6.50 at the Cobweb.
Tues. 11th 2.00pm W.I. in V.H. 'Working with
Pewter', by Mrs A. Gubbin.
Wed. 12th 10.00am Coffee Morning at 'Sunset'
Under Rd. (Mrs Manning) for School.
Sat. 15th Willow Workshop, Village Hall
Mon. 17th Cottage Garden Soc. - Visit to Brooks
Garden Centre. Dep. 6.30pm (see p. 37)
Sat. 22nd Air Ambulance Jumble Sale, Vill. Hall
Tues. 25th Bowls Match, Village Hall.
Youth Speaks final, Bodmin Comm. Coll.
Wed. 26th End of School Term.
Thur. 27th Maundy Thurs. Service 8.00pm
at Lesnewth Church.
8.00pm Parish Council AGM, Village Hall.
Fri. 28th Good Fri. Service 1 - 2pm.
at Forrabury Church.
Sat. 29th Motor Cycle Club Rally at
Treworld 7.0am - 2.0pm.
Sun. 30th **Easter Day** - for Services see
Church & Chapel, Page 16.
2.00pm dep. Davidstow Airfield - Easter
Egg Bike Run (see p. 11)

APRIL

Tues. 8th 7.30pm W.I. in V.H. 'Screech Owl
Sanctuary' - the care of sick owls.
Wed. 9th Cricket meeting 8.00pm at 'Welly'.
Mon. 14th School Term starts.
Tues. 22nd Cricket Season starts.
Wed. 30th Cricket v. Port William. 6.00pm.

MAY

Tues. 6th Boscastle School closed for day.
Thur. 8th Ascension Day. Christian Aid Week,
Special Service 7.30pm Forrabury.
Tues. 13th 7.30pm W.I. Discussion on
Resolutions. Members evening.
Fri. 16th Football Club Dinner Dance.
Sun. 18th Whitsunday.
6.30pm Special Thanksgiving Service,
Lesnewth - & refreshments - completion
of 'Raise the Roof' appeal.

Entertainment at the Cobweb

March 8th - Strung Out 22nd - Graham Hicks
29th - Atlantic Highway April 5th - Blind Panic
12th - One-Way Street 19th - Jail House 26th -
TBA May 3rd - Sam's Brother's Band 10th -
Strung Out 17th - Huncle Eric 24th - Billy Mac
31st - Blind Panic June 7th - George Nix 14th -
One-Way Street 21st - Jail House 28th Sam's
Brother's Band.

Boscastle Visitor Centre Update

The Visitor Centre has been ticking over throughout the winter months with those visitors who have been about delighted to find us open. This winter we have had many visitors from Australia and the USA.

Burst pipes in the adjoining toilets meant that we were without water for about ten days but thanks to very willing volunteers we remained open and luckily suffered no damage.

We are now starting to get ready for the season with Easter not far away; we have the North Cornwall Guide available. If you wish to have a copy of this guide, please ask at the counter. 'Coast Lines' will be available from the middle of March.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the centre I would be delighted to see you. Please feel free to come and have a chat about what is involved. You will not be put under any obligation.

If there are any organisations planning fundraising events please do let me have your posters so that I can display them on the notice board outside the centre.

Rebecca David,
Visitor Centre Manager

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

MARCH ACTIVITY

Monday 17th March, 7 p.m. (depart Boscastle 6.30 p.m.) Hanging Baskets.

A visit to Brooks Garden Centre, Stratton. Demonstration of making up hanging baskets, and a chance to see shrubs in season.

Cost: £1.25 per person. 10% discount on any purchases made on the night. Car drivers who are able to offer a lift to others will not be charged.

Phone Nick Herrington (250082) to book your place and/or offer lifts for others.

Future Events

1. Visit to RHS Garden at Rosemoor, Great Torrington - Sat. 28th June. Coach dep. 9.30am.

2. Visit to Killerton House, Exeter - Late July.

Phone Nick Herrington to book a place or for more details. Everyone welcome. Details will be published later, but will depend on numbers sharing transport etc.

Get Sowing

Don't forget to sow seeds and take cuttings to be sold at a plant sale (probably early June). All money raised will help to affray costs of speakers and subsidised coach trips. (Only those donating plants will benefit from subsidies)

Watch out for posters announcing forthcoming events.
N.H.

