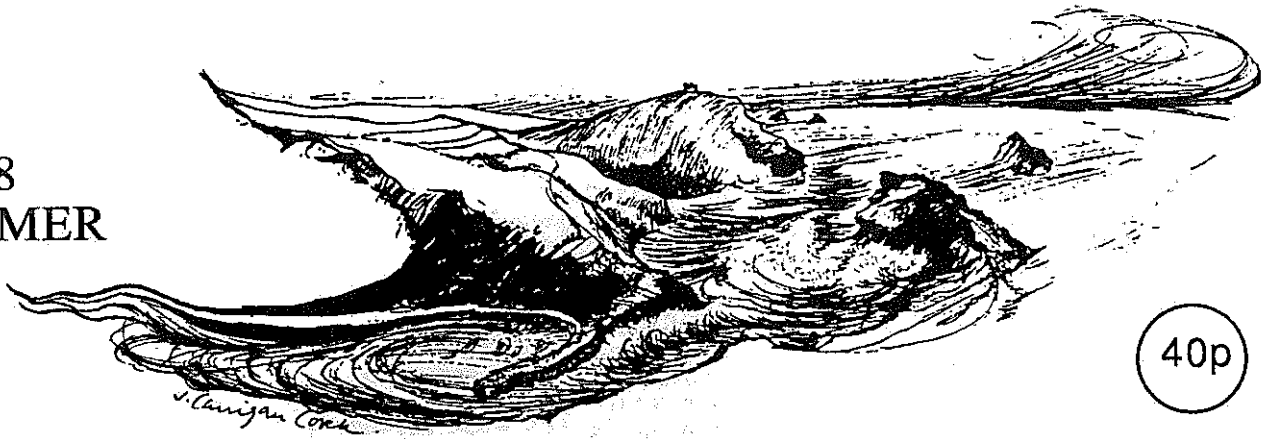


No. 18
SUMMER
1997



40p

BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

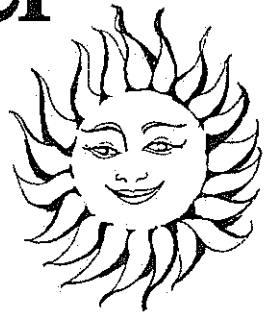
Celebrating Summer



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Praise for School

OFSTED Report 'Value for Money'

Do Boscastle residents need an official report to establish that our primary school plays a key role in the life of the community or that it gives 'value for money'?

In the words of one of its pupils, the Boscastle C.P. School was 'bombarded with the dreaded OFSTED inspectors during the Spring Term.' Their report praises the hard-working teachers, and notes the 'vision and commitment' of its headmaster whilst highlighting the enthusiasm and motivation of pupils. Administrative and support staff also contribute much to the work of the school, enabling it to function effectively and enhance the pupils' learning, say the inspectors.

The broad and balanced curriculum, standards in speaking and listening, mathematics, science and information technology, the wide range of extra-curricular learning experiences and the provision for pupils with special needs also elicit praise.

Details of the report have already been made known to Governors and parents - and to the general public through the medium of the local press. Official reports make dry reading and there is little call for repetition of educational jargon within these pages, but this may well be an appropriate time to highlight one characteristic of our school to which the inspectors, the governors and the headmaster, Mr. Neil Young, have drawn attention.

In his post-OFSTED comment, Mr. Young chose the word 'inclusive' to define the school's ethos, adding that it valued the vital contribution made by

parents, past pupils and the wider community. Such involvement is self-evident: local artists, musicians and others with particular experience willingly give their time to share their expertise with our children; grandparents and other friends and relatives have given practical help with maintenance of the buildings; generous financial support is provided by pubs and other businesses and the governing body comprises a representative group whose individual expertise includes outdoor pursuits, art and medicine. The school also enjoys good contacts with church and chapel.

Readers who have been present at the school's delightful Christmas presentations in the Chapel or attended the annual Christingle service in Minster Church will immediately note that the interchange between school and community is a two-way process.

Many pupils who leave the school to continue their education in Camelford or beyond subsequently become part of the resources; 'Ex-pupils lead clubs' announces one item in the Junior Blowhole, citing their input in sports and the chess club.

Boscastle C.P. School is, quite simply, a vital, integral part of our community. Whilst other small communities lose their school, ours grows from strength to strength - the pages of the Blowhole frequently bear witness to its achievements.

We have no need to study OFSTED's findings. We can safely leave it to the governors and staff to consider and act upon the minutiae of the report. We know that the school gives very good 'value for money'.

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

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Special Thanks to Michael Parsons for assistance.

Wool from locally reared sheep

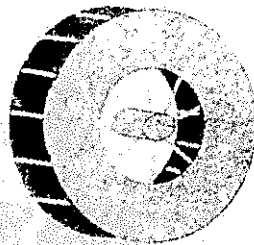
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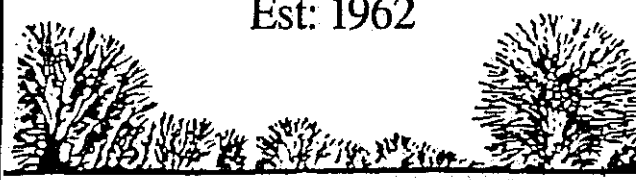
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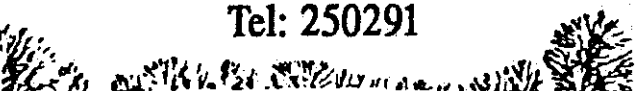


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Sue Bowen following in the steps of An Gof



**KESKERDH
KERNOW
500
1497-1997
CORNWALL
MARCHES ON**

On the 24th of May 500 years ago a smith from St. Keverne, having found the taxes imposed by Henry 7th to fund his invasion against the Scots somewhat crippling (sound familiar?), decided that he and a group of like-minded villagers should petition the king for relief.

The smith (An Gof, in Cornish), was Michael Joseph, possibly of Iris descent. He set off with his small band of petitioner for London, and in Bodmin he met up with a Lawye by the name of Thomas Flamank. The small band of followers began to expand.

By the time they crossed the Tamar, almost certainly via Dunheved Bridge, the gathering was quite a respectable size. However, the petition was still intended to be a peaceful request to the King for relief for the poor of Kernow. In peace they made their way through Tiverton, Taunton, Wells and Winchester to Guildford where, after a slight skirmish, more of a pub brawl than an armed battle they arrived at Blackheath overlooking the City of London. Unfortunately the king had not yet marched his army northwards. In the battle of June 17th, despite fighting courageously against overwhelming odds, the Cornish were slaughtered. An Gof and Flamank were Hung, Drawn and Quartered, their heads stuck on posts on London Bridge. Before their execution, An Gof proudly declared he would have 'A name perpetual and a fame permanent and immortal.'

As you read this, I shall be taking part in 'Keskerdh Kernow' (Procession of Cornish), which aims to replicate that fateful journey of some 320 miles from St. Keverne to Blackheath in London. In the next Blowhole I hope to give a diary-type narrative of the journey, perhaps akin to Chaucer's, 'Canterbury Tales'.

For the present, training for this distance walk has been almost negligible due to the demands of the lambing period and what training I have done has served nought but to make me well aware that the first few days are not going to be very easy. However, with luck my body will adjust to the going and if nothing else, I should have lost some weight if I manage to reach London. Twenty years ago, almost to the day, I led an expedition over the Pennine way, some 290 miles, in ten days. But advancing years have certainly taken their toll, and it is with some trepidation that I undertake this walk.

Should I complete the task, then I would ask the community to sponsor my efforts with donations towards Night Vision equipment for our Boscastle Coastguard. I shall be coming with my tin box, some time at the end of June. Perhaps I might hope to ask for a pound for each hundred miles I complete. Thank you all in anticipation.

Sue Bowen

Boscastle Born

Jim Castling talks to some of the best-known families in the Village.

THE FERRETTES



Jim and Beth Ferrett with (L to R:) David, Jennifer, Graham, Linda, John, Ann, Richard, Angela and Alan

It does not take long for a visitor to Boscastle to meet a member of the Ferrett family. If they stay at the Wellington, pick up an ice-cream at Phil Smith's or call into the National Trust shop on their way down to the harbour they will have met three in their first few minutes. And it is not so surprising, because paterfamilias Jim Ferrett is one of a family of eight and he, with Beth, his wife, have nine surviving of a family of ten children.

I first met Jim and Beth when we were putting together the memorabilia exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of V.E. Day celebrations. Jim (don't call me Jimmy) had provided a small gold-mine of articles he had kept from his time with the Chindits in Burma. Above all, I remember a photograph of him in full parachutist's kit jumping out of a Dakota over the Burmese jungle. He still had the silk square they had all been issued with, printed with a map of Burma in case they got lost in the jungle.

The Ferretts were a natural choice for this series of articles but the idea was even more relevant when I called to see them; I had not realised that Jim and Beth had celebrated their Diamond (60th) wedding anniversary only three weeks earlier. Married on the 17th April 1937, this hale and hearty couple showed me their telegram of congratulations from the Queen. Reaching 84 on 20th May, Jim is now the oldest Boscastle-born man; a point he emphasises in the context of this series. (It seems that being born as far afield as Tresparrett or Trebarwith doesn't count!) Beth is 82.

Jim's father had originally come from Egloskerry and settled here when he married Jim's mother, a member of the Boscastle Honey family. They had seven sons, and a daughter, Dorothy, whose husband Vick had the distinction of serving in the Royal Navy all through both the First and the Second World Wars. Of the sons, Will, Syd and Charlie served in the Great War and the latter was killed in France. Arthur, the fourth son ran away and tried to join the Navy while he was still under-age but was easily spotted because of his youthful looks and sent packing home. The three younger sons, Fred, Allen and Jim saw plenty of action in World War II and all survived to get home in 1945. Roger Ferrett, Boscastle's well-known taxi-driver (now retired) is the son of Jim's elder brother, Will. But Jim is the only one of that generation still living today.

Lived for 44 Years

What is now the Riverside Hotel comprised two separate houses earlier in the century: Riverside and Brooklet. Will Ferrett and his family lived in Brooklet, the one furthest from the bridge. Riverside, next door, was occupied by the Webbers, while the Scotts lived in The Old Manor House, opposite. Jim's mother died in 1945 and Beth still has a newspaper cutting reporting her funeral at Forrabury Church. As a roll of the inhabitants of Boscastle at that time, it must be just about complete.

Jim and Beth raised their family at Trevalga, their house on the Old Road, where they lived for 44 years before moving to their present home in Langfords

Meadow. As a young married man, Jim was a member of the Territorial Army. A few days before the Second World War started in 1939 he was called up into the D.C.L.I (The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry). He later transferred into the Anti-Tank Reconnaissance Corps and set sail for the Far East in the troop ship so well-known to the soldiers of the time: The Dominion Monarch. At this time his brother Allen in the Royal Navy had been declared missing; although he was subsequently rescued to survive the war.

Having arrived in Burma, Jim's "Recce Corps" was disbanded and his unit became part of Brigadier Orde Wingate's famous "Chindits". This heroic group was sent into the jungle behind Japanese lines to sabotage their bridges and railway communications systems. Jim was promoted to Quartermaster-Sergeant of his company and later volunteered to be a parachutist in the Indian Airborne Division. He made eight or ten drops over enemy territory. He also became a member of a party sent to Bombay as part of a recruiting drive, which, I understand, was a good deal more fun. When the war ended Jim's C.O. offered him the job of Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant if he would sign on as a regular soldier, but nothing was going to stop him getting home to Beth and Boscastle. Beth, while Jim was away, worked as a telephonist in the old exchange sited down the Old Road below their house.

Businesses in the Village

Following the war, Jim worked at the Wellington Hotel for a while. One day he was directing a lady guest to the pay-phone when she asked him if he had ever been to Wavell's Canteen at New Delhi. He was astonished but able to confirm that he had, not long previously. The lady revealed that she had been a volunteer canteen worker there and remembered seeing him. Everyone comes to Boscastle sooner or later!

Ward's, the wholesale grocers and timber merchants, in the warehouse where Phil and Jenny Smith's shop now stands, was one of several wholesaling businesses in the village, left over from the days when it was a thriving port. What is now The Cobweb was one too, before the war, known as Bowerings. It was an ironmongery store but they also sold flour and grains. On the street-level, it was a wine-store, presumably a leftover from the days when the whole building was a bonded warehouse.

Jim worked at Ward's for several years, obviously putting his experience as a quartermaster to good effect. He recalls one day when the proprietor gave him some unusual meat to take home and try. He and Beth didn't exactly fancy it so they tried it on their dog, Misty (a beautiful, laughing Samoyard). But she was no more impressed than they were; it turned out to be whale-meat. (I wonder how many readers remember their own experiences with whale meat; and what about Snoek?)

Jim tried his hand at a number of jobs in his early days. Remember the story of the Green Shop in the



last issue? Jim had helped to enlarge it in the thirties, bringing the cricket-hut from Plymouth, which was the basis of the extension. He also helped to build the Bottreaux Garage for John Olds. He spent his final ten years before retiring at the Spar shop in Camelford.

During all those times, Jim Ferrett spent 25 years in the Coast Guard. He was Auxiliary-in-Charge, with a crew of 20 men. Many well-known Boscastle men served with him, among them Malcolm Biddick and Jim's son David. I was shown an Award Certificate they both won during the rescue of a swimmer off Willapark. During bad weather, the crew worked in shifts, holding a Rough-Weather Watch at the look-out tower. Sometimes, Jim or Beth would receive warnings by telephone from the Coast-Guard Station at Hartland at two or three in the morning. They chuckled as they recalled sending various of their kids out all over the village to call the crew.

