



BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 39 Autumn 2002

50p



Everyone's Happy When the Sun Comes Out!

**August Bank Holiday, Seven Churches Fete,
The Sun Shines and Boscastle is Teeming with Visitors**

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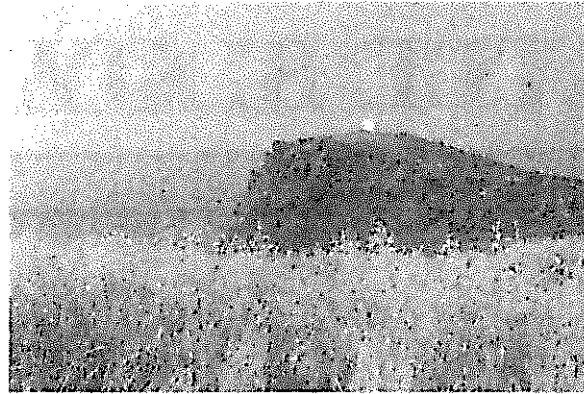
EDITORIAL

The tall men in their white shirts and epaulettes, shyly shaking their collecting tins down by the harbour, have become a familiar sight this summer. Station Manager Mike Morrell, Eric Worsdell, Secretary Geoff Mills and Derek Filer, not to mention Margaret Waters, Sales goods Manager, have been working very hard to raise the necessary funds to set up the Boscastle Station of the National Coastwatch Institution. They report in this issue that they have already raised about a third of what they target.

It is a very fitting cause for this village in which watching the coast has played a vital role in its long history. Whether it was the Preventive Water Guard of Napoleonic times, the Customs Riding Officers, the Board of Trade Life Saving Apparatus teams, and latterly, the Coast Guards (not to mention the wreckers) hardly a family in Boscastle has not had at

least one member involved in keeping an eye on the coastline over many centuries. Today the Coast Guard service, with part-time volunteers, can only work on a call-out basis and lives are unnecessarily placed at risk because there is no continuous, systematic watch kept over our in-

need for their continual watch. So far about 30 people have volunteered to serve with the Coastwatch in Boscastle. This is barely sufficient to maintain the continuous daylight service required. Station Manager Mike Morrell expects that each volunteer will be expected to give 4 hours of



shore waters and beaches.

The Coastwatch is an important and valuable aid to safety. When even as experienced a boatman as Phil Washer can drown a few yards away from the cliffs, there is clearly a vital

their time a week. Taking account of illness, holidays and forbidding weather conditions, with a base of thirty, it will always be a difficult matter to keep the lookout manned. Of course, a high proportion of retired

people have volunteered. And toiling up the steep coastal path to the lookout on Willapark will be quite daunting to the sixty-plusses on a stormy Sunday dawn in the winter. Although the Coastwatch Institution plans to make the post as comfortable and well equipped as possible, there is no arrangement for getting there from the village. There is a strong case for watch-keeping members to be allowed to drive up, at least to the foot of the final promontory on which the lookout stands. A maximum of two cars at a time is all that would be needed and there is a clear triangle of land on which they could park without inconvenience.

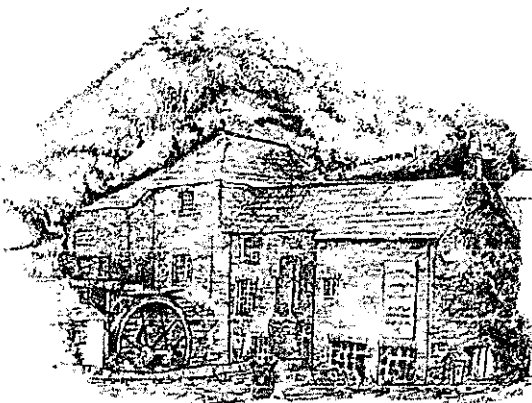
There may well be conservation objections but where does the priority lie? If the ability to drive most of the way there attracts more volunteers, the landscape can surely be adapted to accommodate their means of getting to their duty?

Blowhole Editorial Panel:

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 Philippa Arthan (Distribution), Joan Cork, Karen Coultard, Mary Dummett (Treasurer), Daphne Rogers,
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The editorial panel reserves the right to edit, to accept or to reject any material submitted for publication in the Blowhole. The views expressed within the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Blowhole editorial team.

Copies of the Blowhole are available by post at a cost of £1.25 per issue.
 Contact Philippa Arthan (01840-250483)

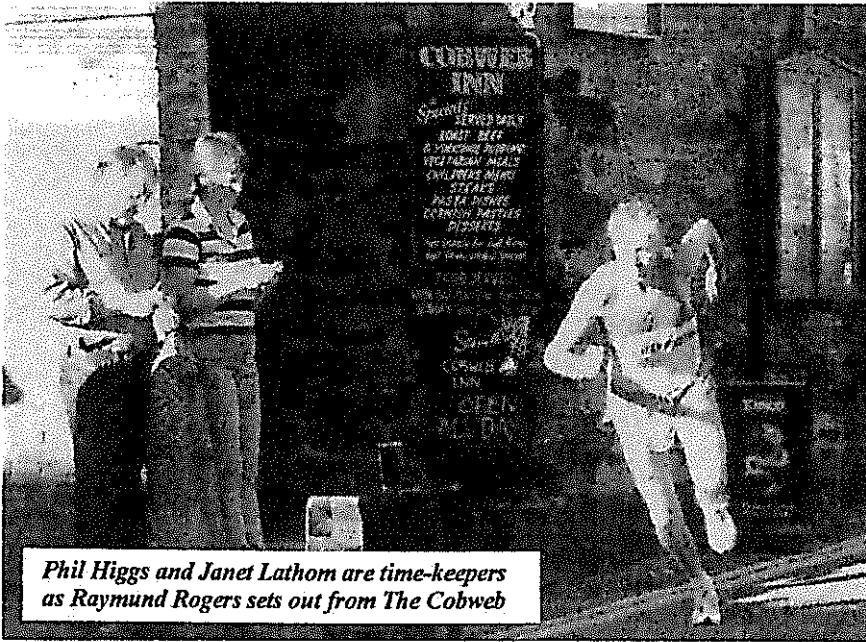


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Phil Higgs and Janet Lathom are time-keepers as Raymund Rogers sets out from The Cobweb

Raymund Gets A (Record) Round

Boscastle artist Raymund Rogers likes to do his bit to raise funds for Boscastle CP School. On Sunday 21st July, it was the school's biggest annual fund-raiser, Duck Race Day when most of the harbour area was given over to stalls and entertainments. And, of course, the Duck Race itself in the Valency River (won this year by an incredulous French family on holiday.)

Raymund bet the village at large he could start at The Cobweb Inn near the harbour, run up to the Napoleon in Top Town, drink a pint of bitter, run down again to take another pint in The Wellington, and then have a final pint at The Cobweb. All in ten minutes, *and on foot*. Bearing in mind the road from the Cobweb to the Napoleon ascends over 300 feet, it would be a great achievement however long it took. He was sponsored at £1 a time by over 250 people. Each one entered their own estimate of the time it would take him to complete his high-speed pub-crawl. £25 of the proceeds was offered as the prize for the nearest guess.

The three pints were kindly provided by the three pubs concerned.

The result was that Raymund achieved the time he set out for, running well under at 9 minutes and 11.23 seconds!

The winner of the sponsored guess-list was Victor Tobutt, proprietor of The Wellington., who guessed within .2 of a second. He has put the £25 into Lotto and undertaken to make over any winnings to Boscastle School. Everyone hopes he will stay lucky.

Raymund managed to raise £307 for the school by this feat. (The total raised during Duck Race Day as a whole, including the Auction at the Cobweb, was roughly £4,000. Well done everyone!



If ever a pint was well earned !

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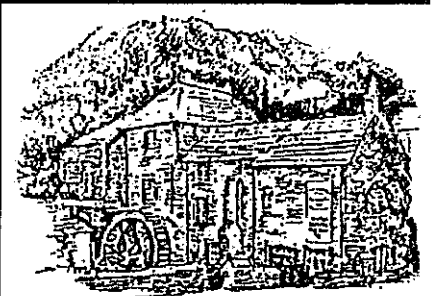
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Flower Power for the Tower



It was Open Day for some of the most beautiful gardens in Boscastle during the weekend of 13/14th July when proud owners invited the village and visitors in to see their work. It was all in aid of the Tower Fund, to meet the cost of refurbishing Forrabury Church Tower. Above Mrs Myrna Lester is at home and on the right, Mrs Alex Stewart



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Over £500
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Open Gardens
Event

The weekend stayed moderately fine and the Open Gardens event was a great success, raising over £500. As *The Blowhole* goes to press we are delighted to hear that Carole Vincent's "Concrete Jungle" design for has been accepted for the Chelsea Flower Show next year. Here she is at home (right) and Mrs Marianne Privett in her garden below.



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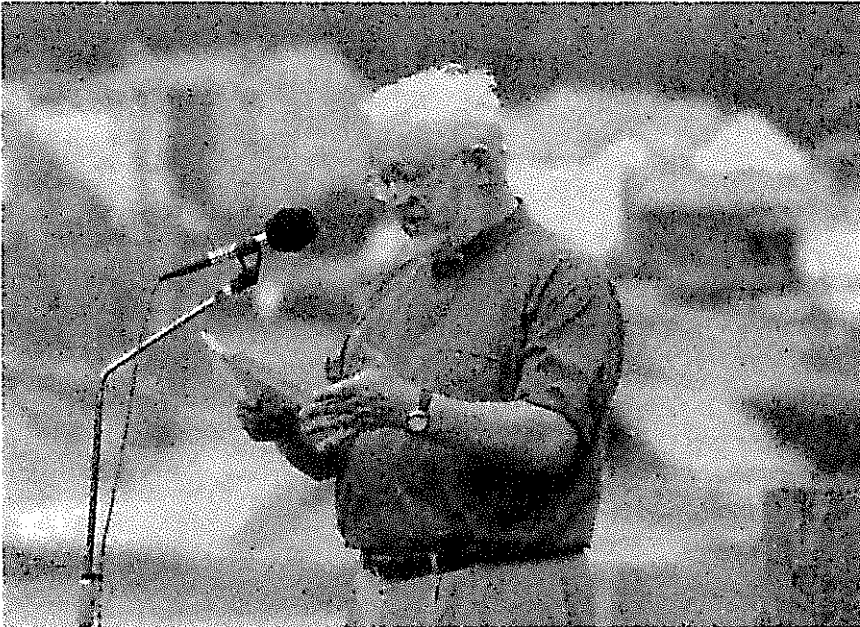
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John's Swan-Songs of Praise

There was a good turn out for Songs of Praise at the harbour on Sunday, 25th August, the ninth year since The Rev. Canon John Ayling with the Boscastle Group of Parishes and the Boscastle Methodist Church first held it. It is the last Songs of Praise before he and his wife, Yvonne retire in October. The Rev. Ayling led the meeting himself and the Methodist Minister, The Rev. Andrew Sowden said prayers. The St Gennys Silver Band contributed their crystalline sound and the Boscastle Augmented Choir was in fine tune.

Many rousing old favourite hymns were sung, including, 'I Vow to Thee my Country', 'Thine be the Glory', 'Lord of the Dance' and many others. The Rev. Ayling harnessed the harbour's natural echo by conducting 'Glory to Thee my God' as a round, splitting the entire audience into three parts, each singing a line of the hymn while the other two parts sang the following lines in harmony. The Coast Guards took a collection from the audience and generous £246 was contributed to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

Church Tower Appeal

Canon Ayling has reported a very good response to the Forrabury Church Tower Appeal, with half the money already raised. Canon Ayling told the Blowhole, "I had only dared hope we might get up to half what was needed

before we retire in October. But to get so much within a month of starting shows how generously people of the village have responded. With such a good response, work on the tower could begin earlier than expected".

Recover tax paid by Donors

The Open Gardens event in July was a great success and raised £500. Strawberry Teas on Valency Lawn in June raised £330. Another £877 has been contributed in small amounts. On Gift Day, contributed sums on which the appeal can recover the tax paid by the donor. "All kinds of people have made donations," said Canon Ayling, "mostly locals but also some who often spend holidays here".

No grant aid has so far been notified and the Parochial Church Council are waiting to hear from various charitable sources. English Heritage will be carrying out exploratory work in October before deciding about a donation. The PCC are also waiting for a faculty from the church authorities, equivalent to planning permission, before work can commence.

The fund still has a great deal of money to raise and anyone wishing to contribute is advised to use the Gift Aid form so that tax can be reclaimed. The Council Treasurer, Michael Parsons, will be delighted to provide the special forms and explain the procedure.

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Rector's Farewell Service

John Ayling will hold his last service in the Boscastle Group prior to his retirement at Lesnewth at 10.15am on Sunday 29th September.

Harvest Festival. Sunday 6th October

Holy Communion services at: Forrabury at 9.00am, Trevalga at 11.30am, Otterham at 11.30am.

Christingle Service

Provisionally arranged for 3.00pm on Sunday 1st December at Minster. Michael Parsons is confident that he will shortly be able to confirm arrangements for someone to officiate at this service.

Boscastle Methodist Church

John Ayling has asked me to write something for this edition of the Blowhole. This gives me the opportunity of thanking John for his friendship. He was one of the first people to visit me when I moved into the area, and I am sorry that we have only been able to work together for twelve months.

This is the Harvest edition and soon churches will be celebrating Harvest Festivals, or Harvest Thanksgivings as they are sometimes called. How easily we take God's gifts for granted, and how important that we give thanks for the wonder of creation and the provision of food and resources.

However, Harvest festivals in the 21st century are more than times of thanksgiving. I write at the time of the Earth Summit in South Africa, when world leaders are considering how the rich can help the poor, and how we can reduce pollution. These are all issues to address at Harvest time. May God give us this global vision.

Andrew Sowden – Methodist minister

Harvest Festival: Sunday 29th September. 11.00am Rev. Danny Wheadon.
Rev. Andrew Sowden at 6.00pm

Contact Details:

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rector:

The Rev. Canon John Ayling,
The Rectory, Forrabury,
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The Boscastle Group of Parishes includes the 7 local churches.

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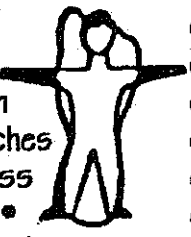
Masses: Sunday at 10.00am
Monday at 10.00am
Thursday at 10.00am
Friday at 6.00pm
(1st Fri 7.00pm)
Saturday at 6.00pm.

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Pete's Peeps at the Past



My father took a great interest in the history of Boscastle. Looking through his papers recently, I found these notes.

Boscastle's quaint little harbour causes much interest with its two breakwaters (piers). The inner pier was built sometime in the early part of the 16th century at the cost of £200. The outer pier was built many years later but was damaged by a mine after the war. (1946). The pier was repaired and rebuilt on the old site after many of

the stones were washed away.

Ships came from many different parts, including Cardiff, Swansea, Runcorn and Appledore, carrying coal and general cargo.

The Hobble Boat was used to pilot ships into the harbour. It consisted of a nine-man crew, called 'hobblers', an old word for pilots. The 30ft boat was propelled by oars and sometimes ropes were used from the cliffs to keep the ship steady in rough seas.

Most of the ships using the harbour were between 70 and 130 tons. Names of some of the vessels were Conquest, Swift, Elizabeth, Telegraph, Nellie Mary, Cornucopia, Cornflower, Two Sisters, Aurore, Beaver (160 tons) and Dolphin.

The men who unloaded them were paid 3d a ton. A lot of slate was shipped away from nearby quarries. There were two lime kilns near the harbour, where limestone was burnt to produce lime for builders. Ships were built at a yard whose cottages now stand on the left of the harbour. The yard was owned by T.R. Avery who was 'a notorious wrecker and receiver of contraband goods'.

