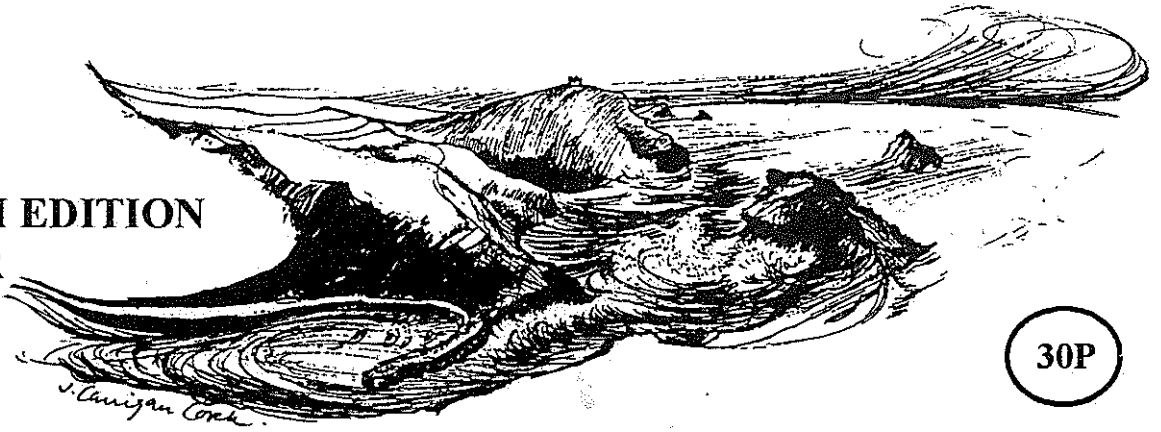


FOURTH EDITION
WINTER
1993



30P

BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE



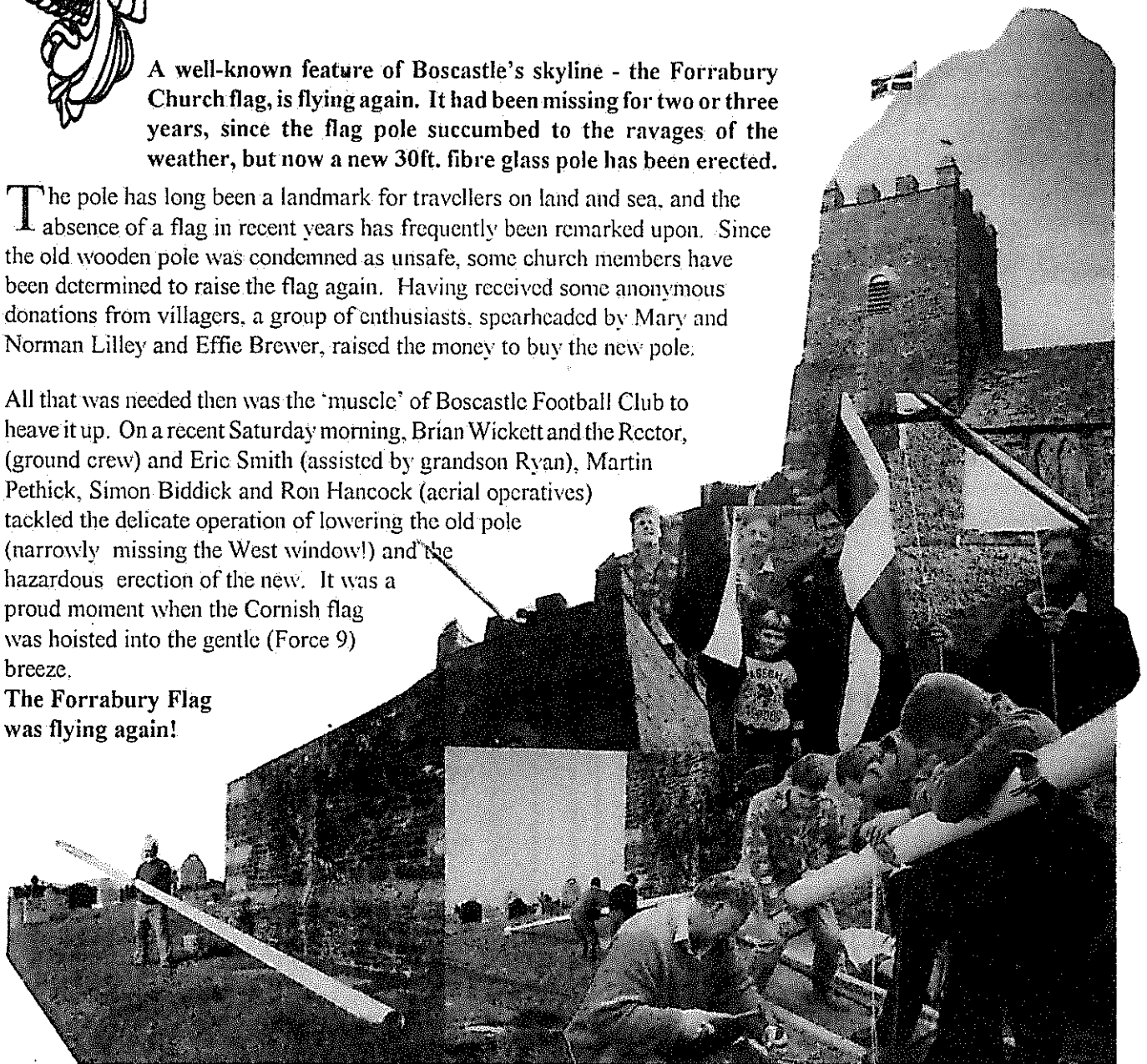
FORRABURY FLAG FLYING

A well-known feature of Boscastle's skyline - the Forrabury Church flag, is flying again. It had been missing for two or three years, since the flag pole succumbed to the ravages of the weather, but now a new 30ft. fibre glass pole has been erected.

The pole has long been a landmark for travellers on land and sea, and the absence of a flag in recent years has frequently been remarked upon. Since the old wooden pole was condemned as unsafe, some church members have been determined to raise the flag again. Having received some anonymous donations from villagers, a group of enthusiasts, spearheaded by Mary and Norman Lilley and Effie Brewer, raised the money to buy the new pole.

All that was needed then was the 'muscle' of Boscastle Football Club to heave it up. On a recent Saturday morning, Brian Wickett and the Rector, (ground crew) and Eric Smith (assisted by grandson Ryan), Martin Pethick, Simon Biddick and Ron Hancock (aerial operatives) tackled the delicate operation of lowering the old pole (narrowly missing the West window!) and the hazardous erection of the new. It was a proud moment when the Cornish flag was hoisted into the gentle (Force 9) breeze.

**The Forrabury Flag
was flying again!**



HARBOUR MASTER 7 : DOCTOR 10 : CHURCH 12 : PARISH COUNCIL 20 : CORRESPONDENCE 29 : PUZZLES 30

PAYING FOR THE BLOWHOLE

No - this is NOT a request for money. The Blowhole is free to all residents and will continue to be so for as long as possible. It was started as a community project, as our means of keeping in touch with each other, and not as a profit-making venture. It will remain so.

How is it paid for? Initially we were given grants from the Parish Council and the Cornwall Rural Community Council. Thus the Blowhole was given a financial kick-start.

Secondly, we have an enthusiastic and hard working Advertising Manager who liaises with local business people. As a result of their support (and many of you tell us that you are pleased to have an opportunity to contribute to the funds in this way) we are able to cover much of the cost of printing.

Printing is always expensive, but another advantage is that all our contributors - artists, writers, roving reporters and distributors - give their services free, as does our computer expert. Thus, with few incidental expenses, costs are kept to a minimum.

Why then is a price printed on the front cover? For each issue we print surplus copies which are sold to visitors, friends and those residents who want extra copies for family and friends outside the area. The extra money generated in this way makes up the shortfall in our resources. Once again it is the generosity of business people who sell copies without commission and the distributors who keep them supplied with copies, that makes this possible.

So - there is no need for residents to worry about the cost, although occasional donations help to keep the bank balance buoyant! What we do like to have from you are your news and views; we can only print what we receive. Other good friends of the Blowhole reside at the Post Office, and anything you leave there reaches us.

Please keep reading, and writing to, the Blowhole - and we will keep printing.

(Any resident who is NOT receiving their free copy should phone 250483)

Editorial Panel

Philippa Arthan, Yvonne Ayling, Joan Cork, Anne Hillerman,
Mac Reynolds, Ruth Turner (Advertising), Susan Bowen (Text Manipulator)

Communications may be addressed to:

The Blowhole, c/o Boscastle Post Office, PL35 0AA.

(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 60p per issue.
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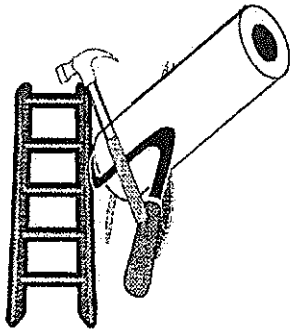
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New Brooms Sweep Clean



The Village Hall Committee, under the chairmanship of Peter Fanshawe, started as it means to go on. During the half-term holiday a working party of committee members and other volunteers set to work on essential maintenance and an Autumn clean.



It is not only the brooms that are new - your whole committee is new and members have taken on a considerable responsibility, working to make the Village Hall a true centre of activity. Most groups in the village are represented and their needs are being researched so that, where possible, better provision can be made. We ask any potential users to make their needs known. There is much to do, but we must remember that a community can only take out what it puts in.

Your Help Needed:

Grants only supplement the funds we raise (by up to one third).

Amongst the things we need to provide, to bring the Hall up to standard are:

- New heating system
- Improved kitchen
- New lavatories
- Re-wiring to modern specifications
- Additional storage
- Modifications to meet Fire Regulations
(For Public Entertainment Licence)
- Equipment and furniture
- Repairs
- Redecoration

Our first target is to raise £10,000 to design and plan these major works. If you can help us get £7,500 from any and all known means of fundraising, that should generate £2,500 in grant aid.

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PARADISE ROAD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The application to build a complex of holiday/retirement homes on land adjoining Paradise Road has been rejected by North Cornwall District Council.

Councillors were presented with 'extensive objections' from Forrabury and Minster Parish Council. Refusal was also recommended by the Highway Authority, the National Rivers Authority, South West Water and the County Forester. In addition there were fifteen letters of objection, in most cases from Boscastle residents.

In the face of this strong body of opposition, Councillor F. Routly moved that the application be rejected. This proposal was immediately seconded and the council voted in favour of refusing the planning application without further discussion.

(The Blowhole has been given to understand that Vista Properties is to appeal against this decision. See also Correspondence Page.)

OVERHEARD

A comment on Boscastle fashion: "If you are not wearing jeans, you haven't done your washing."

HARVEST AUCTION

The Cobweb held their annual Harvest Auction on September 29th. John Lington proved as usual to be a highly capable auctioneer, and several people were surprised when they realised what they had been persuaded to buy.

Juliet Pethick ran the raffle. Ivor and Vera and Adrian Bright put in a lot of hard work themselves, and would like to thank everyone who contributed to the evening. A total of #780 was raised and shared between four local organisations - the Playgroup, Boscastle School, the Snooker Club and the Football Club.

RABBIT PIE?

Vera and Ivor would like it to be known that rabbit pie is NOT on the menu at the Napolcon Inn, although lots of delicious dishes are available - and the bunnies are all doing very well.

NORTH CORNWALL CAT RESCUE

The Rescue are always looking for suitable homes for cats, volunteers to look after them or to raise funds. For more information please contact Jess Polden. Tel: (0208) 850379

OVER 50s CLUB

The Over 50s Club will be holding their annual Christmas Dinner on the 10th January at the Cobweb Inn, so there will be no meeting in the Village Hall that day. Mr and Mrs Mee of the Bottreaux Hotel are kindly giving a Christmas Dinner to around 20 senior citizens in December.

Joan Weeks. Secretary.

AIR AMBULANCE FUND

At yet another of her fund-raising efforts in October, Beth Ferrett - together with her willing helpers - raised #402 for the Air Ambulance Fund. Both Mrs Ferret's husband and daughter are co-ordinators for the fund; their sales in the Village Hall, at which they sell jumble, knick-knacks, cakes etc., have so far raised over #6,000.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Remembrance Day Service was held at Forrabury Church. Members of the Royal British Legion, under the command of Mr. Kevin Sellers, marched to the church behind the St. Gennys Band. The service was conducted by the Rector and the lesson read by Mr. Walter Picton. After the service, members of the public again joined the Legion for the Memorial Ceremony at the Village War Memorial. The wreath was laid by Mrs. V. M. Mugford.