Air Ambulance

The Ferretts' life of service is still very active today with their fund-raising work for the 1st Air Ambulance. About eight years ago, Jim was taken ill with a heart-attack and was whisked off to Dereford within 15 minutes of the helicopter arriving. He attributes his survival to their rapid response and, ever since, they have done everything they can to help the Air Ambulance Service. With their energetic band of supporters, they have raised several thousands of pounds to keep them flying. Has Jim been up since? No thank you, that once was quite enough.

Daughter Angela is also active, raising funds for the 1st AA; she lives at Delabole. Jennifer and husband Phil Smith, run the grocery shop by the Harbour. Son John lives in New Zealand; Alan is a retired Prison Officer living at Oxford, Richard also lives at Oxford, Graham works with the Mobil Oil Company, Anne lives in Launceston and Linda, working at the National Trust shop, lives in Boscastle. David, another well-known Boscastle face, is involved with running the Snooker Club. Incidentally, it is David's daughter Jackie whom a visitor might meet, if staying at the Wellington. Within this great family, Jim and Beth have no less than 23 grand-children and 7 great grand-children. Thank goodness, there is little chance of that unusual name disappearing from the Boscastle electoral roll.

J.C.



Forrabury and Minster Parish Council

Council Officers: At the May meeting, Mr. M. Hircock was re-elected as Chairman of the Council and Mr. D. Ferrett was elected Vice-Chairman.

New Councillor: No requests for an election were received from the public, following the announcement of a vacancy. Councillors therefore considered 4 applications and Mr. D. Scott was co-opted.

A Further Casual Vacancy: Mrs. M. Nicholls has resigned from the Council. Another new councillor will be chosen either by election or co-option.

Harbourside Litter Collection: The National Trust invited the Council to arrange for litter-collection in the harbour area, and agreed to pay for the service, if a collector were appointed. Advertisements have so far been unsuccessful, and the Trust's Officer will do the work, as far as possible, until a suitable applicant is found.

Car Park Charges: Councillors expressed their disappointment with a reply received from the NCDC with reference to their concern that car park charges are too high. They consider that Boscastle car park appears to be regarded as a beach car park, and charged accordingly. The Clerk was instructed to write to the District Council again, outlining objections to the charges and the unsatisfactory nature of the letter.

Best Kept Village: Boscastle has again been entered for the Best Kept Village Competition. Judging will take place during June and July.

Footpath: New Road - Dunn Street. The footpath which runs from New Road down to Dunn Street, close to The Nook, has been adopted by NCDC. The Clerk reported that when the collapse of a wall caused problems on the path, NCDC took very prompt action.

Noise Pollution in Shopping Area: Loud music had been the cause of various complaints from residents in the area of the shops. The Council has no powers to act on the complaints, but the telephone number* of the appropriate authority had been issued to those most affected by the noise. The Clerk informed the Council that complaints would be followed up by noise-abatement officers very promptly.

* (Telephone numbers are: Office hours: (01208) 893459. Emergency number: (01208) 815641)

Boscastle Sport and Recreation Club: Cllr. David Ferrett reported on the progress of the application for funds to develop the club. Some progress had been made. The project now had a definite grant number, and within the next three months the committee would hear whether the application was successful. Mr. Ferrett also asked the Council to consider awarding a grant to the project. This matter has been placed on the June agenda.

Millennium Greens: Council received a letter from Mr. S. Brown suggesting that the undeveloped land on the Fontbeam Estate might meet the criteria for a grant to provide a public green area. The Council decided that this matter should be considered at the July meeting, thereby giving time for other suggestions to be forthcoming.

Joyce Whitehouse Party: The Council agreed that a grant of £25 should be made towards the cost of the 1997 Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

Mr. Norman Hicks: The Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs. Joyce Hicks to extend sympathy following the news of the death of her husband, Mr. Norman Hicks, who had served as a councillor for many years in the past. YMA

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Judging during June and July

'NATURAL ASSETS' DRAW VISITORS

Amongst the reasons people give for coming to Cornwall on holiday is the variety of natural and historic attractions that occur in North Cornwall, or any part of Cornwall for that matter. Exeter University regularly undertake visitor surveys which ask visitors what it is that brings them to North Cornwall. Increasingly the answer seems to be that they come to enjoy the very natural assets that this part of Cornwall abounds in. But the natural and cultural heritage is not necessarily immediately accessible. This is where the visitor centres make such a positive contribution to the tourism industry of North Cornwall, an industry which provides over 25% of all jobs and generates an income of about £40 million per year.

Another interesting fact that can be gleaned from this survey is that a significant proportion of visitors to Cornwall are accommodated by friends or relatives. And of course the friends and relatives are expected to be a fount of all knowledge about where to go and what to see in their native or adopted county.

The Boscastle Visitor centre is not only for visitors who come exploring on their own but it exists to serve local people too. A short visit to the centre will probably give you enough information on how to keep your guests occupied for any amount of time and make you appear to be the bees knees in terms of knowledge about the local history and wildlife of this very special part of Cornwall. So why not make an effort to drop by? We'll be delighted to see you and sort out whatever information you may require.

If you want to keep up to date with wildlife of the area, make sure you catch Charlie David's weekly article in the Cornish Guardian. This too often has hints on what to see and where to go as well as details of forthcoming Heritage Coast Guided Walks.

Please feel free to phone us at the Visitor Centre if you have any queries. (01840) 250010.

R.S. David. North Cornwall Heritage Coast and Countryside Visitor Centre Manager

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How Many Flew Over ?

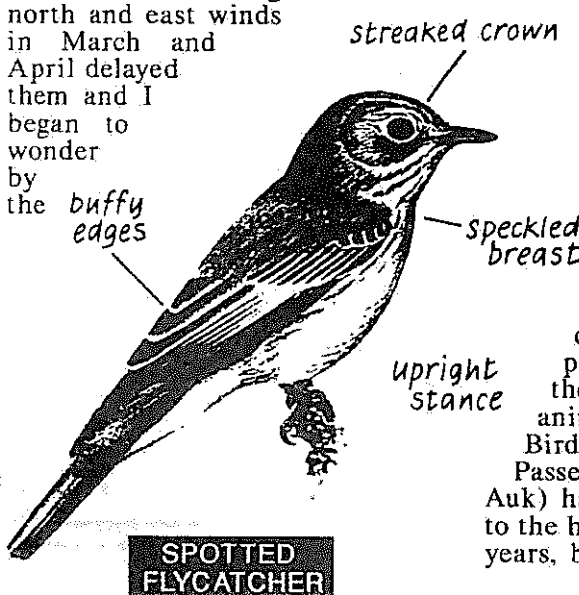
Young Watchers

I was very impressed with the April issue of the Junior Blowhole and Kieron Sullivan's report of the Sponsored Bird Watch which took place on 23rd March. Eight groups of children (with some adults) visited various spots within 20 miles of Boscastle, from Maer Lake in the north to Crowdy Reservoir in the east and to the Camel Estuary in the south and, in the one day, saw 65 species of birds.

This feat inspired me to write my own list of the birds I had seen in the same area over the last 12 years and it came to 136, only about double what these young birdwatchers had seen in one day. As Kieron said, this one day was in March, so many of the winter visitors had departed and few of the summer visitors had arrived, and a total of 65 was remarkable. Perhaps there should be two sponsored bird watches each year, one in the summer and one in the winter, to see how many species could be seen in total.

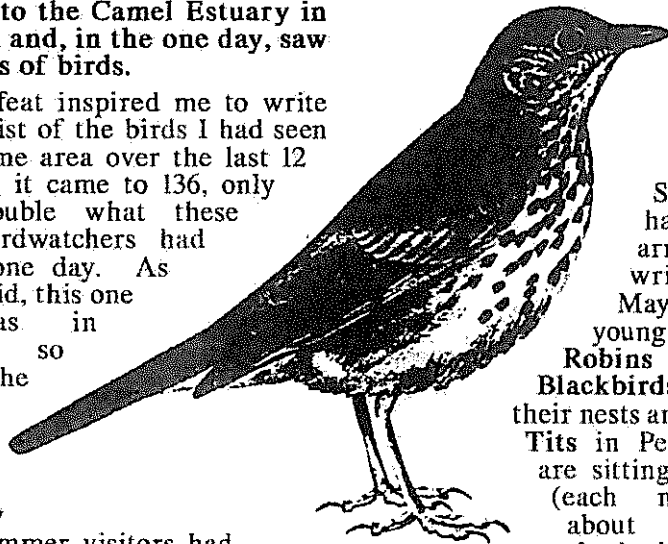
The few early summer visitors they did see were the Sand Martin, the Wheatear, the Guillemot and the Puffin (extremely early), plus the Chiffchaff which had probably over-wintered here. Since the Bird Watch, all the summer visitors have now arrived, although the north and east winds in March and April delayed them and I began to wonder by the

the buffy edges



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

middle of April whether they were coming at all. I don't go out every day, so I only saw my first Swallows on 17th April, when they were passing north-east over the Stitches at a rate of 100 per hour. By 20th April, when I saw my first Wheatear and Puffin, the Swallows were passing at about 400 per hour,



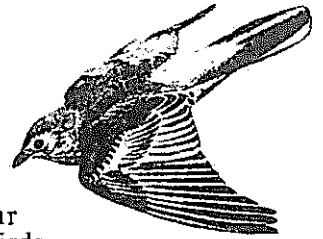
SONG THRUSH

together with a few House Martins and one early Swift, so Summer had at last arrived. As I write (10th May), the young Rooks, Robins and Blackbirds have left their nests and the Blue Tits in Peters Wood are sitting on theirs (each nest with about 10 eggs). Let's hope there are enough caterpillars around for them to feed their young in the next week or two.

Declining Numbers

Anyone who has not heard about the decline in the numbers of many British songbirds over the last 25 years is probably not interested in birds and is not reading this article, but a recent government report now officially confirms that the main reason for the decline is intensive farming practices and, in particular, chemicals. In the 1960's, insecticides like DDT killed the birds directly by poisoning them and these poisons were banned in the 1970's, following Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring". Nowadays, modern chemicals kill most of the weeds, insects and grubs in order to maximise the production of clean crops, so the birds (and many other wild animals) are starving to death. Birds (such as the Dodo, the Passenger Pigeon and the Great Auk) have suffered extinction due to the hand of man for hundreds of years, but we are said to be much

more civilised now, so why are our common birds now being allowed to go the same way? I may write further on this subject in the next Blowhole, but there are many news articles available on the subject nowadays.



Intensive farming is not the only culprit, but people who blame only Magpies and Sparrowhawks are wrong. They are on the list, together with unusual weather, over-consumption of water, pollution, development, cats, slug pellets, drought in Africa and hunters in the Mediterranean area. The farmers themselves are not necessarily to blame; they are encouraged to make Britain self-sufficient in cheap food; they have to make a living, which is increasingly difficult these days; and they are not given financial incentives to grow food organically or to make the set-aside land environmentally friendly.

We are still very lucky in this part of Britain, as farming is less intensive and the coastal strip and moorlands are chemical-free. We still have Skylarks over the Stitches, Linnets near the cliffs and Song Thrushes singing from the trees, but Corn Buntings, Partridges and Barn Owls have left and I haven't seen a Flycatcher for two years. The Chough stopped breeding in Cornwall twenty five years ago and changes at sea have reduced the local breeding population of the Puffin to a mere handful. The birds which have prospered here are mainly large ones which can better withstand short-term food shortages. They include the Rooks, which seem to have taken over every large tree in the village; Fulmars, Herring Gulls, Jackdaws and Pigeons.

So what can we do about it, here in Boscastle? Perhaps put out food and drinking water all year round, in places free of cats; put up well-designed nest boxes (I'll write an article on nest-box design later in the year); stop using pesticides in the garden; remove snails to waste ground instead of killing them; use less water in the home; and buy organically grown food. Let us have your suggestions.

Mike Metcalfe.

Correspondence

Dear Blowhole,

My husband and I and our family have spent many holidays in Boscastle over the past thirty years and it is a place of which we are very fond. Earlier this year my daughter came back with the Spring 97 copy of The Blowhole - a publication which I confess we had not seen before, but read avidly and with great interest.

I noted, in particular, the lead article on the village school, its new much-needed library and the fact that Senior Pupil Librarians were looking for 'items to complement their new residence'. As a writer of children's books familiar with the school (albeit from the outside only) I would like to offer, with my compliments, the enclosed set as a small contribution to the new school library.

The books were written as a series for readers of 8 to 11 with 'Witches in Deed' first, followed by 'Witches in Secret' and finally 'Witches in Trouble' - but each story will stand on its own. They are light-hearted stories about two witchy and half-witchy sisters, Goodrun and Evilyn and, as is only right and proper, good always triumphs over evil (although Evilyn is not evil in the true sense of the word, just a bit naughty and perhaps over-zealous with her magic powers).

With best wishes for the continued success of the Boscastle Blowhole and the new school library.

Yours sincerely,
Valerie Thame

Informative Junior Blowhole

'Junior Blowhole', the Boscastle School newspaper, is proving to be an entertaining, informative and much-praised read. Judges of The Daily Telegraph 1997 School Newspaper Competition awarded it a 'Highly Commended' certificate, which is, says the editor, Kieron Sullivan, 'very rare'.

No subject is too daunting for the writers, it would appear: an OFSTED Inspector is taken to task for suggesting that the children should be reading 'abridged classics'. Anna David comments 'that is rather an understatement in my mind as most of the senior pupils read unabridged classics'.

Readers are given information about the Hale-Bopp comet and told that when it next appears in the year 2380, 'even the Spice girls will be past it'. (We are also advised to file the article for reference on the Comet's next appearance.) The paper's 'Boscastle Bird Watch' gives an account of a Sunday expedition, during which individual spotters each identified between 28 and 49 species. Thirty three different species were observed within Boscastle itself. The detailed account is supplemented by a well-researched article from Vonnie Hampshire; how many readers know that a swan has about 25,000 feathers whilst a hummingbird may have less than 1000?