Mr James Pickard and Mr Dan Kinsman were the last two 'hobblers' to be paid off for their services in connection with the hobble boat. *Dan Kinsman was Belinda's and my great grandfather. Now for some more 'Peeps' at the Past:*

9th January 1868 Juvenile Culprits Flogged

Four boys named Henry Guest, Henry Bailey, William Trelease and J. Downing, charged with breaking into Messrs Carne's Brewery and stealing some beer and damaging a wall on entering, were sentenced as follows: Guest and Bailey, 12 lashes each; Trelease 9 and Downing 6. Another charge was preferred against Guest and Bailey for stealing a silver Albert chain for which Guest was sentenced to Bodmin Gaol for one month and Bailey a fortnight with hard labour; each to be privately whipped a day before they leave gaol.

22nd April 1869 Velocipedes

There has been a great

interest in these locomotive machines among engineers. They are constructed to carry three persons and worked by toothed wheels, the driving wheels being 4 ft in diameter. Speeds of about 15 miles per hour were attained and it is probable that there soon will be many on Cornish roads.

2nd November 1869 Grace Briney

At Redruth an old woman of 91 yrs named Grace Hitchens died; she was better known in west Cornwall as "Grace Briney". In her youthful days she ran, wrestled, fought and did much heavy work. She dressed in the very unfeminine costume of a blue cloth coat with gilt buttons, a high hat, petticoat, stocking and shoes - a style of dress which she kept for the last 35 years. She worked in the 'mazzard' (cherry picking) trade and in the present autumn, visited St Dominick for a load of cherries: a distance from Redruth of fifty miles.

9th February 1866 Capt Casey of Padstow

The barque "Jane Lowden" of Padstow, one of eight timber ships out of Quebec, foundered in a hurricane with the loss of 160 lives. Alfred Bolton and William Thomas were 2 of many that died, having been without food for 14 days, with only Capt. Casey and the carpenter left hanging in the rigging. The carpenter died of exhaustion and starvation leaving Casey the sole survivor. After 33 days in the top-mast, he was rescued by the Dutch barque "Ida Elizabeth" of Rotterdam. Capt. Casey then only weighed 48 pounds but he survived and eventually he was able to walk again.

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Doctor's Corner – The Manchester Commonwealth Games, A Medical Perspective – Dr Chris Jarvis

I've finally dried out from the Closing Ceremony, my photographs came back from being processed yesterday and twenty boxes of supplies, equipment, files and records were delivered back to Boscastle this morning.

I'm now readjusting to daily life and have removed the notice placed on my office door by my staff. It was short and sweet and said 'Welcome back to reality'! I was asked in a shop "what's it like to leave civilisation and return to Boscastle". They got that wrong - it's undoubtedly the other way round, but they've probably not had the illuminating experience of seeing the centre of Manchester at one o'clock on a Sunday morning.

It hasn't been a memorable summer for English sport. The show-business end of the market - also known as football - went out of the World cup in the quarter finals and Tim Henman did his all too familiar exit from Wimbledon. The sporting half of the nation really needed to salvage a *good result* from the Commonwealth Games and that's what Manchester gave them.

There were over two thousand media personnel accredited to the Games and you got the feeling that a small percentage would have been more than happy to file scathing reports of yet another great British sporting disaster. It just didn't happen. In the final analysis the Press was won over by the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by both locals and visitors for the Games, and by the spirit of the locally recruited volunteers. In 2000 Sydney held a post-Games celebratory parade for its volunteers - perhaps Manchester should do the same?

Good Results for England

The English team did extremely well and actually exceeded their pre Games medal target with a tally of over 150 medals which included 54 of the precious Gold ones. True, we were second to Australia - but we got pretty close and it will take a few more years to get the better of them. The *Aussies*

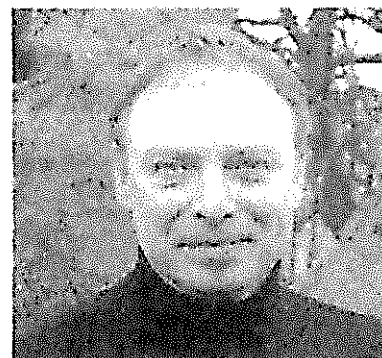
really do take inordinate pride in beating the *Poms* and have been investing significant funds into sport since the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games - this the great Australian sporting disaster. Lottery money is a relatively new innovation for many British sports and there's a lead-time before the rewards will be effectively reaped.

Several people have mentioned the cycling events to me, and how sad they were to see the Olympic gold medallist, Jason Queally, in second place to a Scot. Spare your tears - both first and third places were taken by his Lottery funded British Cycling team mates. We only wave the flag of St George every four years - and what you saw on the medal podium was actually a Union Jack draped one two three - with arch-rival Aussies were nowhere to be seen. The sight of the English cycling team urging on gold medallist Chris Hoy from the centre of the track and then giving him a standing ovation is what sport should be about - but frequently isn't.

Doctor's Contribution to Sport

My job as Chief Medical Officer has changed subtly over the four years since the last Games in Malaysia. Medical matters and drugs stories have an increasingly high profile in the press and I am now asked to attend the Press conferences as a matter of routine. This is the difficult bit, not the friendly interviews - known to our Press officers as *stuffy* interviews - but the 'man on a mission' ones where you feel you're being gently guided down a one way street at the end of which lies a cunningly concealed trick question.

I met several other Cornish officials and competitors masquerading as English while I was there - one was a shooter from Washaway and another a marathon runner from Looe. You don't meet a lot of people from the Peninsular at these events - the need to travel to compete at international level means relocation to a more central site for the majority of elite Cornish sports men and women.



Dr Jarvis

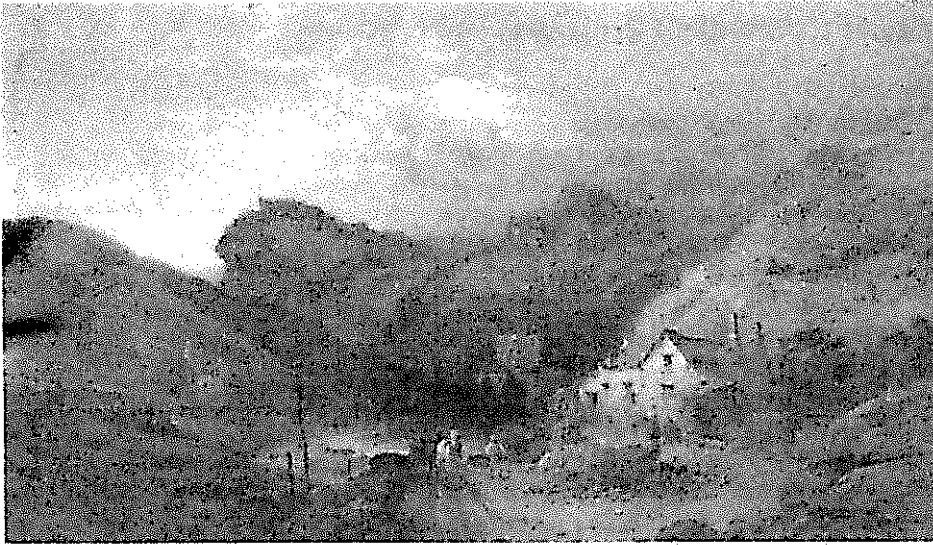
I was lucky to have a Tees Valley England Headquarters medical team six doctors, along with another ten attached to teams. We weren't short of physiotherapists either; our Headquarters team of 15 was augmented by a further 30 spread through the various sporting disciplines. The facilities investigation available to us in the Medical Centre in the Commonwealth Games village medical centre was second to none and equalled the Olympic / Paralympic facilities in Sydney. We had access to almost immediate diagnostic ultrasound and the experts to interpret them. MRIs were usually done the same day - the result of private sector facilities being hired for the duration of the Games.

Could Manchester Host the Olympic.

I suppose that mention of Sydney raises the question that I was asked many times by local volunteers - could Manchester host the Olympics? I think the answer has to be in the affirmative. It could hold the Games - *if* it really wanted to - and this a larger *if* - if the UK Government and the British Olympic Association throw their full support behind the bid for the Games. It's a matter of scale, the Olympics are at least six times the size of the Commonwealths and there would have to be even more major investment in construction.

And so back to where I started - the weather. A mixed bag overall - but started in just the right way with a rain free opening ceremony and continued with five days of glorious sunshine the first week. Phone calls however revealed mist and rain in Trelvalg while I was busy issuing advice about sun exposure, fluid intake and the risk of heat exhaustion to our team in Manchester. The initial weather really set the spirit and mood for the Games and once that flame was ignited no bad weather could extinguish it.

Boscastle Harbour Picture Returns to Village

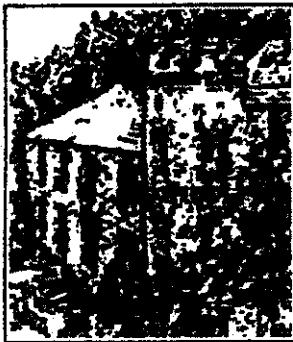


Mike Mills, the shortly to retire landlord of the Napoleon Inn has bought a fine oil painting of Boscastle Harbour at an auction in Bath. The painting dated 1875 is by William Gibbons who was noted for his pictures of West Country Harbours as well as his seascapes, landscapes and bustling city scenes. The painting depicts a typical Boscastle scene of the Victorian era, with a fair-sized ocean-going sailing ship at the quayside on a stormy day, with threatening clouds gathering off the harbour entrance.

This picture will interest a great many Boscastle residents, who will welcome Mike's public spirit in not only bringing a fine painting of great relevance to the village back to it, but also allowing it to be exhibited in the Boscastle Visitor Centre until October. The painting has attracted much interest from visitors, with the distinctive profile of what is now the Youth Hostel immediately recognisable to many.

Gibbons was a self-taught painter born in Exeter in 1841, the son of a shoemaker. He was active in both oils and watercolours between roughly 1863 and 1885, working from a studio above what was then 'Whitaker's Smoke House' in the old Commercial Wharf or Barbican area of Plymouth.

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Data From Lesnewth Rain Station (Official Readings)

Month	2002	2001
March	95.0mm	154.4mm
April	100.5mm	131.1mm
May	200.3mm	35.5mm
June	105.9mm	47.8mm
July	107.3mm	94.6mm



Sorry that you did not get my report for the last Blowhole. For those of you that have good memories you may recall from my last printed report that I was waiting for the Environment Agency to install a computerised rain recorder. Well it duly arrived, and once every so often a person comes to my garden with a lap top computer and downloads the information. I was supposed to receive print outs regularly, but like everything else it is not very regular. Thankfully I still read the old manual gauges for the Met Office, so this is where my information comes from mostly. I have to say that the read-outs that I have received from these computer downloads, when compared to my manual data, have been remarkably accurate, which I am pleased about. So why do we need to change the system?

Quite a lot has happened weather wise since March. Rainfall during March was quite low; little did we know what would happen in following weeks. Incessant wind devastated the plants as new buds were trying to form, it was cold and wet, making it almost impossible to get new seedlings, seed potatoes etc planted out in the garden. During early July I was wearing Barbour coat, fleece hat and gloves whilst dog walking in the early mornings, but as usual it did eventually improve and we have seen a good July and August with plenty of sunshine. The plants have all caught up and the garden is looking lovely with one exception... no runner beans this year, so I shall have to keep my taste buds in a state of readiness for next year. Lots of Autumn clearing up to be done very soon, so lets all make a start.

Take care every one. Valerie

George Harlock

Painter & Decorator

and small property repairs

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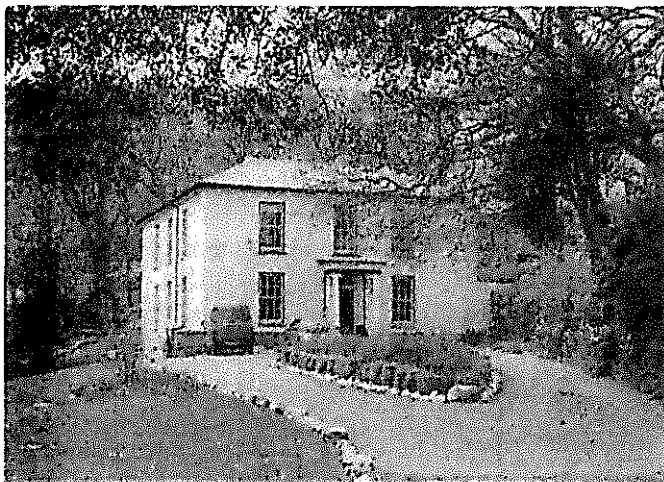
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Historic Houses in Boscastle



Penally House
Meticulously Restored Georgian Villa
By Anne Knight

Penally House is set back from the main Boscastle to Bude road on the eastern side of the village. Surrounded by three and a half acres of land, it enjoys some privacy from the hustle and bustle of the lower village. It was built by William Sloggat (in 1836) just in the reign of Queen Victoria. But it owes

its design very much to the Georgian period.

Originally it had seventeen rooms; sixteen today. William Sloggat lived with his family and two house servants. He was a man of some importance in Boscastle and Cornwall. He was a Magistrate for Cornwall, a general dealer in iron, coal, and a wines and spirits merchant. He owned the vessels involved in his import and export business and, together with his partner Thomas Roseveare of Barn Park House, owned several warehouses and stores. They were also agents at Lloyds and owned North Delabole Slate Quarry.

Against better judgement

Together with their arch-rival Thomas Rickard Avery they were trading during Boscastle's heyday as a port. The three of them had a virtual monopoly on the import and export business. In 1830 they had entered into an agreement in an attempt to rationalize trade in the port.

In later years Roseveare was to refer to Avery as "that violent and wicked man Thomas Rickard Avery" when his partner and brother-in-law William Sloggat was forced into a trading arrangement with Avery, much against his better judgement.

On 4th July 1845 the sloop "Jane" owned by Sloggat and Roseveare left Boscastle for Trebarwith Strand Creek to load slate. Her master was Nicholas Couch. In the night the crew laid-to in Port Isaac Bay and the captain went below to sleep. The mate on deck also fell asleep and the vessel drifted onto shore and was wrecked. Roseveare described the incident as "a good vessel thrown away by, or through, the unpardonable carelessness of a worthless crew".

There are many myths, legends and stories concerning Boscastle, several concerning Penally House and its grounds. These tales are contemporary with the people who lived there and with the occupants associated with the house and its owners.

It is rumoured that Sloggat was involved in smuggling and used the house to store the smuggled goods. It is certainly documented that a sailing ship owned by Roseveare and Sloggat was involved with piracy. Ambushed by a French pirate vessel, the cargo ship, carrying wines and spirits, managed to slip behind Meachard Rock at the entrance to the harbour. The pirates giving chase were unaware of Boscastle's hidden entrance and thought

Built in 1584 by Sir Richard Granville.

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the cargo ship had foundered on the rocks. They sailed away empty handed. In thanksgiving for the deliverance of their ship and cargo he built the original Methodist chapel in Fore Street.

Shaft below the house

There are a series of caves under Penally Head. The house is only three hundred and fifty yards from the cliff edge. Stories tell of a shaft that was sunk below the house running down to the caves. Small boats loaded with wines and spirits would enter the caves in secrecy to unload. The contraband would then be taken via Penally House and the 'Private Road' to the warehouses and added to the legitimate stock. William Sloggat was responsible for building the Private Road and vehicles using it were able to avoid the steep Penally hill.

There is some evidence to support the existence of the secret shaft. Penally House is square; the ground floor consisting of four, square rooms. One room had an additional stone wall built into it making it rectangular. Was that to hide the evidence of the shaft?

Other tales about the caves are more recent. During World War I people

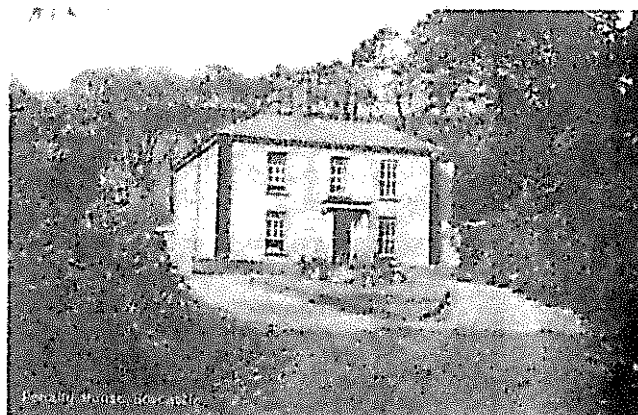
walking the cliff path reported hearing German voices below the cliffs and it has been supposed that German submarines were using the area to surface and recharge their batteries and air supplies.