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Margaret and Harry Manning with
Community Nurse Maureen Smith,
to whom they presented £165 for
the Bude group of the Alzheimer's
Society.



Apologies to everyone for there being no collection in October, but we were undergoing a storage crisis. Please note that there will be no collection in December either, as the last Saturday of the month is Christmas Day. The next collection will be on January 30th 1994. The school would like to give a very big thankyou to Mr. Cyril Reynolds who has kindly offered the use of his garage as a temporary paper store.

PSYCHOCALLISTHENICS

Julia Wheeler wonders whether anyone is interested in 'Psychocallisthenics'.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

The Coffee Morning held at Heathdean, Paradise Road on November 10th raised £111 towards a guide dog. So far, Mrs Bernice Lewis and her helpers have raised approximately £605. Bernice would like to thank all who helped.

FOR SALE: A Child's cot and mattress £5. Proceeds to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind.' Ring 250217.

PLAYING FOR THE PLAYGROUP

Musicians, singers and Playgroup members raised over £120 for the Playgroup one evening at the Wellington recently. Victor and the Playgroup (this is not a new Wellington band) would like to thank all those who donated.

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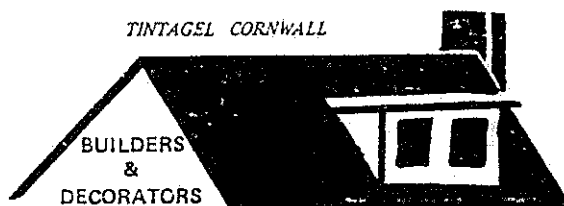
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WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



That is the question we asked in our last edition above an old Boscastle Photograph. Our first reply came from Norman and Joyce Hicks, writing from Philleigh:

The occasion was Coronation Day, 1953; the date of this was 2nd June, as printed on the commemorative mug received by our son, Jeremy, which is still whole and which will return to Boscastle soon, when he returns to Boscastle on retirement from the Metropolitan Police.

‘The photograph shows Boscastle Band playing the Floral Dance for the children and their mums to dance round them, at the old bridge. Frank Pridham, Maria Nicholls’ father, beats time on the big drum in the centre of the picture, with other band members around him. The site is unrecognisable today, for much of it was destroyed four years later by a flood disaster. A cloudburst above Davidstow resulted in a wall of water surging down the Valency, uprooting many trees and damming the river until it burst and created havoc at the bridge, which had to be re-built and widened. Tragically our bandmaster, Charlie Berryman, the black-jacketed figure (back to camera) in the foreground of this picture conducting the band, was drowned in that flood.

None of our family appear in that photograph, for we were all at home in the garden of ‘Paradise’, which we had bought 5 months earlier. Of course the public holiday meant, for us, an extra day to enjoy starting to create a new garden, in glorious sunshine and to the strains of the band floating up to us from nearly a mile away. Little did we think that it would remain our home for 34 years more and give us so much pleasure for so long, and so many friends.’

Mr. Hick’s letter, as well as the original photograph, became a conversation piece - thank you, Norman and Joyce. We were glad to have news

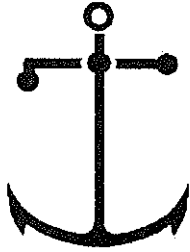
of you. It reminded some residents of activities on that June day in the 50’s; of the giant television set placed in Forrabury church by Claude Knight, to allow residents to watch the crowning, of the sports held in a field near the former doctor’s surgery at which Mrs Pridham (Maria’s Mum) starred in the ‘Grannie’s Race’, of the mugs presented to the children.

But closer examination of the photo, by some who feature in it, soon established that this Flora Dance was not the one on Coronation Day. The picture was taken by visitors during one of the regular Wednesday Flora dances, in 1950 something.

The band leader was, in fact, Mr Grieg, and Charlie Berryman is playing, we think, a euphonium. Next to Frank Pridham with the large drum, is John Hancock with his trumpet. Only half the band is present, but Bill Perry (E flat Bass), Bob Biddick (Double Bass) and Mervin Beard with a cornet have been named. Behind Mervin is Les Beard - and Les should know, for it was he and his wife Adele who provided the picture. Then there’s John Sandercock (cornet), and C.H. Biddick in overalls on the bridge. Alfie Bright is next to him and Percy Nicholls beside the post.

Several of you remember the heyday of these weekly dances; the children always put on their best clothes on Wednesdays. One sharp-eyed resident could name some of the dancers; there’s Jennifer (Ferrett) Smith, Janet Sleeman, Joyce (Hancock) Wickett, Julie (Olde) Wickett, Ann Symons, Doreen Perry, Hazel Biscombe, Lena Fuge, Frances Sleeman and Zelma Camps, we are told. Some may recognise Jean Scott and Basil Jose, teenagers at the time.

No doubt the discussion about who is who will go on - and why not? Those of us who were not privileged to share this early history have thoroughly enjoyed your reminiscences. Look out for more old photo’s in later editions.



HARBOURMASTER'S NEWS



A major concern of Boscastle Fishermen's Association in recent weeks has been the need for greater security in the harbour area. Following the theft of several outboard motors, some boat owners have found that insurance companies are unwilling to grant them insurance cover. As reported in the Autumn, the Association consulted the National Trust about the possibility of erecting a barrier, attached to bollards, to prevent unauthorised people driving down to the boats. This suggestion was discussed at a parish council meeting, as the result of a letter from a property owner who was concerned about the effects of such a barrier close to her cottage. The Harbour Master and Mr. Andrew Davey, of the National Trust, have subsequently proposed a new site for the barrier which would not restrict turning space beside the cottage in question. Boat owners are convinced that the restriction of access to thieves vehicles could be achieved without great inconvenience to the public or the emergency services.

Two new ladders have been fitted to the harbour wall, replacing those which no longer complied with the Health

and Safety regulations.

Readers will be delighted to know that the ducks are thriving; there are presently twenty four in the river. One of them, the 'brown one' noticeable because it is of a different breed to its companions, recently caused some kindly visitors great concern. They discovered that some fishingline had become entwined round its neck and was embedded under its feathers. The visitor took it to a vet in Camelford who removed the tackle without charge. The Age of Public Spirit is not dead.

Fred Siford himself, ironically, proved how difficult it is to manouvre an outboard motor to a boat, by boat. Setting out on a trip, he loaded his engine into a dinghy to paddle across to his boat. In choppy water, the dinghy overturned, tipping Fred, the motor and his lunch into the briny.

After a disappointing summer for fishermen, virtually all the boats have now been lifted from the water. Only the Sheila Pat remains in the harbour. Of course, the British weather being as it is, there has been some good weather for the boats since they were removed.

Fred and June Siford of Sunnyside would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.



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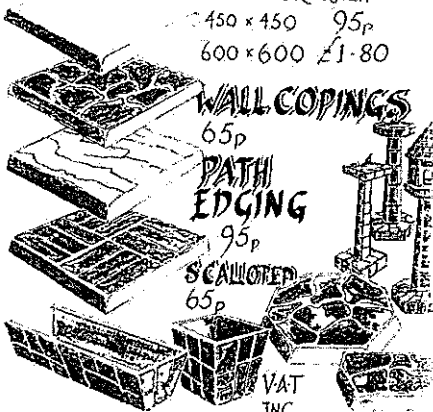
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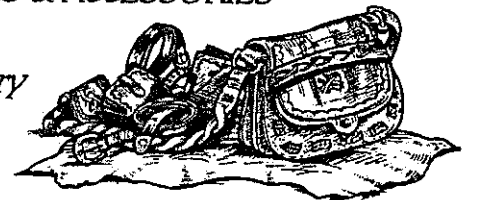
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MICK YOUNG



A large congregation gathered in Forrabury Church on 11th November for the funeral of Mr. Michael Young. Mick had lived in Boscastle for fifteen years, during which time he contributed a great deal to village life, and was widely respected.

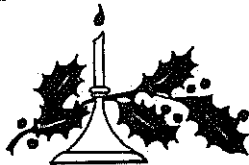
Born in London, and brought up in Leamington, Mick became a policeman, serving the force for 10 years in Rugby. The social awareness he acquired as a policeman was evident to all, when he took over the Spar shop. Through his local deliveries he became very well known, particularly for his sense of humour.

Mr. Young started a youth club - a very good one - and ran it for seven years. He supported the football club, and became its chairman, as well as being a driver for Age Concern.

He was an enthusiastic member of Camelford Badminton Club, playing until recently, whilst working for the Post Office as a relief worker.

His death at the age of 45 has brought great sadness to the village, which extends its love and sympathy to his widow, children and grandchildren.

CRIME WATCH



Firstly, apologies for not writing in the last issue of the blowhole. Whilst being very busy with work, I missed the deadline for my article. I did however, receive a copy, which I read and thoroughly enjoyed.

The crime scene in the Boscastle area is at present relatively quiet. Thefts from and of boats however, is becoming increasingly popular and this is a reminder to all you boat owners to secure motors and any belongings on them.

Offenders were recently arrested in Boscastle after a shoplifting spree. We would like to thank the vigilant shopkeepers who made these arrests possible. One person has been charged in connection with this incident.

Onto a lighter side (excuse the pun)

with the evenings getting longer and colder, I would like to remind motorists and cyclists to check all lighting on vehicles. This is obviously important at all times, but bulbs are used much more at this time of year and may need replacing. Pedestrians should also consider how well they can be seen in the dark.

I have already visited several shopkeepers in your area and will visit you all in time. I am trying to update our somewhat dusty record of keyholders. It has also been suggested to me that we should set up a warning system between the Boscastle shops. This would enable other shops to be warned of any suspicious people (i.e. potential shoplifters). This system could be set up very easily.

If anyone wishes me to deal with any particular subject in this article, please contact me at Camelford Police Station. As this is the last issue before Christmas, let me remind you that we always carry out a drink-driving campaign at Christmas; remember this, as we do not want to spoil anyone's Christmas.

Have a Happy Christmas and a merry New Year.

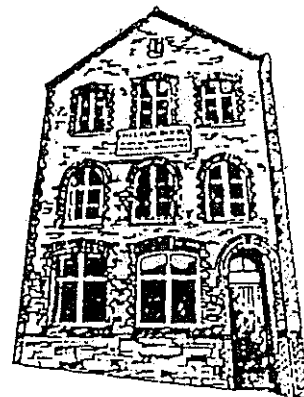
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COASTGUARD UPDATE

Hi! Welcome to this edition's 'Coastguard Update'. Quite a busy and varied period since the autumn Blow-hole, starting on August 29th at 16.30 hrs with a report of red flares sighted off Barra's Head Tintagel. The outcome was that a yacht suffering from engine problems approx. 1/2 mile offshore, (three persons aboard) had to be towed into Padstow by the Port Isaac lifeboat. Steve Ainsworth and Bill Purslow attended.

The 1st of September found me being paged at 14.32 hrs - this was for a swimmer in difficulties off Strangles beach. Rescue helicopter 169 was scrambled from Chivenor which then lifted the casualty from the surf and took him to Bude, where the helicopter landed, but on doctor's advice, then took the casualty direct to Barnstable hospital. Stan Williams and Bill Purslow attended.

Later the same afternoon at 17.14 hrs, I was again paged to co-ordinate the investigation of a report of persons (possibly children) cut off by the tide at Bossiney Cove. Upon arriving on scene, the first informant was interviewed. Port Isaac lifeboat made a thorough search of the immediate area with negative results - a false alarm with good intent. Stan Williams and Bill Purslow attended.

On the 4th September at 09.45 we were requested by police control to assist with the search for a missing male, (along with Port Isaac and Bude Companies, and Port Isaac lifeboat). The sad outcome was that a body was recovered from the sea in the area of Eastern Blackapit. Steve Ainsworth, Bill Purslow, Stan Williams and Les Siford attended.

At 23.30 hrs on the 13th September we again assisted the police (alongside Port Isaac company), in a search, this time for an eighteen year old male youth, who was last seen - a little inebriated - in his tent. The search was called off at 02.30 hrs with negative results. Steve Ainsworth, Alan Darlison, Stan Williams and Les Siford attended. The next morning (14th September) at 07.30 hrs. we recommenced the search for the missing youth, (along with the police and Port Isaac company), this time with the added capability of the police helicopter. The search was called off soon after we deployed the teams. All was well in the end... information was received via the police that the youth was safe and well at home - in Birmingham! He had hitchhiked all the way. Amazing! Mac Reynolds, Steve Ainsworth, Alan Darlison, Stan Williams and Les Siford attended.