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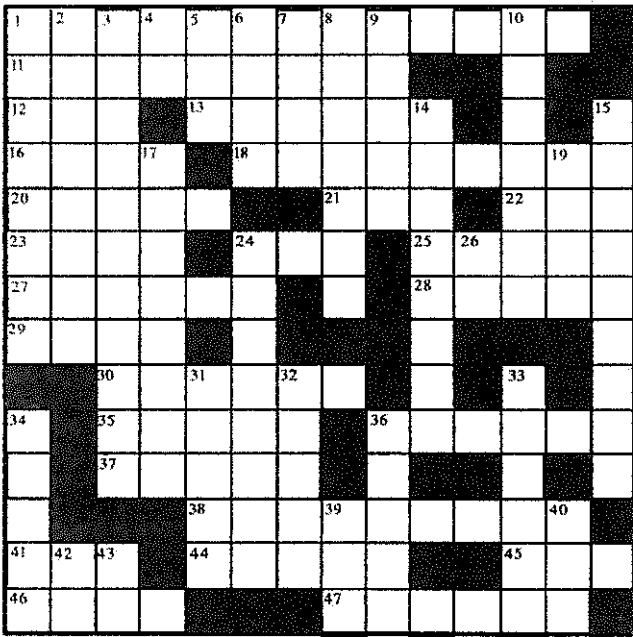
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TWIN PIERS PUZZLES



Answers to Crossword in last edition:

ACROSS: 1.Frankincense 10.Robin 11.Rib 13.Atomize
15.Orange 17.Nod 18.Government 20.Greyhound 22.At
23.Scissors 25.Parr 29.Onus 30.Arum 31.Usual 33.End
35.Nemo 36.Burnt 37.Ace 38.Is 39.Paca 40.Sea 41.Stir
44.Genre 46.Outhouse 48.Ail 49.Tied 50.Truant
51.Breton

DOWN: 1.Frangipani 2.Rotor 3.Abode 4.Nim 5.Knight
6.Neavus 7.Norn 8.Erne 9.Abet 12.Ignorance 14.Zoo
15.Ordinance 16.Amass 19.Encouraged 21.Yarmouth
24.Sultana 26.Ares 27.Rum 28.Hub 32.Sup 33.Easel
34.Deadpan 41.Star 42.Iota 43.Ruin 45.Rile 47.Set

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

1. Tropical plant 11. Fixation 12. Employ
13. Crept 16. Herb 18. Assistant 20. Perfect
21. Consumed 22. Baton 23. Burial Chamber
24. Lair 25. Machine 27. Stronghold
28. Minute pore on leaf 29. Girl's name
30. Silvery metallic element 35. Lacerate
36. Covered walk 37. Woman's name
38. Dissolve 41. Large tank 44. Russian
Revolutionary 45. Rule 46. Public School
47. Sensitive

DOWN

1. Warrior Queen 2. Volcanic Rock 3. Futility
4. Germanium 5. Donkey 6. Egyptian Goddess
7. Blood of pheasants 8. Vent in earth's crust
9. Still 10. Coarse grains 14. A judge
15. Flowering shrub 17. Hitherto 19. Chamber
24. Mocking 26. Bible 31. Confusion of voices
32. Cavalryman 33. Livestock 34. Search
36. Compensate 39. Mine 40. Attention
42. Preposition 43. Preposition and Adverb



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FOOTBALL



1st TEAM

The first team is at present going through a vary shaky period with a poor run of results leaving them hovering just below half-way in the Premier Division and out of all but two of the Cup Competitions. As in previous seasons, injuries and unavailability of regular players makes it difficult to field a settled and stable team, which is necessary if any progress is to be made.

To date, their league form reads: Played 11. Won 4. Drawn 2. Lost 5. Points 14. They still remain in the Duchy K.O. Cup and in the St Breward Cup (in which they are the reigning champions). Some drastic improvement is needed if Boscastle are to progress in either competition.

2nd TEAM

When the first team is struggling, this is usually reflected in the progress made by the second team, and this is definitely the case this season. The second team have had a very mixed season so far, presently occupying ninth position in the league of ten teams. The record: Played 14. Won 2. Drawn 4. Lost 8. Points 10.

They are also involved in a divisional cup competition playing against four other teams on a home'n away basis, but as in the main league, the results have been very mixed, and they have no chance of qualifying.