When William Sloggat died, his only daughter Mary inherited Penally House. She had married Claudius Crigan Hawker on the 4th February 1837. Claudius was the brother of the Reverend Robert Steven Hawker, the famous vicar of Morwenstow who wrote the Cornish anthem "Trelawney". "Parson" Hawker was a frequent visitor to Penally House and had, in fact, visited there only a few days before his death.

Claudius Hawker was another important person of the village. As well as being a merchant and dealer he was an attorney at law, clerk to the Camelford Union and Superintendent Registrar.

Shipping trade challenged

On his death Claudius Hawker left Penally and his business to his son Colonel William Sloggat Hawker. Things were not so easy for the Colonel. The pattern of life was rapidly changing. The shipping trade that had made Boscastle an important port was now being challenged by the coming of the railways.




Penally House from a Post Card taken between the wars

Indeed the railway company suggested that Boscastle be linked to the main Waterloo - Padstow line by building a branchline from Otterham to a station in the Valency Valley. However, those involved in shipping vehemently opposed the plan. But the railway came anyway to Camelford Station in the parish of Minster.

In the same way that William Sloggat had formed

a partnership with Thon Roseveare, William Sloggat went into partnership with Harry Bowering on the 7th May 1904. An indenture was signed taking Harry Bowering into partnership "in the trade business of coal, grain, wine and spirit and general merchandise".

Business which had been carried by steam was transferred to the far more reliable railways and the



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Historic Penally House (Continued)

Hawker family went into debt. In desperation the Colonel tried several ways of drumming up fresh trade and one of these was the starting of the Boscastle bakery. He employed many locals in the business but the bakery was not enough to save his declining fortune. In the end Colonel Hawker took his own life in August 1904 and his widow Jane Florence Hawker left and went to live in Tasmania.

Run as a guest house

Penally House was repossessed by the mortgage company and bought from them by Boscastle Manor. When the manor was put up for sale Penally House was being run as a guest house by Mrs. B.L. Mendez. It was described in the sale prospectus as an "attractive and picturesquely placed Regency residence with ornamental grounds, kitchen garden and woodland". It had seven bedrooms, bathroom and W.C., three reception rooms, kitchen, offices and conservatory. On the opposite side of the road it had a walled kitchen garden.

In the 1950s, the house was bought by Miss Frances Baxter, a retired Flight Lieutenant in the WRAF, where she had worked as

Welfare Officer. With this background she was always willing to help people on hard times. Indeed, she took many of them in as lodgers. I remember Miss Baxter telling me, she believed Colonel Hawker haunted the house and that she had seen him on several occasions. She also said her lodgers reported hearing footsteps in and around the house when nobody was there.

In the last Blowhole, I wrote about the asset stripping of Corentin, when much of the Thomas Hardy interior was taken out and sold. Sadly, what happened at Penally after Miss Baxter's death was similar.

Comfortable family home

Much of the interior was destroyed or taken out by some of her less scrupulous lodgers and, when the house was sold, it was a shell of its former self.

It is now, once again, being restored to a comfortable family home with great care taken to preserve the character of the building. The current owners, Mr and Mrs Peter Hopkins, are planning to thin out and properly manage the aging woodland which is such a sensitive visual amenity to Boscastle.



The Hawker family gather for an early photograph on the lawn at Penally House (Picture courtesy Mrs Iris Olde)

Buongiorno Bottreaux!



Alan and Carlotta Cooper have bought the Bottreaux Hotel

Boscastle welcomes the new proprietors of the Bottreaux Hotel, Alan and Carlotta Cooper. They bought the business from Graham and Hazel Smea, who have no other plans than to buy a Winnebago Camper Van and just drive off on an open-ended holiday.

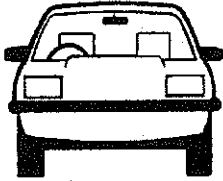
The Coopers have clear-cut plans for the Bottreaux Hotel. This will be their first experience of hotel management but, as they say, they have "formed distinct ideas on how a hotel and restaurant should be run from their own wide experience of using them". Alan is the Chef and Wine Maitre; Carlotta runs the rooms and staff.

Their acquisition of the hotel was a lightning affair, just 4 weeks from making the offer to moving in. They have taken on new staff to help them run it: Jane Mayer

as housekeeper (she is also Lady Captain at Bowood Golf Club) and Ian Mugford as waiter and general assistant. Although the premises were in very good condition when they took them over it is their intention to refurbish them throughout in modern style in the winter.

They see their market as young professional people with a taste for good quality. Alan and Carlotta have already briefed an interior design consultant to start working on plans. "We want to take the Bottreaux Hotel up-market as cost effectively as possible."

Alan plans to use only fresh, local produce for his menus. "I can't believe how lucky we are with the wonderful fresh produce such as the fish, meat and vegetables and herbs that are available."



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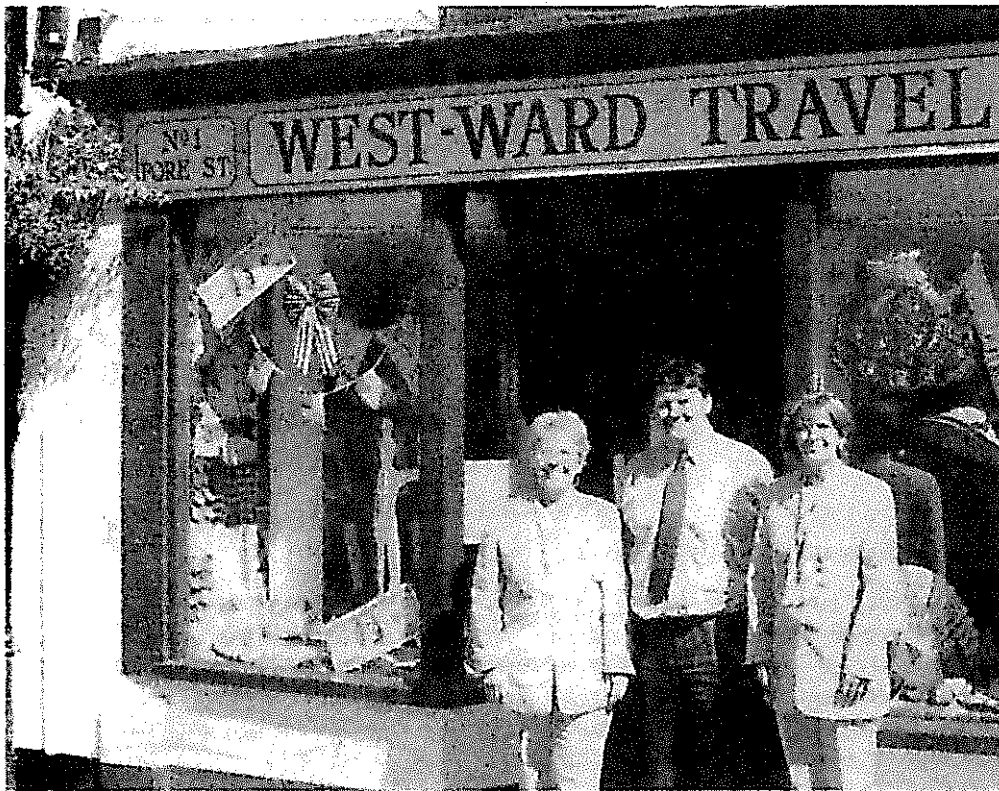
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Adrian and staff have had a busy season. It is a feature of the tourist trade that when the sun shines people make for the beach. It's mainly when it's cold and overcast that they come into the pubs and shops. And although the sun is shining right now (August Bank Holiday) it has mostly been a pretty poor season for weather. So the Cobweb has been kept busy, in the bars and in the first-floor restaurant.

Have Shop - Will (Arrange) Travel

In spite of all the gloomy forecasts in the travel-business following the tragic September 11 events in New York, two Boscastle people have set up a new travel enterprise, West-Ward Travel, in Camelford High Street. Opening on April 29th Pam Bond and her daughter, Nikki Reed joined partnership with Steve and Helen Ward who had been running their own travel business via Teletext from their home at Treveighan.

The tastefully decorated new shop is in the heart of Camelford's shopping area, next-door but one (westwards) to Parkers. Nikki Reed told the Blowhole that Steve is the administrator of the business while she, Pam and Helen work in the shop.

Worked together before

The lady-partners were no strangers to each other. Nikki and Helen had worked together at Instant Holidays for some years. Helen had just left and started up on

her own when the Twin Towers catastrophe struck. They discussed the idea of working in partnership and diversifying into high street retail business.

They were convinced that people still preferred to discuss their holidays with experts before parting with their hard-earned cash. Not everyone is happy to send money off to a strange address after a telephone conversation or even after visiting a website.



Nikki Reed at her desk

Nikki Reed explained that, although having a shop adds greatly to the business overhead, a lot of holiday business is done with people buying last-minute holidays on impulse. Either a special

offer catches their eye or they suddenly find the time and the money to take off and they want to raffle the best possibilities their cash will buy.

Last-minute buying

They only have to name a departure point and a preferred destination and the computer will show every holiday available between one and eight weeks away. And they can buy late very keenly. "It was always the case," says Nikki, "that last minute buying will get you the best bargains and the widest choice."

Business is very brisk at the moment (high August) in spite of the fact that, post-September 11, the travel trade went into free-fall. There has even been a slight shortage of last-minute holidays during the summer. West-Ward Travel are also ticket agents for Hall For Cornwall and they have applied for a licence as agents for National Express.

One of the busiest evenings was for the Duck Race Auction, under the expert auctioneering skills of Laurence Reed, which helped a lot towards the roughly £4,000 overall total raised for Boscastle School.

Thinking about auctions, don't forget the Cobweb's biggest autumn event: the Harvest Auction on 9th October. They will be doing their best to make even more than last year's £1,250 this time. They plan to split the takings in half; one half going to the Parkinson's Disease Society, the other half divided evenly among strictly Boscastle charities.

Last year the Chief Auctioneer from Kivell's, Kelvin Heard, handled the bids and it is hoped he will do the honours again this year. Adrian and everyone at the Cobweb hope their customers and friends will give their support once again, both with donations of auctionable gifts as well as by coming and bidding on the night.

Don't forget the date: it's Wednesday 9th October.



Station Officer Les Siford Reports:

Hello again! It's been a fairly busy June, July and August, so far:

9th June 2002 1326 hrs
Clothing reported on Boscastle pipeline. The area was checked out; no sign of anybody in trouble. Returned to station 1347 hrs.
G. King and T. Little.

24th June 2002 0818 hrs
Call from Falmouth to G. King: report of upturned boat at Strangles (High Cliff). The area was checked out and nothing was found. Returned to station 1044 hrs
G. King and T. Little.

19th July 2002 1403 hrs
Call from Falmouth to G. King: assist Bude with an injured casualty at Dizzard Point. Bude ILB on scene. Helicopter requested by Bude; casualty airlifted to safety. Officer in charge: Len Benson (Bude CG). Returned to station 1515 hrs.
G. King, T. Little, D. Williams, A. Williams.

21st July 2002 1432 hrs
Call from Falmouth to G. King: Casualty on the cliffs between Strangles and Crackington. Helicopter requested; casualty airlifted to safety. Bude CG also on scene. Officer in charge: G.King, D. Roots, T.Little, B. Mills, D. Williams.

20th August 2002 1843 hrs
G. King paged by Falmouth: 2 fishermen in trouble below Queen's Head, Boscastle. Stood down 1847 hrs. L. Siford, G. King.

21st August 2002 2210 hrs
G. King called by Falmouth; red flare reported off Trebarwith Strand. L. Siford made way to high ground for better visual and radio communications. No more flares were seen. Released by Falmouth 2246 hrs; returned to station 2324 hrs. L. Siford G. King

Meantime our training continues out on the cliffs at our training site at Bossiney as long as the light nights are h

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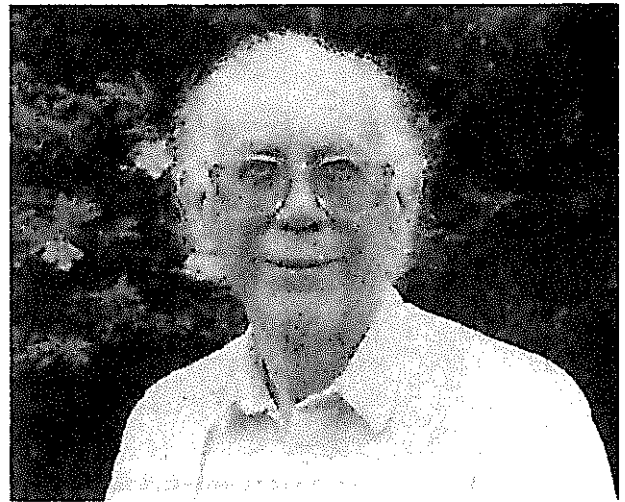
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methods. Years

were between 14 and 24 men

in the Boscastle CG and they would pull both the cliff man and the casualty up by hand. Now there are only eight of us!

We meet every Monday at 7pm in the Sports & Recreation Hall. Come and give it a try, just bring a pair of socks.



Twinkle with the 'Twenties

Scarcely had the strains of 'Trelawny' died away at the Saturday evening performance of the Cave of Harmony's 'Right Royal Ding Dong' when I was inundated with enquiries about Boscastle's next music hall. There was so much enthusiasm on the part of audiences and cast for more shows. So it is with great

some of the very best music hall songs belong to 1920s and there was also new injection of vigour and dazzle. From across the Atlantic came the zest of vaudeville, of jazz rhythm, cloche hats, bobbed hair: short skirts, as well as disgraceful new dances such as the Charleston and Bl Bottom.

Saucy ditties

The young people of Britain welcomed the invasion and rose to the occasion. The early songs of Noel Coward, the saucy ditties of Tessie O'Shea and the cheek of George Formby junior are now classics, just like their forerunners from the greatest days of music hall. I think you will be greeted with a few surprises in *The Twinklin' 'Twentie*

Michael Turner

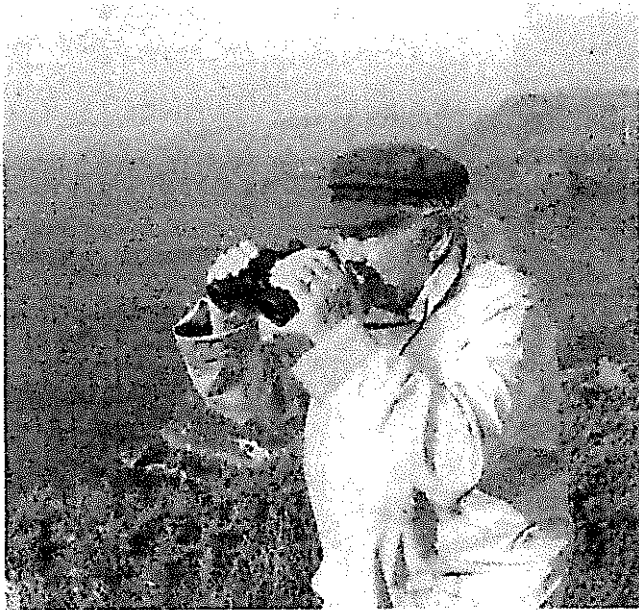
the company of *The Twinklin' 'Twentie*, A Nightly Musical, is about to be planned for Friday, 25th March, 2003. In sale from their prices as for the

1920s music hall its second here were so competitors in the cinema, records and the phenomenon wireless, that the much loved formula of comedy, music and variety acts seemed rather old-fashioned. Despite this,

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Harbour Master's News



We still need more volunteers for the Coastwatch Service !

After a poor start to the season for the small boats, the weather has now perked up (August Bank Holiday weekend) and they have finally been able to go out and catch some mackerel. These seem to be plentiful at the moment.