Our training schedule has found us exercising alongside Port Isaac on the 6th September and Bude on 15th

September, but the most impressive endeavour was 'Exercise Footslog' staged from 09.30 - 14.00 hrs. on 17th October, when a complete full-scale search scenario was acted out. It included teams from Boscastle, Bude and Port Isaac, the Bude and Port Isaac lifeboats and a Wessex helicopter from Chivenor. A great deal was learnt about planning, communications and teamwork. And finally, on the 10th November our Coastguard mobile joined in the procession at Camelford carnival (Steve Ainsworth, Les Siford). A public relations exercise on the lighter side - all good fun. Until Spring - take care. MAC.

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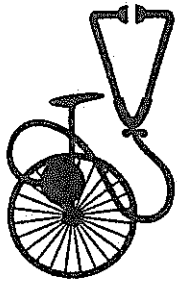
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FREE ESTIMATES

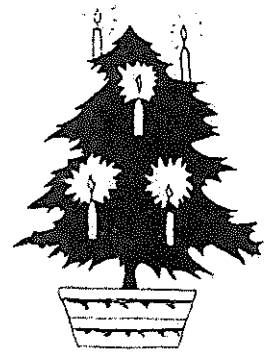
ROGER FERRETT

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Doctor's Corner



USE IT OR LOSE IT

I wrote in the Summer edition of the Blowhole of the need to balance your intake of food with what you burn up by exercise. As I pointed out, most people did not seem to realise there are two halves to the equation and concentrated on the intake side, rather than on the output, with very poor results in terms of weight loss. I had intended to continue on this subject in the last edition, but got waylaid with what was an appropriate piece on the need for wearing helmets when cycling. This month, I return to the subject of exercise, since several people have asked exactly what benefits are to be gained.

The cynical say that exercise does not make you live any longer, it just makes it feel as if you do! This seems to tie in very neatly with a comment I heard from one endurance athlete who said that what he liked most about exercise was when it stopped. It is true to say that if you don't use something, you eventually lose it. This certainly goes for fitness of the heart, lungs and musculoskeletal system. I never cease to be impressed by just how remarkably fit some 70 and 80 year old people manage to keep themselves. Yes, I know that some of it is in the genes, and that a few do all the 'wrong' things and die at a ripe old age. However, the exceptions don't prove the rule. Several studies have shown that regular life-long exercise protects you against mental illness, particularly of the depression and anxiety type, and there is undoubtedly a lower risk of heart and blood vessel disease amongst those who exercise regularly.

I am not suggesting for a minute that you can prevent the ageing process. That's science fiction at present and is

likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. I'll leave it to you to make your own minds up about the dubious claims made by some manufacturers of women's cosmetics. The sort that suggest that this (phenomenally expensive) cream will stop the skin from wrinkling, or that one will reverse gravity and stop things sagging. If you believe that you'll believe anything! Tissues do become less 'stretchy' as we get older because the elastic fibres in them reduce in number. There is no way you can reverse this, but by keeping to a regular exercise programme, you can maintain the mobility of your joints and to a major extent preserve both muscle bulk and power. I'm not thinking here of the 'grunt and groan' brigade heaving huge weights in a gym, rather of a regular twice weekly visit to the local swimming pool or a similar form of gentle exercise. Like I said 'Use it or Lose it'!

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'GOLF MONTHLY' RATINGS

Challenge: 10	Condition: 10	VALUE FACTOR 10
Fun Factor: 10	Setting: 10	
Welcome: 10	Facilities: 10	

As I looked out of my nest in the organ, I saw some ladies decorating the Church for Christmas. After they had gone, I ventured out, ran up and down some ivy which they had trained round a pillar, and stopped to admire some bright red berries.

From the Church Mouse



"Are these berries good to eat?" I asked myself, and was just about to try one when - "Ouch!" A sharp spike had jumped out from nowhere right into my nose! Oh my fur and whiskers, but how it hurt! Then I realised that it must have been a prickle from that nasty holly, and as I rubbed my poor nose I thought thoughts about the decorating ladies which were thoughts which should never come to any respectable Church Mouse.

Some words came into my head that I had heard being sung last Christmas, all about some holly and some ivy. How of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown - and also has a prickle as sharp as any thorn. "Oh my poor nose," I thought, "but doesn't it just!"

After a frugal supper I lay down in my nest to sleep, but try as I would, I could not forget my poor nose. However, in time I became drowsy and it was then that I heard a kindly voice speaking to me. "You know, my little Church Mouse, that Christmas is a lovely time. There should be feasting amongst the mice, and amongst boys and girls too, as you rejoice that I was born in Bethlehem."

After a pause it went on, "But don't forget that my life was often unhappy, and that thorns as sharp as any holly prickle were forced around my head."

Again there was a silence and I wondered if I had been dreaming, when the voice continued, oh so gently.... "I hope you will remember the poor field mice and those creatures of the wild who will be hungry as you enjoy your Christmas fare, just as I hope the children will understand that the fun of Christmas sometimes conceals loneliness and sorrow. If you do this, my little Church Mouse, and try and help, then your Christmas will be truly happy."

I could have sworn that there was a deep chuckle as He said, "And don't be too cross with the poor decorating ladies - they were only trying to make my Church lovely!"



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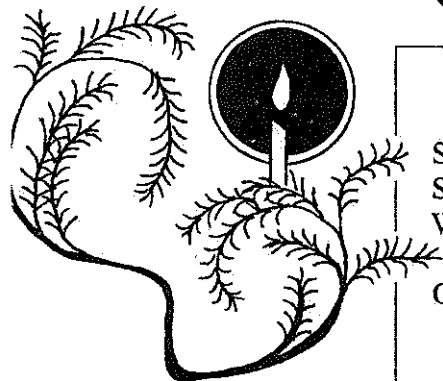
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CHURCH AND CHAPEL NEWS



CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN BOSCASTLE



Sunday 5th December.	Christingle Service. Minster Church 3.00pm
Sunday 19th December.	United Carol Service (with Methodists). Forrabury 3.30pm
Wednesday 22nd Dec.	Carol Singing through village with St. Gennys Band. (Start Langfords Meadow 7.00pm)
Christmas Eve.	Crib Service (for under 5s) Trevalga Church 5.30pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm Forrabury and Lesnewth Methodist Church, Communion & Carols 9.45am St. Juliot 10.15am Trevalga 11.00am

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Paul's Church, Tintagel. Masses daily at 6.00pm, except Thursday, and Sunday at 10.00am.

RCIA meetings for those interested in the Catholic faith are held at Wynglos, Forrabury, at 7.30pm every Monday evening. Contact Mrs. C. Langthorne (250578)

BOSCASTLE METHODIST CHURCH

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

Minister: Rev. David Easton, The Manse, Tintagel. (770274)

Services each Sunday at 11.00am and 6.00pm, except 2nd Sunday, 9.30pm Family Service.

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) meet in Boscastle Methodist Church Schoolroom on the 4th Sunday of each month at 3.00pm. Also in the John Betjeman Centre, Wadebridge each Sunday at 10.30am. Everyone welcome.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

Holy Communion at Forrabury Church each Sunday at 9.00am (except 5th Sunday). The 'Boscastle Group of Parishes' includes the 7 local churches. The 'Group Gazette' gives details of services and events.

The Rev. David Easton writes from BOSCASTLE METHODIST CHURCH

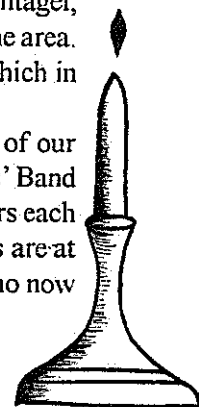
This is just a brief article from Boscastle Methodist Church, to say 'Thank you' to all those from the village and beyond who have shared in its various events of the past few months. Many I know enjoyed the Flower Festival back in May, as well as the sponsored hymn playing, the cycle event for the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust, as well, of course, as our annual Harvest Festival.

This year in particular we have had to raise a considerable sum to replace our boiler (which we have now done) before the old one packed up! This was quite a lot to do following on from the recent complete refurbishment of the rear of our premises. So, thanks to one and all who have helped in one way or another.

Although we are not a huge congregation, we like to think that, along with our Anglican friends, we play an important part in the life of the Christian Community and of village life in general.

The Methodist Church here is part of the wider North Cornwall Methodist Circuit, which includes Bodmin, Wadebridge and Padstow, as well as the Camelford area. Boscastle works closely with Methodists from Tintagel, Delabole and Crackington, holding occasional joint services, as well as a Bible Study/ Discussion group for the area. We also have special events, such as the Good Friday 'Five Churches Walk' around the Valency Valley, which in 1994 will be on April 1st.

As well as raising money for our own church building, we also try to support charities. In particular one of our members holds lunches for the overseas charity TEAR fund. The carol singing in the streets with the St. Gennys' Band which has become a feature recently, was initiated by our Guild and the arrangements are made by its members each year (This year Dec 21st). This is just a 'fun event' - no collection taken. This year our united Carol Services are at the Anglican Church. We have also been pleased this year to welcome The Society of Friends (Quakers), who now use our Lower Room for their Meeting once a month.



SAILING DOWN THE RIVER

A group from Boscastle recently enjoyed an evening cruise up the River Tamar, organised by the WEA. The trip, in the 'Southern Belle' began at Phoenix Wharf, Plymouth, and ended at Weirhead, the highest navigable point of the river. Eighteen local people of all ages, thoroughly enjoyed the trip past the docks, under the Tamar Bridge, through wonderful Devon and Cornwall countryside (depending on which side you looked!), past Morwellham, sites of old mining endeavours and other well-known landmarks. Even those who inadvertently left their picnic in their car much appreciated this unique opportunity.



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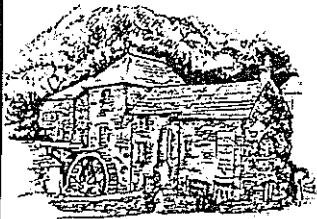
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We are pleased to publish this view from one of our young residents, and hope that it will encourage other young people to express their opinion. We await your letters.

GROWING UP IN BOSCASTLE



I came to Boscastle at the age of seven. Moving from a growing London town to the small friendly community of Boscastle was at the time brilliant. After only a short while of living here, I suddenly found a new sense of freedom. Being able to go out and play in the streets was excellent for a child of seven.

Unfortunately, as I grew up, I found I needed somewhere else to 'hang around'. As the nearest parks are in other villages I felt then (and still do) that Boscastle needs a play area or park.

Attending Boscastle school was a great asset to my education, being taught in small classes gave each child a better chance. Now that I am older, I seem to have grown apart from village life, as it does seem very boring. Boscastle is a beautiful village, but unless you are very young or an adult, it really isn't appreciated.