Sarah Moran informed readers of the distinctions gained at the County Festival of Music and Speech, detailing yet more astonishing Boscastle successes in the 'Spoken Word' section.

Junior Blowhole also includes Sport, a Crossword, and amusing snippets such as the observation of a grandmother, before her first experience of the Duck Race, who wondered how organisers managed to catch the ducks in order to put the numbers on them.

Certainly - a highly recommended read. YMA



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Fifty Years On - A Spanish Celebration

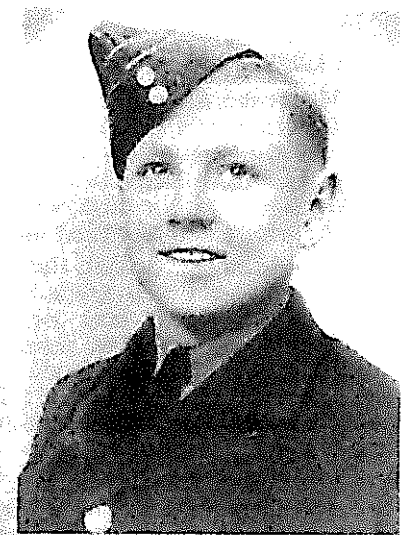


They spent their honeymoon in Boscastle and fifty years on, chose a cruise to Santander for a romantic Golden Wedding trip. Our 'then and now' pictures reveal that they haven't changed much - Congratulations, Fred and June Siford.

The Sifords met whilst they were both serving at Stafford in the RAF. Fred had joined the services in 1942 and June became a WRAF later in the war. Once they were demobbed, they lost little time before being married.

The wedding took place at St. Peter and Paul Church at Northleach in Gloucestershire, close to where Fred's parents were landlords of a picturesque old coaching inn, The Red Lion. June remembers that the wedding breakfast was supplied by family and friends - 'everybody contributed' - for those were the days of post-war rationing. The happy couple travelled by Black and White coach to Camelford, and then on to Boscastle for a honeymoon spent in the cottage next door to the Napoleon, thoughtfully vacated by June's parents who spent a holiday elsewhere.

Boscastle was a quieter place at that time; there was little motorised traffic. After the honeymoon the



couple returned to Gloucestershire where they spent the first twenty seven years of their married life. Their son Les was born at the Red Lion, in the very room in which Fred himself had been born. In 1974 they came to live in Boscastle, to June's place of birth, and now have four grandchildren and two great grandchildren settled in North Cornwall.

Having celebrated their golden day in Spain, they had a second celebration only yards from their home at Sunnyside. Twenty-one guests assembled at the Harbour Restaurant on May 10th for a family celebration. A magnificent cake made and decorated by a family friend

obviously added to their great pleasure.

Unfortunately, none of the 'Golden' Boscastle couples were fortunate in the draw to select those who will share the Queen's celebration at Buckingham Palace, but the Sifords hope to be present with other local couples at a garden party to be hosted by Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, later in the year.



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Harbourmaster's News



Fred Siford was very interested to see photographs taken from inside the Blowhole, looking out to the harbour. These extraordinary fishes' eye views were taken by divers who recently explored the harbour. We hope to publish prints of these in a later edition.

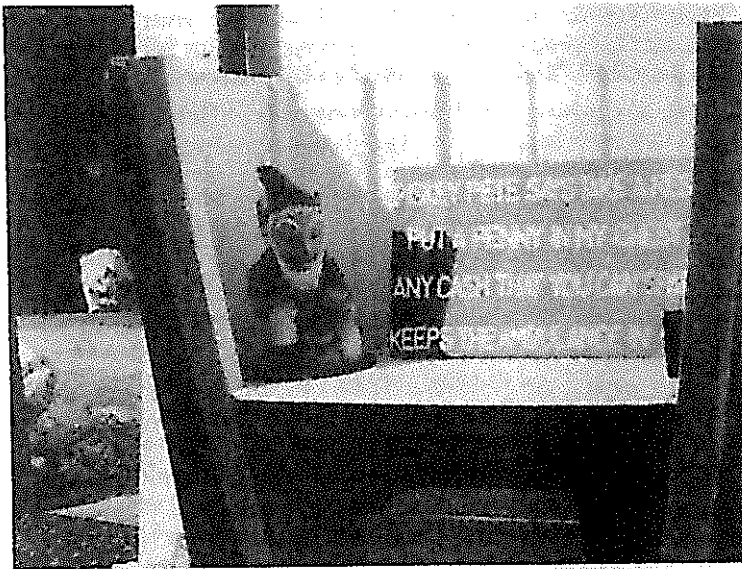
He also reports that this has not been a good season for the ducks; there were some hatchings, but few ducklings survived. They seem to have been culled by sea gulls or other large birds. As of 15th May, there were four ducklings, but they were soon reduced to two.

A few boats have returned from their winter moorings, and the Peganini is once again in service to provide trips. Bookings can be made at the Rock Shop.

Anyone who wishes to use the harbour to launch a boat on a daily basis, should contact Fred at Sunnyside.

As reported in the National Trust news, some restoration after winter gales has been necessary. The N.T. has also ensured more safety in the area of the moorings, removing chains but providing mooring rings for the Fishermen's Association boats.

Piskey Pete



Comes Easter, folks is starting to come up path going to cliff so I'm back on me fund raising job for ROBIN. 'Tis ten years since Cornwall Air Ambulance was begun and you can be sure costs ain't be going down so I'm proud to be sitting 'ere 'aving me photo took, if it 'elps to keep ROBIN flying.

Since then I've bin off to hospital meself - Piskey's 'ospital that is. I've 'ad me ear stuck back on and me plate put back together and 'bin painted in new colours. I'm good's new. So I'll just be sitting 'ere listening to all the little gems visitors say and telling 'ee all 'bout them next time I sees 'ee.

Cheerio for now.

Piskey Pete

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EXHIBITIONS 1997

7th July - 1st August

MIXED MEDIA TEXTILES

by Karen Howes

WOOD TURNING

by Damian McDonnell

4th August - 29th August

Prints from the Far West

by Members of Penwith Print Makers
and Small Print Works

1st September - 30th September

PRINTS AND PAINTINGS

by Bridget Holden

STONEWARE POTTERY

by Svend Bayer

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Village Hall Buffet Lunch

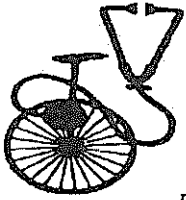
On 9th May, fifty guests assembled at a Buffet Lunch held by the Trustees as a farewell gesture thanks to the representatives of all the grant giving organisations, and many individuals who helped with their efforts and expertise.

Those who were strangers to Boscastle had the opportunity to see the Hall in action and also to meet a wide cross section of our community.

On view was a fine slab of Delabole slate carved with the words 'Village Hall Extension and Development 1993 - 1997', soon to be fixed on the outside wall. Also, on permanent display, a framed list of benefactors, and a history of the building from its start as the Chapel of St. James of the Manor of Bottreaux to the present day.

Judging by the appreciative comments received, our visitors were impressed by all the work done, and also thoroughly enjoyed themselves. J.Co

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Travellers Beware

By Dr. Chris Jarvis

HOLIDAY ILLNESS

I've attended several meetings recently involved with planning the acclimatisation programme for the English team at the next Commonwealth Games. For the record - and the non sports-minded among you - these will be held in September 1998 in Malaysia. It's almost a repeat of the Atlanta Olympics in that the climate is likely to prove as challenging as the other competitors.

Here are just a few of the problems that athletes and officials will have to contend with. Heat, sun, humidity, a different diet and time zone changes. Not to mention the preliminary immunisations. All very interesting you may say - but what's that got to do with me? More than you might think, is the answer. If we need to plan well in advance for fit young athletes, it follows that lesser mortals like you and me need to think before venturing to exotic locations.

Not so long ago, a week spent in a boarding house at a British coastal resort was the pinnacle of British holiday aspirations. Holidays abroad and plane flights were the exception and only for the very affluent few. Times have changed and it's now common to see patients in a Monday surgery who only the previous day were virtually anywhere in the world.

Travel agents claim to work in an impossible market, holiday expectations having more to do with fantasy than reality, resulting in unreasonable complaints. Apparently very few people ever ask more than cursory questions about potentially hostile local climates or the availability of medical services. My message is a simple one - if you're not 101% sound in wind and limb - check out what might await you at the Costa del Fantasia. Space is limited so I'm going to jetison good English here and continue with the main points in note form.

Never travel without **FULL MEDICAL INSURANCE**, and make sure that this includes repatriation cover to fly you home for treatment if your condition warrants it. Medical expertise varies and not every country has competent intensive care facilities.

If you want to feel really unwell when you get off **THE PLANE**, drink all the free alcohol provided in flight. It may be good for relaxation, but it's even better at dehydrating you. Instead, drink lots of non-alcoholic beverages - flight has a tendency to dry you out.

HEAT and **HUMIDITY** are insidiously dangerous and it can take up to three weeks for the body to fully adapt. Mad dogs may - but Cornish holidaymakers never should - go out in the midday sun. Dress appropriately to promote heat loss. Drink **LOTS** of fluids and even **MORE** once you're used to the climate.

Remember that even very minor degrees of dehydration lead to considerable fatigue. Your urine can be a helpful guide - if its darker in colour or you're producing less than usual you must increase your fluid intake.

You must treat **THE SUN** with the utmost respect. We're not just talking sunburn here - rather skin cancer in later life. Burnt skin equals badly damaged skin and is to be avoided. Never underestimate the power of the sun - avoid excess early exposure and use high-factor protective creams applied frequently.

Be wary of **FOOD** containing, or washed in, local water. For example salads, ice creams and iced drinks. They can lead to stomach upsets. Never eat 'authentic

local food' from roadside traders or markets unless you're happy to experience the local equivalent of 'Delhi Belly'.

On the subject of **WATER** take advice from the local travel representatives. It's better to spend a pound on a bottle of spa water than three days in your room and 50 pounds on a visit to the local doctor.

Don't underestimate **TIME ZONE** changes. You'll need a day to adjust to each hour lost or gained. Change your watch on take-off and as far as possible eat and sleep at local times as soon as you are able.

Find out what **IMMUNISATIONS** you need well before you go. In general, the more off-the-beaten-track your visit is - the more time required to sort out your requirements. If you're going back-packing through Kampuchea your needs will take several months to sort out. Your travel agent, airline travel clinic or practice nurse can tell you what's necessary. Note that not all vaccines are provided free by the NHS and you may have to pay for some necessary jabs. Some 'jabs' are in a 'grey' area where they're neither mandatory nor totally safe to ignore. Given the appropriate information, the decision will be up to you.

By the way, the NHS isn't responsible for providing medicines for you to take with you 'just in case' you get an attack of diarrhoea or insect bites while you're on holiday. However, your local pharmacist should be able to advise you on what you can purchase 'over the counter' to take with you.

There are some third world countries where needles and syringes are not of the disposable type. Re-use without proper sterilisation is a real possibility and carries significant risks of transmission of the AIDS virus or Hepatitis. For about fourteen pounds you can purchase a **STERILE TRAVEL PACK** from surgeries or travel clinics. This contains disposable equipment kit to take with you if you're travelling to a dubious area.

If you do suffer from significant medical problems - do check out whether the local medical facilities are up to scratch before you book. If you are currently taking medicine for a medical problem - make sure you've got enough to cope with a slightly extended stay. Also remember to keep your tablets on your person and not in your luggage. Suitcases have been known to travel to a totally different holiday location!

I really don't want to sound negative about holidays abroad, just to raise a few thoughts on possible pit falls for the unwary. If this all sounds a bit daunting - how about spending a couple of weeks in a nice unspoilt Cornish fishing village?

JACK CORKHILL Aged 84 Died 19th May.
Margaret Corkhill, Robert and Andrea wish to thank everybody for all the kind thoughts and sympathy shown to them in their sad loss.
The Blowhole will pay tribute to Mr. Corkhill in the next edition.

CLEREHEW

When the visitors have long since slipped their mooring;
When it's blowing half a gale and it's pouring;
It's dark at half-past four, the outlook's bleak;
But the Smiths are still there serving, through the week.



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Artists All

A celebration of recent exhibitions featuring the work of local artists

In the words of one artist, North Cornwall 'has such a strong character and you can see the elements at work on the place all around you'. Small wonder then, that it is home to an increasing number of fine artists, some with national - or international - reputations.

There are also many residents, young or older, who would not choose to describe themselves as 'artists' but are inspired by both the natural beauty of our cliffs and valleys and the work and teaching of these creative individuals.

JACQUELINE JARVIS

At the North Cornwall Museum and the
Indian King Centre

Jacqueline Jarvis' work was recently exhibited in two Camelford venues.

At the North Cornwall Museum and Gallery her exhibition, simply entitled PRINTS, featured dry-point etchings. Formerly best-known for her textiles, Mrs Jarvis has recently graduated from Falmouth College of Art, where she began using traditional etching tools on aluminium. The prints included extraordinarily powerful pictures of cyclists racing in the Manchester Velodrome during the 1996 World Cycling Championships and intriguing portrayals of bell-ringers, birds and elderly friends.

The second exhibition was held in the Long Room at the Indian King Arts Centre, where more monotype prints were complemented by large oil paintings executed on canvas. Titles chosen for her works evoked memories of 20th Century music and poetry, and left images cemented in the mind. YMA

RAYMUND ROGERS

One Man Show

During March and April, Raymund Rogers' growing reputation took another leap forward with his one-man show at the prestigious Merrifield Studios in Hampstead. It was his fifth such show in London but the first one for six years (previous ones being 1986, 1987, 1989 and 1990). His theme was "The Spirit of Venice", and his paintings the product of a year's intensive work based on a ten days' stay in this magical city.