One evening recently the harbour was silver with whitebait and it would have been possible to lean over the side of the boat and just scoop them up. Mary Smee says that they are a good sign that there are mackerel around. She says she can remember going down to the harbour with a bucket on a rope and throwing it into the water and pulling it back up full of mackerel. Those were the days !

Horse droppings nuisance

I have received several complaints from visitors this summer who have been enjoying their lunch sitting beside the river, when a string of horses have come by and left their droppings in the road. Dog owners get

short shrift for allowing their dogs to do it and they leave themselves open to a hefty fine. It would be nice if the horse riders would either leave the harbour and the main street out of their trek; or else clean up after their mounts.

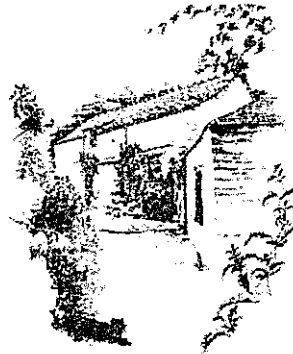
We have several ducks on the river again this year; those which have managed to survive the gulls. They always attract visitors' attention and are so much part of the scene.

I still stand there on the Lower Bridge and marvel at the beauty of the cliffs and the wildlife in the harbour. We have had visitors staying at Sunnyside from Brazil to Venezuela this year and they all tell us the same. There really is no place like the English countryside !

Finally, while we are on about scenery, have you noticed our sun-flowers this year ? They are Sunnyside's tallest ever, one of them reaching up to 9ft 10 ins !

Jottings From the Parisl

Carol Vincent Exhibition



Carol Vincent will be holding an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by both her students and herself at her Half Acre studios and garden in Boscastle on 20th - 22nd of September.

The work on show will include pieces produced by students in her classes held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays, by the Half Acre Painting Group, and by the Boscastle Sculpture Group.

Carol Vincent's own work will also be on show in the house and garden, which was the inspiration for her Blue Circle Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2001.

Exhibition dates and times are as follows.

Friday 20th September, 5pm to 8pm.

Saturday 21st September, 11am to 6pm.

Sunday 22nd September, 11am to 6pm.

Light refreshments will be served throughout. Please call Carol on 01840 250263 if you need further details.

Boscastle W.I.

Tuesday evening meetings in the Autumn season include the following.

October 8th at 7.30pm: 'Coz the Clown'.

November 12th at 2.00pm: Graham & Sheila Murphy on 'Half Way Round the World'.

December 10th at 2.00pm: Peter Ascott on 'Famous Cornish Personalities'.

January 14th at 2.00pm: Mr Lawson on 'Bird Life on the Estuary'.

Anyone wishing to come and meet us at one of our afternoon/evening meetings on a no-commitment basis, to see whether they might like to join the Boscastle W.I. would be very welcome.

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Eager to Help

Boscastle officers of the National Coastwatch Institution turn out for a Table-Top Sale on Valency Lawn: from the left, Eric Worsdell, Fred Siford (Harbourmaster), Derek Filer and Station Manager Mike Morrell.

Residents of Widemouth Bay turned out in force on Saturday 17th August and raised nearly £400 for the National Coastwatch Institution, Boscastle Station. The following day a table-top sale on Valency Lawn in Boscastle itself raised more than £500.

The first event, a coffee morning, was held at the home of Geoff and Kay Mills in Crescent Close. Geoff, Secretary of the Boscastle Station, was full of praise for his neighbours. "I appealed for books and bric-a-brac for our fund-raising morning and I was amazed at the support we received. On the day itself, residents offered their services to make and serve coffee and help man the tables. At one stage, I thought the entire population had turned up."

Commenting on the Boscastle event, Station Manager, Mike Morrell, said, "the morning started off with a heavy drizzle but this did not seem to stop visitors. When the sun came through we had a continuing stream of visitors on Valency Lawn".

In less than six months members have raised £4,000, mainly by standing in Boscastle with collecting

tins. Their target is a total of £12,000. This will help to refurbish the old Coast Guard lookout on Willapark, and to equip it with powerful binoculars, radar, radio and an electricity generator. The National Trust has promised support in carrying out the necessary work.

"We are all volunteers," Mr Morrell said, "Our job will be to help save lives and, although we have received no useful response so far from national funding bodies, we live in hope. Until that time we intend to press on with hard work and commitment ourselves and raise as much money as possible".

Mike Morrell added that membership was free and if anyone is interested they can join and help re-establish this essential life-protecting service, right here in our own village.

STOP PRESS

A cheque has just been received from the GCHQ Sports and Social Club at Morwenstow, and this will be put to good use. Zoftig of Bude has offered 2 high quality stools for the lookout. The Wellington will send a cheque following a lager promotion they are running at the moment.

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Postman's Perambulations

Well, where did the summer go then? It really was a flash in the pan! I only hope that our traditional late summer in September is on form. It seems to me that I wore my waterproof more this summer than I did last winter.

The thing to have really benefited from the wet weather is the gardens. All our gardens look really splendid this year. The lawns and the roadside verges have not been burnt and have kept their lovely greenness. They needed cutting much more often, but I mustn't complain, it's good for business! However, the apple crop seems to be poor this year and the runner beans seem late and probably poorer than usual.

Anyway, on another and more serious note, if you have a dog that might attack strangers, please try and restrain it. Although I have not been bitten recently, my colleague Jack has been bitten three times in the last three months and, not surprisingly, is now rather nervous of dogs. You should be aware that if your dog becomes a problem for postmen, we have to hold your mail at the Post Office to await collection. With your help, hopefully this can be avoided, but in the last resort your postman is entitled to the same Health & Safety protection as you are yourself.

Pressure continues to pile up on your postmen. Company profit and loss considerations require us to do ever more work for the same pay and have required that some delivery services be stopped. However, this may not be a major blow for many private residents; some of you may not even have noticed that the second delivery has already gone.

Properties in Boscastle still seem to be changing hands quickly; I only hope that they are all going to be permanently occupied, so that we don't turn into a ghost town. The Clover Lane Close development is progressing; completion by Christmas seems likely and many will be glad to see that.

I am afraid that the time of year is coming now when the dark mornings are upon us, the evening dusk is falling ever earlier, and the local businesses lock their doors and count the mountains of money they have taken this summer season. I am sure that they will reckon that on the whole it has been a good season, even though they may wish to tell a poor story.

I must start drawing to a close now because I am starting to doze. Unfortunately my spare time has been very short this month so I must apologise for column being a little shorter than usual. I hope to have more for you next time. All the best to you.

Postie Tracey

W.R. PERRY & SON

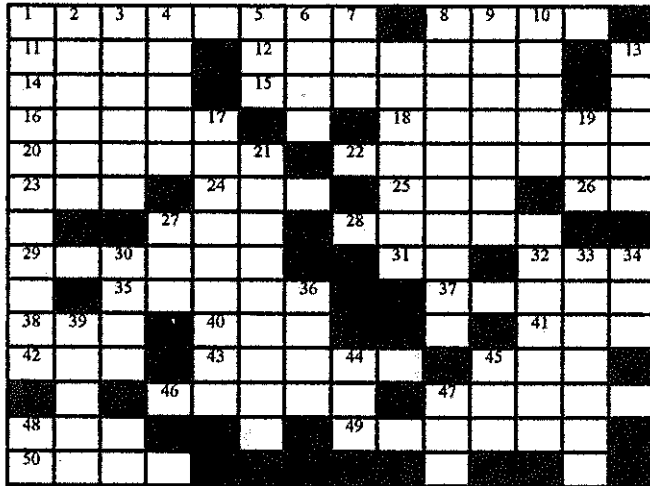
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Clues – Across

- 1 Comic verse
- 8 Tree
- 11 Animal
- 12 Impressive
- 14 Halt

- 15 Plant
- 16 Gothic Arch
- 18 Whole
- 20 Default
- 22 Poison

- 23 Rock
- 24 Cover
- 25 Romanian money
- 26 Exist
- 27 Bounder

- 28 Underground railway
- 29 Compassionate
- 31 Race
- 32 Agent
- 35 Access

- 37 Fibre
- 38 Allow
- 40 Woman's name
- 41 Vermin
- 42 Fabricate

- 43 Australian artists
- 45 Spasm
- 46 Gem
- 47 Nut
- 48 Small support (golf)
- 49 Purchased
- 50 Sea eagle

Clues – Down

- 1 Plant pigment
- 2 Encampment
- 3 Stoat
- 4 Magistrate
- 5 Firm place in a bog

- 6 Pitcher
- 7 Runic letter
- 8 Shrub
- 9 Layman
- 10 Russian Politician

- 13 Section
- 17 Sweet-briar
- 19 Tease
- 21 Quilt
- 27 Tin

- 30 Alloy
- 33 Pacify
- 34 Notwithstanding
- 36 American University
- 39 Swiss mountain

- 44 Church vestment
- 45 Sheep
- 47 Animal's footprint
- 48 Musical note



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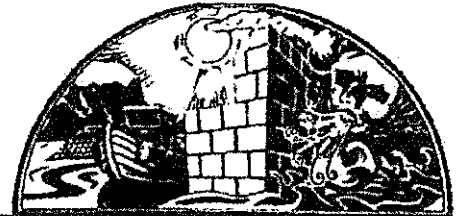
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Sun shines bright and the Bagpipes play
It's all so merry when it's Duck Race Day



On a Beautiful Day in July Boscastle's Annual Duck Race Day, with the Cobweb Duck Race Auction, raised £3,700



CRIMEWATCH

Hello everyone! I must start off by saying this is not the usual Blowhole piece, where I go through the relevant crimes for the period. That is because, as someone once said, "all good things must come to an end". I have recently been posted to another station and therefore will not be able to report on the odd wrong doings in the village.

It has been a very pleasant experience working in the area for the last seven years and writing for the Blowhole for most of that time. When I was first posted to Camelford in 1995 each individual officer had a 'Parish of Responsibility', as well as their normal workload. I was fortunate enough to be given Boscastle and have really enjoyed it. The powers-that-be have decided things should be done differently these days, and so now we have a Partnership Officer who is responsible for all the parishes. At Camelford we are lucky enough to have PC Melanie Hellier - a very hard working and caring officer with a wonderful sense of humour and a thoroughly nice person to boot.

During the last few years I have had some tasks to deal with that tend to stick in the memory more than others. I should have guessed it would be a period of much variety when I came across my first ever job in Boscastle. This involved a coach party of French school children. They had gone through the village shops like a swarm of locusts, under the misguided opinion that everything in the shops

was free!! The shopkeepers were not happy, I was not happy, and the French coach driver just about to leave the village with a timetable to keep was definitely not happy, when the coach was boarded in the car park with 'this coach isn't going anywhere until we sort this out'. Needless to say it didn't take too long before a large bag of booty had been passed down the coach amidst the horrified looks of the teachers.

Then there was the night I was called out at 02.30 am, having been just about to bite into my night shift meal, to a distressed young lady who said her boyfriend had gone off to commit suicide. When I found her outside her holiday accommodation, she told me they had come down for the weekend to make up, as her partner had got it into his head that she had been seeing someone else, which she said she wasn't, and she was trying to convince him of this with a lovely weekend away. However a row had begun and he had stormed off out of the guesthouse threatening to jump off the cliff. I told her not to worry and to go back inside and that I would find him. After about half an hour stumbling along the cliff path with an ever-weakening torchlight, during which time I had torn my uniform trousers, cut my hand and lost my own personal mini-torch, I found this person huddled amongst the rocks contemplating life. I had a long talk with him about how he had got things all wrong and how much better things would look in the morning, etc, etc. We then walked down off the

cliffs and he told me he would like to sit on a bench for a few minutes to compose himself, before going back into the guest house. I went inside to tell his young lady the good news and walked in on her unexpectedly to find her on the phone to her other boyfriend!! I was so annoyed (and hungry) I could have jumped off the cliff myself.

The award for criminal mastermind for the period must go a North Devon villain who, looking for easy pickings, drove all the way down the coast road one dark night and stole two small dinghies from Boscastle harbour. Having successfully taken them back to North Devon he then advertised them for sale in the Free Ads. The advert was seen by someone locally, who rang up to enquire; not only was the offender willing to sell them a dinghy he said he would also deliver it. We couldn't believe it when he did deliver it all the way back down here and right into our arms. Even his solicitor winced at the stupidity of his client. Mind you I winced as well when the thief had the cheek to ask me how much expenses he could claim for his time being kept at the police station!! It takes all sorts.

Well I could bore you with stories all night, but I won't. Suffice it to say, it has been a wonderful experience looking after the parishioners of Boscastle, and my best wishes go with you all. Also my very grateful thanks to Philippa Arthan and the Blowhole team without whose help I could not have penned these ramblings. So if you've been bored witless blame them!

Oh yes, where have I been posted to? Well this force has great involvement in liaison with and training

of the Falkland Islands Police. Also, there currently a Home Office package, which involves sending officers from forces to Bosnia to assist setting up or rebuilding much-needed law-and-order structure. This count our own National Crime Squad has officers working all over the place. So having thought long and hard I decided would move to Wadebridge. It is much closer and the area is just too nice to leave. Farewell everyone.

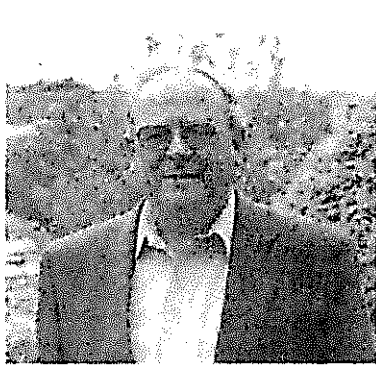
PC Michael Alcock

Bottreaux Surgery FLU JABS

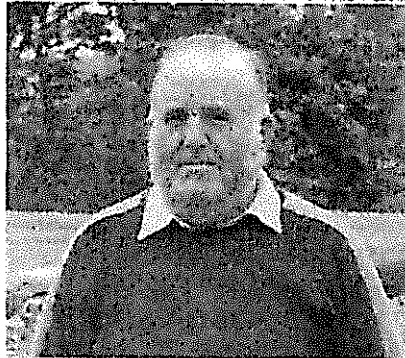
Booking appointments
from mid-September

The holiday season is just about over, so what do you have to look forward to now? The flu season is upon us! Influenza (flu) is preparing to rear its ugly head and we at the surgery will be busy vaccinating to prevent the potentially very serious complications that can result from flu. The Department of Health recommends that everyone aged 65 years and over should be vaccinated against flu. In addition anyone with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, respiratory disease, heart disease, renal failure or other illnesses causing impaired immune systems are also advised to have flu vaccination. It has been proven that mass immunisation for the over 65s and people with the above illnesses results in fewer cases of flu and fewer hospital admissions.

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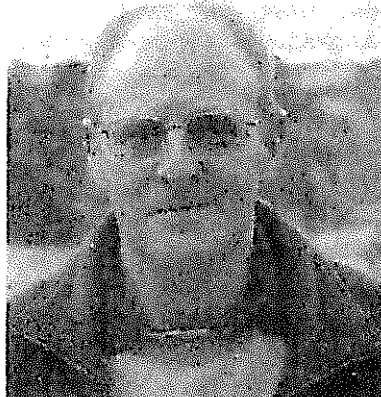
Councillor Walter Gard



Councillor Patricia Day



Councillor Eric Smith



Councillor Royston Hancock



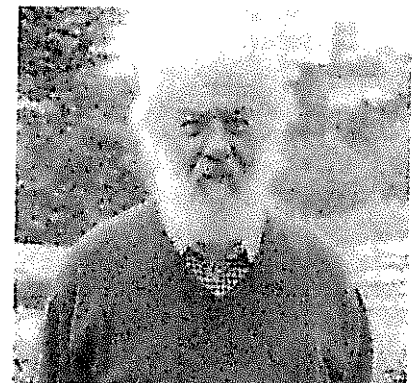
Councillor Philippa Arthan



Councillor George Findlay



Councillor Dave Ferrett



Councillor Arthur Bannister



Councillor Darren Brakes

We thought readers of the Blowhole may not know by sight all the Parish Councillors. It may be helpful to show you their friendly faces.