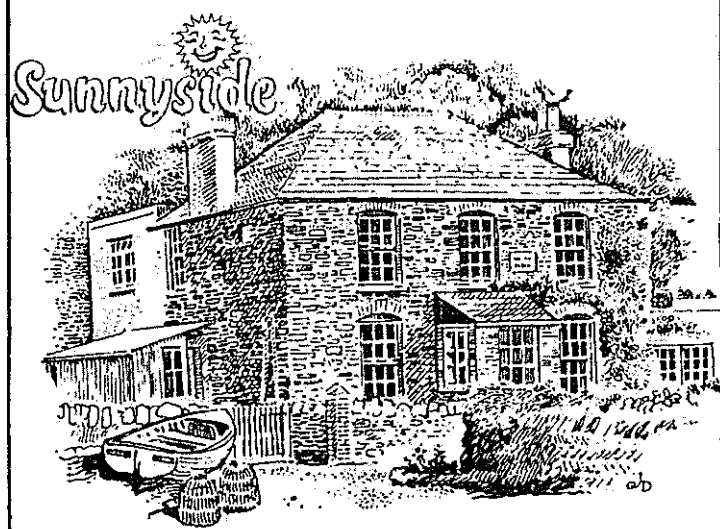
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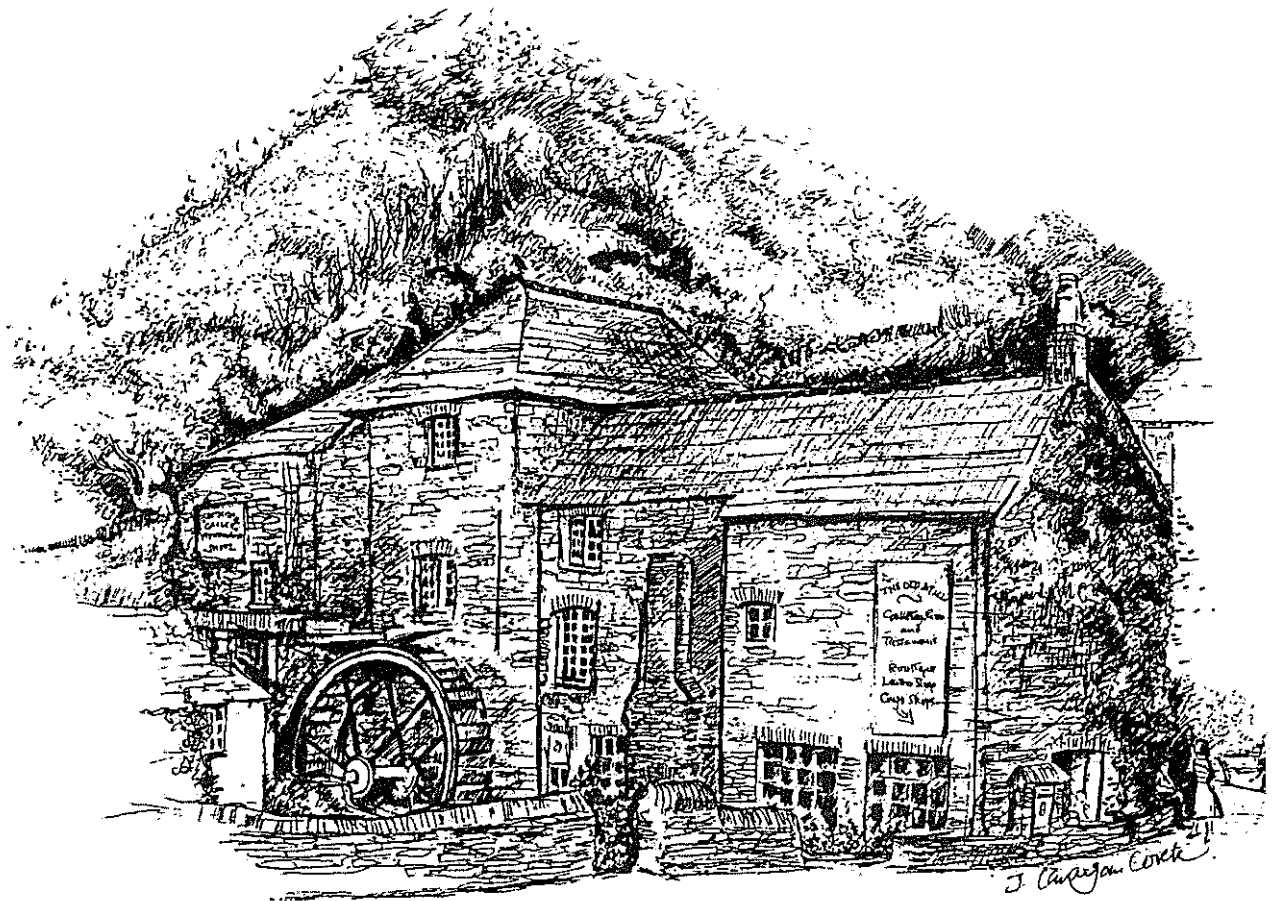


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THE OLD MILL BOSCASTLE

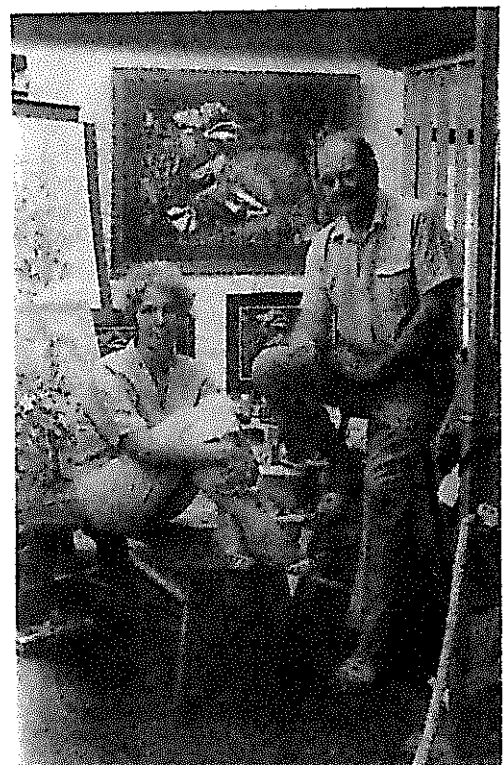
The history of the Old Mill is long, and partially hidden with time. At least one local resident can remember it as a working corn mill, but it is now many years since the wheels turned the stones to crush the grain. There were originally two wheels at the Mill. One of them, (once on the side where the steps into the craft shop now are) was taken, reputedly, to pay the debts of a former incumbent. Another past (and present ?) occupier was Jack, the one-eyed miller, whose smock-dressed ghost is still said to be glimpsed on occasions. He died amid rumours of being a murderer, having hidden 'something' in the building.

In more recent times, the Mill was the high spot for young people in the 60's. It housed a much-frequented coffee bar and discos were held there. The walls were sound-proofed with sand - an ingenious use of local resources !

Marjorie and Barry Knowles have been associated with Boscastle for over fourteen years. Five years ago they took over the Old Mill Craft Centre and gave it a new lease of life, reorganising the interior and opening up new areas of the building. They have also renovated the exterior; the floral displays make a colourful impact.

They let out units to a variety of local craftpersons and run the top floor as a second-hand bookshop which stocks a wide selection of titles. More recent additions are a range of new books, with many aimed at young children, and a beautiful selection of greetings cards.

Barry has spent many hours restoring the mill wheel, a project that has been hampered by the flash flood in June which washed away the weir that supplied the leat. Hopefully though, he will persevere in his endeavours and we will be able to see the wheel turn, probably powered by a water pump.





The Miller's Pantry - Tea Rooms and Bistro

Valerie and Colin Holman have run the Miller's Pantry for about a year. Open seven days a week throughout the year, The Pantry, has come on by leaps and bounds. Most of the food served there is made by Val or Leslie, so there are always good smells wafting around. Home made soup is one of their specialities, served with locally baked French bread and butter, a meal in itself. Colin and Val have been in the 'food business' for donkey's years, Colin coming from the four and five star hotel market and Val from commercial catering. Consequently, as they say, "We should know what we are doing." As from Spring '94, the Pantry will be open evenings as well. In view of their "Feed the Need" policy, this winter will see the kitchen grow by about 50%, having a totally new lay-out.

The natural stone walls of this charming, beamed pantry features an odd collection of hats, jugs and objet d'art. Seating is basic but comfortable, with pine benches and tables - and the occasional church pew thrown in. The atmosphere encourages customers to have a good time - try on the hats if you want to! Val says the most important quality for those who work in the pantry is the ability to smile 'and mean it' - a much neglected quality these days. There is a pretty, sheltered outside terrace - and whilst you enjoy the good food and good company, you may even be lucky enough to share your table with the resident ghost (Jack) known for his mischievous behaviour.

Valency Fayre

If you read the comments of past customers of Valency Fayre, you will notice the word 'exquisite' on nearly every page. When you look at the clothes on display at the workshop in The Mill you can see why.

Amanda Dawson has been making and designing clothes for over nineteen years. She is largely self-taught, though is currently doing a City and Guilds design course.

Amanda specialises in silk bridalwear, all individually designed and tailored. Her own wedding-dress is on display. This year her commissions have included a wedding dress in the style of a French peasant, a modern dress and one in a Medieval style.



*Amanda's
Wedding Dress.*



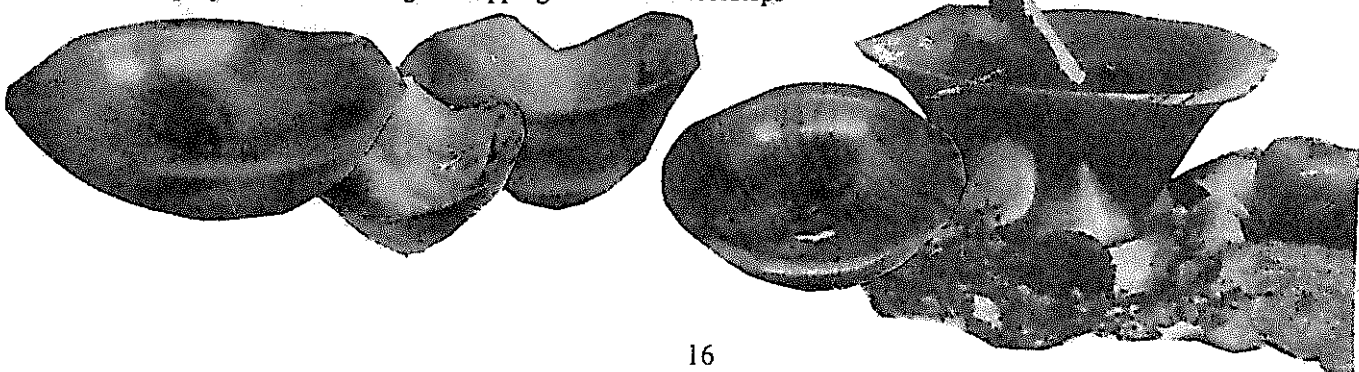
As well as catering for the bride, Amanda designs outfits for the wedding attendants and the bride's mother. Christening outfits definitely destined to become heirlooms are another range. Amanda is presently extending her scope to include a wider range of designer silk day-wear and underwear. Tor

WOODCRAFT

Tor Woodcraft is run by Peter and Sue French and has been in The Mill for almost two years. They specialise in bowls, clocks, mushrooms and fruit and always have a good selection available.

Peter is the woodturner, producing beautiful objects in mainly English hardwoods, obtained from sustainable sources. Working from home, in a small but well-equipped workshop attached to their cottage, he has been turning semi-professionally for a number of years. He is always happy to accept commissions, whether it is for a single mushroom or rolling pin or for an exhibition-quality bowl. He is also proficient at producing stair spindles, newel posts and other commercial turnings and has carried out work for F.D.Hall and Sons, the widely-known, high quality joinery firm near Liskeard. They always ready to discuss individual customer requirements, whether for craft or commercial work; They will gladly answer queries.

Sue runs the retail side of the business. A good range of woodturning blanks in various woods is available. These can be used for various purposes from turning to chopping boards and doorstops



Myrtle Cottage Dried Flowers

Jill Ashby moved down to Cornwall from London in 1988, and has been at The Mill since its concept in 1989. She is a self-taught floral designer and all her dried flower arrangements are created in The Mill, using, when possible, locally grown flowers. She specialises in making 'one-off' designs, (there are never two alike), and will make up commissions to order, including wedding flowers.

She also stocks a range of floral sundries which include decorative items, basketware and pot pourri.

For Christmas she has designed a range of swags and garlands and seashore arrangements which are now on show in The Mill.

Jill will be more than happy to give advice on all aspects of dried flower arrangements - so why not pop in for a chat?