Raymund has long been noted for his remarkable handling of colour and his sense of composition. Venice was the perfect inspiration for him. The perpetually shifting moods of the lagoon and canals, together with the multi-hued medieval and renaissance buildings are a considerable challenge, for they have been interpreted by so many, perhaps too many, artists over the centuries. However the city and its unique setting tend



Jacqueline Jarvis beside one of her highly individual oil paintings

to bring out qualities in an artist like Raymund that he had not suspected he possessed.

The range of his work exhibited was astonishingly wide: for him "La Serenissima" was seemingly inexhaustible: canals, narrow alleys, architecture, great sweeps of water, depicted from dawn to dusk in mist, rain and brilliant sunshine. He has captured in particular, those fugitive, unique colours of ever-moving water that can be found only in Venice and have defeated so many painters. Also, he steered clear of the usual, now hackneyed views. St. Mark's Square appeared in only one small canvas - and that was from an unexpected viewpoint.

It is no wonder that the show was a success, and not only in purely artistic terms, for half of the forty-six pictures exhibited were sold, including the majority of the large works.

M.T.

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CAROLE VINCENT

A Celebration of Colour Concrete

'Celebration' is the right word for the recent exhibition of works by Carole Vincent, held at the Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey, from 26 April - 18 May. All the works shown were made of coloured concrete (yes, concrete) and anyone who didn't see them missed a feast for the eye and the spirit.

Overheard at the exhibition was the following conversation. 'Concrete? These aren't made of concrete,' protested a lady running her hand over the polished surface of a bowl. 'Yes, they are. Look, it says so over there' replied her companion. 'But they can't be. Concrete's all grey and rough and horrible.'

Well, not in Carole Vincent's hands, it's not. Even someone who, like me, is familiar with the artist's work was unprepared for the impact of this beautifully set-up exhibition and its atmosphere of calm beauty and repose, all the more striking because the exhibition room was situated between the bustle of the shop and the restaurant.

All the pieces on show were the result of Carole Vincent's pioneering work in developing and perfecting the use of concrete as a medium for sculpture in its own right, rather than as an imitation of stone. In particular Carol has explored and developed, with remarkable success, a technique for using pigments in concrete, achieving an extraordinary range of colour.

Her mastery of the material was vividly demonstrated by the pieces on show at Bovey Tracey, which ranged from a sculptured group to paintings in concrete and included, as well as individual pieces, arrangements of geometric forms as still-lives, in which the arts of painting and sculpture seemed to fuse. The beauty of the forms and the purity of the colour were revealed by the highly polished surfaces and the overall impression was of peace, harmony and a lyrical beauty which raised the spirits.

This is not to say that the exhibits did not also have a human quality, demonstrated by a scene witnessed by the artist herself - a small child tottering round the exhibition and lovingly planting a kiss on all the accessible pieces. If you missed the exhibition, take any other chance you can to see Carole Vincent's work.

Paf van der Eyken

THE NORTH CORNWALL 7

At the North Cornwall Gallery

The North Cornwall Seven have also recently had an exhibition at the North Cornwall Gallery. 7 drawings, watercolours and oils were yet another illustration of the variety, scope and quality of local artists; Chris Thomas' airy landscape of Treval High Cliff, Stewart Lowdon's evocative water colour of beech trees at Llanhydrock, Henry Israel's serene abstract Musicians, Neil Lowdon's unusual still life curious tryptych by Roger Farnworth and mystical (from Caeria Strong).

The exhibition was a reminder of the need for more spacious gallery, particularly if it also gives scope for less-experienced artists to develop their skills. The North Cornwall 7 instigated the efforts to create a Visual Arts Centre for North Cornwall, reported in the last edition of the Blowhole. Since then, publicity has drawn more interested individuals into the venture and the long and complicated process of getting plans off the ground will be reported in future editions.



The North Cornwall 7 pictured at an earlier exhibition

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

METHODIST GUILD FETE

Saturday 14th June at 2.30pm at the Methodist Church.

STRAWBERRY FAYRE

This popular event will be held on Wed. 25th June at 7.00pm at The Rectory, Forrabury. There will be the usual B.B.Q. and strawberries and cream and all the fun of the Fayre, plus the Doolally Tappers Band.

FORRABURY FLOWER FESTIVAL

Forrabury Church is holding a Flower Festival this year on Sunday 27th July through to Wed. 30th. The theme will be 'Land, Sea and Air'. This year marks the anniversary of the arrival of St. Augustine to Canturbury 1400 years ago, in 597, and also the death of the Celtic Saint Columbaon on Iona. 25th July is also St. James' Day, date of the traditional Boscastle fair. The festival will incorporate the theme of pilgrimage, and aspects of our life and locality. The Festival service will be at 10.15am on 27th, and there will be a concert at 3.00pm by the N. Cornwall Choir.

CHURCH FETE

This year there will be a Fete on 16th August at 2.00pm in the harbour, on the lawn at Valency House (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs Castling). This will be in aid of funds for Boscastle Group of Churches.

SONGS OF PRAISE

The Annual combined Songs of Praise will take place at the Harbour on Bank Holiday Sunday, 24th August at 6.30pm. A welcome to everyone to come and join in.

FLOODLIGHTING

Forrabury Church has been promised a grant from the Millennium Commission to install floodlighting. A modest scheme, involving only 3 lights, and carefully avoiding 'light pollution', has been applied for.

CHURCH REPAIRS

Both Forrabury and Minster Churches have had their 'quinquennial inspections' this year - like a building's MOT. Both churches are well maintained, but inevitably there are a number of items to be put right. About £2,000 has been spent on Minster, mainly on woodworm treatment, and over £1,000 on Forrabury on maintenance.

LESNEWTH CHURCH

Lesnewth Church was packed on Whitsunday evening for a service to give thanks for the completion of the major work of roof restoration that has been undertaken there. The dreaded 'nail fatigue' had required the whole of the church roof to be re-slatted. A builder from Derby, Mr. Bill Kiely, visiting the church while on holiday here, offered to come back and give his services to do the work on the nave and porch of the church. This generous offer made possible the completion of the work, and other essential work on the tower. A great achievement for such a tiny parish.

A VISIT FROM THE ARCHDEACON

The Archdeacon of Bodmin, The Ven. Rodney Whiteman, will be preaching at St. Juliot Church at 10.15am on Sunday 29th June. This will be St. Juliot Revel Sunday, as well as St. Peter's Day.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rector: The Rev. John Ayling, The Rectory, Forrabury, Boscastle (250359)

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).

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Paul's Church, Tintagel. Masses: Sunday at 10.00am, Saturday at 6 pm Mon.-Thurs. 10am. Fri. 6pm (1st Fri. 7 pm) Priest: Fr. Storey (770663)

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

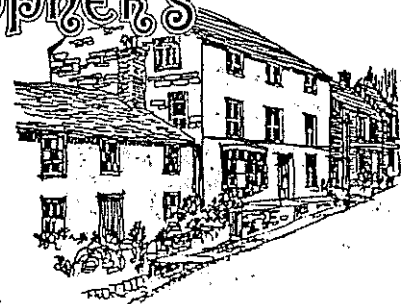
Quakers meet in the John Betjeman Centre, Wadebridge, each Sunday at 10.30am. Everyone welcome.

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A Letter from the Methodist Minister

Dear Friends,

I was in Plymouth the other day, when I noticed a painting in one of the large stores. It was a print of a painting by a Victorian romantic artist the style of which has become popular again. This artist had caught the mood of a young woman sitting in a garden reading a love letter. I cannot remember the title of the picture or the artist's name; what I do remember is the skill of the painter in producing such a wonderful painting.

Having a little time to spare, I was able to look and absorb the whole scene; when I did so all sorts of things then became noticeable. The apple on the table so carefully painted; the shadows cast by an overhanging tree in the background, and so on.

The artist, whoever he was, had seen and recorded everything; placing each item within the frame of his picture to delight his viewer.

As I continued to gaze at this fine piece of work, more and more detail became apparent. It was indeed a beautiful creation painted with a skilled hand and dedicated care, a lasting tribute to the work of the artist.

A thought struck me that in much the same way we look at the world and take it for granted, as I did with this picture and my first idle glance. So much was there for the seeing, but missed by the casual look.

It was not until I had really looked did I begin to see what the artist had left for me to appreciate. So it is with our world, never really seeing the beauty of God's creation because we don't seem to have the time to look.

To 'see' the world that God has made we need to take time. Time to absorb what God has to show us. What then becomes apparent will depend on what God has in mind for us to do. It is only in beginning to see with Christian eyes that we appreciate what God has done for us in Christ and secondly in the wonder of his beautiful creation that surrounds us all.

Every Blessing
Rev. Leslie J. Barnes

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The National Trust

The Blowhole is pleased to feature reports of the work of the National Trust in Boscastle. Here, the Countryside Manager and the Managing Agent for this area elaborate on plans first discussed with Forrabury and Minster Parish Council earlier this year. Boscastle residents take a keen interest in any plans which have a bearing on the future of the village and its environs. The delicate balance between conservation and development is not easily maintained. The National Trust is to be applauded for its willingness to publicise plans and listen to residents' opinions. Close cooperation between those who live here and whose livelihood and quality of life is dependent upon this locality, and those who are engaged in managing large areas of it are essential.

In the final section of this item, Chris Yallop represents the view of residents.

Home Farm

Many people will have heard that the National Trust has recently acquired Home Farm, Boscastle. This superb property lies immediately east of Boscastle village and runs all the way to Minster Church and the Valency Valley, including Minster Woods. It includes 47 acres of very rich oak woodland with many rare plants and butterflies as well as the beech woodland running down the B3266.



Home Farm

Many of the steeper fields are interesting in having a varied flora which in many cases elsewhere have been lost due to intensive agricultural practices. The hedgebanks and small copses are an important feature and worthy of preservation. It is hoped to find a new tenant for Home Farm by September who will manage it in a sympathetic manner. Nature conservation clauses will protect the more important areas for wildlife. There will also be a gradual programme of hedgebank improvements and woodland management. At present there is only one short section of footpath between Home Farm and Trebutts. It is envisaged that new footpaths will be formed to improve access to the general area.

Warden

Geoffrey Champion, our Area Warden for the area between Boscastle and Morwenstow retired at the end of April. Interviews for his successor will be held shortly. In the meantime, our student Warden, Kevin Fairclough, who lives at Little St. Hugh in Boscastle, will 'hold the fort'.

Peter's Wood

Over the last year we have been gradually clearing invasive sycamore and beech from this magnificent woodland to prevent these alien species from dominating the site. Instead of removing the cut timber, it has been left in situ to create a habitat for many rare insects and fungi. It also has the benefit of protecting young oak seedlings from browsing deer which are becoming ever more common in the Boscastle area. Nestboxes have been erected in many trees and are proving successful in attracting a great

variety of woodland birds.

Boscastle Harbour

The winter storms took their toll and caused substantial damage to the outer mole and some of the harbour wall. This has been repaired although more work is required. It is hoped to install further mooring rings to reduce the number of chains and ropes which cross the main thoroughfare and pose quite a danger to visitors. The original oak posts will remain as an attractive feature but will gradually become redundant as tie-ups for boats. The staff at the National Trust shop in Boscastle raised money by means of a mosaic tombola. This has been put to good use in the harbour with the installation of a new slate bench near the bridge and a smart new gate and fence by the lime kiln.

The new slate steps up Penally Hill have proved successful in reducing the multitude of eroded paths which were scarring the hillside. They also help walkers up the steep and slippery section of coast path. It is also planned to install a small earth ramp onto the private road or new cut footpath by Penally Terrace which will allow people with wheelchairs or prams to use this lovely flat grassy path.

Simon Ford, Countryside Manager, North Cornwall. Tel. 01208-863046



There has recently been some discussion locally about the possibility of The National Trust attempting to buy houses and other buildings in Boscastle Harbour as and when they come on to the market. This article is intended to put the Trust's position, and invites comment from the community.

The National Trust owns much of the landscape in and around Boscastle Harbour, but a

National Trust (Cont.)

very few of the buildings within it. Whilst we can do our best to maintain the character and beauty of those areas we own, there are many buildings which if neglected or managed in an unsympathetic way could have a seriously detrimental impact upon the appearance of the harbour area. As we have a responsibility to protect the landscape in our ownership, we do need to consider carefully whether or not we should be trying to acquire some of the more prominent buildings in this landscape. An alternative to outright ownership of the buildings could be for the Trust to try and buy them initially, and then either to sell them on with restrictive covenants limiting certain types of alteration in the future, or to sell long leases containing restrictive clauses. These two options may well be necessary for financial reasons anyway, as the capital will often not be available for outright purchase.

It should be stressed that if the Trust were to acquire any such buildings our first preference would be to manage them by letting to local people for permanent occupation. This will be the case with Bottreaux Court which we have recently purchased. It would not be our intention to manage the houses as holiday cottages. However if we are unable to retain outright ownership of buildings then it may well be difficult for the Trust to prevent their being used as holiday cottages by subsequent owners or lessees. Having said that of course, whether or not the Trust takes an interest, any of these houses could be bought by a private purchaser for the express purpose of using them as holiday cottages.

The Trust has already discussed this issue with the Parish Council, who were broadly sympathetic in principle, subject to the Trust not paying silly prices and hence pricing local purchasers out of the market, and not turning everything into holiday cottages. We agree with both of these points. We would be very interested to hear of any views which the community at large may have. Any comments will be gratefully received, and should be sent to:

Andrew Davey Managing Agent The National Trust
Regional Office Lanhydrock Bodmin Cornwall PL30
4DE

An Alternative View

Andrew Davey's article refers to the Parish Council meeting of 20 February (which was fully reported in the last issue of *The Blowhole*) where he put forward the National Trust's plans for preserving and enhancing the harbour area.

