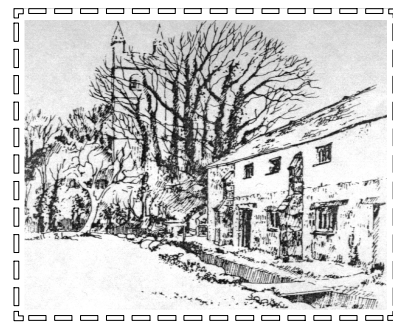


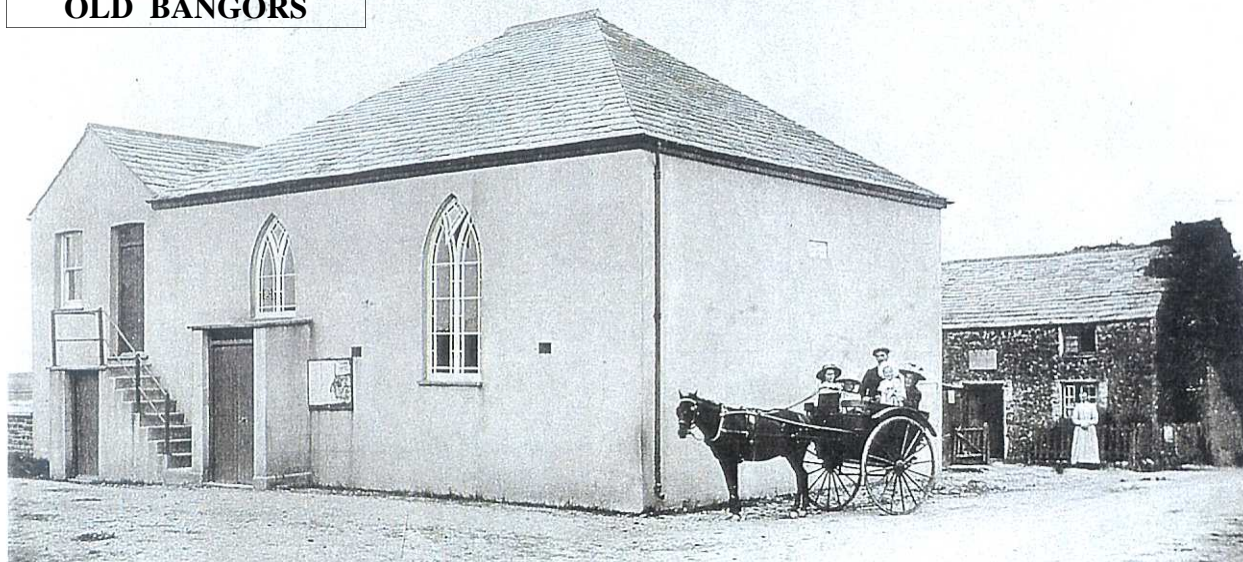


THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET

KERNOW BYS VYKEN !



OLD BANGORS



Thanks to Donna for providing this photo. We think it dates to late 1800s and shows possibly a christening party arriving at the old Bangors chapel. We'd be very interested to hear from anyone who knows differently, or can give more detail.

Christmas is a coming!

Sorry to mention it so early, but we need to let you know now. We're going to give you the opportunity to send your Christmas/New Year greetings to everyone in Poundstock (and some much further afield) by printing your message in *The Packet*. All you need to do is send your brief message to the editor, with a donation, by 20th November. Please make cheques payable to *The Poundstock Packet*. We will pass on all donations to The Children's Hospice SW and the Precious Lives appeal and dedicate special space to your messages. Save yourself some time and hassle and do some good with the money saved.



THEY ARE REMEMBERED

David Cramp came from Canada with his wife to give remembrance to his grandfather, killed aboard the *Regina* in World War 2, washed ashore at Wanson and buried in Poundstock churchyard. Trevor Hadlow and Revd. Rob Dickenson led the ceremony. Among supporters present were members of the British Legion.

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No. 39 October/November 2009

October

- ## November

- 8 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, 3 pm
10 Marhamchurch WI, Foods that Harm and Heal
12 Jacobstow WI, Davidstow Airfield
20 Deadline for your Christmas message in The Packet

You will reach more than 450 households free!
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County Councillor: Phil Tucker 01288 341617
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Police—non emergency 08452 777 444
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10 November: Foods that Heal and Harm

Valerie Budgen-Cawsey

JACOBSTOW W.I.

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12 November: Davidstow Airfield

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NEW NOTICEBOARD FOR WIDEMOUTH BAY

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The Parkhouse Centre Bude, doors open at 7pm
Tickets on the door or from the Ark Angel bookstore in Bude
Information www.budecinema.org.uk

THANKS FOR CARING

I'm very pleased to have some new contributors to this issue. Heather Smith reports on the first meeting of the North Cornwall Community Choir on this page; Jacobstow School is now going to provide a regular piece (p.11); Sue Shadrick presents her first farming report on page 21. They all represent important aspects of our community life.