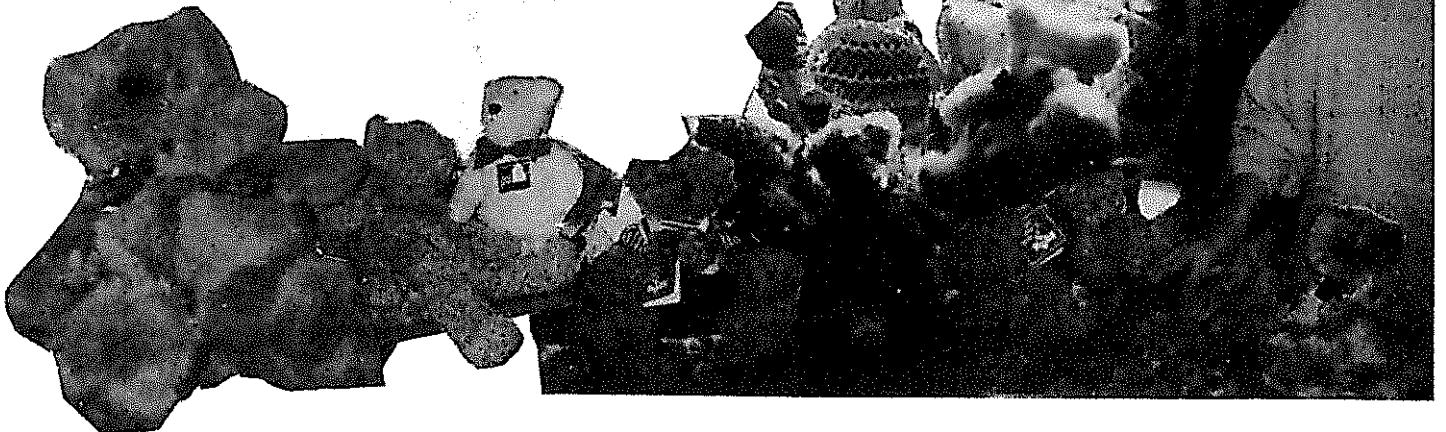
Country Interiors

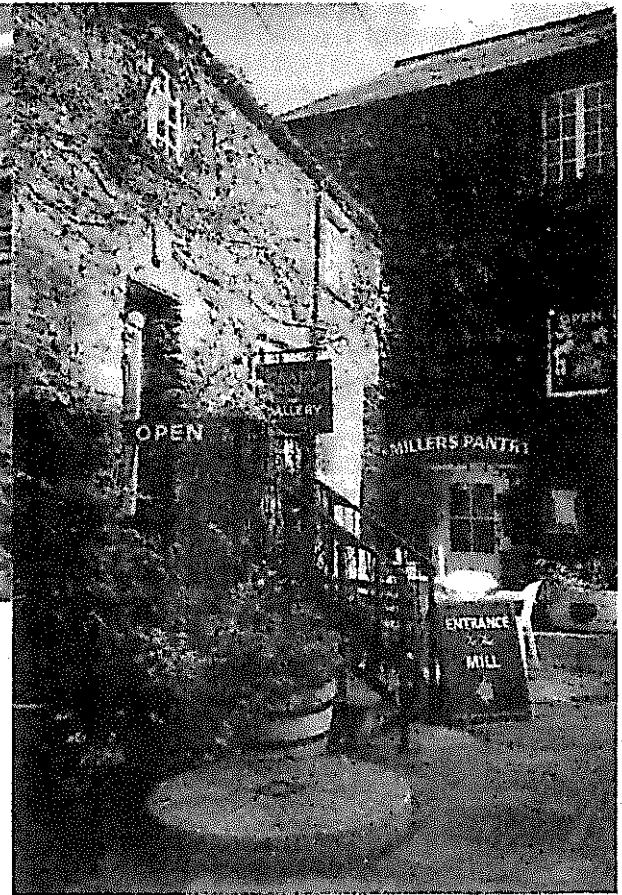
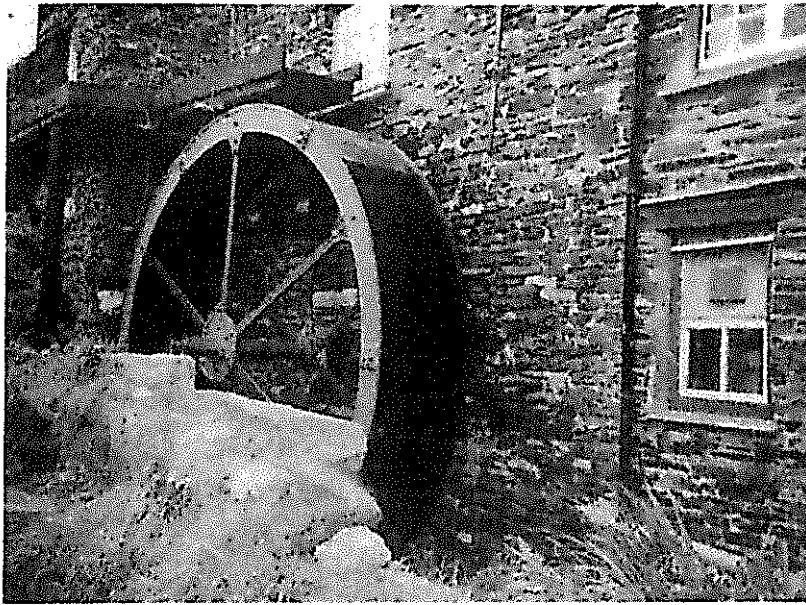
Fran Wilson has been dealing in country furniture for over 20 years, specialising now in the Victorian and Edwardian era. She searches far and wide to find good quality and interesting pieces. She also specialises in all cotton bed linen, quilts and even a bed if you want one! Unusual decorative items from home and abroad are also included and if you cannot see what you want, she will do her best to get it for you. Her search does not end in England either. French pieces also make a frequent appearance, from her forays over the channel. The latest find was prune drying racks from the S.W. France region, which have been snapped up enthusiastically - but not for prunes anymore, just decorative use as a back-drop for dried flowers. She has been at the Mill for 3 years now and hopes to extend the stock next year with more unusual finds to interest her customers.

Millwheel Bears

June Hayes has been making soft toys for as long as she cares to remember. She used to specialise in dogs until along came a bear who charmed her completely, and for her three years at The Mill she has devoted her talents to designing and making bears.

The traditional material for them is mohair, and June uses this and glass eyes for many of her bears. Each one is named when it is finished and each is different, named according to its personality. June's bears range in size from 1in. to 30in. All are fully jointed and many are dressed with clothes made by June or knitted by her mother. June is featured in the 'British Artists Bears' book, and her bears have been bought by collectors from places as far away as Australia, Japan and America. Closer to home, a couple recently travelled from Lancashire especially to meet June and her bears, and then travelled home with eight new furry friends. Bears can be created to suit their future owners - June recently made a 'Grandad Bear' with a bowler hat and whiskers for a customer's 90 year old relative. She has also renovated a favourite bear belonging to Dr Jarvis. She makes bears of all professions, ranging from nurses to sports bears to Morris dancers. One of the most popular for visitors is the sailor from on board HMS Boscastle.





THE MILL WHEEL AND COURTYARD

LEATHER AND LAUGHTER

The Leather Shop is known nationally for its highly distinctive work. Owners Rob and Teresa have been producing leathersgoods for many a year and have, in the past, been commissioned to do specialist work for boardrooms of international companies. Can you imagine 6 ft tall lamp standards made from mixtures of leather, leaded glass and wood? Unfortunately such things can't be displayed in the shop for obvious reasons, but just ask to see the pictures.

What you will see in the shop, however, is a vast range of quality leathersgoods, including sandals, shoes, coats and jackets, bags and purses, complimented by an awesome collection of silver and crystal jewellery.

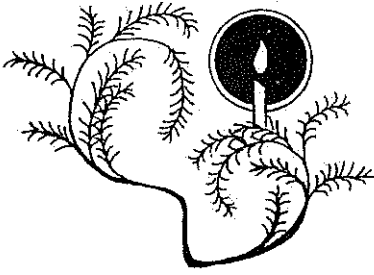
Rob says "People in the leather trade are always getting ribbed about whips and strange leather attachments." Well, the cat's out of the bag - it's all true! "We've got a little room at the back especially devoted to whipping. We can do whipped cream, whipped eggs, Instant whip, even Mr Whippy!

Teresa runs the shop with Sophie and Jackie who are collectively known as The Leatherettes and they can whip anyone up into a frenzy!





We asked for your seasonal recipes and here they are. We suggest you may enjoy trying some of them!



Aunt Dine's Mince Pies

- 8 oz S.R. flour
- 4 oz soft margarine
- 2 oz caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 jar mincemeat

Rub margarine into the flour and add caster sugar. Mix with the egg, being careful that it isn't too wet. Roll out fairly thinly as it will rise. Put in tins, fill with mincemeat and cover with pastry rounds. Brush with milk. Cook at 400 F - 425 F until nicely browned. Being a sweet pastry they are inclined to brown quickly so have to be watched.

Vegetarian Cashew and Mushroom Roast (Serves 6)

Makes an excellent Christmas main course served with traditional vegetables and Mushroom and Sherry Sauce. Arrange additional decorative nuts or vegetables in the bottom of the tin before pouring the loaf mixture in, to make a design on the top when it is turned out. Loaf can also be served cold.

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 8oz (225g) cashew nuts
- 4oz (110g) fresh breadcrumbs
- 1 egg
- 3 medium parsnips, cooked and mashed with a little butter
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon yeast extract
- 1/4 pint (150ml) hot water or stock
- salt and black pepper
- 1oz butter
- 8oz (225g) mushrooms, chopped
- butter for greasing tin, or oil

Preheat the oven to gas mark 4, 350 F, 180 C. Heat the oil and fry the onion and garlic until soft. Grind the cashew nuts in a blender or mincer then mix with the breadcrumbs. Beat the egg and add it to the dry ingredients, then mix in the mashed parsnips and herbs. Add the fried onions, being sure to scrape the pan so all the juice goes in. Dissolve the yeast extract in hot water or stock and add to other ingredients. Season to taste. Melt the butter in a frying pan and saute the chopped mushrooms until soft. Grease a 2 lb (990g) loaf tin with butter, then press in half the nut mixture. Cover with a layer of mushrooms and top with the rest of the nut mixture. Then cover with foil and bake for 1 hr. When cooked, remove the loaf from oven and let it stand for 10 mins before turning out.



Mushroom and Sherry Sauce. Makes 1 1/4 pints sauce,

- 1oz (25g) butter
- 8oz (225g) mushrooms, wiped and quartered
- 1 tablespoon sherry
- 4 teaspoons flour
- 1 pint (570ml) strong vegetable stock
- salt and pepper

Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the mushrooms and sherry. Cover and cook for 2 - 3 minutes on a high heat. Uncover and continue to cook until the liquid evaporates, stirring constantly, so that the mushrooms are well browned. Reduce the heat, add the flour and cook thoroughly for 5 - 6 minutes, stirring all the time. Add the stock a little at a time, stirring constantly to prevent lumps forming. Simmer for 3 - 5 mins. and then season to taste. Let the sauce cool slightly, then liquidise it until it is smooth. Gently re-heat the sauce in a clean pan. Annie Hillerman

Orange Gin



If you found that sloes were in short supply this year, why not try this quick and easy liqueur recipe?

- 1 large orange (Seville if possible)
- 1 large lemon
- 4 oz sugar
- 1 bottle of gin

Very thinly pare the rind from the orange and lemon, avoiding all white pith. Chop finely. Put peel in a bottle with the gin and sugar. Shake to mix. Keep for at least a week, shaking daily. Remove peel and serve the liqueur with crushed ice.

Best Rum Cake Ever



- 1 or 2 quarts of rum
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. sugar
- lemon juice
- 2 large eggs
- brown sugar
- 1 cup dried fruit
- nuts

Before you start, it is important to check the rum for quality. Good, isn't it? Now go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl, measuring cup etc. Check the rum again. It must be just right. To be sure rum is of the highest quality, pour one level cup of rum into a glass and drink it as fast as you can. Repeat.

With an electric mixer beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 teaspoon of thugar and beat again. Meanwhile, make sure the rum is of the finest quality. Try another cup. Open second quart if necessary. Add 2 arge leggs, 2 cups fried druit and beat 'til high. If druit gets stuck in beaters, just pry it loose with a drawscrifer. Sample the rum again, checking for tonscisticity. Next sift 3 cups pepper or salt (it really does not matter). Sample the rum again. Sift 1/2 pint of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add 1 babblespoon of brown thugar or whatever colour you can find. Wix well. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 350 gredees. Now pour the whole mess into the coven and ake. Check the rum again and bo to ged. Seryl Bale





Forrabury and Minster Parish Council Business



Village Hall Committee

The council nominated Mr. P. Fanshawe and Mr. R. Sale to represent them on the Village Hall Committee. Councillor C. Vincent also agreed to serve.

Public Conveniences

Councillors expressed concern about inaccuracies in a report on Radio Cornwall about the closure of the Harbour toilets, and the ownership of these conveniences. The Clerk wrote to the radio station, and received a reply indicating that Radio Cornwall was not aware that the report caused confusion. Council was referred to the journalist responsible for the item, Mr. Reid.

Members agreed to accept responsibility for the Doctors Corner conveniences for one year, on the condition that the Harbour toilets were reopened. In the event, these conveniences were re-opened, and will remain in use whilst the building programme necessitates the closure of the Cobweb Carpark toilet block.

Members were very concerned to hear that in the future the District Council may hand over all responsibility for toilets to parish councils. The Clerk was requested to make representation to N.C.D.C. stating that running costs should be shouldered by the whole of North Cornwall. The district council presently received the revenue from the Cobweb carpark; if Boscastle had to accept the financial burden of the public conveniences, it should also receive the parking fees.

Under Road 30mph Sign

The Council has requested that street lighting be installed along Under Road. Once the lighting is there, the 30mph traffic sign can be moved to a position outside Hunter's Moon, which is considered desirable.

The National Trust

The National Trust was informed by the council that the mobile information centre which is sometimes parked by the harbour is 'an aggravation'. The Clerk referred The Trust to the original planning permission for its 'shop'; permission had been granted for an information centre, not for a retail outlet. Members consider that the mobile recruitment vehicle would be unnecessary, if the shop was used for its stated purpose.