There was little immediate reaction from the Council, but as news spread of the Trust's intentions, there was a certain amount of adverse publicity in the local media. As a result I contacted Mr Davies and asked him to outline the Trust's position.

The Trust had originally acquired its holdings through the Thomas Fulford Estate: woodland, paths, verges and cliff areas surrounding the harbour. Therefore it had, said Mr Davies, a justifiable interest in maintaining the quality of adjoining properties. He argued that the present Conservation Area restrictions on development were not rigorous enough - a view disputed by the planning officials I spoke to - but he allowed that imposition of the so-called Article 4 Declaration (a directive stemming from the 1968 Planning Act) which would remove permitted planning rights, might largely satisfy the Trust's own criteria for conservation.

Both Parish and District planning authorities dislike the Article 4 option. At present no area in North Cornwall has had this imposed and, as Georgina McLaren, Conservation Officer for the North Cornwall District Council points out, it is only feasible if, after a

full consultation exercise has been carried out with local community, a clear majority support the idea. Council, she stressed, much preferred a co-operative approach to planning, fostered through education, applied with the goodwill of owners and agents, rather than by coercion.

The Trust has been gaining influence in the area its own avowed policy of creeping acquisition. However this policy extends will be tempered by the reaction of the local community. Ron Hart, Clerk of the Parish makes it plain that the Council can only represent the views of local people. Therefore anyone with strong views on the matter should express them, in writing to him or other Council members.

Opinion of the Trust seems to divide sharply: there are those who recognise that the Trust's intervention saved many great estates from being broken up, preserving them for the mutual benefit of their former owners and the general public; and those who feel that in this instance, the Trust's interference is unwarranted. A writer of a previous *Blowhole* editorial expressed cogently: "Complete conservation can mean stagnation. Who wants to live in a museum?" (Autumn, 1994). Johnson, reviewing a recent history of the Trust in the *Sunday Telegraph* (April 20), was distinctly more positive: "Most of the Trust's properties," he noted, "which were beautiful or splendid, are as dead as doornails because no one lives in them except as caretakers."

Andrew Davies pointed out that the Trust had saved some communities from virtual extinction: the fishing village of Penberth was cited as an example. Bosca however, is a thriving community enjoying a regular influx of new blood from those who have visited and fallen in love with the place: it is not a ghost village struggling for survival. If the Trust succeeds in its aim, I believe, subject us to a kind of benevolent despotism appropriate perhaps to the circumstances of its foundation, but out of place today. Having lived in administered communities such as Trevalga, owned by Marlborough College, and Portmeirion in North Wales (the Clough Ellis Williams estate) I have experienced the vagaries of personalised management: the tenants are happy as the local quasi-squire allows them to be; the Trust presumably would appoint one such administrator to look after the harbour properties.

There is a natural distrust amongst some of the institution that is widely perceived as having predominantly bourgeois values. Had the Reverend Stephen Hawker dared to build his rectory at Morwenstowe today, with all its attendant gargoyles, folderols, he would have swiftly incurred the planor's wrath. His and a thousand other eccentric delusions scattered throughout the County would have been bulldozed. I suspect there is little space in the Trust's philosophy for appreciation of the curious, avant-garde or frankly hideous. While I might not agree with the colour you paint your front door, I respect your right to please yourself, and I might even be wrong. If there is a dispute or conflict then this creates the synergy which powers and accompanies change in society usually for the better but even if worse then it is a real, not contrived, outcome.

If the Trust buys up vernacular property in the harbour which is by definition the most interesting, possibly with the best views, that is a privilege lost to others for ever. As Jane Castling, who with her husband Jim bought and renovated Valency House, poignantly expressed it: "Hopefully there are still people who own them and love them and look after them". The individual should, and still can be, trusted to take on the full responsibilities of a householder, not a tenant, in a place where he or she makes the commitment to live.

Chris Ya



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children's hospice SOUTH WEST

Little Bridge House, the hospice for children of the South West, celebrates its second birthday in September. At a meeting in the Village Hall, Mr. David Morris, Regional Co-ordinator, explained the background to the hospice, and gave a 'conducted tour' by means of slides.

Situated at Fremington, between Bideford and Barnstable in North Devon, Little Bridge House is available, free of charge, to any of the 500 children in the South West who have life-limiting illnesses, together with their families. By providing respite, as well as terminal care, the burden of physical and emotional strains which sick children impose on their families can be lightened and family bonds strengthened. A 'home from home' and a happy, child-centred, friendly atmosphere is provided, either in self-contained family accommodation, which can take in the whole family, including well children, or in specially adapted children's rooms where the children can be cared for while their parents have a break. Many special facilities are provided, from a multi-sensory room, a swing for wheelchair-bound children and a 'messy' playroom, to specialist medical, counselling and educational facilities.

The hospice can help up to 200 families in any one year. It was built as a result of the great fund-raising campaign which raised over 3 million pounds. So well has it been designed, that it has become a model for other children's hospices both in the UK and overseas. One mother said, "We could not have designed a better place ourselves and we know what our child wants." It receives no funding from the NHS, and to keep it running, with all its specially trained staff, needs over £850,000 a year.

"Little Bridge House is a children's hospice, but it is as much about living as it is about dying, and for children living is about playing and making the most of life," writes Mandy Robbins, the Head Nurse. It is a most important facility to have in our region, and deserves our support. JMA

JOSIE YOUNG RETURNS FROM ROMANIA

It is great to be back, but I think there is still part of me left behind in Romania. When I arrived at Bratca I was met by the children who now live in the first White Cross House. It was lovely to see them out of that orphanage. In Remeti the atmosphere and conditions in the orphanage have improved since last year. This is mainly due to Dr. Marianna, the Romanian doctor, who is in charge again.

Remeti has seven new children, and the state they are in urges me to work in other Romanian orphanages. For example, Olimpia is 8, but she looks 3 and when she came to us, was still being fed by a bottle. Already, in a few months, she has started to grow.

A few Romanians are now beginning to foster children, but due to severe economic reforms poverty is on the increase and children are still being abandoned. The problem seems like a bottomless pit. Then I think of children like Olimpia. If we can make their present life better, then we have something to work from and we must go on from there. It was difficult to say goodbye this time, but common sense prevailed and I resisted the temptation to stuff the odd child into my backpack!

Boscastle School

The temporary classroom at school has now gone, leaving only two flights of steps going nowhere and several lines of redundant breeze blocks.

The oldest children sat on piles of dismantled walls, looked down at a sea of ripped asphalt, brackets, bolts and pipes before writing 'Haiku' to describe the images they saw.

The structure of Haiku is three lines, ideally of 5, 7 and 5 syllables.

*A python in a desert,
A box of melted liquorice,
Doors in to new worlds.*

Jenny Pinch

*Bricks from a comet
Asphalt, rusted mole hills of tar
Nails are dead rain drops.*

James Seldon

*Pipes fell on the floor
The glass breaks on the ground
Dust is moving in the wind*

Lisa Sleeman

*Steps to nowhere,
Windows looking down to the floor,
Roads of black tar.*

Laura Warren

*Sausage like tall bars
Heating bridge diving board stands above
Fibre grass candy.*

Helen Kehoe

*Mountains of Sawdust,
A skeleton that once lived,
Now a concrete slab.*

Anna David

*Nails that have retired.
Cut cornfields of ragged carpet
Counters tell a story*

Rebecca Smyth

*Walls complete with glass panes
Like God's window to look down through
To a place of the past*

Kieron Sullivan

*Wires raiding our classroom
Duct, a ride of mystery
A stage for wild builders.*

Vonnie Hampshire

*Vanilla plaster boards,
A mountain of black,
Special within itself.*

Sarah Moran

8 Ways of Looking at a Cracked Paving Stone from an old school classroom

The platform of a thousand supporting vines in the Gardens of Babylon.
All that remains from the dwellings of the people from the sand.

Part of some foreign villa that fell 200 years ago.
A stone from the kitchen in King Arthur's Castle.
A meteorite from the sun which hit the Earth.
A chunk of rock from an over-run and destroyed castle

A fossilised book with a hidden message.
A slab of stone spat out by a dinosaur.
Debris from a space craft taking off from Mars.
A cracked and overgrown grave stone which looms out from under death's cloak. It is from death's grave.

Anna David, Laura Warren, Michelle Nicholls, Aaron Washer, Lisa Sleeman, James Seldon, Flo James, Jack Hudaverdi, Mazey Killingbeck.

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FRANK SCOTT 1921-1997



Frank - Late Summer 1996

from Poughill and, by the time they were six, the family lived at the Manor House, which they ran as a guest house. Frank and Arthur had three sisters, and all the children attended Boscastle School at some time.

On leaving school, Frank worked on the land, but within six years got his call-up papers and joined the Royal Artillery. One week later his brother was also in the army. Frank did a tour of duty at Chequers in Buckinghamshire, guarding Winston Churchill, and served on the south coast and in Cheshire. As the elder of the twins (by minutes) it fell to Frank to apply for his brother to join him, and they later served in Burma and India. They served throughout the Burma campaign in the so-called 'Forgotten Army', returning to this country after V.J. Day. Frank was a life-long member of the British Legion as well as the Burma Star Association and regularly attended annual reunions, the last as late as 1995.

In retrospect, it seems entirely fitting that Frank, demobbed in 1946, was 'released in order to work on the land', for he was essentially a man of agriculture. His later career spanned all aspects of farming; his family remember him trudging across fields for several miles, through deep snowdrifts in the great snows of 1947, in order to reach the farm. He worked for a

period at Otterham for an agricultural merchant and completed his working life at what was then the Cow and Gate Dairy Factory in Camelford.

Despite the fact that he lived so close to the sea, life on the water did not appeal to Frank, but he knew all the fishermen and served for many years as a Coastguard, earning a long-service medal.

He played tennis as a child and young man, on a court which has long since disappeared to make room for the car park, and was also a footballer; but the 'hobby' which seems to have endured throughout his life-time, and the activity his family associated especially with him, is gardening. He was an 'early potato man', growing his crop many years ago at Water Lane, and later he enjoyed vegetable gardening across the river from his home, doing battle with the snails which particularly favoured the stone walls.

Frank was a family man, whose life was enriched by three children, his four grandchildren, and his extended family, some of whom still live here in Boscastle. After his retirement, he liked to enjoy a lunch-time pint at the Cobweb and the chance to meet old friends. There are many, many people who already miss him; his family's loss is Boscastle's loss.

Rest in Peace.

For forty years, Frank Scott lived at High Water by the harbour. When he first made his home there, the Youth Hostel was a potato seed store and stables, fishermen were active, there was little grass on the river banks and tourism was in its infancy. Frank was, in a very real sense, part of the harbour and he is sadly missed; an era has come to an end.

The Scott twins were only thirteen months old when their parents brought them to Boscastle

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Coastguard Up-date

Hi! You may have noticed that, due to a shortage of space, the coastguard up-date was missing from the last Blowhole. So to bring you up to date now, we have a list of casualties dating from:

12th January. 1334hrs-1500hrs. Assist the ambulance service to evacuate a male casualty with a broken leg from the beach at Trebarwith. No problems were encountered. (In attendance: M. Reynolds, L. Siford, R. Alexander, J. Mills and D. Roots.)

9th March. 1643hrs - 1755hrs. Search for a missing dog. Nothing found. Search to be resumed at first light. (In attendance : A. Darlison, L. Siford, R. Alexander)

10th March. 0730hrs-0930hrs. Continued search for missing dog at Glebe Cliff, Tintagel. Dog ('RODDY') located and recovered safe and well. Maybe a little cold, tired and hungry ! (In attendance: M. Reynolds, A. Darlison, L. Siford, S. Williams, R. Alexander and D. Roots and also Bude Company.)

13th April. 1625hrs-1730hrs. Report of body in the water, south of Tintagel Castle. Port Isaac Lifeboat also in attendance. The 'Body' was found to be part of an inflatable. (In attendance: J. Mills S. Williams, R. Alexander, D. Roots, and L. Siford)

29th April. 1047hrs-1315hrs. Assist Bude Company in search for a missing person. Located safe and well away from the area. (In attendance: L. Siford, J. Mills)

9th May. 1728hrs-1830hrs. Report of a man stuck/cut off by tide at Barras Head, Tintagel. Casualty evacuated by helicopter. Port Isaac Lifeboat and Company also attended, with M. Reynolds, A. Darlison, L. Siford, J. Mills, D. Roots, R. Alexander.

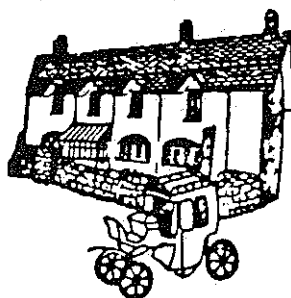
That rounds up our casualties to date. Thankfully not too many or too serious.

We will shortly know what our budget will be for the coming year, so that we can start to plan our patrols and training schedules. We have been given some cut-backs already. We are to reduce/cut out our public relations duties e.g. Duck Race Day, Pongo Day etc. We will miss being there! But what can we do ?

You will have seen the recent media coverage of the deaths of two teenagers at Polzeath last Summer. It has again brought to the public's awareness our continual struggle against the cost-cutting and reduction of essential equipment in the Auxilliary Coastguard. Our battle is against the 'men in grey suits' who hold the purse strings, and who, unfortunately, are totally divorced from the real situation here on the coast. I will continue to keep putting our points forward until the day that someone sees the sense behind our arguments. As I have said before, all we are asking is to be able to maintain and provide a suitably equipped, efficient rescue service for those who get into difficulty on our coast.