Statistics show that, of the ten, twenty percent of them are female. Of the remaining males, fifty percent have beards, of which twenty-five percent may be transitory. The Council meets monthly on the last Thursday and, should you wish to 'beard' them on some matter of importance to you

or the village as a whole, they will be very pleased to listen to you.

Now you know who is representing you, you know whom to ask for what you want. If you think they are not providing the representation or service you consider the village needs you will be able to elect someone who will.

Don't forget that the Parish Council elections take place in May 2003. Have you thought about standing yourself?

(Photographed by Noel Ward)

Obituary



Mrs Beth Ferrett

August saw the passing of the matriarch of one of the best-known families in Boscastle; Beth Ferrett. At the grand age of 87, she followed her husband, Jim less than a year after his death. They had been married for over 65 years and celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1997. For much of their married life they lived at 'Trevolver' where their ten children (9 surviving) were born. They moved to Langfords Meadow in 1981.

Beth, who was the only child of Jack and Hilda Saltern, was born in Camelford and came to work at the Post Office in Boscastle in 1934. In those days, the PO was on the Old Road, where Sue Scott's hair-salon now stands. Jim was called up into the DCLI at the outbreak of World War 2 and spent much of his service with the Chindits in Burma. While he was away Beth continued working at the PO; by now a telephonist in the exchange below the main PO. There were just 10 lines to serve Boscastle.

Jim was a Coast Guard for 25 years, latterly Auxiliary-in-Charge and Beth was a great support to him. When calls came through from the Hartland HQ, Beth was often the one to raise the alarm. They were also both very active in fund-raising for First Air Ambulance after Jim had had a close call with a heart attack in the late eighties. Beth attributed Jim's life to their getting him to Derriford Hospital in minutes. They were responsible for raising thousands of pounds to keep them flying.

Beth was buried at Forrabury Church, following the funeral service at Boscastle Methodist Church, attended by many of her wide family. A collection was taken and £530 was sent to First Air Ambulance. The Ferrett family wish to thank everyone for their support and their generosity.

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Mechanic, Boat-Builder, Musician, Coast Guard, Signwriter, Historian Is there anything this man can't do?

We have asked for readers' indulgence before in this series, when a well-known Boscastle person was not actually born in the village but has taken part in its affairs since early childhood. Although his sister, Trixie Webber was born here, Michael Webber was born in Exeter Hospital in 1935 as a safeguard for the health of his mother, Esther. His name is synonymous with most of the activities for which Boscastle is famous. His father, Norman, had driven buses for Exeter Corporation for a time. His father, Richard, Michael's grandfather, owned The Bridge Garage in Boscastle. By the time Michael was born Norman had moved back to Boscastle to run the garage because of his father's illness. He died in 1938 aged 63.

Set up as a Photographer

In an earlier issue of the Blowhole (1995) Norman Webber described how his father, Richard, had come to Boscastle as a carpenter from Trebarwith in 1906 but set up as a photographer. His workshop and dark room was a shed at the bottom of the garden of The Ship, clearly recognisable in old photographs of the village. At the same time, he managed to be golf professional at Boscastle Golf Club, then at Hillsborough on the Bude Road. The club did not survive WW1. Then in 1922, Richard started a taxi bus-

ness and, later the first ever bus service out of Boscastle. It was one of those splendid, open charabancs. They had taken over what had been Ward's coal store and converted it into their garage. Mike's and Trixie's Uncle Burnard drove the taxi for a time but he soon developed other interests and moved away from Boscastle, leaving Norman sole proprietor. So Michael grew up amongst engines, tools and the smell of petrol.

Boscastle Born Michael Webber

Trixie and Michael both attended Boscastle School in the days when the children of the village gained their entire education at one school. World War 2 was well under way by then and the garage was closed down because petrol was unobtainable for anything but essential services. Norman resorted to driving buses. There was much building work going on at the Coastal Command stations at St Eval and St Merryn and many building workers caught Norman's bus to get there. Michael remembers his father's astonishment when he encountered Fleet Air Arm pilots there, "When they got out of their planes, they were wearing sailors' uniforms!" By this time the family were living in Penrowan on the New Road. One of Michael's early memories is hearing the



Richard Webber's Garage in 1922, once Ward's coal store

German mine explode in the harbour entrance, severely damaging the outer quay.

Soon after the war, Norman started Bridge Garage up again. Michael left school at 15 and became an apprentice mechanic in his father's business. His duties covered all the services the garage could offer: engine repairs and maintenance, panel-beating, spraying.

Declined taking over

Passing his driving test at 17, he also did stints at driving the firm's taxi. After 23 years running it, Norman closed the garage in 1958. Michael had other interests and declined taking it over so the premises were sold to David Turner, who started his electrical business there. Norman then busied himself in running his gift-shop in what had been the old estate office, present site of Clovelly Clothing. He also rented both the harbour roads and the square outside the Witches' Museum and controlled the car parking in the harbour area.

Michael had become a keen and accomplished musician. When he was 11 he had been asked by Luxon

Pickard to join the Boscastle Silver Band. By the time he was 14 he was able to take solos on his cornet. He had also developed his life-long interest in boats and, by the age of 16, owned his first 12 ft dinghy with an outboard motor.

Mike did his National Service in REME, the corps of electrical and mechanical engineers, responsible for looking after all the vehicles and equipment in the army. With his background he was entered straight into a vehicle mechanic's course and sent out to Benghazi in Libya, to work on Centurion tanks. He did the whole of his service there.

Last Lord of the Manor

Back to Boscastle and he helped his father to convert, what had been a pigs' house, into the Pixie Shop, the gift shop right on the harbour's edge. Norman had bought it from TP Fulford, the last Lord of the Manor, for £75. They installed the frequently remarked granite gothic window arches, which had been salvaged from Trevalga Rectory. Michael smiles when he remembers the building was later deemed 'Tudor' by District Council



Boscastle Coast Guards in 1969. Michael is right of the District Officer. Who else can you recognise?



Boscastle Born - Michael Webber

inspectors. Trixie still runs a flourishing business there, having later changed the name to 'Harbour Light'.

Before long, Mike's interest in boats became paramount and he decided to become a full-time boat-builder. Never one to do things by halves he took another apprenticeship with Pearn's Millpool Boatyard at Looe, serving his time there for 3 years.

Collapse of Boscastle Band

In 1958 tragedy struck the village when flooding caused irreparable damage to the bridge and the Island Cottage. Charlie Berryman, Band-Master of the Boscastle Silver Band, was helping with rescue work, and accidentally drowned. The Band was folded on his death. He had also been Choir Master of the Male Voice Choir, which was not to survive much longer. Michael then joined Bodmin Band where he played the cornet for 15 years. It was a champion band and frequently played in public in carnivals, competitions and had a regular engagement on the front at Port Isaac. In 1960 Michael married Molly

Luke from Rock. He soon found he could earn more by taking his newly acquired trade into civil engineering, working as a shuttering carpenter for Hendersons of Newquay. He also worked on the new, post-flood Boscastle bridge as well as various reservoirs and water-treatment works in the district. Mike and Molly lived at Gaviotas, by the lower bridge, which they had converted from a carpenter's shop. In ancient times it had been a manganese mill, owned by Thomas Rickard Avery in the early 1800's.

Later, Norman and Esther decided that Penrowan was too big for them and offered to swap it with Michael for Gaviotas, (where Norman lived well past his 90th birthday).

Boat of the Show Award

Time goes on and Michael is attracted back to one of his first loves - boat-building. He went to work with the young and highly successful Westerly Boats (now Cornish Crabbers) at Rock. They won the 'Boat of the Show' Award at the Earls Court Boat Show for

their 16 ft Osprey sailing dinghy, in competition with ocean-going yachts and luxury cruisers. Then, in 1971, Mike decided on a complete change of business; he and Molly bought Cowlings, the butchers and dairy, in Fore Street. It seemed a good idea at the time but when decimalisation came in, with its accompanying raging inflation, people stopped buying the better cuts of meat. They decided the butchery business was not for them.

From the early '70's, Michael earned his living around the harbour, making use of his impressive array of trades and skills. By 1974 he was engaged in lobster fishing, as well as working with Maurice Wombwell in the winter, repairing and decorating his holiday cottages.

Barge broke adrift

He participated in the famous incident in 1977 when a huge barge broke adrift from its tug in the Bristol Channel and, somehow, ended up in Boscastle harbour. Michael, George Menhenick and Norman nipped aboard and claimed salvage rights, taking turns to occupy it until a decision on the barge's status was reached. In the end, they received ex-gratia payments of £200 each. Michael then bought his own boat, the 'Lucky' and ran tourists trips around the coast, looking at seal caves, slate quarries; also taking visitors fishing. (This was the boat on blocks by Highwater Cottage that was smashed to pieces in Hurricane Ivy in 1996).

At the same time, Michael exercised his talents in many other spheres. He was awarded a 20-year Long Service Medal in the Coast Guard then going on to serve a total of 29 years. He was a

Parish Councillor for several years, Chairman of Boscastle Fisherman's Association, which had formed when Jim Whitehead was Harbour Master. He took photographs, painted oils and water-colour and, of course, continued to play the cornet, later joining the Austell Band with which he made records and tapes. He also played in both the Launceston Band and Gennys Silver Band as well as singing with the Tint Male Voice Choir. And he regularly contributed a correspondent for the Celford and Delabole Post.

Sadly, after 29 years of marriage, Michael and Molly divorced. He moved away, working for a time as Site Warden at Widemoor Caravan Park.



Michael and Trixie Webber early in World War 2

In 1993, Michael's Trixie's uncle Richard died and left them his ancient thatched cottage at Shipton just outside Torquay. At this time Mike had married his present wife, Debbie. He swapped his half-share of Gaviotas with Trixie's half-share of Darley Cottage and he and Debbie up and moved to Shipton. Typically, Michael turned his hand to new ways of making his living. He joined the famous West Lady Ferry Company as a ship-wright and crew member; later he enrolled at South Devon College and became a qualified sign writer! He also joined the

Parish Council News



One of Mike Webber's collection of hundreds of post-cards. Boscastle in about 1925 with Webber's Garage left of the bridge and Grandfather Richard's studio clearly to be seen on the bottom left

Torquay Town Band and played with them for 4 years.

Michael officially retired in 2000, but he still works part-time doing maintenance work for a group of care-homes.

Still unmentioned in this whirlwind of activities and interests, is Michael's great devotion to Boscastle and its history. Over many years, he has assiduously kept notes of the changes in the village, talking to the older villagers and recording their earliest impressions, as well as much original research into the village and county archives. His father, Norman, had also taken an interest in history, especially the maritime side and the shipwrecks in the area over his long life. Many of them he had recorded on cine-film and Michael still has all that priceless material.

Later, Anne and Rod Knight worked on the village Millennium History Project, which culminated in the History Exhibition in the Methodist Church in 2000. They remain 'official' village archivists and continual researchers on Boscastle, and Michael Webber's great

corpus of work is now part of their historical archive.

Definitive Boscastle History

It was originally Michael's intention to write the definitive History of Boscastle and, given anything like a fair wind, he may even yet be persuaded to get down to writing it. If he ever finds time! When he is not composing music, that is. Didn't I say? He has recently taken up keyboards. They'll never keep this man down.

The Council meets on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The public are invited to attend, and may raise issues of concern with the Council in the first ten minutes of the meeting.

Planning Applications

Restoration of windows, with flagpole, wind generator, radar reflector and VHF aerial for the National Coastwatch Institution was approved.

Cloverlane Close: the developers have erected a fence on the southern boundary wall. A 1.8m wall was part of the planning approval for the development. Cllr Hircock has spoken to the Site Foreman regarding this.

Plot adjacent to Millets Meadow in Paradise Road: retrospective planning application for septic tank, pump and soakaway installed contrary to the original Planning conditions. The Council objected on a majority vote.

All other applications were passed unopposed.

War Memorial

It was reported that the dead cherry tree has been

removed and replaced by a new one donated by Olaf Sargaint.

Public Toilets

District Councillor Frank Routly reported that NCDC wanted to save £50,000 p.a. on public toilets. As a result it has been proposed to close the toilets next to the Doctors Surgery and the ones in the harbour.

Glass Re-cycling

The County Council has agreed that glass of any colour may be put into any coloured container until further notice.

Music&Dance Celebration

The PC thanked Trixie Webster, the Dance Agency for Cornwall and the National Trust for excellent events this summer.

Dog Bins

There is a need for more frequent emptying of the bins. As this would incur an additional cost, the provision of an additional two bins is being considered as an alternative.

School Traffic

Concerns have been expressed about safety, due to the heavy traffic created by parents collecting their children from school by car.



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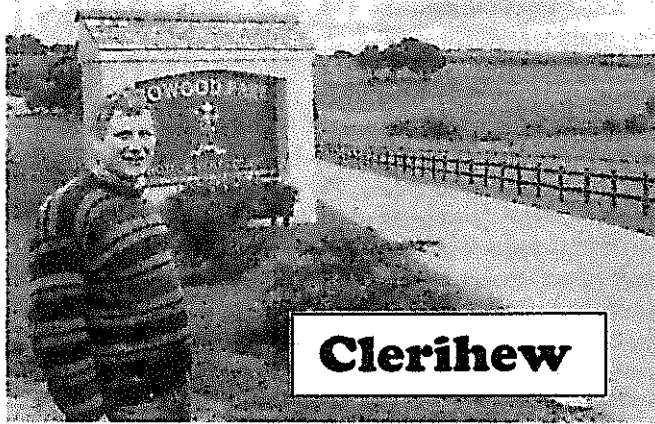
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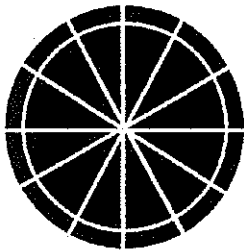
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12 th Oct	Atlantic Highway	30 th Nov	Atlantic Highway
19 th Oct	New Image	7 th Dec	Whisky Thieves
26 th Oct	Route 66	14 th Dec	Graham Hicks

One Very Proud Headteacher !



Boscastle School on Parade

Headteacher Sarah Duffy Reports

I was always told that the years passing ever more quickly was a sign of old age! The fact that last year seemed to fly by was probably because I missed the middle bit whilst reclining on my sick bed and has nothing to do with my increasing years!

The Summer Term was certainly action packed with one highlight running into the next. We were delighted to take part in the Boz Looan Mid-Summer celebrations with the whole school joining the procession and Classes 2 and 3 performing their dance 'The Battle of Boscastle'. The professional support we received- from Sarah Waller and John Keys was second to none - with pupil's and-staff leaning a great deal about how to create dances and scenery, teamwork and the sheer hard work needed to produce work of performance standard..... and what a brilliantly high standard we reached! One very proud Headteacher floated around

Boscastle enjoying the rest of the evening!

We raced on thorough Sports Day, a visit to The Eden Project, the Residential Trip to Duchy College and Duck Race Day and on to our much needed Summer Hols ! Duck Race Day and Auction raised £3,700. As always we are greatly indebted to the whole community for their support in making this event such a success.

Off to the next phase

At this time of year we have many thank you and good-byes to say. To Year 6 we wish you all great success as we send you off to the next phase of your education and look forward to hearing of your progress and adventures in the coming years.

As many people will know Miss Thomas has decided to leave teaching for a while and we would like to thank her for her professionalism and hard work during her time with us. We are sure Jo will enjoy the next few years with young Jacob and we

wish both her and Paul a happy, healthy future.

We also bid farewell to our Chair of Governors Mrs Joan Cork. Mrs Cork has been part of our school for longer than even she would like to remember (!) and has been unstinting in her support of us. It has been a pleasure to work with someone with such genuine passion and interest in education and in Boscastle School in particular. One of the things I like best about teaching is that I get two 'new years' each year!

Two lots of resolutions! Two fresh starts to look forward to! In September our new school year will start with the excitement of welcoming a new member of staff to our team. The Governors were delighted to appoint Miss Maria Douglas as a full time teacher in Class 2. Miss Douglas has a background in Science and Drama and we hope she will enjoy working with us here.

We will also start the new year with our new uniform and badge. We have now included sweat-shirts and fleeces into our uniform and are proudly sporting our new badge which was designed by the children and Mrs Cork and reflects the harbour and surrounding countryside.