Despite their inconsistent results so far this season much progress has been made by local youngsters with Johnny Mugford, Sam Washer, John Wood and Ben Smith emerging with a lot of credit, which is nice to witness. They have all played on various occasions with Johnny and Sam both scoring vital goals in important games. This season these are the first boys to make the step-up into adult football. They, along with the large gang of boys who are seen 'kicking around' on Saturday afternoons, make the club's future look bright.

New Strip.

Soon after the first team were lucky enough to have a new strip donated by 'local boy' Malcolm Biddick, the second team also came up trumps when another generous businessman offered to donate a new strip to them. The new sponsors are Highfield Dental Practice, which is owned by local couple Phil and Tracy Higgs. (Phil being a valued player for many seasons before old age took its toll!)

Phil said that many months of trying every other way of catching the manager's eye and not being selected, he decided that perhaps if he bought a new strip, he might stand a better chance of being picked!

Fancy Dress Buffet.

On the 14th December, Boscastle Football Club held its annual Buffet/Fancy Dress disco at the Lanteglos Hotel and as in previous years it was a very enjoyable evening.

Although attendance was slightly down, the standard of fancy dress was as good as ever, with a lot of thought and effort going into the costumes.

Local mothers Vanessa and Mandy, (who betwee them, and their husbands, have secured the futur of the football club) were judged to be the winner of the F/D Competition - dressing up as Boscastle answer to French & Saunders.

Bingo.

The club held a very successful, well-attende Bingo evening at the Cleave Hall recently. All ha an enjoyable night, crossing off those winnin numbers and picking-up the magnificent display c prizes that were on offer, which were donated b the players and committee of the club. A total o £270 profit was made, which will go toward swelling the club coffers. (Thanks to anyone wh helped in any way)

Football Dinner /Dance.

This year's dinner will be on Friday 16th Ma at the Bullers Arms, Marhamchurch. Please rin Dave Boskey on 213954 for your tickets. M.I



Bowood

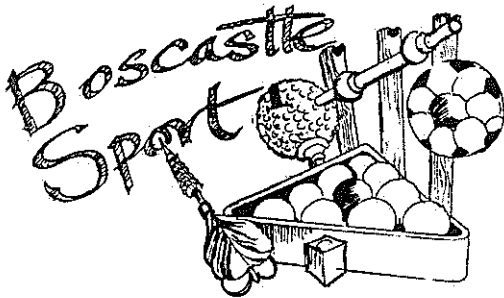
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'GOLF MONTHLY' RATING 10/10

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TIME TO OIL YOUR BAT

Two Invitations for the Cricket Season

THE WELLY XI

Being great patrons of the performing and visual arts, the 'Welly' is equally renowned for its sponsorship of sport - darts, pool, golf and five-a-side. We are now entering an era of the gentleman's game of cricket. Our captain Adrian Purser (250027), ably assisted by that well-known cricket player and coach John Dipper, are looking for KEEN players to strengthen their squad and sign up for the Tayler's Tintagel Evening League.

The first match against the 'Welly's' old adversaries the Port William is on Wednesday 30th April at 6 p.m.

Would any interested parties, old or young, good or keen to learn, pop into the 'Welly' and sign up, or speak to me (Victor 250202) or Adrian (250027)?

Christmas Present.

A Boscaste gentleman had quite a surprise on Christmas morning when he opened his door and stooped to collect his milk. He found that he was not alone - this lady was waiting for him. Has the jelly fiend changed tactics?



We look forward to seeing any interested people at our first team meeting on Wednesday 9th April (nosh provided at 8 p.m.). V.T

BUDDING BOTHAMS

This season the 'Tayler's Tintagel Evening League commences on the 22nd April, with all games being played at the Tintagel Cricket ground 'The Butts' Tintagel. The village has two sides - 'The Cobweb' and 'The Welly', but the new construction of the league means these two teams won't clash.

This season the league has been divided into two sections of six, with teams playing each other twice, setting-up some interesting clashes. If there are any budding Ian Bothams or Fred Truemans, I expect Adrian or Victor would be very pleased to hear from you. MF

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Paul Lathom recently gained a silver medal for U13 Boys 7 Lap race and bronze in the 8 Lap Parlaaf at the Cornish Championships. He was also selected to run for Cornwall at the South West Championships at Exeter on 22nd February. Cornwall won, so Paul will now be taking part in the National Championship at Birmingham on the same week end as the . . .

LONDON MARATHON

Janet Lathom is currently in training for her fourth London Marathon on 13th April. This year she will be collecting sponsorship for Launceston Athletics Club, where her two children are members and she helps coach.



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