Request for Bus Shelter

The council discussed residents' requests but considered that a) the shelter would be a road hazard, particularly with regard to the Bottreaux Garage development and b) there was no real need for the shelter. Members also pointed out that the council has no land in the area of Doctors Corner.

Harbourside Bollards

Council considered points raised in a letter from Mrs M. Sharp, who disagreed with the plan to create a vehicle barrier close to her property, in order to deter thieves. Members supported Mrs Sharp's objections, on the basis that it would obstruct emergency service vehicles, would create a noise nuisance as it was locked and unlocked, and would restrict the turning circle for the Sharps' car. They considered that boat owners were personally responsible for their equipment.

At a subsequent meeting, letters from Messrs. Siford and Adams were considered. (See Harbour News). The general feeling of the council remained unchanged, and the clerk was requested to send a copy of their comments to the letters writers as well as the National Trust. One councillor disassociated himself from these comments.

Village Hall

Mr P. Fanshawe, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, requested an annual grant for running costs of the hall, and a grant towards present capital expenditure. This request is to be considered at future meetings.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

You may have noticed as you pass antique and flea markets these days how often the notice outside will say 'Antiques and Collectables'. As you walk around the stalls you're probably quite surprised, not to mention amazed, at the number of items that are now apparently 'collectable'. A frequent comment from browsing customers is 'Well, Auntie Jessie had one of them and we threw 'un out'. A salutary lesson for anyone clearing the house of a relative or friend. If in doubt, don't throw anything away, seek professional advice.

Thirty years ago, antique dealers were relegating Victorian wardrobes and chests to the bonfire, and you couldn't give away old linen and lace. Things are very different now. Who would have thought as they gave or threw away their 1930's china (sometimes Clarice Cliff or Susie Cooper) that it would now be a highly sought after and collectable item? Do you remember those pen and pencil sets so beloved as birthday and Christmas presents by aunts and grandparents? I wish I had kept a few of mine!

For some people collecting is a passion, for others just a pleasant hobby, and over the next few issues I will be discussing some of the items that people are collecting today, and perhaps suggesting a few that may be collectable tomorrow.

K.C.

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MAC'S TRACKS NEWS AND REVIEWS

Hi! With only a limited number of shopping days left till Christmas I thought I would cover a few CD's/ Videos that would make good stocking fillers or indeed just as ideal entertainment alternatives to all those inevitable repeats that will appear on your TV screens over Christmas.

MUSIC

For those romantic moments three recommended albums are, firstly, the latest from Bryan Ferry - 'Taxi', an album of covers, reworked in Ferry's usual, or should I say unusual, fashion. Some are appealing, as with 'Will you still love me tomorrow?' and 'With the girl of my best friend', others haunting but strange - all a matter of taste. The second is very much my taste. Entitled simply 'Jim Diamond' it's a best of collection, and it certainly is an excellent album, very warm, moody and emotional. Each of the twelve tracks has a great deal to offer. Jim Diamond has long been an underestimated artist, best known for the theme of ITV's 'Boon' - 'Hi Ho Silver'. This collection has a timeless feel to be played for many years to come. The last but certainly not least is Jackson Browne's 'I'm Alive' (his first album since 1989, released on October 25th). Ten tracks all reflecting on personal relationships - intimate love songs sung with a certain intensity and conviction - musically some excellent melodies. The lyrics? You can feel the heartache, but this is positively healing. A real must. If music be the food of love then ... play on.

Actually, speaking of Bryan Ferry reminds me that his earlier collection of covers 'These Foolish Things' (1973) is now available on CD. Never very far away from my CD player, it's another of my own personal Desert Island Disc choices, including Bob Dylan's 'A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall'. It contains thirteen classic tracks 'River of Salt, It's My Party, The Tracks of My tears' to name but a few. Twenty years on it's still head and shoulders above most of the chart music of today.

VIDEOS

My video choices also include some older titles, starting with 'The Blues Brothers' (1980 - 130 mins). I have heard so much about this film over the years, so when a

colleague happened to say that he had a copy (which he had watched about 60 times) I knew I just had to see it. It stars John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd, with guests James Brown, Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles. Comedy cum chase film, which included the wholesale destruction of half the police cars in America! I have to admit that I enjoyed it - better for watching twice.

Still on the comedy theme - 'Trains, Planes and Automobiles' (1988). Again one of my personal favourites, in fact I find it to be one of the funniest films that I have seen. It also has the bonus of a nice message and an even nicer ending. It stars Steve Martin as an executive who is desperately trying to get home in time for thanksgiving. Fate sees fit (rather unfortunately) to keep throwing him together with a shower curtain-ring salesman (John Candy) - their travels, trials and tribulations together are hilarious. Highly recommended.

FILMS

But what if you decide to escape to the cinema? On circuit at present:

'Sleepless in Seattle' (PG - 105 mins) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan in an offbeat comedy, nice, easy, sometimes a little corny, but enjoyable.

Tina : What's Love Got To Do With It? (18 - 118 mins) Tina Turner's remarkable story of her rise to fame. Extremely well cast and acted, it came down a little heavy on Ike Turner (what was the truth?). It certainly left me wanting to know some more of the finer details. A visit to the library to borrow the autobiography is in order... which brings me to remind you that albums (vinyl) and CD's are available for loan on a weekly basis from the following local libraries:

Launceston 0566 773306

Bodmin 0208 72286

Wadebridge 0208 812202

Liskeard 0579 343285

Bude 0288 352527

Vinyl albums, soon to be discontinued, at 25 pence per week. CD's at 60p per week. This a very good way to check out possible purchases with a prelisten, or to expand your musical tastes by borrowing something you would never consider buying. There is a vast amount of good music out there. You never know what you may discover.

Finally, to change the subject completely. I would like to give you a word of warning, an opportunity to learn from my misfortune. On a recent visit to Plymouth, I parked my car in a large multi-storey - safe, I thought. How wrong I was! On return, I discovered that the vehicle had been broken into and my haversack, which was hidden under the passenger seat, had been stolen. It contained my filofax, diary, many personal items - camera and tripod. I was devastated; two lessons to be learned - don't leave valuables in your unattended car and don't be complacent, thinking it will never happen to you. Be aware! Let's crack crime. Have a great Christmas. Enjoy your leisure time... Mac.



OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR




It is with pleasure that I make a contribution to your local community newspaper. I met many of you in May for a brief meeting when I was canvassing for the By-election caused by the death of Mr. Bob Cape, who was a very respected Councillor.

I enjoy meeting people and hearing their concerns. The most common thing I heard when canvassing was, "I suppose we shall only see you when you want our vote." I agreed with them that, if elected, I was there to serve the community. However, after calling on them during the election campaign, it is for the electorate to contact me with their concerns and complaints and any advice they may want. I would try to get to some of the parish council meetings, especially to hear parish views on controversial subjects and planning matters when time allowed.

Boscastle is the main population centre and prominent village in the Lesnewth ward. Its population is between 800 and 900 residents in some 440 dwellings. There were about 300,000 visitors in 1992. In view of the amount of recent development, the numbers of outstanding planning permissions and various environmental and infrastructural constraints, any new housing development is not considered suitable for Boscastle. The present sewerage system is overloaded and is to be investigated by SW Water. There has been a development boundary drawn tightly around the existing village to protect the village's character from encroaching development.

Boscastle is one of the most popular tourist destinations for day visitors along the N. Cornwall coast and consequently the local economy is very dependent upon tourism. A conservation policy is therefore essential to keep Boscastle as it is and ensure that commercialisation does not undermine the qualities of the village. To promote this, we should be all pleased to have the new Visitor's Centre which is due to be completed in the Spring of 1994. We should all benefit from the tourism it bring to the area.

Frank Routly (Otterham Station 302)




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Sculpture of a Musical Kind

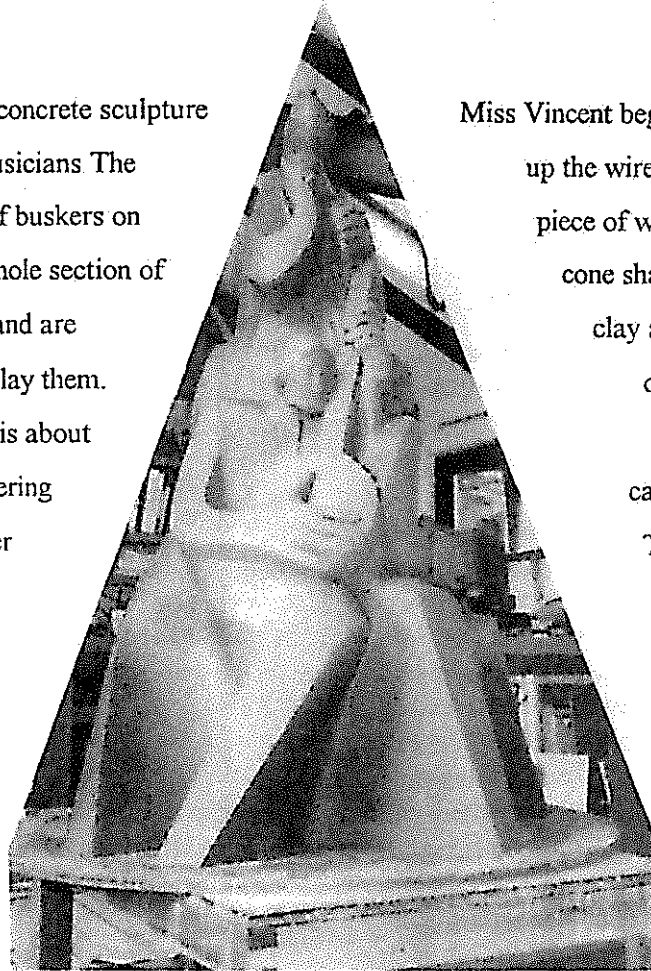
On the 3rd November, Class 3 of Boscastle School visited Carole Vincent's studio to see her newly completed sculpture 'Buskers' and do some language work. As usual the school enjoyed its time at Half Acre Studio and felt privileged to see the sculpture and hear about its creation. Here are articles written by the children after interviewing Carole.

The sculpture has been bought by Safeway Stores in Reigate, Surrey (on the outskirts of London). It will be in a courtyard with seats around it so people can sit down and not worry about shopping!

Sculpture of a Musical Kind

Miss Vincent has made a new concrete sculpture which is a magical scene of musicians. The sculpture is based on an idea of buskers on a street. The buskers have a whole section of instruments of different kinds and are people who have the skills to play them. The model weighs 475kg. and is about one and a half metres tall, towering over the other sculpture in her garden of statues.

Bethan Bond &
Ellie Young.



Miss Vincent began the sculpture by setting up the wire to hold the clay. She put a piece of wood up the side to form the cone shape. The sealer protects the clay and then she put fibre glass over it. Then when the fibre glass has finished there's a cage to make it really strong. The cement is made and the model is started. It takes another three weeks to finish the whole model.

Antony Biscombe.

Cathy wrote a piece of Japanese Haiku about buskers.

A Gust of Buskers

Buskers and their notes
Instruments mostly strum
Sweet sounds and money in a hat.



BOSCASTLE PLAYGROUP

The Autumn term has been going well. We've been inspired in our art work by the changing colours of Autumn - gold through red - bonfires and Guy Fawkes' Night. Look out for the Firework display hanging in the Village Hall.

Three cheers for the three public houses - Napoleon, Cobweb and Wellington - and all who frequent the bar stools; thank you all - we have managed to raise last term's rent to the Village Hall and we're half-way to paying this term's rent to the Village Hall.

To all Boscastle Blowhole readers - we wish you a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Pythons and Wildebeest!

Class 3 were exploring collective nouns as part of their visit to Carole Vincent's studio. Here are some of the results:

A hiss of pythons, a road of pythons, a slither of pythons.
A stamp of wildebeest, a pouring of wildebeest, a thunder of wildebeest.
A raft of tortoises, a shell of tortoises, a path of tortoises.
A thicket of mouths, a chomp of mouths, a clacker of mouths.
A melody of buskers, a flutter of buskers, a pool of buskers.

They also looked at the extremities of what they would like to do if they had their own special talents like the ones evident in Carole's sculpture.