It's time for me to get on with some planning now.... I wonder what we should do for Christmas this year ?



This is our brilliant new school logo. Note the Quay

New Threat to Post Office

Over the next few months the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will be writing to ask recipients of pensions and benefits for their bank account details, to prepare for automatic payment of pensions and benefits. **Once you have given these details your money will automatically be paid into your bank account and you will have given up your right to collect your benefit in cash free of charge over the Post Office counter.** You may even be paid fortnightly or even monthly, and almost certainly in arrears.

If you wish to maintain your right to collect your money weekly in cash at the Post Office, as Tony Blair promised you could, I suggest you do not give details of your bank account but write and tell the DWP that you wish to continue to collect your money at your local Post Office. Anyone who does not have a bank account will automatically be eligible for a Post Office Card Account and will be able to continue to collect their money free of charge at the Post Office.

The Government want to cut costs by paying money directly into bank accounts. **This is a real threat to the future of all local Post Offices. It is your right to collect your DWP money in the most convenient way for you'.**

If a significant percentage of local people receiving DWP payments elect for the Government's preferred method - payment into bank accounts - then Boscastle Post Office will experience a major drop in income and its future as a viable business will be at risk.

District Council News

Kerbside Recycling Service

The kerbside recycling service has now been introduced in Bodmin, Wadebridge, Bude, Padstow, Camelford and Launceston. Residents have responded very well and the scheme is running smoothly. During September the service will be extended to the bigger villages in the district and by Christmas all rural areas should be on the scheme.

Households in all villages to be included in the next phase will soon be getting information about the scheme direct through their doors. Our contractors, the Cornwall Paper Company, will be delivering a letter and leaflet explaining how the scheme works together with a year's supply of recycling bags and a recycling calendar showing the collection dates

Recycling Plastics

The only plastic we pick up on the kerbside scheme is plastic milk bottles, but you can recycle other types of plastic e.g. shampoo bottles, fabric conditioner, washing up liquid bottles etc by taking them to the plastic recycling banks in:

- Bodmin - Safeway
- Launceston - Pioneer
- Bude - Crescent car park
- Wadebridge - Lidl car park.

You can ignore the fact that these recycling banks may still be labelled "plastic milk bottles only". However, please do not include any yoghurt pots or margarine tubs or similar plastics. Major new recycling facility planned for North and East Cornwall.

Local Reclamation Plant

At the moment all North Cornwall's recyclables are taken to Redruth for sorting and processing but we hope before too long we will have our own "materials reclamation facility" (MRF) in North Cornwall. This is thanks to a £1.6 million grant won by NCDC and Caradon District Council. Final details have yet to be confirmed but it is hoped that the new development will be near Bodmin, with good access to the A30. This means that recycling in North Cornwall will be even more environmentally friendly as we won't have to transport all the materials down to West Cornwall before they are baled up and sent up country to processing mills.

The new facility will incorporate a visitor centre, which we think will be very popular with schools and local groups. Visitors will be able to learn all about recycling and what happens to all the materials they collect. They will also be able to view the sorting and baling process from a viewing gallery above the plant.

Safety Regulations For Rented Flats and Bedsits

One of the Council's duties is to monitor conditions in "houses in multiple occupation" - houses split up into bedsits or flats where more than one family or tenant shares the same property. Landlords of such properties have various legal obligations to their tenants. NCDC, other Cornish councils and the fire service have published a safety logbook for such landlords to help them carry out the necessary safety checks and to be aware of their obligations to their tenants. If you are interested, the logbook is on our web site www.ncdc.aov.uk or speak to Gilly Richards on 01208 893493.



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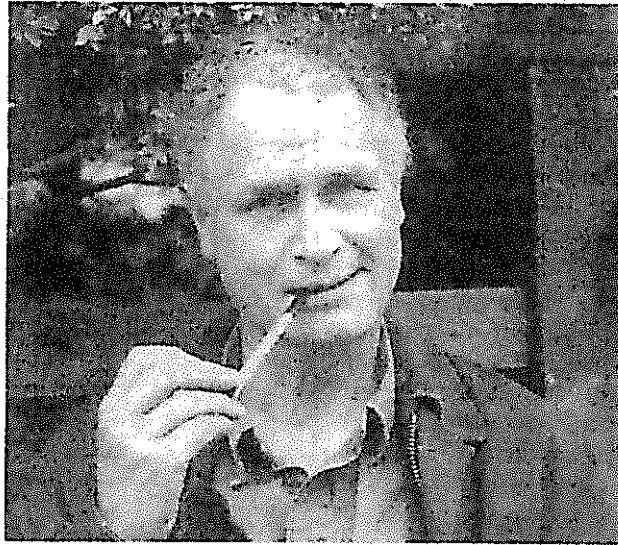
"Now that we are in, let's go in whole-heartedly,"
says Chris Rodda

During the Fifties, while we were still fighting favourite old battles on the cinema screens, Germany and France finally learned a historic lesson. Based on the bitter experience of two world wars, which wiped out half the youth of Europe and left it in blackened ruins, they realised that the pleasures of war against each other were not really worth the cost. So with Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and little Luxembourg, they embraced two noble and fundamental principles: that, in a united Europe, one country never need make war on another, and, above all, never again should anyone die from starvation.

Freedom to Cross Frontiers

The resulting 1957 Treaty of Rome established the so-called *Four Freedoms*: freedom for individuals to *cross frontiers freely*, to *live in any other country* on the same terms as its nationals, to *work where they wished* and to *set up businesses* there. Two other great freedoms were also ratified: that of speech and religious worship.

Today, the European Union supports free markets and bans anti-competitive practices. It seeks to reduce the disparities between rich and poor nations. It is a champion of ecological standards. It regenerates declining industries and pours billions into areas of social deprivation. Meanwhile, many in Britain remain deeply suspicious of rather racy foreigners with



Chris Rodda, Sixth Form teacher and lecturer at Sir James Smith School, was asked by Blowhole editor to write an article on something he feels strongly about. Do you agree with what he has written? Do you have something you want to share with your neighbours?

their subtitled films and fancy cooking and advanced ideas of social justice. Indeed, one of our great and historic political parties poses its hostility to deeper involvement as its prime attraction to voters. Why are we so happy to hang grimly on to sterling, imperial measures, pass-ports, licensing hours, right-hand drive vehicles, quarantine, fragmented British railways, the NHS, and the British educational system? Well - you know what they say - foreigners all speak English anyway. *Schools have rightly given up trying to teach languages because, as Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers recently remarked, "you only need languages to order a beer on a Spanish beach".*

Original motives slipped

Today, with a couple of generations having passed since we were summoned to go and shoot each other, some of the original motives for European unity have slipped from memory. What really annoys us now is that

those blighters over the Channel seem to be so much better at running public services than we are - roads, transport, hospitals, welfare benefits. And they seem to enjoy such improvements in wealth and life-style: every small town in France has a brand-new sports centre, every remote Greek island a new harbour and helipad.

Well, of course, there is a good reason for all that. European governments in general spend *twice as much* as we do on their infrastructure, met largely by higher employment costs. In France, businesses are levied national insurance contributions of more than 45% for each worker, other countries not much less. In Britain shutting down factories without warning or consultation has been, until very recently, pretty well standard practice and we have European law to thank for its abatement.

"What about the Common Agricultural Policy" I hear you cry? There is no doubt, that and the Common fisheries Policy have both caused vast over-production of foodstuffs, a catastrophic

decline in fish stocks and, into the bargain, the loss of one of Britain's traditional industries.

Food nobody wanted

Yes, well they got it wrong. The fact that, initially, farmers were amply rewarded to grow food nobody wanted was intended to help the poorest as well as to keep prices down. But the number of sheep raised, for example, quadrupled in a decade as the normal laws of supply and demand were turned upside down by a well meaning, but rather a naive, administration. And it was always part of the philosophy that resources would be shared so that our 'natural' fishing grounds would be opened up to our partners. It was always going to take time to get such a revolutionary notion working and at least now the pitfalls are understood and more relevant policies are in process.

But make no mistake, it is less a question of whether we enter monetary union, than when and on what terms. The present government will undoubtedly announce a referendum within the next year, even if there has been a temporary hardening in public attitudes against the Euro as a result of recent stock-market setbacks.

There are powerful economic reasons for our inevitable inclusion: the European Union is our biggest single market, with 400 million citizens on our doorstep. International players like Nokia, AirBus, Philips, Nestle and ICI count on Europe as their biggest customer. Many worldwide satellite communication systems depend on the European Space Agency to build, launch and maintain the necessary hardware.

The Treaty of Nice (2000) foresees a Union doubling in size over the next ten years. This will mean new markets but also greater competition. Most of its present members have already adopted the Euro. By 2010 it will be one of the strongest currencies in the world, along with the US Dollar and Japanese Yen. Of course we must be part of Economic and Monetary Union.

Investments will drop

But it will not all be good news. Savings-investors, for example, will inevitably earn less. And for those living abroad the relative value of UK pensions and investments will drop. On the other hand, with everything priced in Euros it will be far easier to compare costs - *price transparency* - so car dealers, for a start, will find it harder still to justify the scandalous mark-ups charged on UK forecourts.

The Treaty of Europe (1986) and the Maastricht Treaty aimed to create harmonisation of tax, VAT and interest rates. It is this last point that most worries Euro-sceptics. Instead of the Bank of England setting British interest rates the new European Central Bank in Frankfurt would set them for the whole of the Union. At times, this might not suit our particular economic circumstances.

It is a valid objection, and the Bank's influence would need to be tempered if it is shown to harm the economy. But every member state has its own tax and interest concerns. Taxation is a fine art - described by Colbert, Louis XIV's finance minister, as "the ability to remove as many feathers as possible from the goose without the

goose objecting". We in Britain tolerate horrendous rates of purchase tax on wine that in France would cause another revolution. It will be a long time before the nations agree on anything approaching a consistent system.

There are, of course, valid and important reasons for criticizing the European Union. An army of Brussels bureaucrats waxes fat on huge salaries and expense accounts. *Each British Member of the European Parliament costs the taxpayer a million a year*, and we are reckoned one of the more parsimonious of the member nations. Businesses groan under a weight of regulation directive and admonishment, all carefully translated into fifteen separate languages. We see the growing power of federalist Europe manifested in a local authority prosecuting a greengrocer for refusing to price goods in lbs.

Customs confiscate vehicles

We British do tend to exult in our differences. Witness our draconian laws concerning rabies. In Europe they vaccinate everything in sight, which is the real reason why we stay rabies free. Our customs officials confiscate vehicles carrying "excessive" amounts of wine and tobacco, *forgetting the Treaty of Europe guarantees unrestricted imports*.

In the final analysis it is not really likely, or even possible, that every nation in Europe will meld into some homogeneous mass of grey, conformist zombies, obeying centralist diktats without question, as the Europhobes suggest. Any traveller in Europe experiences an inspiring array of national characteristics, customs and

peculiarities, all of which remain alive and well.

The European Parliament and Commission, together with the Court of Human Rights have, on the whole, put together a code of laws that has kept alive the spirit of the Treaty of Rome. The overwhelming principle is that of individual liberty.

Far greater freedom

My point is that, despite a number of valid objections to what is often described as an overweening and arrogant European Commission, and despite many setbacks on the way, virtually every piece of legislation emanating from these bodies has improved the relative wealth and quality of life for it's citizens. If the system is so rotten why has it been overall so successful? As citizens of Europe we live longer, are much healthier and certainly enjoy far greater freedom than our Edwardian ancestors. We protest, and have our protests heard, whether it is about nuclear waste disposal, poor hospitals or vindictive employers. We are better fed, better cared for and have far more leisure time. We have a far wider choice of education and career opportunities. Most of all everyone can experience the sensation of foreign travel, to encounter people and ideas in many ways similar yet unlike our own. This is both the risk and the benefit of greater co-operation with Europe and the world.

Chris Rodda's interesting article was longer than we could fit into the Blowhole; this is an edited précis. If you would like a copy of the full article you can get one free from JC 250 046

Luncheon Club

Every month, on last Wednesday, a few people have been gathering for what is becoming one of Boscastle's most popular social occasions - The Boscastle Group of Churches' Parish Luncheon Club.

This event is organized and run by a small group of Anglicans under the banner of 'Open Doors' - the object of their fund-raising being to assist in keeping the doors of our lovely churches open!

The lunches, which are becoming increasingly popular, are held at Otterham and St Juliot Halls. For the modest sum of £5.00 per head you can enjoy a most enjoyable course lunch followed by choice from several desserts and a cup of tea or coffee.

The maximum number of people that can be accommodated is fifty and it is therefore vital to reserve your place if you want to come along. In the true spirit of such Christian outreach projects the event is open to everyone.

Caroline Henderson - 250116 - is the lady to call if you want to make a reservation.

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Objective One -

The Funding Maze



"...the fund-chasing game"

By Ron Hart
Camelford Town Clerk

The Editor asked for a short article on 'Objective One' funding which led me to think about the range of umbrella funds and the eleven integrated area plans in Cornwall set up to help, but all eating away at the money to cover their administration costs.

'Objective One' programmes are designed to reduce differences in social and economic conditions within the European Union by regenerating weak economies and increasing wealth. The structural funds are allocated to five different priorities:

- * To help small and medium businesses by supplying improved premises, small grants, loans, start up cash for new ventures and providing employees with training and new skills.
- * Investment in industrial, communications and transport infrastructure, which will aid the growth and development of businesses and create more employment opportunities.
- * To help with learning and training opportunities especially groups who are currently disadvantaged in finding work
- * To help social inclusion and provide help for deprived and

poor rural communities by improving facilities, training and support especially communities dependent on fishing and agriculture.

- * To help develop arts, cultural and heritage industries.

All these structures will require you to raise match funding (still reading, or have you nodded off?) The list is a breakdown of the *official* line on Objective One, what follows is my own experience in the fund chasing game.

The categories are designed to encompass every possible area of development so you choose one for your project only to find that it does not sit comfortably within any single objective. No worry, help is available from the hoards of advisors on grant funding. One problem, however, *they* will require a healthy slice of your match funding to pay for their services.

Feasibility Study Needed

But fear not; the advisor will find organisations that will supply funding for his or her suggested category and a feasibility (plus management) study. We now have a category, a feasibility study (hopefully the project is feasible) and a management plan. But, alas, you could find that all yours have been spent and you still need to find your match funding (should the Objective One body you applied to agree that you meet their latest criteria which may have changed since you first applied).

Never mind another professional body is at hand to help you raise funds subject to your meeting their criteria and you having the correct studies for their proof of need.

My advice is: start young, live long and you to might have a European funded project successfully completed. Oops! Do not forget the cash flow problem as grants are only paid out on completion or every three months in arrears. This is purely the author's view of his experiences but it is fair to say that, with perseverance, and a sense of humour, I have completed some small projects and only lost a small amount of sanity.

Ron Hart

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Forthcoming Arts Events

Saturday 21st September, 7.30pm.

St Petroc's Church, Bodmin. Ten Tors Orchestra. Moz. Symphony no 17 in G major, Tchaikovsky's And Cantabile, Vivaldi's Concerto for strings in D major, Fir Eclogue for piano and strings, Haydn's Symphony No 5 C minor. Plus 'White Haze' - Premiere of a new work by composer Ben Bartlett (BBC 'Walking With Dinosaurs' 'Walking With Beasts' themes) with international acclaimed pianist Anastassia Mozina. Tickets £10 (under £4) at Tourist Information Centre, Bodmin - 01208 7661

Saturday 5th October, 8.30pm.

Gaia Energy Centre, Delabole. Asabre Quaye & SANE Saneko is probably the best traditional percussion group to come out of Ghana for years. Tickets £8 / £7 conc (school students) from North Cornwall Arts, Market House Arcade, Launceston - 01566 772117.