Until the next Blowhole, take care on our coastline.
Mac

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Boscastle's restaurateurs have been busy in recent times and opportunities to eat out in the village have both increased and improved. We have enough space to look at four in this edition. The three pubs make the going in the first place.

At **The Cobweb** Adrian Bright has completely refurbished the first-floor restaurant and relaunched it. The attractive new decor is polished-rustic with bare-beams and the slate of the walls making designer peek-a-boos through the new white rendering.

The menu would not be out of place in the West End of London. Starters like Stilton Beignet on a lime and basil concasse, (two words there I had to go and look up). Pan-fried pigeon-breast with a bitter-chocolate sauce was a new experience, too. Tiger prawns with garlic, and mushroom, bacon and leek tartlets all sounded enticing at around the £3 mark. I had the pigeon out of sheer curiosity and it was delicious.

Main courses are excitingly adventurous too. Pan-fried monkfish with ginger and lime and a coconut and cream sauce; venison in white-wine and herbs, and baked haddock on fennel with pistachio nuts, which was what I had. For the less adventurous, there were steaks, sirloin or fillet, and duck (with a fruit compote). Main courses range from £8.25 for the haddock and £10.95 for the fillet-steak.

Puddings were no more commonplace and included Las Palmas tartlets with indescribably naughty additions. Caracas torte sounded well outside my diet and there was a refreshingly down-to-earth Banoffi pie. Four of us ate there and the bill came to c. £75, including a bottle of wine and service. The food was artistically set out, reminiscent of nouvelle cuisine but the portions were more than satisfying. Altogether a very enjoyable evening's eating-out.

The Wellington Hotel has always had its "La Belle Alliance" and the appointment of Colin Holman as General Manager has brought a reorganisation of this well-known Boscastle restaurant amounting almost to a relaunch. The airy, high ceilinged restaurant has been completely refurbished with beautiful, polished floor-boards and tables set out giving plenty of room between parties.

The new à la Carte menu gives diners a much wider choice, especially with the Chef's Specials, which are changed every day. Starters are between £3 and £4 with main courses between £11 and £12, including accompanying vegetables. A Table d'Hôte menu is offered at £18.50 but the set meal is taken from the a la Carte menu and represents about a 20% discount if the dishes were ordered individually. Lucky old residents, who have booked their stay at an inclusive rate, can order their dinner from the a la Carte menu.

La Belle Alliance has an excellent wine-list including some of the often-better-value-for-money New World wines. An impressive list of house-wines is available at under the £10 mark and named wines, which include quite reasonable burgundies and clarets, can match many far more grand restaurants.

The Napoleon has recently been taken over by new tenants Sherry and Richard Claridge. From the moment they moved in it was their intention to convert the Pool Room into a restaurant and this they have now accomplished.

It is an attractive room; cosily set out with crushed-strawberry table cloths and napkins with matching, candy-striped wall-paper. The room can take about 30 covers with a range of tables. You can either walk straight into the restaurant or take a drink in the bar and order there. Indeed, you can eat the same food in the bar if you wish.

This is what I think we all mean when we talk about 'Good Pub Grub' - simple, unpretentious, and exactly what you feel like when you walk up the road to your local. Nevertheless, there is an imaginative choice of things to eat. Starters include two sorts of mushrooms either with stilton cheese or garlic; normal fare like Avocado with Prawns or Liver-Pate or the far less commonplace Chefs Specials: Broccoli Soup or Scrambled Egg with Smoked Salmon. These dishes ranged from £2.50 to £3.50 (for the latter)

Main courses are dishes you do not have to guess about when you are making up your mind. Steaks, T-bone and Rump start the bidding and you can decide between Pepper Sauce or Diane if you don't prefer your meat plain. Gammon, Pork Paprika, Duck a l'orange (that great English favourite) or Lemon Sole are there for the middle- of-the-roaders but the Chef's Special was the tempting Barnsley Lamb Steak with Rosemary Sauce.

Puddings comprise boys-food items, Raspberry Pavlova, Strawberries and Cream, Sorbet or Fruit Brulé. Or there is Stilton and Biscuits if you prefer. The bill for two of us, including a carafe of house-wine came to £35 with service. But that also covered our pre-dinner drinks, of which mine was a large Scotch.

The Bottreaux Hotel is another place we had promised ourselves to visit since Graham and Hazel arrived in the village at the same time as we did. The first thing I noticed; they still do the Dortmund Union Pils, so I booked a table for the following day. But what you really notice, seriously, is the transformation Graham and Hazel have brought about to the look and the feel of the restaurant. The airy and attractive dining room is finely decorated in eau-de-nil wall covering, with white base table-cloths overlaid with green cloths laid diagonally. On the walls are the signed aircraft prints Graham lent us for the V.E. display.

The restaurant is perched high above Fore Street and the sense of space outside enhances the relaxing, airy feel of the restaurant. Behind the Dining Room is the bar with polished granite-topped tables where customers can drink while they decide what they are going to eat. There are 3 tables for 4 and 4 for 2 in the restaurant. The menu is very extensive and it is hard to imagine anyone not finding something they truly fancy. Of 12 starters, all priced under £3, Wild-Boar Pate with Madeira took my eye; to say nothing of →



Graham and Hazel Mee in the Bottreaux House Restaurant

crepes with a smoked haddock filling (mmmmm!) and smoked trout with broccoli en croute. The very first item on the list of main-courses is Venison and Wild-Boar Sausages for £6. Follow that. And they do: 3 types of chicken, especially Cajun for £6.50, Sirloin Steak for £8 (with an extra £1 for poivre sauce) and Brill, size of the day, at £1 an ounce.

Specials include three different curries, Filet Bearnaise at £10.75, Rack of Lamb and an intriguing Pollack Sugo alla Zingara (that's fish in gypsy sauce) for £8.50. And on to the wine-list, notable for its range of choice at reasonable prices; plenty of New World whites and reds, 90% I estimate, priced at under £10, What they describe as the Rolls Royce of Riojas is an exception which costs £14.50.

What else can one say? I'll tell you: I can't wait to get there tomorrow night. JC

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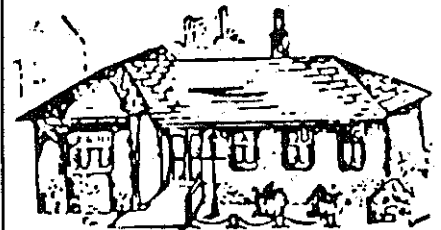
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April in North Cornwall can be a mixed blessing. A General Election campaign can be much worse. Of course, the result can provide rose-tinted spectacles with hindsight. But I can honestly say that it was my happiest, most enjoyable and most friendly campaign ever... and I have been heavily involved, in one way or another, in every one of them since 1964.

The golden evenings and the golden gorse should, perhaps, have told us what to expect. However, as Nicky will confirm, we really had little idea how people would actually vote on the day.

What we did soon realise was that there was a great feeling of goodwill. That was apparent on almost all the doorsteps, as was the embarrassing frequency of recognition. Television has much to answer for.

And now? I am very grateful, and truly humbled, by the trust and confidence placed in me. I hope I can live up to it.

Meanwhile, Boscastle holds the record for the most adventurous poster boards!

Paul Tyler CBE - MP for North Cornwall



one and all
onen hag, all
CORNWALL
COUNTY COUNCIL

First of all I would like to thank all of you for re-electing me as your Councillor and with such a large majority. Remember that I am here to serve you and, if I can be of help to anyone, please let me know.

I also wish to tell you all that, after much thought, I have, as an Independent member, decided to join with the Liberal Democrats in a formal coalition to run Cornwall. I think that this arrangement is in the best interests of the County and of you, the people that I represent.

I say this because, especially at this time of political change, Cornwall needs to be run on a steady course, and this is the way to do it. The Liberal Democrats are only one short of a majority of members on the Council. I have worked with them before and find most of their views quite acceptable.

In a formal coalition, I will have much more say in what is decided and also it will enable me to extend my influence to benefit the people on my electoral patch. This must be to your advantage.

Don't forget to tell me if I can help you.

Fred Whiting 01840 770540

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Mac's Tracks



FILMS

Hi! A mixed bag to review this issue. I have managed to drag myself away from household chores and grass cutting to visit the cinema a couple of times to see firstly: **Starwars**, the re-issue directed by George Lucas. Even twenty years on this film can still hold

it's head high as the 'space movie'. No sex, no expletives, little gratuitous blood. Makes a nice change. If you haven't seen it then do go. It's a big screen must. (111mins. 12 cert.)

The next visit was to another re-issue - **Quadrophenia** (120mins. 15 cert.) This 1979 film was the film-of-the-concept-album by "The Who" set during the Mods & Rockers era in the mid 60's, containing a scene featuring a Triumph Herald! This is an enjoyable period piece with insight into the youth culture of the time.

Finally into the cinema, **The English Patient** (162 mins. 15 cert.) A romantic epic set in Italy and the Sahara before and during the Second World War. This is a love story with a difference. Poignant, moving, excellent. (It did win 9 Oscars, but that's beside the point!)

MUSIC

As mentioned last month, John Lee Hooker - his recent album **Don't Look Back** is 11 tracks of late night mellow-out music in the typical Blues tradition. I can't stop playing this one. The same with Van Morrison and his album, **The Healing Game**. 10 tracks of soulful music, heartfelt, delivered with precise timing. It is interesting to note that John Lee Hooker guests with Van Morrison on his album and visa versa, especially with the track 'Healing Game' (on both albums, with different approach.)

Short lived Spice? To change the mood, I borrowed the Spice Girls' **Spice**. What can I say? Not quite my cup of tea. I can appreciate that they are taking the world by storm, but it's all rather disposable music. Will this CD still be played in ten years time? I think not. I imagine that their bubble will soon burst. I will predict that they will not be together in say, five years time - maybe sooner.

The CD does contain 10 pleasant tunes, but they have no soul, no meaning; all insincere. A big miss for me. I won't even play this one again!

McCartney Convert? The final two CDs I borrowed from Rick (Jones) both turned out to be a good listen. Firstly Paul McCartney's **Flaming Pie**. This is also excellent value for money, containing 14 tracks, with a decent lyric sheet and track by track explanation. I have to say that I have never been a Paul McCartney fan, endorsed by the fact that I saw him live a few years ago and didn't rate him much then either - but this album is good. I enjoyed every track. There is a certain amount of Jeff Lynne influence apparent (he produced and played on several tracks), but all in all I am impressed. After playing it a few times, I feel I may even have to buy this one.

The final CD I will have to buy - Eel's **Beautiful Freak**. In fact, see if you can get hold of a copy and give it a listen. I'll review it in the next issue. Until then, enjoy your leisure time.

Mac

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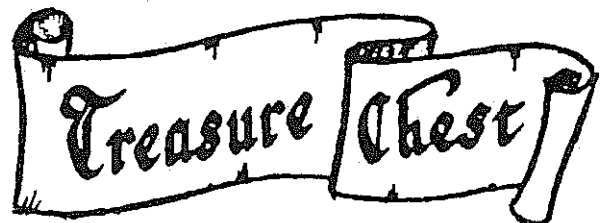


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Boscastle takes all in its stride

Don't Panic! It's only a - BOMB?

Sunday, May 25th. A sunny late-Spring day, part of a public holiday weekend. Many residents are in their gardens, walking their dogs or preparing for the Fun Run. Visitors stream along harbour paths, the shops are busy and Forrabury Church is being prepared for a Marriage Blessing.

By mid-afternoon, there are stalls on the lawn of Valency House, toddlers and parents, dogs, friends and curious tourists begin to gather. Green stickers are issued, batons are clutched and there are a few anxious faces. At other points on the cliff and along the lanes more groups gather as they prepare to take over the batons. Forrabury Hill is now lined bumper to bumper with cars as guests stream into the Church. The service begins. (The Church Fun-Run change-over point has been switched to the Football Field, so that runners and wedding guests do not collide.)

A procession of cars emerges from Potters Lane and turns into Forrabury Hill. There are some delicate manoeuvres as other cars attempt to back through narrow openings and a few startled walkers and drivers watch a police car, followed by a coastguard vehicle, followed by a vehicle belonging to a naval bomb-disposal team edge their way carefully through the narrow gaps. Something is afoot.

Down at the harbour, a few curious souls begin to speculate: was that the coastguard's maroon we heard? But there are more serious concerns; where are the toddlers from the church team? Whose in charge of...? 'Line up in an orderly fashion,' says the starter, and adults coax toddlers who are to be part of the doddle-toddle, cameras are poised and there are a great many smiles. Somebody calls in a stage whisper 'It is a bomb' and there are echoes of 'It's up the top'... A whistle blows. They are off! Amidst cheers, determined pre-schoolers set off for the bridge and beyond.

At the corner of Paradise Road, below Trerosewill, adult volunteer walkers and a dog are entertained by a member of the Village Hall Committee, resplendent in a kilt, who demonstrates his skills with an enormous 'caber' and there is much hilarity. 'What was that?' A firework? An explosion? As they look towards the Church, there is a crowd milling, and visitors can be seen making their way towards the cliffs. Word filters through from a banner-waving fun-run steward further up Tintagel Road, that a controlled explosion has taken place, but at this moment... where are the walkers? Which team will arrive first?

Batons are passed. Carole Vincent is by now down at Treforda Water Cottage, stop watch in hand, ready to time the serious runners. Word of police activity is passed along with the baton. At the Village Hall, committee members boil up the kettle, the first of the walkers begin to filter in with news of the progress of the run - and anxious policemen who are a little concerned that the cliffs are alive with wedding guests and sponsored walkers and dogs. The serious business continues. Bets (sorry, guesses) are taken; what will be the time of the fastest run of the afternoon? Why is the kettle taking so long to boil? My feet are killing me...