Poundstock is a peaceful parish, many of our residents do not have close neighbours, and opportunities for contact do not automatically arise with great frequency. But these pages show that we are alive and kicking, and, more importantly, there is no doubt that we are a caring community (see for example Daphne and Joe Randell's letter on page 7).

As part of your caring, please think about our offer on the front page. We hope the idea appeals to you and look forward to reporting how much it raises for charity in our next issue.

Dudley Moore



North Cornwall Community Choir

I am amazed at the amount of interest and enthusiasm shown about the North Cornwall Community Choir. I think we may have been helped somewhat by the Choir and delightful Gareth Malone on the TV series. We had our first sing together last Sunday and about 45 singers turned up, some experienced and some novices, and still more people showing interest.

My hope is to bring people together through music. A large rural community that already has a strong tradition in music is now able to include everybody. Poundstock's lovely Gildhouse is a great venue in which to sing, and Jill Denton, our choir leader, has recently completed her training thanks to an Arts Council funded initiative to 'get Cornwall singing!'

The choir is open to all, no auditions, no experience, no need to read music. We will be singing songs from all over the world and charges are currently £4 waged and £2 unwaged.

We meet 6.15–8pm Sunday evenings. Please bring water to drink, and a torch to light your way back to the car park. Looking forward to seeing anyone who wants to join the North Cornwall Community Choir!

Heather Smith

[For more music-making opportunities, see p. 9]

Royal visit

On Friday 24 September, 25 members and friends of Jacobstow WI visited the gardens of Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. The gardens have been designed and created over the past 30 years by HRH Prince Charles (with a little help from his friends and ten gardeners) and are very much a reflection of his personality, tastes and interests. Highgrove encompasses a wide variety of garden styles, from a Victorian stumpery to a huge (and covetable) walled vegetable garden. Sculpture and stone, two of the Prince's passions, are everywhere. Around the house are several small, more traditional gardens, with spaces to sit among the flowers. I could happily have brought any one of those home with me, but perhaps my favourite was the Thyme Walk, with its lines of yews clipped into eccentric shapes according to the gardeners' fancy: spirals, pyramids, domes, cats, Christmas puddings...

Our tour ended with a very welcome cup of tea, served in bone china cups at flower-decked tables. Perfect!

Many thanks to Jen and Ruth for organising such an enjoyable day.

Liz Jones

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THE INTERVIEW WITH ... FATHER HAROLD TUCKER

Father Harold has recently moved to St Anne's Residential Home, Whitstone, after living at Widemouth Bay for more than twenty years.



What brought you to Poundstock and Widemouth Bay?

Sunday school outings! My home was Tetcott, though you'll hardly believe it but I'm a Londoner: I was born near Edgware Road and Marble Arch. My father was a Devon man and so were his family for generations. I never knew my dear mother because she died when I was six weeks old. Eventually my father married again, and we went to Tetcott to live as he was the clerk of works for the Molesworth estate at Pencarrow. That was when I was four years of age. I went to school in the Rectory; the old rector taught me to write [and he has beautiful handwriting]. Tetcott was my church and I was a choirboy there. When the war came I spent four or five years in the air force, and then after I was demobbed I had a calling for the ministry. So in 1952 I was ordained in Exeter Cathedral after being in college for three years in Canterbury and Salisbury, and my curacy was in South Molton, back near Exmoor where my family came from. There I met my wife. I never had a girlfriend until I met her – I was far too shy! We were married in South Molton Church on 29 April 1954, and in 1956 I was appointed to my first parish at Mariansleigh. Later I became rector of Bratton Fleming, near Barnstaple, and – this is the pattern – the diocese kept adding parishes until I held five parishes. Then I was offered Whimble, a parish in cider country between Exeter and Honiton, and I was rector there for thirteen years. I retired from there, with my wife, in 1986, and then we went to live at Widemouth, which is where I went for my Sunday School outings when I was a boy – the nearest seaside to Tetcott; my Sunday School outings were always to Widemouth and Bude. My dear wife died in 2001 and I stayed on at Widemouth, but recently my doctor recommended that I should come into a residential home. I've been here since Christmas, and now everyone says how well I look!

Retirement at Widemouth was hardly a rest: you were very busy in the local churches

When I came to Widemouth after I retired there was nobody here much in the way of rector and I helped for some considerable time preaching and taking services at Poundstock and Widemouth – a long vacancy, twelve months or more, during an interregnum. Then when Father Edwards was here, there was no one else, and it was a big parish, not as big as now but still big. And at Widemouth: that's the little daughter church to Poundstock. I helped at these two churches for a long, long time. I've taken services and helped with interregnums at practically every parish around here except Boscastle.