I Should Like To

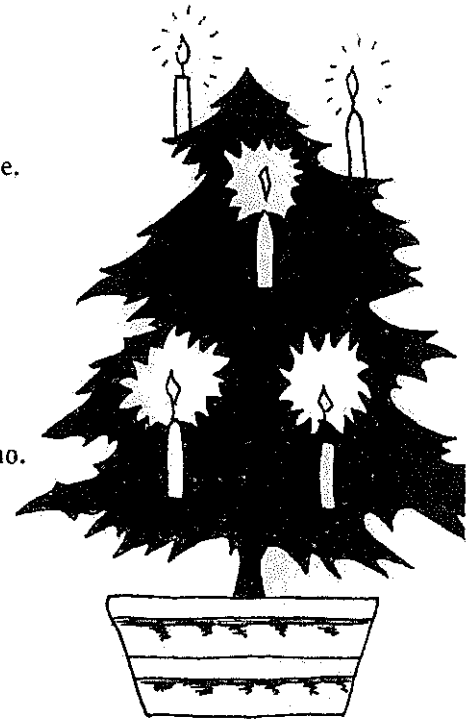
I should like to see a wave flying through the sky.
I should like to paint the sound of tiny juice sacs inside an orange.
I should like to touch the moan of an emptied room.
I should like to sculpt the sound of a bee's wing.
I should like to collect a piece of Mars.

Cathy

I should like to collect the colours of a rainbow.
I should like to sculpt the heart of god.
I should like to collect the boiling lava from the heart of a volcano.
I should like to touch the clouds and pull them down to earth.
I should like to paint the chattering of monkeys in the bushes.
I should like to see a flame burning away in the night.
I should like to collect a piece of the sun.
I should like to see a wonderful golden house.

I should like to touch the distant horizon.
I should like to sculpt the squeal of a seal.
I should like to collect all the snow from a winter's sky.
I should like to paint a leaf that no one but me has ever seen.
I should like to carry home hot sand from an island miles away.
I should like to touch the end of a rainbow.

Andrea, Serena, Kate, Carly,
Jacqueline and Nicola.



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WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT 25th DECEMBER?

What is clear is that it is not the birthday of Jesus. The actual date of Jesus' birth is not known. If the shepherds were 'abiding in the fields' at the time, it is much more likely to have been the lambing season, which in Israel of the time would have been late September or October, certainly not December.

The year also is mixed up. It was meant to be the Year 1. After all, the event is so important that we date all our subsequent events from that turning point in history. But the actual year of Christ's birth must have been before 4 B.C., which is the year that King Herod died (the Herod of the Christmas story), and so most people think that Jesus was actually born in 6 B.C. The mistake was made somehow in the 6th Century when the calendar was revised, and it was then too late to do anything about it. If we really want to celebrate the true 'Millennium', it should be next year, 1994, and not the year 2,000.

Why then do we celebrate 25th December? The answer lies with the Roman Saturnalia, the seven-day mid-winter feast which started on 25th Dec. and ended with the feast of Janus, New Year. The Christian church, wishing to 'Christianise' this well-established and popular pagan festival, made it the celebration of Christ's birth - Christ's Mass. Many of the Roman customs have been retained. Decoration with holly, ivy and mistletoe (an ancient fertility symbol) dates from Roman times. The Romans had a feast, gave presents on 1st January, and their version of the Christmas pudding was used for divination of the future.

Other Christmas customs have come in from other cultures. The Vikings celebrated the solstice by burning a great fir tree - hence our illuminated Christmas tree, which was introduced to this country by Victoria's prince consort, Albert. The Victorians also introduced Christmas cards. The turkey also is quite modern. It used to be the boar's head, but the American Thanksgiving - the first meal on American soil by the Pilgrim Fathers of wild turkeys and cranberries - has been adopted for Christmas now.

That only leaves Santa Claus - Saint Nicholas, 4th Century Bishop of Myra in S.W. Asia - to don his red bishop's robe and leave gifts in the shoes of the poor children, for the Christmas story to be complete.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

It does not really matter that the exact date of Jesus' birth is not known. What does matter is that He was born, and the world could never be the same again. For countless generations, people had speculated about God. What sort of God was he - or she - or it? Men could deduce a little about God from the world around them, and God inspired men and women, seers and prophets, to reveal something of his nature; but it was like two lovers trying to get to know each other merely by writing letters. The Incarnation of God, God taking flesh, living as Man - which is what Christmas is all about - is the moment when the lovers meet, face to face. As St. John tells us, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us; and we beheld his glory...."

Here is God, the baby in the manger, showing us for all time what He is like. That he loves us, cares for us, and is prepared to put himself completely into our hands. God, creator of the ends of the world, in the arms of a simple peasant girl. The Word of God, being taught to speak. No wonder the imagery (the true Christian imagery of Christmas) is so powerful. St. Paul says, "He emptied himself, and took upon himself the form of a servant." The image that Jesus himself preferred was that of Father, the loving, caring, forgiving father, whom he taught us to address as "Abba", or "Daddy" when we pray.

It was a two-way meeting, of course. At the same time, God was experiencing what it was like to be human, with all the weakness and failings of humanity. God does not wait until we are perfect or holy to care for us. He takes us and loves us as we are.

There is so much to Christmas. So much to celebrate in human terms. So much tradition and so many mince pies. Let us make sure that the Truth of the Feast of the Incarnation does not get covered by all the tinsel and wrapping paper. The toys get broken but the true gift of Christmas is for ever - for eternity, for those who want it. The world simply isn't the same place since that First Christmas.

From the Rector, John Ayling

WHAT'S ON ?

December

8th Coffee morning at 24 Penmead Road Delabole, in aid of North Cornwall Cat Rescue.

9th 8pm Wellington Hotel. Boscastle Liberal Democrats Christmas evening.

10th School Christmas Auction Wellington 8pm.

11th Karaoke with 'Huncle Heric': Cobweb.

12th 'A year at the Nap' evening.

18th 'Mick McCreddie': Cobweb.

18th Sing-a-long carols: Napoleon.

19th Christmas Dinner at the Napoleon and Cobweb.

24th Sing-a-long carols and Christmas Draw: Napoleon.

24th Christmas Draw: Cobweb lunchtime.

24th 'Bottle Neck': Cobweb.

25th MERRY CHRISTMAS

26-27th Cobweb: Bar food, only.

31st 'George Nix': Cobweb.

31st New Years Eve: Restaurant open Cobweb.

January

1st HAPPY NEW YEAR.

1st Cobweb: Bar food only.

4th 'L.J. Duo': Cobweb.

10th Over 50's Christmas Dinner.

13th Tap Dancing Class begins. Village Hall 7.30pm.

Beginning January (date to be confirmed). Look out for the annual jumble sale for the Cancer and Leukaemia in Children (C.L.I.C.) charity.

Recent music evenings at the Wellington have all been a roaring success with trad jazz from the 'Ploughboys' and 'Doolally Tappers' and cajun from the 'Creole Boatband'. The music tradition at the Wellington will continue over Christmas and the New Year with folknights on Mondays, Trad jazz and other bands, Carol singers over Christmas and Fancy Dress on New Year's Eve.

Every Monday Folk session at the Wellington.

Every Tuesday and Sunday Pool at the Napoleon.

Every Thursday evening at the Napoleon: darts.

Every Saturday impromptu sing-a-long at the Napoleon.



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MADAME BUTTERFLY'S

HINTS FOR CHRISTMAS



Christmas is coming....

Just three little words to fill any child with excitement. These same little words can put total fear in the hearts and pockets of parents. When, at the end of November, some smooth-talking fella on the TV says with relish, "Only 27 days to Christmas," feelings of absolute panic and disbelief will engulf even the hardest of mums, accompanied by a desire to enter a closed order.

Now, to work. Present lists are useful. First, ask child(ren), "What do you think Father Christmas is going to bring you, Angel?" Always remember that children's ideas and your pocket are in no way related. Listen with feigned interest to the vast details of the 'choice' toys shown on the box. Do NOT register fear. Simply delete and cross-reference your list(s). Also, consider asking bank manager for a loan - does 'Super Mario' whoever he is, come under 'house improvements'? I am convinced that 'smooth talker' on TV has shares in Mattell, Fischer-Price, Bambi, Lego, to name but a few. Why else should he look so gleeful?

At this point it's useless asking your male if he has any ideas what he would like as a surprise present. The answer is usually "Nothing - have you seen what the kids want?" DO NOT be taken in. If you take this literally, and if he doesn't have a parcel, wrapped and with a dangling tag, he will sulk throughout the festive season. Other lists are just as much fun - cards, food, drink, sweets, crisps - there'll be endless bits of paper all over the kitchen, but mostly held together by a clothes peg with 'DO NOT TOUCH' felt-tipped in red.

Do not worry about money. Your partner will know the part he has to play. You have enough to do, and when you first start worrying, there are never any family visitors/friends hovering on the festive horizon. But, the moment you're getting on lovely, things are under control - you have made the cake, pies, sausage rolls (the freezer is full), the turkey is ordered, overseas mail posted, cards and presents almost there, arrangements made with neighbours for hiding large pressies, enough wrapping paper left over to wrap a three-piece suite - a BOMBSHELL will be casually and subtly dropped. "Didn't I say? Well I know I did...." followed by plans for a family gathering that any rabbit would be proud of. You are then left trying to turn your average three-bed home into a four-star hotel for four nights. For HOW many did you say!?

You probably lacked space to start with, but now there is proposed overcrowding that would delight any social worker. Where do all the Z beds go when you need one, or two, or three? (Answer, book in advance, in June - Silly Billy.) Now you need room plans, with paper cut-outs of furniture and 'welcome guests' that you can play

alone with in the dark early hours. Just move the bits around like jigsaw pieces. This can be useful, but don't forget that doors have to open and you can't move fires, baths, loos and cookers. You are now into Interior Design, but do not get over-stressed with this chore - throw the bits of paper in the air. You know that no way will YOU have a bed till the New Year, so enter into the spirit of the season - and open one.

Days will now merge together; the Christmas Nativity, School Party, the one- and-only visit to Plymouth, the Tree and the lights (bet they weren't in the box), more baking, bigger turkey, more lists, house cleaning, ironing and then the TOTAL SHOCK. Your 'ex' sends exactly the same for little Angel as you have already brought, wrapped and hidden. A cordial phone call soon sorts out this little problem.... you screech, full of Christmas Spirit, "No, YOU change YOURS - anyway, it is back in the post and I cannot face Plymouth again!"

Next you book, en-suite, full board in St. Lawrence's for five days. Calm down. Two hours later, you phone long-suffering staff nurse and cancel. Explain that it is Christmas - and hope they don't actually take down your name and phone number.

It's Christmas Eve. Up-country family arrives, only five-hour journey, traffic was good; they're glowing and LAUGHING. Mum says you look peaky. "Not overdoing things are you, dear? Its only Christmas and family." No problem!

PEACE. All asleep. You and your beloved gaze about your family-filled home. Stockings are filled, there are carols on the TV. Your eyes water - it's worth it. To bed, in the kitchen. At least the kettle is handy and you can keep the cat off the turkey. Peace on Earth. Good will to all men. It's Christmas!





Correspondence...



Dear Editor,
Paradise Road Plan

Your report of the Parish Council's actions to object to the planning application from Vista Properties (how inaptly named!) led me to review, and hand over to Mrs Ruth Turner, the file I compiled of the Public Inquiry in 1980 concerning the same property. The Parish Council had deputed me, as its then Vice-Chairman, to present its case objecting to the Tannen Group's appeal against the District Council having rejected their application for approval for 16 houses to be built on the site. I also put in a separate objection, as owner of the adjoining property, Paradise House.

The Inspector at the Inquiry, which was heard in public at Camelford, totally rejected the Tannen Group's case, and fully supported every one of our arguments. Unfortunately the whole site had meanwhile been rendered unusable for its former agricultural use, by deliberate neglect and 'fly-tipping' so it was probably inevitable that Tannen or some other building developer would later revive interest in this site, as has now happened.

Vista Properties Ltd. have now lost the first round in a fresh attempt. No doubt they will appeal, and when they do so the Parish Council must press the District Council to stand firm and, if necessary, call for another Public Inquiry. The environmental case gets stronger as every day passes, so I beg everyone to keep up the pressure.

Yours sincerely,
Norman Hicks.

From Forrabury and Minster Parish Council

Your letter with reference to a bus shelter in the vicinity of Doctor's Corner was read out to the Parish Council at our recent meeting. The Council's observations were as follows:

- 1) There is no real need for a shelter.
- 2) It would be a potential road hazard, being near a cornered junction.
- 3) The Council owns no land in the area.
- 4) The new garage development would increase road hazards if a shelter was erected.

I am sure you will understand the Council's view as this is a dangerous junction and the shortage of land would present a real problem. The body responsible for this type of construction, or at least with the most interest, is the Highways Division of the North Cornwall District Council.

Yours sincerely,
R. Hart, Clerk.

I used to think that the earliest name for Boscastle was Tolcar, being a mutation of Tolcarne (hole in the rock) and I romantically thought it appropriate that early inhabitants would have been perplexed and filled with awe at the apparently supernatural force (assuming 'hole in the rock' meant Blow-hole). I think it was called 'Devil's Bellows' at one time.