The 'serious' runners arrive at the hall, last lap joggers who have completed the steep leg up Dunn Street to the hall are puffing and blowing. Exhaustion is overcome, the hall is full, times are checked, and the winning guesses are rewarded.

Everyone agrees that this has been another splendid event... and by the way, what was all that fuss on the cliffs about? By now the jungle drums have done their work.

The truth is out; during the course of renovations on a cottage opposite the Napoleon Inn, a cache of live 1942 ammunition was found under the tiles. Experts decided that it should be taken to a quiet, deserted spot on the cliffside and be made safe! The real business of the day was completed with dynamic enthusiasm and good fun was had by all. Have a glass of wine...
YMA

(Results of Fun Run: See p. 38)

What's On

JUNE

- Fri. 13th 'Elastic Band' at Welly
 Sat. 14th Methodist Guild Fete 2.30pm
 Wed. 25th Strawberry Fayre 7.00pm at Rectory
 Sun. 29th St.Juliot Revel. Preacher: The Archdeacon

JULY

- Tues. 8th W.I. 7.00pm Outing to Portreath Bee Centre
 Wed. 9th Life Boat Singers at the Cobweb, pm.
 Sun. 27th Flower Festival at Forrabury Church. Service 10.15am. Concert at 3.00pm by N. Cornwall Choir.
 Wed. 30th Summer Fayre at Margaret Manning's house, 'Sunset, Under Rd., in aid of Boscastle Playgroup.

AUGUST

- Sun. 10th Pongo Day, 3 - 7pm at Delabole.
 Sat. 16th Boscastle Group Church Fete. Harbour 2.00pm
 Sun. 24th Songs of Praise, Harbour, 6.30pm

SEPTEMBER

- Tues. 9th W.I. 7.30pm 'Floral Art'- Demonstartion by Amboley Chivers

NAPOLEON INN

Richard and Sherry wish to invite customers to partake of a Chinese 4 course meal to be held on Wed. 11th June. 1st Course will be served at 8.00pm. This evening is limited to 30 covers by reservation only. Cost £15.

Similar evenings will continue in September - possibly with an Indian evening.

WELLINGTON - Music:

FOLK - Come-All-Ye - every Monday evening

BLUES- every Friday evening.

Fri 13th June The Elastic Band - young musicians from Wadebridge who take live music & musical instruments to Romanian orphans.

Raffle & collection.

Victor has opened an Aviary at the Welly.

COBWEB

Entertainment on Saturday Nights - Music Night. Bar open till midnight.

JUNE 14th: One Way Street, 21st: Jailhouse. 28th: Sam's Brothers Band. JULY 5th: Strung Out. 12th: Blind Panic. 19th: Karioke, with Huncle Heric. 26th: Atlantic Highway. AUGUST 2nd: George Nix. 9th: Billy Mac. 16th: Sam's Brothers Band. 23rd: Root 26. 30th: Jailhouse.

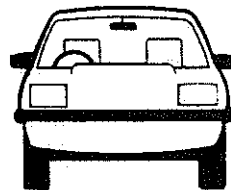
COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

Nick Herrington is planning a plant sale to be held on the car park of the Wellington Hotel. Don't forget to take cuttings of shrubs, so that they have time to root.

Date and time of sale will be announced later.

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Collectors' Corner



Women (and men) have always worn jewellery, but the 19th century saw an upsurge in jewellery production, due to artists, craftsmen and manufacturers utilising new innovations that were made possible by the introduction of new machines and methods of production. Until the 19th century gold had been scarce, but following the gold rush in America and the later discoveries in Australia it became more readily available. At about the same time, the diamond fields in Africa were opened up and people with 'new' money, the industrialists, invested heavily in jewellery as a way of advertising their own wealth and position.

Rapidly changing fashions in clothing were matched by changes in popular jewellery. Gold, silver and precious gems had always been used but now semi-precious stones, ivory, coral, jet, onyx, seed pearls, enamels and other materials were fashionable. After the death of Prince Albert, mourning jewellery (as worn by Queen Victoria) came into vogue and some nice examples can still be seen, rings or lockets containing a lock of hair from the deceased being the most popular form.

Another fashionable innovation of the time were code jewels, where the initial letter of the name of the stone made a word, for example the word Dearest would be made from diamond, emerald, amethyst, ruby, emerald, sardonyx and topaz.

After the first world war, when more women were working and had their own money to spend, costume jewellery really came into its own. Much cheaper than the 'real' thing but often just as attractive, costume jewellery was within the reach of much of the female population. Marquasite and silver were a popular combination for brooches, rings, necklaces and bracelets and there are some lovely examples of the art-deco style still available. Charity shops, jumble sales and car boot sales are good hunting grounds for costume jewellery and some of my own favourite pieces were picked up for 50p or £1.00.

During the 1960's and 70's, costume jewellery became much more brash and garish, reflecting the fashion of the times. Plastic was one of the new fashionable materials for clothes and jewellery, often in very vivid colours. (Hands up all those who remember wearing those huge circular plastic earrings.) It's only a matter of time before these become collectable, so put them somewhere safe for your grandchildren.

Many people have pieces of family jewellery, rings, lockets, bar brooches etc. often late Victorian or Edwardian, which have been handed down, perhaps from grandparents, while the more modern costume jewellery of the 20's and 30's has been neglected and even thrown away. It's becoming very collectable and now is the time to buy.

K.C.

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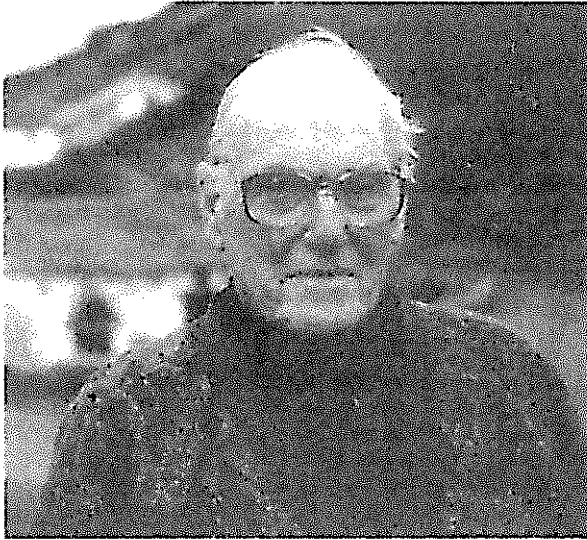
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NORMAN WEBBER 1905 - 1997



'He was supposed to live well past his 100th birthday', said his grandson and some might say, 'didn't he?' Such was the fount of stored memory embodied in Norman Webber that he seemed to encompass at least a century of the history of Boscastle and its environs.

Norman came to Boscastle from Trebarwith as an infant, the child of a family which had already made an impact on this part of the world; his great grandfather had helped to build the Bodmin-Wadebridge railway in 1834, his father was the photographer who immortalised early 20th century Boscastle, as well as being a professional golfer and much else.

In a moving tribute as part of a Memorial Service at Forrabury Church, Norman's grandson used visual aids to illustrate some facets of the life and character of this

remarkable man but it would need a full-length biography to tell the whole story. A patriot with a deep and protective love of his own village, a fisherman, sailor, former coastguard, erstwhile speedway rider and golfer, photographer, film maker extraordinaire, self-confessed 'stay-put' type who nevertheless travelled to such places as Spain before the crowds discovered them, an authority on Cornish wrecks, an entrepreneur who recognised the potential value of the tourist trade when it was in its infancy, but rejected damaging aspects of it, a family man and story-teller who could still hold a listener spell-bound when he had passed his ninetieth year.

Much of Norman's life has been chronicled in earlier editions of this and other papers, and he had his moment of televised fame. The facts of his life are probably less important to our memories than the man himself. In recent years, Norman was the man whom we consulted to verify details of history, particularly that of the harbour. Newcomers soon discovered that if they wanted to understand the village, a chat with Norman would keep them spellbound, and send them away with a greater appreciation of our heritage. Holidays were enhanced by this genuinely 'local man' who was always available to give advice and information.

It is as a story-teller that many will remember him. His grandchildren know that 'mares eat oats, and does eat oats and little lambs eat ivy'. They know too that 'day er lorriz, deyiz trux, fullor hensan geezan dux'. We know lots of delightful stories too, for Norman enriched our harbourside walks with maritime tales and village lore.

Norman's span of experience, and the ease with which he shared it, was significant not only as an oral history, but as the embodiment of particular values, 'old values, which are bequeathed by such a character. Boscastle has suffered a great loss, but has cause for celebration whilst village life is perpetuated by such a Norman. Rest in peace.

Tony Dominy & Son

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Crimewatch

Report by P.C. Alcock

Hello everyone,

It's been a good start to the season visitor wise. They seem to be everywhere in abundance, and more importantly are behaving themselves!

That's more than can be said for three of our locals, who having decided to enter the "Let's see how much we can smash up the toilets by the surgery" competition, have been rewarded with first prizes of charges of Criminal Damage and court appearances. This kind of wilful, destructive damage is so annoying and so unnecessary. There are those I know who will leap to the defence of perpetrators of such acts, stating that there is nothing for the young people to do and so they get bored! Well, I personally disagree with this train of thought, as having worked in the City of Plymouth, where there is every facility the vandal could want, damage still gets committed regularly. I believe it's more in the mentality of the person rather than their states of boredom. Still, that's enough of my high horse stuff - more like a pony on stilts actually.

With the increase in summer traffic the obvious increase in road accidents has followed, thankfully most of them minor. If you are taking to the back lanes to avoid the busier roads at this time of year, please take care and approach the narrow bends slowly. Sooner or later you will be bound to meet someone taking a short cut in the other direction.

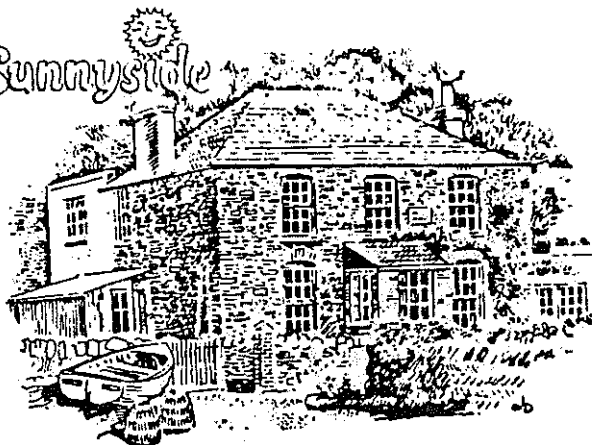
Having worked a week of night shifts last week, I spent an hour or so each night walking through the village during the wee small hours. Although I do this regularly during the night and very often don't see a living soul, last week I certainly gave a start to one or two persons who were staggering home from whatever fireside hospitality they had been embracing. I think that one of these late wanderers is still convinced he was seeing things and has no doubt quit the demon drink as a result - or perhaps ordered even more of whatever it was he was full of! Yes, gate posts do hurt when you fall over them!

Well, that's all for now folks. Just another reminder to all you drivers: please, please don't park on the yellow lines in Camelford main street. Tickets will be issued even to the "I've only been here a couple of minutes" brigade.

Take care.

Michael Alcock

Sunnyside



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Launceston: Town Hall

Tues. 10 a.m. -1.00 p.m.

Fri. 10 a.m. -1.00 p.m.

Youth Speaks - and Triumphs

Former Boscastle pupil off to the Palace

A former pupil of Boscastle School, Jo Williams, was the Chairperson of the victorious public speaking team of Wadebridge School which won the national final.

The team competed in the finals against Queen Margaret's School of York, St. Edward's of Liverpool, and Cheltenham Ladies College amongst others. The chair of the judges panel was Anna Ford.

Jo is thrilled at the prospect of a visit to Buckingham Palace, with the team, to receive the award. She lost no time in telephoning her former headmaster, Neil Young, for she is convinced that her verse-speaking experiences at primary school were instrumental in her success.