Wednesday 9th October, 8.00pm

Studio Theatre, Bodmin Community College. COOL with Spymonkey. This continues to build Spymonkey's reputation as the most distinctive comedic talent in British Theatre today. Contains non-sexual nudity and strong language. Tickets £7 / £6 concs/£5 from North Cornwall Arts, Market House Arcade, Launceston - 01566 772117



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AGM

The WEA AGM was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 17th April. Thirteen people came to the meeting – hopefully the WEA has more supporters who, for whatever reason, chose not to attend. Nonetheless it was good to see some new faces at the meeting, and hopefully the future of the local Branch will be secure.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The new constitution was formally adopted. Discussion took place on the various classes there have been over the past year – and also of reasons why the some classes failed to attract the required number of students.

Officers were elected as follows
Chair Sally Searle, Secretary Philippa

Arthan, Treasurer Mary Dummett, Deputy Secretary Heather Colne, Village Hall Representative Joan Cork. John Ayling stood down as auditor and Noel Ward had agreed to take on this role.

Classes Planned

Several classes are planned for the forthcoming year. In Autumn, starting in early October there will be a further season of Chris Johnson's 'Writing for Pleasure and Profit' on Thursday evenings.

'T'ai Chi' with Jeannie Hampshire will run on Wednesday evenings starting late September - some of you may have had now tried this as Jeannie is currently running a short series of classes leading to a display of T'ai Chi movements at the Harbour during the DAC/NT Midsummer Event.

There will be a taster session with Jan Machin on 5th November. Jan lectures on 'Western Mysteries and Goddess Traditions' and if there is enough interest then she will run a series of classes in the Spring term.

In February 2003, you can come to a day class on 'Making a Herbal First Aid Kit'. Saturdays in March can be creatively filled by joining the 'Stained Glass Class' with Arthur Bradley. Arthur intends to concentrate on leadwork on this course, and will only accept students who have some experience in cutting glass.

Full details for all these classes will be in the future editions of the Blowhole, but anyone wanting to find out more can phone Philippa Arthan on 250483 (yes, it may well be the answer machine, but please leave a message, I do respond to them ...eventually!)

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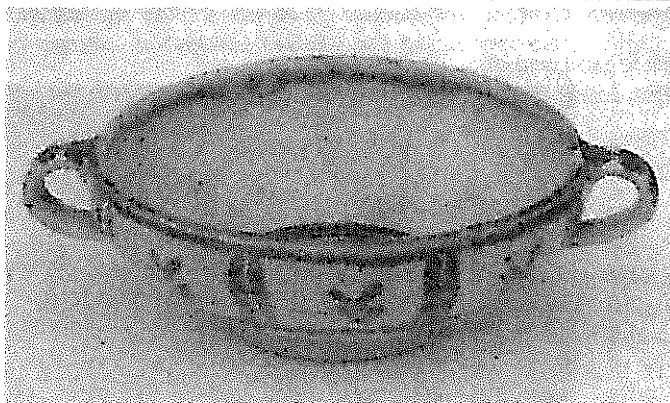
In those heady days of the late 1950's I was an indentured apprentice potter in South London. Through a chance encounter, I met an attractive young lady potter who came from a remote Cornish harbour village called Boscastle; a place I had never heard of. Our mutual interest led me to be invited down during my summer holidays to work, just for my keep, in the studio pottery she had just set up in the old village bakery. She was Elizabeth Whitehouse, who had set up the original Boscastle Pottery in 1956. It was the first of many a break I took to work with her.

One day in 1959 a call was sent out to fellow potters to assist the famous Mr Michael Cardew in one of his kiln firings at Wenford Bridge. He was respected world-wide, as a potter of distinction but also for his 23 years of teaching his art to the craftsmen and women in Northern Nigeria.

Down-draught type kiln

Wenford Bridge Pottery, by the River Camel, was in a group of old Cornish granite outbuildings flanking an ancient courtyard. Michael Cardew's kiln was of a very large, two chamber 'down-draught' type in which the residue heat from the glaze kiln is used to fire the second, biscuit (or bisque = 2 firings) chamber. The glaze kiln has to be fired at up to 1,280 deg. C (=2,330 deg. F) and, fuelled by wood, an awful lot of it has to be chopped up and split. To fire at these high temperatures, the kilns need to be fed for up to 36 hours, using over 5 tons of wood. Hence Mr Cardew's need to call upon willing helpers to complete the full firing cycle. Miss Whitehouse in Boscastle answered this plea and I tagged along as keen

Two Master Potters and The London Apprentice



by Roger The Potter

Ceremonial drawing

Day three and all the volunteers felt shattered: burnt by sparks, but oddly elated. Day four, and we all invited back in the evening for the ceremonial 'drawing' or opening of the now only warm furnace.

When Miss Whitehouse and I arrived a most pleasant surprise awaited us. Mr Cardew's close friend and mentor, Bernard Leach had arrived from St Ives to attend. This was now, indeed, a rare occasion. Britain's first and foremost potter carefully removed the first few bricks which sealed the glaze kiln. It was a 'Howard Carter' moment - peering in with a torch - "we saw wondrous things".

A perfect firing

As the final refractory bricks were removed, we could all see the gleam of warm ash glazes. It had been a perfect firing, down to the second biscuit kiln. Tables were set up in the courtyard and refreshment flowed as we watched Mr Cardew and his assistants unpack and start to classify

teenage muscle to chop logs. The first day of the firing Mr Cardew and his team started on their own. This involved pre-heating the kilns empty to dry them thoroughly, packing the many hundreds of pots with great care, sealing it overnight to warm it all up. On the second day it was all hands to chop, split and feed some 5 tons of wood to satisfy the kiln's voracious appetite.

Starting very early in the morning, the kiln takes up to 18 hours to reach 1,000 deg. C and from midnight to 9 am to climb to the maximum temperature of 1,280 deg. C; two days of stoking the flaming beast!

Winkling out test rings

Around the outside of the kilns are vents and spy-holes to control the airflow and check the furnace interior during the firing. Test rings of glazed clay can, with care, be winkled out on the end of a long wire to see if the glazes are melting properly. To peer into a firing kiln at nearly 1,300 deg. C is like a glimpse into the very core of our planet!

the freshly-born pots from their fiery womb. And was fantastic to see the two master potters picking out pieces that caught the attention and discussing their merits.

Finally, to thank all the who had attended and give of their time and enthusiasm Michael Cardew allow each of us pick a pot that caught our eye. I still have my 2-handle soup bowl (see illustration) to remind me that day 43 years ago. The two Master Potters and the London Apprentice; it has been a memorable event.

NCDC Guided Walks

These are sponsored by the NCDC Coast & Countryside Service. Further details and brochures may be obtained from:

Boscastle Visitor Centre
tel: 01840 250010, or
Tintagel Visitor Centre,
tel: 01840 779084

The walks planned for the Autumn 2002 season include the following:

Sunday 15th Sept, 2.30pm
Boscastle Wanderings.

Sunday 15th Sept, 2.00pm
The Bude Canal.

Saturday 21st Sept, 10.30am
A Walk Back in Time
at Lanhydrock

Sunday 22nd Sept, 11.30am
Exploring St Gennys.

Sunday 22nd Sept, 2.00pm
Padstow Discovery Walk.

Sunday 29th Sept, 2.30pm
Historically Boscastle

Sunday 20th Oct, 11.30pm
Exploring St Gennys.

News from the National Trust

National Trust Warden Mike Simmonds reports:

We have undertaken a good deal of practical work in the area during the last 3 months.

Conservation Tasks

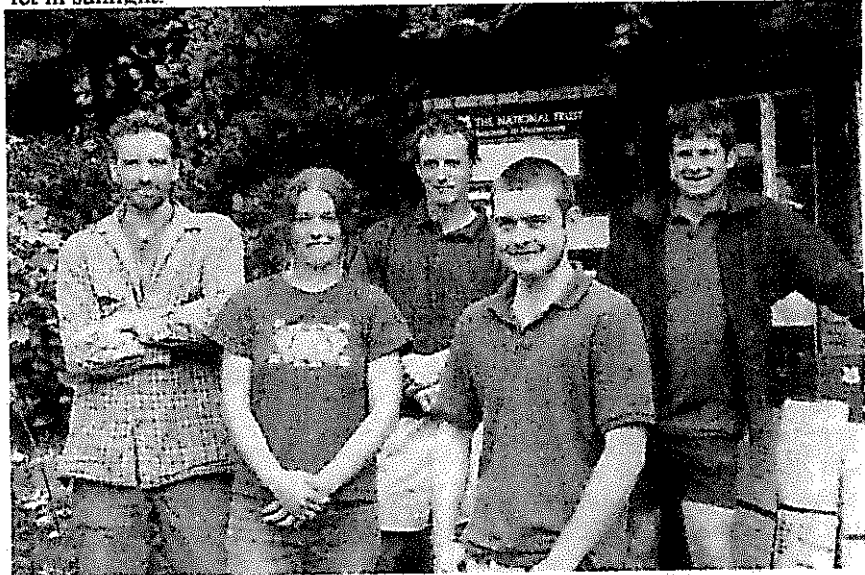
* *Various hay crops have been taken from meadow land which this year, due to the warm wet weather over late spring and summer, have had superb displays of wildflowers. Of particular note was the appearance of large numbers of lesser butterfly orchids on Forrabury and in the Valency Valley. The traditional management method, making the cut in late summer and leaving it to lie for a few days, allows the plants to set seed for the following year. Because cut vegetation is then removed it won't 'compost down' and over-enrich the land leading to dominance by only a small number of competitive species. Of course, the value of the meadows is more than aesthetic - the more diverse the species of flowering plants the more types of bugs and beasties are supported, which in turn are preyed on by creatures higher up the food chain - bigger bugs, birds, bats and other mammals.*

In Britain a staggering 97% of traditional hay meadows have been lost over the last 50 odd years, so hanging on to these wildlife oases is vital.

* *A survey of arable weeds was made on Forrabury Stitches. These wild flowers are so named because they occur within the crop on arable land. They rely on 'disturbance' of the ground by cultivation on a rotational basis, so dormant seeds can germinate.*

* *Some habitat management for the rare pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly was done in the Valency Valley meadows. This species specifically requires bracken/grassland habitats where violets (its food plant) grow up through a shallow layer of litter. Its larvae will bask on dead bracken on South facing slopes in order to develop in the spring. In the absence of grazing animals to do the work, we cut rides*

through the bracken on the margins between woodland and meadow, thus creating germination sites for violets and opening up the bracken canopy to let in sunlight.



National Trust Warden Staff - Boscastle to Morwenstow - From left: Mike Simmonds (Boscastle Warden), Nicola Davy, Josse Tuffnell, Alex Thackery and Assistant Countryside Manager, Geoff Cherrington

* *Some effort has been put into removing certain invasive or non-native plants which potentially can spread rapidly and become a problem: ragwort charlock and the garden escape montbretia have been pulled in order to try and control them. Two areas of Japanese knotweed have been cut and treated with herbicide.*

Public Access Management

* *Much time has been spent in the cutting of footpaths. With the weather encouraging re-growth even faster than usual several have needed repeated visits!*

* *A large oak tree, which had fallen across and blocked the path at New Mills had to be cleared away*

New Projects

* *Work on hedge restoration continues on Hillsborough Farm. Two further sections have been built in 'holes' in the cliff-top boundary where, previously, Davidstow creamery lorries used to dump waste product.*

* *Rough seas once again caused some damage to the outer quay. Initial work of repairing some of the pointing*

turned into a much longer job when the workmen returned one morning to find one of the large granite capstones had been washed onto the beach below. The stonework is now all back in place.

* *The main restoration work on the soon-to-be NCI Coastguard Look-out on Willapark is due to have started at the end of August.*

Public Relations

* *In the run up to the Boz Looan event, much time was spent organising, publicising, meeting people and assisting the artists as much as we could. The event ultimately ran very smoothly and turned out to be very popular. Many thanks to members of the community who helped out.*

* *Westcountry TV's features presenter, Ron Bendell, was working with a film crew in the North Cornwall area for a new TV series. Among other sites they visited on our patch was Boscastle harbour. The programme - Coast to Coast - is currently being shown on daytime ITV.*

* *A guided walk - 'Hillsborough to Home Farm' - was lead at the end of July. The route enabled us to talk about the farms, their management and wildlife as well as woodland and meadows in Valency Valley.*

I would be interested to hear if anyone knows who may have lost three goats for a couple of days just before the Bank Holiday weekend! They made quite a striking site standing on the cliff top out near Queen's Head and took some skilful manoeuvring to get them up to a field whilst we attempted to find out whose they were

Mike Simmonds

The Wildlife of Our Amazing Cornish Hedges

National Trust Seasonal Warden, Josse Tuffnell contributes these observations

A Cornish hedge is a lot more than just a stone wall with earth or rubble inside. Cornish hedges are renowned throughout the country for their unique wildlife. Our mild, wet, maritime climate provides opportunities for seed germination year-round resulting in an abundance of plant species. Salt laden sea winds sweep over the Cornish countryside leaving gnarled, stunted trees twisting over and out of hedges, and encouraging an array of maritime plants to grow.

Did you know that we have about 30,000 miles of hedgerow in Cornwall? Hedges are our largest semi-natural habitat. They provide many different habitats and micro-habitats in which species can take refuge from intensive farming practices.

Hedges can be grassy or wooded, sheltered or exposed, shaded or sunny, dry or damp, and they have varying rock aspects that can be shallow or deep.

Amazingly, species from the Bronze Age, before the farming landscape was formed, still survive today in some of the older Cornish hedges. These included original woodland species such as bluebell and wood sorrel, and also original heathland species such as heather and tormentil.

Cornish hedges illustrate different wildlife according to the time of year. Summer (that's supposed to be now!) is the best time to see wildflowers and insects. Suppose you were to spend a day this week studying the wildlife found in the stunning Cornish hedges around Boscastle. In the early morning small mammals go home to their

hedgerow burrows and the sound of bird song fills the air as birds awaken. When the sun comes out grasshoppers and crickets start chirping too. Insects, beetles, bugs and hoverflies mingle among the hedgerow flowers. Reptiles including the slow worm, common lizard and poisonous adder thrive in the warm south-facing hedges, while toads and frogs prefer the damper areas, perhaps under the trees. The common harts-tongue fern, male fern and soft shield fern also enjoy damper hedge conditions. The hedge sparrow and robin are typical of the sheltered hedges in the valley where tall trees provide shade for hogweed and foxglove. In open areas larger birds of prey such as the buzzard scan the hedges to prey on rabbits and large insects.

Hedges on the coast support many maritime plants, for example; thrift, sea campion, wild carrot and scurvy grass. Other wildflowers seen around Boscastle at this time of year include red campion, vetches, ground ivy, fumitory, hawkweeds, speedwells, yarrow, plantains, sorrels, trefoils, betony, woodsage and toadflaxes.

Butterflies that may be seen include gatekeeper, wall brown, green veined white, red admiral, speckled wood and painted lady. If you are lucky enough you may glimpse the comma with its ragged wings or the pretty, silver-washed fritillary. It is not uncommon to see the day flying burnet moth, or the occasional swallow swooping over a hedge in search of insects.

On the other hand, if the day is wet (but this never happens!), then the colourful pink-brown snail may be found feeding on hogweed in the midst of all the other slimy slugs and snails.

Evening sees the birds going to roost and bats come out to hunt along the hedges. The pipistrelle bat is a common sight, but Cornwall is home to other bats such as the rare greater horseshoe bat. Moths (bat food) wake up to feed on hedgerow flowers, whilst badgers and foxes forage along the hedgerow boundaries. Tawny and brown owls are also out, hunting the hedges for mice and voles.

Our hedges provide an extremely valuable and unique ecosystem that should be disturbed as little as possible. Management of a hedge, therefore, could simply involve trimming

alternate sides on rotation and, possible, only during winter.

Josse Tuffnell

'Midsummer Celebration' – 'Boz Looan' - What next?

After the dust has settled the happy memories of the Midsummer Celebration on 22nd June are still high in the mind. It seems that the vast majority of people enjoyed the event, so much so that a number of people have mentioned: 'What about next year? What can we do in the village next year?'

Can we take any of the ideas from the Midsummer event and plan something for 2003?

If you remember there were many aspects to 'Boz Looan' - the procession, the dancing, the stories, the music, performances by young and old, the food, and the fireworks

Can we add to something already happening eg Duck Race day or one of the theatrical productions?