However, it now seems that originally the name was Talcar (Brow of the Castle) - one never knows with mutations. Of course, Mr. Irving Little, when he wrote in the former local newspaper, said that the earliest name known to him was an odd spelling of Forrabury. He was a Norman historian, and didn't go back earlier. The Celtic monastery or cell at Minster was much earlier, of course. I'm not an historian, but learning the Cornish Language overlaps a little with Local History.

All the best in your new venture.

Yours sincerely,
Stuart Biddick.

Tubbs Ground
Boscastle.
10-11-93.

I was interested to read the letter in the Autumn edition of 'The Blowhole' highlighting the need for a bus shelter at Doctor's Corner. What a good idea I thought, particularly since my daughter started at St Austell College last September and has to wait there along with other students for a bus every morning at 7.20 am, often in atrocious weather conditions.

Then comes the response from the Parish Council in the local press; what a disappointment and such a train of negative thought. I really couldn't understand one of the arguments put forward saying it would be a traffic hazard, since with or without a bus shelter, Doctor's Corner will remain a regular drop-off and pick-up point for our local bus services.

I'm sure if a survey was carried out in the village the response would be overwhelmingly in favour of putting up a shelter. After all, not everyone has a car at their disposal, and there is life outside Boscastle.

Surely the problems put forward by the Parish Council could be overcome 'if the flesh was willing' - the members were elected to represent the wishes of the villagers - or is it just a case of 'the spirit being weak'?

Yours sincerely,
P.L. Lidbury.
P.S. The misquote is intentional

TO MY OLD CORNISH PAL AT CHRISTMAS

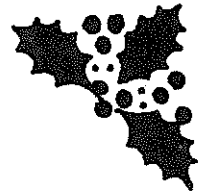
I've forgotten your address, so if you don't receive this letter, let me know. If you don't let me know, I'll know you've got it.

I'll meet you in the usual place on Sunday. If I'm there first, I'll put a chalk mark on the wall. If you get there first, rub it out.

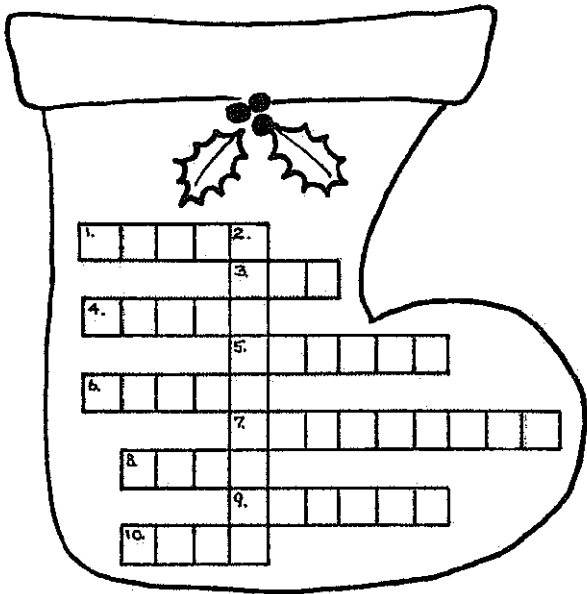
It's so long since I saw you, I've forgotten what you're like, but your face is always before me; every time I feed the pigs, I think of you and the last time we had a bite together.

Yours to the Bone,
E.N.

TWIN PIERS PUZZLES



CHRISTMAS STOCKING CROSSWORD



- ACROSS:** 1. Trifle topping.
 3. Holly and ...?
 4. Sleigh?
 5. Christmas dinner item.
 6. Has wings.
 7. Has leaves all year round.
 8. Given at Christmas.
 9. Peel is used in cake.
 10. Decorated at Christmas.

DOWN: 2. Plant hung as Christmas decoration.

FESTIVE ANAGRAMS:

Rearrange the letters to form other words.

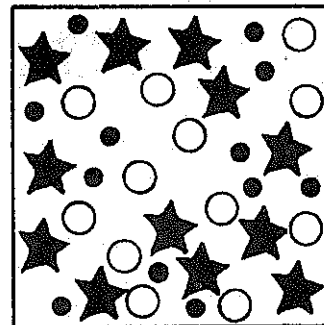
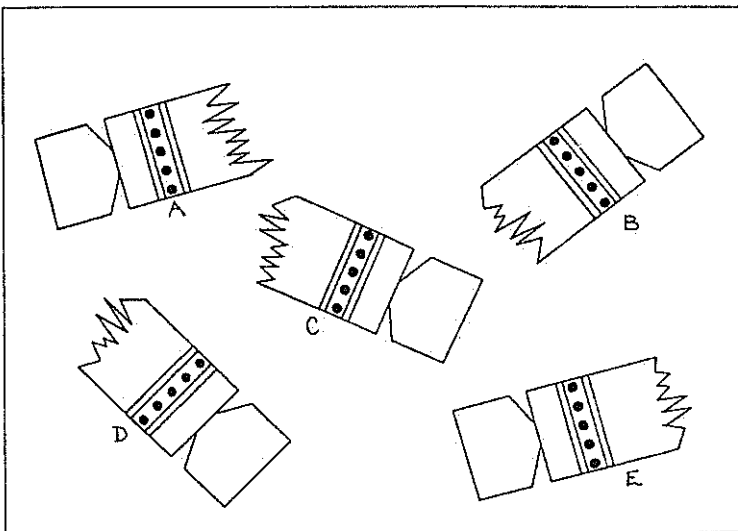
TWIG FRAPPING; LUNG MUD DIPP; GLEANS;
 MINI SCEEP.

WORD PUZZLE:

- PILLOW () CATER
 EON () ACES
 BONE () FINE
 GREAT () GROUT
 CIDER () BARN
 BEACH () LIVER

Replace the first letter of each word on either side with the same letter to form new words. Place this letter in the brackets. Do this for each of the six sets of words. What is the new word formed in the brackets?

CHRISTMAS CRACKER: Which two halves of the Christmas cracker are the matching ones?



Draw two straight lines so that there are three of each symbol in each segment.

T	S	R	R	★
A	O	Y	M	E
A	M	C	H	R
L	L	T	S	I

* Start at the STAR and unravel the seasonal sentence; each letter follows the preceding one by moving either horizontally, vertically or diagonally one square at a time. Each letter must be used only once.

Answers will be printed in the next edition of the Blowhole!

SPORT AND LEISURE

BOSCASTLE RUGBY CLUB

It may not be very well known but Boscastle runs a Rugby Team known as the Boscastle Buccaneers. The team has no ground, no particular fixture list - a true nomadic side! The team is organised by Johnny Bamford and Phil Washer, the side being 'selected' from ex-club players - it's anybody with two legs who can run in a reasonably straight line on a Sunday morning.

While we may be an ad hoc side, we have had some notable results beating sides like Wadebridge Camels and the High Wycombe 3rds. Anybody who feels like a game on the occasional Sunday or perhaps more importantly, anybody who would like to help form a more permanent committee, please contact: Phil Washer 250 465 or Johnny Bamford on 250 445/589.

CHESS: A chess club has started at the Wellington on Tuesday lunchtimes. Boscastle's answer to the World Chess Championship Challenge is in progress with three matches arranged between Steve Mundy and Victor Tobutt.

QUIZ NIGHT: at the Napoleon Inn on Wednesday evenings throughout the winter. Four-a-side teams, more team members needed. Sing-a-long afterwards.

GOLF: The Wellington has accepted the Cobweb's challenge for a return match to be arranged soon by the two captains and hosted by the Wellington. It should be an interesting contest.

CAMELFORD SPORTS CENTRE:

The Sports Centre in Camelford, which is on the same site as Sir James Smith School, has now been open for over a year and offers all sorts of activities, both in the swimming pool and in the sports hall. We are already well-supported by people from Boscastle who take part in activities ranging from aquarobics to Iyenga Yoga, and children's holiday activities to step aerobics. The pool offers special sessions to most groups in the community including pregnant women, parents and babies, over 18's, lessons for adults and children, and over 50's.

The sports hall also has much on offer with sessions to which you can just turn up and join in, including badminton, volleyball, weight training (with separate sessions for women), trampolining and lots of activities for children.

If you are already one of our users, thank you for your support. If you are not, pop in the next time you're on your way to Camelford to see what's on offer, or give us a ring on 213 188.

Jonathan McConnell Centre Manager.

RELAX WITH YOGA

A reader has asked us to recommend the Yoga course which takes place at Tintagel Primary School Hall on Tuesdays between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. It combines stretching, relaxation, useful breathing exercises and an outline of Yoga philosophy. Men and women of all ages and abilities, including beginners, are welcome. Participants are recommended to wear loose, comfortable clothing and take a mat or blanket to lie on. Ring Mrs. Felicity Young (770 848) for details.


CORNWALL AND DEVON WHEELERS

Mr. Dennis Tarr, ex-professional cyclist from Wainhouse Corner, has just formed a cycling club in this area and is hoping to attract new members. The club is affiliated to the R.T.T.A. (Road Time Trials Association) and the B.C.F. (British Cycling Federation).

During the winter months, training rides will take place most Saturdays and Sundays. These will cover approximately 30 miles (2 hrs.) in preparation for next season's racing. We hope to enter members in all classes from schoolboys to veterans (over 40).

For further details please contact George Lidbury (250 421) or Dennis Tarr (230 704).


(Young ladies and others may like to know that the word 'schoolboys' as used here refers to a specific class of entry, at a certain age).

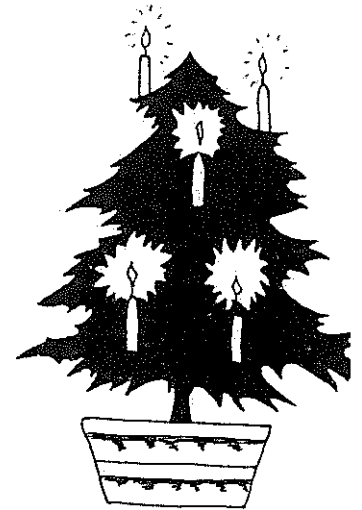
SPAR 

**BOSCASTLE
STORES**

**GROCERIES
OFF-LICENCE**

In the centre of the old village





Boscattle F.C. first team have had a good start to the season with an unbeaten run of eight games which sadly came to an end with a loss to lowly Godolphin. Richard Pethick, John Bosley, and Robin White have been outstanding. (Congratulations to Robin and Jackie on their newest addition).

The second team are currently halfway in their league despite numerous changes of personnel (even I have had to play!). They have turned out with a bare eleven on a number of occasions and need more quality players. Anyone who can kick a football, question the parentage of a referee and drink vast quantities of lager is likely to have the qualities that manager Martin Pethick likes in his players. If you want to play ring Martin on 250 300.

The Cobweb Cricket Dinner was an even bigger and grander occasion than last year with the Cobweb restaurant full to capacity. Awards went to Trevor Seldon (Best Batsman), Richard Pethick (Best Bowler) and Steve Brown (Player of the Year). Steve Brown delivered an amusing speech and drank considerable quantities of Chateau d' Cobweb (he would still like to know who took him home).

Financial Times reader Frank Bridge is not digging an open cast mine but constructing a vault for the Bottreaux art collection. He has been inspired by a famous Californian car sculptor and is planning a major new work consisting of a high rise pile of dead Allegros, Sierras etc. I should stick to skiing Frank, or whatever else you get up to in Falmouth!

Despite being top of the League, the Cobweb pool team had one player who lost his first five games - glad to see the new cloth worked Adrian!

The answer to last issue's question was David Ferrett, master carpenter, master billiard player, master!

Please note that John Blunt has not been mentioned in this column as he is now winning our weekly golf matches. Anyone wishing to join Massey's aerobics class should contact him at his shop (if open). P.H.

RUNNING REPORT: As the weather and dark evenings start to close in, the road running season draws to an end, so there are not many races to report on. I did compete in the Truro City half marathon on October 10th and finished second in the over 50's, in a time of 94.23 - only to find that I had been entered in the wrong age group so did not qualify for the prize!

The week prior to that, Sunday October 3rd, I dragged Phil Higgs out of bed and told him we were running the Bodmin 10, assuring him it was a flat, easy run. It turned out to be a very hard, hilly course and Phil got so mad at me for conning him, he ran the second half 4 minutes faster than the first, trying to catch me so that he could wring my neck. Luckily, he was so knackered at the end that he didn't have the energy to carry out any wringing.

Alan Darlison.

BOSCASTLE POTTERY



Nanette, Tim and Roger Irving Little