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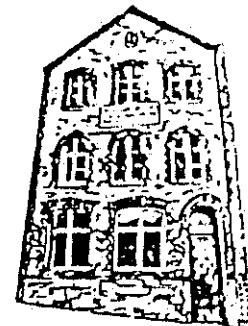
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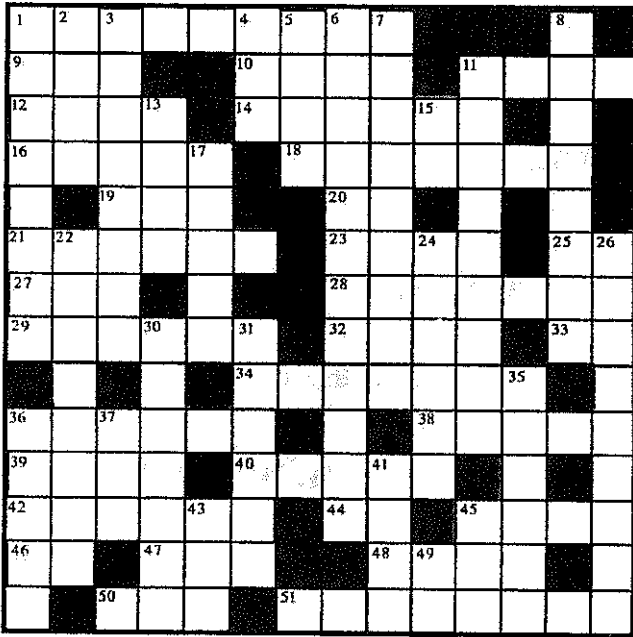


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CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

1. Musical Instrument 9. French vineyard 10. Italian river 11. Flower 12. Chop 14. Conflict 16. Eskimo 18. Light-grey metal 19. Cage for hawks 20. Title (abbrev.) 21. Polish industrial city 23. Assistant 25. Every (abbrev.) 27. Riber 28. Littoral 29. Fallow deer 32. Relative 33. Preposition 34. Absorbent paper 36. Spice 38. Muscle 39. Churn 40. Elude 42. Poem to dawn 44. Sun god 45. Phoenician Princess 46. Exists 47. Kernel 48. Excursion 50. Poem 51. Scottish City

DOWN

1. Greek hero (myth) 2. Measure of herrings 3. Salad fruit 4. Flat dish 5. Country in S.W. Asia 6. Chair cover 7. Infamous 8. Flaming torch 11. Industrial city 13. Baltic Port 15. Weight 17. Fabric 22. Dating 24. European River 26. Long Wooden Spoon 30. Country 31. Thoroughfare 35. Irony 36. Holy Cup 37. Point of pen 41. Appointment 43. Owing 45. Failure 49. Conjunction

Answers to Crossword in Blowhole No. 17

Across: 1. Bougainvillea 11. Obsession 12. Use 13. Sidled 16. Dill 18. Secretary 20. Ideal 21. Ate 22. Rod 23. Cist 24. Den 25. Motor 27. Castle 28. Stoma 29. Anne 30. Erbium 35. Slash 36. Arcade 37. Sybil 38. Evaporate 41. Vat 44. Lenin 45. Law 46. Eton 47. Tender

Down: 1. Boudicca 2. Obsidian 3. Uselessness 4. Ge 5. Ass 6. Isis 7. Nide 8. Volcano 9. Inert 10. Esparto 14. Deemster 15. Hydrangea 17. Latterly 19. Room 24. Derisive 26. OT 31. Babel 32. Uhlan 33. Cattle 34. Delve 36. Atone 39. Pit 40. Ear 42. At 43. To

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Weather Watch

Lesnewth Station



Rainfall figures:

	1996	1997
FEB	136.9 m.m.	192.9 m.m.
MAR	83.1 m.m.	53.4 m.m.
APR	71.9 mm	25.9 m.m.

Greetings weather watchers.

Spring sprung surprises this year. Each month had its own peculiarities.

FEBRUARY and only one frosty morning early in the month. Four days when rain was not recorded. Much needed rain you might be saying and, yes, I would agree. Two people who may not agree, would be Bill & Julia Kiely from Derbyshire. These remarkable people gave their time, to complete Lesnewth Church Roof for us - up and down ladders, braving the rain and gales for two whole weeks. We shall remember them with affection.

MARCH The 1st - bright sunny morning, rain appeared later in the day. 3-12th - warmer with lots of sun. The newly born lambs were lucky, arriving into the world in such good weather. A few chilly, breezy days, during the middle of the month. 28th - Good Friday, beautiful day weather wise, which continued over the Easter period.

The comet Hale Bopp appeared in the N.W. skies earlier in the month.

APRIL Rainfall very low, as we are all aware. Quite a lot of frosty mornings but what superb days we had. Sunshine hours very high and with clear skies at night, Hale Bopp was a truly wonderful sight. My last sighting was May 1/2nd. The Spring flowers lasted so well this year didn't they? Much to be done in the garden now. Until next time, keep an eye on the skies! V.G.

POST SCRIPT

On Saturday 17th May, 25.8 mm rain fell
Almost the April total!

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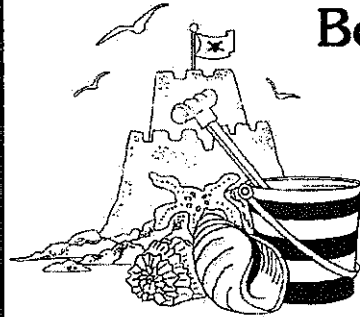
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Yet More Sport

BOSCASTLE & DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE
Presentation and Finals Night, held at the Country Club, Tintagel on 17th April. Results as follows:

Div. 1. Winners: Green Inn.
Runners Up: Cobweb A
Wooden Spoon: Bettle & Chisel

Div. 2 Winners: Horseshoe B
Runners Up: Cornishman
Wooden Spoon: Cobweb B.

Roy Rush K.O. Cup
Won by Cobweb A
Runners Up: Tintagel C/Club.
I. Cobbledick

Div. 1 League Champion: I. Cobbledick

Runner Up: S. Parish.

Most tons: I Cobbledick

Most 180s: S. Parrish, D. Mason K. Chidley, G. Smith, G. Windsor, G. Sullivan, G. Strollery, I. Cobbledick.

All-round highest checkout: G. King

Div. 2 League Champion: A. Thomas

Runner Up: A Smith

Most tons: N. Harvey

Most 180s: A. Thomas, S. Smith, P. Templar, A. Stratton.

Winners of Pairs: N. Fishley & S. Parrish

Runners Up: I. Cobbledick & S. Martin

Losing Semi-finalists: C. Reynolds & A. Thomas and M. Cowling and D. Bragg.

Captains Winner: I. Cobbledick

Runners Up: L. Siford.

Landlord's Cup: P. West - Wottens

Runner Up: A.P. Bright - Cobweb.

Individual Winners Div. 1: N. Furze

Runner Up: D. Strollery

Div. 2: A. Thomas.

Charity Night Cup: Runner Up: A. Smith

Runner Up: Won by C. Reynolds

Runner Up: P. Dolman

£85 was raised for Camelford Play Group. Bouquets were presented to Mrs. Cann & daughter Melanie with grateful thanks for a grand spread. Mr. Mervyn Palmer and Mr. V. Tobbut presented the prizes and thanks go to Mr. D. Littlejohns and the committee for their hard work on the night. I.B.

FUN RUN 'MARATHON'

The 'Marathon runners, who were timed from Treford's Corner to the Village Hall (via Minster Woods), recorded the following times:

1st. Raymund Rogers	15.49
2nd Simon Biddick	17.35
3rd John Born	19.35
4th Paul Latham	21.43
5th Les Siford	26.59.

Winners of the Sweepstake to guess the time taken by the fastest runner:

1. Daphne Rogers
2= John Born & Kevin Gibbs.

THANKS

Ivor and Vera Bright wish to thank all those who have sent cards and wishes for the future in their retirement bungalow at 'Rovina', Trefleur Close, Boscastle.

DUCK RACE DAY

Boscastle School would like to thank all who helped, contributed and supported the Duck Race. Over £2,000 was raised for Boscastle School Association Funds.



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'GOLF MONTHLY' RATING 10/10

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More Sport

CRICKET

Despite the inclement weather at present, the cricket season is well under-way with the two local village pub teams making useful starts.

The Cobweb sits proudly on top of the 1st division, winning two and drawing one of their three games played, with Tony Seldon and Steve Brown in top form with the bat, with our local doctor and dentist not far behind.

The newly-formed Wellington team, which plays in Division 2 unfortunately lost its first match, but won its second conclusively by five wickets. Their last match featured an exciting finish, when they sadly lost by one run - on the last ball of the match!

Whatever the results, the whole point of this evening cricket league is the enjoyment, so if there are any budding Bothams or Boycotts who feel they would like to play, then ring Adrian or Victor for details.

LONDON MARATHON

On April 13th I ran my fourth successive London Marathon managing my best time - 4 hours 24 minutes! A big thank you to all who sponsored me - over £300 was raised for Launceston Athletic Club. I would also like to thank Joan Kinsman, Sonya Whitehand and Pam Gardner for supporting me on the day - even though they missed me at the finish!

Janet Lathom

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Wellington v. Cobweb Golf Tournament was resurrected in April, and the Wellington regained the trophy with a narrow victory. (Victor reports that he is 'eternally grateful' for the Replacement Shield, a splendid replica of the original.)

It is interesting to note, he says, that Phil Hicks, the Cobweb's captain, and, more surprisingly, the successful captain of the Welly team, John Blunt, both resigned after the event. The new captains, Dr. G. Garrod of the Welly team and Dr. Paul Abbot for the Cobweb, with scalpels drawn, risk only the cut of their handicaps.

Most Entertaining

At the annual presentation evening of the Long Cross Pool League, the Cobweb Pool Team was awarded £50. Why? For being the most entertaining team with the best pub and grub, of course!

BOSCASTLE SCHOOL SPORT

NETBALL

At the recent Annual Netball Tournament Tintagel School, the Boscastle Netball Team played very well, gaining victories over Tintagel and Delabole, along with a draw with Camelford. A defeat against a very good St. Minver side prevented the contesting the final, which was won by St. Minver.

The Netball Team gained victory over Eglosker and drew with North Petherwin earlier in the term.

CROSS COUNTRY

At the Deli Farm Cross Country, ten children from Boscastle ran. Congratulations to Lewis Sullivan for coming seventh out of 162 runners. The school has four runners in the top 35 and look forward to possible 'team' success in the future.

SWIMMING

The Boscastle School distance record was recently broken at Camelford Pool. Lewis Sullivan, Anna David and Rebecca Taylor all swam 3,500 metres - well done!

ATHLETICS

Paul Lathom competed in the Sportshall Athletics National Finals at the Birmingham Indoor Arena on 12th April. Although he found the competition very tough he thoroughly enjoyed the whole occasion.

Paul is now competing out-of-doors and at the Cornwall County Athletics Competition at Carn Bra. He gained a silver medal in the U13 Boys shot, and bronze medals in the U13 Boys 100 & 200 metres. Over the following weekend at the Cornwall Schools' Multi-Events, Paul gained a gold medal after competing five events (hurdles, high jump, shot, long jump and 800 metres). Well done Paul.

YOUNG LIFE-SAVERS

Twelve-year-old Jimmy Siford and his friend Lloyd Cann, recently passed their first Life-saver and Resuscitation test, under the auspices of Tintagel Life-Saving Club. Having been awarded their badge the pair will go on to do more advanced swimming and life-saving tests, until they are qualified to join the junior life-savers on duty at Trebarwith Strand.

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Boscastle Sport

FOOTBALL

Another season has come to an end, but unfortunately this year hasn't been very prosperous for either team, as no silverware has come to Boscastle for the first time in several years.

Despite the fact that Boscastle's two teams have always managed to field eleven players (which has been difficult at times), the standard of some of the play hasn't been quite up to scratch, which has been due to several key players missing at key times, due partly to injuries, suspensions, holidays and work commitments. But the main reason for Boscastle's demise is the fact that players are getting older, less fit and less committed than in past seasons.

The first team finished just above the relegation zone in the Premier League and also came runners-up in the St. Breward Cup, losing to Nanpean in the final. The second team came next to bottom in Division Four, losing all but four of the league games played.

Youngsters

There are a good array of youngsters coming up through the ranks, but it will take a few seasons before they bring the good times back to the club, so we are going to have to rely on encouraging some better players to Boscastle next year to help us through our mini-crisis.

Support

Whatever the future brings we hope that the support you have given us, both on match days and with fund-raising, continues as it has done in the past. Despite some of the poorer performances, this season the overall support has, if anything, been slightly better than in previous years, with the cost of the referee on match days always being met by the takings from the tea-hut, without any need to dip into the supporters club's funds.

Thanks

Other end of season thanks must go to:

1. Tea ladies. 2. Ground staff. 3. The managers and players. 4. Committee members. 5. With a special thanks to Malc & Lynn and Philip and Tracy who have donated a new strip for each team. 6. And to everyone else who has supported us in any way throughout a mainly enjoyable, if not successful, season.

Dinner/Dance

On the 16th May Boscastle held its annual dinner and dance at the Bullers Arms, Marhamchurch, when well over a hundred guests sat down to an excellent meal served up by Tony Perry and his staff.

Following the meal came the speeches, which this year were given by the President, Doreen Hancock; the Chairman, Bill Pethick; the guest speaker, Mr. Oliver Harris (of the County F.A.); and by the team managers, Steve Dray and Graham Jory, who gave amusing accounts of the teams' performances this season.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

YOUR COUNCIL REQUIRES IDEAS FOR MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS, ANY IDEAS, LARGE OR SMALL, FROM INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISATIONS.

SUGGESTIONS SHOULD BE SUCH THAT ALL RESIDENTS OF FORRABURY AND MINSTER, REGARDLESS OF AGE, SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF LETTING THE COUNCIL KNOW OF YOUR IDEA:

**1. WRITE TO THE PARISH CLERK AT:
APRIL COTTAGE,
DUNN STREET,
BOSCASTLE**

2. GO TO YOUR LOCAL SHOP, PUB OR POST OFFICE WHERE YOU WILL SEE A MILLENNIUM IDEAS BOX. FILL IN THE FORM PROVIDED AND LEAVE IT IN THE BOX FOR COLLECTION.

CLOSING DATE - AUGUST 1ST. AFTER THIS, ALL THE IDEAS RECEIVED WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL, WHO WILL THEN CALL A PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS A PROGRAMME.

After the speeches came the presentations of the cups and trophies, and this year the winners were:

Player of the Year (1st Team) - Johnny Bosley
Player of the year (2nd Team) - 'Veteran'
Arthur Marshall
Most Improved Young player - 'Local boy'
Johnny Mugford
1st Team Top Goal Scorer - Simon Biddick
2nd Team Top Goal Scorer (joint) - Graham Jory
Dave Sleeman

There were also two baskets of fruit presented the shirt-washing ladies - Vi Biddick and Jo Safhi who, as usual, did a grand job keeping the shirts clean despite the shocking state they sometimes get into.

The evening then continued with the usual dancing and socialising until the small hours of the morning, concluding with the usual 'sing-song' and the baton of Malcom Biddick, who led the choir well despite the lack of tuneful voices.

Congratulations

to Roger and Karen Perry for the safe arrival of their son Craig who was born back in April.

Craig is already keeping up the tradition of his father - he arrived rather late!