At this initial stage perhaps we should gather ideas and offer a help to test the water.

Would you like any other events to happen in 2003?

Would you like to be involved in organising something?

Would you like to be involved in taking part?

When is a good time to arrange a meeting?

Please use any of the following to contact us:

* Phone: 01288 331372

* Leave a message with the National Trust Shop in the Harbour or at Boscastle School

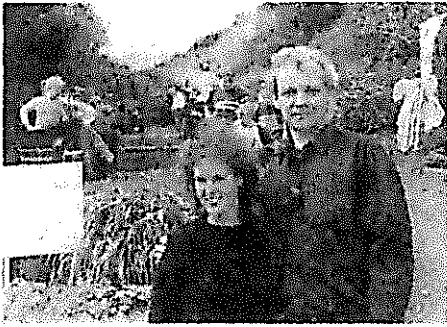
* Speak to: Jeff Cherrington or Mike Simmonds when you see them in Boscastle

* Email:

cncjxc@smntp.ntrust.org.uk

* Write to: National Trust, The Cottage, Stowe Barton, Kilkhampton, Bude, EX23 9JW

We should be very glad of your opinion even if you think that one Boz Looan is enough or that there is enough going on in the village already



Anthony Waller, driving force and dance supervisor of Boz Looan

A Nice Letter from a Visitor to Boscastle for Boz Looan

Dear Wendy,
Does Boscastle have a newsletter?
If so, I would be grateful if you could pass on the enclosed Penny Parsons.

Boz Looan - Catching the Wind.

What a wonderful evening, full of carefully orchestrated depictions and infectious music and dance. It was good to see so many youngsters so actively involved with such imaginative ideas to take away with us. All this culminated with a cracking fireworks display. A wonderful setting used to full advantage. The organisation behind such a clever occasion is breathtaking!

Well done Boscastle!

Mrs P.Z. Parsons

We thought it would make a good excuse to look at a few more pictures of the wonderful Dance Festival



Giant head of bird made by school children for the Parade



Famous sideman from the Doolally Tappers throws in his lot....



Massed mandolins & guitars....



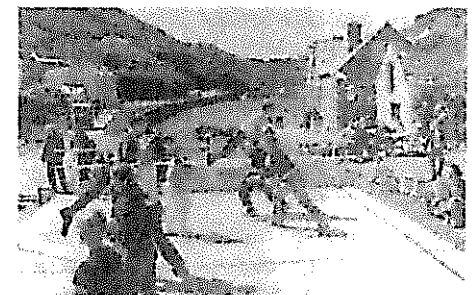
Piglet with a point of view....



Instruments of every description... flautists



Even the Alsatis are rivetted...



Dancers rehearse by the Harbour



A vision of girls in white



Children from ten schools take part



Yes everybody loves a Parade!

Sports Round-Up



By Martin Pethick

FOOTBALL

Club News

Another season is set to commence and, as in past years, hopes are high for a successful campaign. The committee members have been spending several hours at the ground, getting the pitch into a playable condition and doing the necessary repairs to the huts. Generally, there will be one of the two teams at home most weekends, so if anyone fancies a bit of excitement on a Saturday afternoon then this is the place to be. Read the notice board for details.

As usual, there are refreshments available at the tea-hut, but this year you had better be careful what you say because Doreen "The Tea-Bag" Hancock has now had a hearing aid fitted which has a range of over fifty yards. One particular committee member, Stephen "The Vice" Jose has not been helping out up at the pitch as much as he should. Apparently he has been too busy keeping a diary of the comings and goings at the 'Big Brother Flat'. More details to follow.

1st Team News

The First Team is again under the guidance of Richard Pethick whose aim is to give up playing and spend more time managing from the touch line. Richard has retained all but two of last year's squad so there will still be a

familiar line-up on show for the forthcoming season.

The two departing players are Alex Higgs, who is going abroad, and Paul Dray, who is playing for Camelford in the East Cornwall League. These two were vital members of the team so they will be sorely missed.

Lining up replacements for this level is not easy but the 1st Team have secured the services of Mark Collins who has recently moved onto the village and Martin Heywood who has transferred from Premier League opponents, Godolphin. Another possible new face could be Paul Safhill, returning after a year out. He has decided it is far cheaper to play football every week rather than to go shopping. Whether he can still fit into the No 6 shirt remains to be seen!

Nev "The Rev" Turner will deputise in goal for Alex until a regular replacement can be found.

Second Team

Boscastle's player-manager, David Bosley seems very up-beat about the forthcoming season and he hope the team will, at least, emulate last season's mid-table finish. But if they can regularly field their strongest team then there is an outside chance of promotion.

David has retained the services of the majority of last season's squad for the new campaign, with the exception of Roger Perry, Ian Nicholls and Graham Jory, who have left for new pastures. But this gives an earlier than expected chance for the youngsters to shine through and prove they are up to the task. Arron Washer, Martin Seldon and Andy Boxall have taken the step up from youth football into the 'big-time' and they should soon learn the ropes from such seasoned pros as Paddy Webber, Graham Heal and Julian Findlay.

The manager has also hinted that there are a few further signings in the pipeline but, at the moment, their identities are being kept secret to avoid arousing interest from neighbouring clubs. Now that 'veteran' Phil Higgs has more time on his hands, it is expected that he will be aiming to claim a place in the squad and pass on the experience of his years to even the more experienced players of the team.

The Harold Lane Memorial Trophy

BOSCASTLE 4 CAMELFORD :

Boscastle's first competitive game this season is the Harold Lane Memorial Trophy, which is played annually between Boscastle XI and Camelford Reserves. This season's game was played at Boscastle and saw the home side win the trophy for the first time, when they defeated Camelford 4 - 2. Goals came from Mick Moran, Nic Fillery, Nevi Turner and Richard Petherick, with Barry Parker and Mark Blake replying for the visitors.

The trophy was presented to the winning captain by a member of the Lane family. This is, hopefully, the first of many cups the club will win this year as they have had a barren spell late.

CRICKET

Tintagel Evening League

The Cobweb Evening Team had another average season, finishing in the top half of the league and reaching the final of the Sunday Morning K.O. Cup. This was thanks to a brilliant display in the semi-final from 14-years-old Martin Seldon, who secured an improbable victory, scoring 14 runs off the last three deliveries on the innings.

In the final they will meet their rivals, The Cornishman, and on present league form, this should be a very tight match (see report).

The Mason's Arms in Camelford deservedly took the league title with an unbeaten record and The Country Club could only claim the runners-up spot this after doing the league and cup double last year. With three league matches being cancelled due to weather, and player unavailability due to holidays and work commitments, the Cobweb could not field their strongest team on any occasion. Then they easily overcame league-leaders, Mason's, in the quarter final. It just shows what might have been achieved in different circumstances.

The best batting performances of the season have been from Doc Abbott, Steve Brown, Steve Jose and David Burnard, with Alex Higgs, Andrew Cook and Richard Pethick claiming the bulk of the wickets. Veterans, Trevor

Seldon, Phil Higgs are both booked in for eye-tests before next season begins when, hopefully, their form should improve.

The youngsters, Arron Washer, Martin Seldon and Jason Seldon have all given good performances when called upon and are showing a lot of promise for the future.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	Pld	Won	No Rslt	Lost	Pts
Masons	10	9	1	0	38
Country Club	10	8	1	1	34
Port Isaac	10	7	1	2	30
Cobweb	10	4	3	3	22
Merlins	10	5	1	4	22
Cornishman	10	5	1	4	22
St Gennys	10	3	1	6	14
Millhouse	10	2	2	6	12
Liberal Club	10	2	1	7	10
Maybridge	10	1	1	8	6
Rising Sun	10	0	3	7	6

Tintagel Evening League Sunday Morning K.O. Cup Final COBWEB v CORNISHMAN

Played in ideal conditions, this cup final never really lived up to expectations. Batting first, the Cornishman took advantage of some poor Cobweb bowling and fielding and they posted a formidable total of over eight-an-over. This proved to be enough as the Cobweb fell 17 runs short of the target, giving the Cornishman their first success for several years.

The Cornishman's Captain, Simon Smith, was voted as 'The Man of the Match' as he made good contributions with both ball and bat.

Score Cards

Cornishman

S. Harrison	Retired	35
N. Lawson	Retired	36
R. Harland	Bwld (Pethick)	13
G. Raynolds	Bwld (Higgs)	16
M. May	Not out	4
J. Knight	Bwld (Higgs)	0
S. Smith	Not out	30
N. Rundle	DNB	0
A. Stratton	DNB	0
A. Warren	DNB	0
G. Furley	DNB	0
Extras		33
Total		167

Bowling Analysis

A. Cook	3 overs	-0 -23 -0
A. Higgs	4 overs	-0 -16 -2
A. Washer	4 overs	-0 -36 -0
R. Pethick	4 overs	-0 -38 -0
G. Jory	1 over	-0 -10 -0

Cobweb

S. Brown	St. (Rundle)	11
	Bwld (Smith)	
D. Burnard	Bwld (Knight)	0
A. Higgs	Retired	37
G. Jory	Retired	36
S. Jose	Run out	12
P. Higgs	Bwld (Harrison)	13
A. Washer	Bwld (Harland)	20
A. Cook	Bwld (Harrison)	3
R. Pethick	Not out	5
M. Seldon	Not out	3
T. Seldon	DNB	0
Extras		11
Total		151

Bowling Analysis

J. Knight	4 overs	0 -27 -1
S. Smith	4 overs	0 -29 -1
R. Harland	4 overs	0 -29 -1
G. Furley	4 overs	0 -23 -0
S. Harrison	4 overs	0 -40 -2

The Wooden Spoon award went to the Cobweb's Stephen Jose who was run out after he lost sight of the ball. He thought it had gone over the boundary rope but, in fact, the fielder

had got it in his hands. Stephen was in mid-wicket, talking to another player when the ball came back from the fielder and the bails were dislodged.

This was a great pity because, with Stephen at the crease, an improbable victory may still have been a possibility!

Martin Pethick

Sue Hair Stylist
Jordan Vale, Old Rd.
Telephone: Boscastle
(01840) 250463
Unisex Hairdresser
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Late Nights
Wed & Fri - 8pm

GLOBAL MADNESS

Every person who books a holiday or flight* with Go Select between the 1st of June 2002 and the 31st of September 2002 will be entered into a Prize draw to win one weeks accomodation for up to four people to the beautiful resort of Playa Blanca on the Island of Lanzarote.

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The winner will be the first name drawn from the hat on the 1st of October 2002.

The accomodation must be used within six months from the date of receipt of the winning notification which will be dispatched within seven working days of the draw date. Flights, though not included can be booked with us at the time of confirming your holiday dates, although this is not a condition of the offer.

For more details on this offer visit us @ www.goselect.co.uk and www.thisisnorthcornwall.co.uk

* all bookings must be fully paid by the close date of the competition to qualify.

Only two weeks left !!!

Opening Hours and Useful Phone Numbers

BOSCASTLE POST OFFICE

Tel: 01840 250259

Monday	8.30 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.30
Tuesday	8.30 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.30
Wednesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.30
Thursday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.30
Friday	9.00 - 12.30	Closed
Saturday	9.00 - 12.00	Closed
Sunday	Closed all day	

CAMELFORD LIBRARY

Town Hall, Market Place

Tel: 01840 212409

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

Tel: 01208 812202

Calls on alternate Thursdays
(new - from 4th April 2002)

Wellington Hotel:	11.35 - 12.00
Barn Park, Tintagel Road:	12.05 - 12.30

MOBILE BANK

HSBC Bank plc

Mondays and Wednesdays

10.30 - 10.45 am

Barn Park, Tintagel Road

READY-CASH SOURCES IN BOSCASTLE

ATM at Boscastle Newsagents

Cheques cashable at
Boscastle Post Office

(Barclays/Lloyds-TSB/Co-op/Alliance & Leicester)

**Emergency Services: Coastguard,
Fire, Police, Ambulance - Dial 999**

Police Station: 08705 777444
Central switchboard - 24 hours

For reporting non-life threatening
but **urgent** crime: 08705 700400

Harbourmaster: 01840 250453

**Doctors' Surgery and out-of-hours
emergency doctor:** 01840 250209

NHS Direct (24 hour helpline):

0845 4647

Hospitals: (with *Minor Injuries Units)

* Bodmin - East Cornwall 01208 251555

* Launceston General 01566 765650

* Stratton 01288 287700

Truro -Treliske 01872 250000

Plymouth - Derriford 01752 777111

Dental Helpline: 0800 371192

RSPCA: 08705 555999

Boscastle Visitor

Centre: 01840 250010

Local Churches: 01840 250359

Parish Council Clerk: 01840 250440

Boscastle Village Hall:

Bookings: 01840 250636

Pay phone: 01840 250171

**Boscastle Community & Recreation
Centre:**

Bookings: 01840 250627

Cornwall County Council:

Switchboard: 01872 322000

Bottle Banks: 01872 323913

North Cornwall District Council:

01208 893333

WASTE TIP

Bowthick Quarry, Sanding Road, Tintagel

Tel: 01840 770778

Monday to Friday 8.30 - 4.15

Saturday 8.30 - 12.00

Sunday Closed all day

School Leaver!



Joan Cork Retires after 20 Years as Governor

During the thirty years or so that she has lived in Boscastle, Joan Carrigan Cork has taken on just about every role possible in the affairs of the village, often several at a time. Perhaps the most significant and demanding has been as a member of the Board of Governors of Boscastle Primary School. She has been a governor for about twenty years; that's nearly three year-groups, end to end. She has been Chair of Governors for the last four years or so.

Devolved management

During her time on the board, the administration of education in Britain has changed fundamentally, with management of schools being devolved more and more to the schools

themselves. Governors have had to take on increased workloads and responsibility since the 1986 Finance Act.

Joan has a background in education. Her husband was a teacher; two of her daughters are teachers and one of those, Harriet is married to a teacher. Thomasina is Head Teacher of Membury Primary School.

Set up Play Group

When she arrived in Boscastle, Joan had four children ranging in age from infancy to late teens. It was not very long before she participated in setting up the Play Group, which still flourishes under the leadership of Lynn Partrick. Joan remains Chair of Play Group. Wanda Larratt, who ran the Play Group for many

years recalls, "When I came to Boscastle in 1976, Joannie obviously thought I was a good catch to train up. I took over the Play Group from her and ran it until Neil took it into school." But Joannie remains Chair of the committee today; (Wanda is Vice-Chair) "She has done so much for the children of this village." Wanda says.

It was during Mrs Cork's chairmanship of the school governors that Neil Young retired due to personal circumstances. Joan then led the team that recruited and appointed Head Teacher Sarah Duffy; an appointment that has proved outstandingly successful. The appointment of a Head Teacher is one of the most demanding responsibilities for a Chair of School Governors. Although a lay

volunteer, Joan was the most senior person in the school, and such an appointment demands a good deal of personal effort and responsibility from the Chair of Governors.

Co-governor Laurence Reed of Radio Cornwall told the Blowhole, "Joan's departure will be a sad loss to Boscastle School. I don't know any-one more committed to ensuring that the next generation in Boscastle gets the best possible start in life."

Rather in the manner of Sir Christopher Wren, if you seek the evidence of Joan's work "look around you". Working with Yvonne Ayling and Philippa Arthan she was a co-founder of the Boscastle Blowhole almost exactly ten years ago. Joan is still a vital member of the team with special responsibilities for Art Direction.

(She will be appalled when she reads this, the team having hidden it from her!)

Joan has been a committee member of the WEA, the organisation that first financed the Blowhole and set up many of the classes and hobby-groups in the village. She was for a period WEA Chair of Finance. She has worked on the Village Hall Committee, again as Chair for a while. Also, as everyone who follows the marvellous machinations of the Boscastle Cave of Harmony knows, she is a full and active member of the cast as well as being a key make-up artist.

Blowhole's masthead

Joan is a talented artist whose work is to be found all over the village. Her pen-and-ink sketches are most typical; the drawing of Boscastle harbour in the Blowhole masthead design is her original artwork.