And you are still very busy

I've got many interests. One of my great interests is steam – yesterday I was at the Great Dorset Steam Fair. I'm a founder member of the Devon Traction Engine and Veteran and Vintage Car Club, and I belong to the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway – I've had parishes at almost every station on that line. I'm a member of the Fair Organ Preservation Society, the Society of St Boniface, Grenville Cricket Club, the Burma Star Association, the Friends of Pencarrow and many more. And I'm vice president of the Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers' Club! Another of my great interests is royalty, the royal family. I love organ music and I played the organ in Poundstock Church for years. Now I walk up every Sunday to Whitstone Church and when the organist wants a Sunday off I play there.

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The good neighbours of Poundstock

I was beginning to recover from a major lung operation, when Joe, my beloved husband, was rushed to Barnstaple hospital with 'acute kidney failure'. Fortunately I still had a family member here with me until he came home. But when he was hurriedly taken to Derriford renal unit 11 days later, I was alone, still far from able (I still had difficulty bathing and dressing and was a bit nervous at night). Joe was worried about my being here alone, but our young friend, Sean Alison, came to stay each night from 9pm-9am.

My next concern was to get to Plymouth to visit Joe and to get shopping done etc. Then I thought of Sandy Dingle. Immediately Tim offered to drive me to the hospital twice. I had visits from Reverend Rob and Reverend George, the latter bringing Holy Communion and staying for a most comforting chat, plus offers of lifts from both of them. We had a card from Pat and Dudley Moore offering help with shopping, that was gratefully accepted and other willing shoppers were Sarah Rowe and Barbara Atkins. Lovely cards came from Julian and Judith Smeeth, David and Jan Brooks, the Everests and the Masons.

Barbara Atkins' daughter, Sarah, a lovely girl, who has always been ready to help me in times of trouble, was on holiday, so Mum took her place! Jan Brooks came and spent time chatting one afternoon, and her husband David drove Joe, and later me, to various hospitals. Every day without fail Del of Del & Ange rang with a cheery 'Hello darling, how are you?' Real names Derek and Angela Midson, our dear London friends. And a lovely touch from Peter and Joyce Marfleet, who sent a card, plus photos of the visit to Poundstock of our new bishop. Such a kind thought.

We have both been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of spirit shown to us in our time of difficulty. Thank you everyone. May God bless you all.

Daphne and Joe Randell

DISABILITY BENEFITS - DON'T GIVE UP

All welfare benefits rights advisors will agree with me that almost every disincentive is put in the way of claimants by the government. The forms are absolute beasts, requiring up to fifty pages to be completed. They lead to incredible confusion. Doctors appointed by the Department for Work and Pensions to examine claimants frequently give reports which bear no relation to what the claimant's treating doctors say. Many GP's in completing a questionnaire for the DPW give poor information about their patient's care and mobility conditions. DWP decision makers seem in many cases to make awards in the lower category when they could just as easily give the claimant the benefit of the doubt. Short and strict time limits are given for Appeals and Tribunal appointments. Claimants who are unrepresented when they go to a Tribunal often flounder and don't do themselves justice.

Some of my clients have told me they have sometimes spent weeks in trying to fill in the forms-others have simply given up. Most, I find, don't know how to frame the answers to questions in a way which shows their disabilities in their true light. Carers forget just how much care they give-they are so used to just doing it, that they forget just how much time and support they give their loved one or friend.

We then get the government piously issuing press releases expressing incredulity that £4 billion of benefits are not taken up. Come on! If they allowed people entitled to the benefits to claim them automatically or with a simple form and procedure to be adopted, we would soon see an end to the under spend. The most deserving of our society simply do not get the government support they really need.

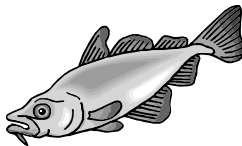
It is estimated that over 10,000 families may now be able to claim the mobility component of DLA as a result of this ruling. This means up to just under £50 per week extra may be made available-and it may be possible to use the money to lease a new car under the Motability Scheme. So do not give up. Give earnest thought to getting expert help at any stage. Many potential claimants, especially those receiving means-tested benefits, will be entitled to free legal help from firms like mine who operate the Legal Help scheme-so do enquire. If you are entitled to any disability benefit, go for it.

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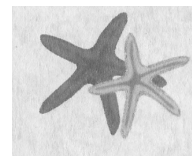
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6.30pm Street **HF**

Oct 12 7pm Harvest supper and sale

Nov 15 3pm Sankey with Mary Street

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Not another harvest festival! How the seasons come and go. I am sure they come around quicker now than they once did. Autumn has arrived again and the Harvest festivals will soon be over. What joyous times they are, and isn't it good to have so many people joining together to give God thanks for all His good gifts to us. On October 16th at Hallworthy Market there is yet another opportunity to join in a "Harvest Praise" led by the St.Gennys Band. It is at 7-30pm followed by the annual Harvest Charity Auction in the Wilsey Hotel. This is a united Church event. The ministers of both Anglican and Methodist Churches provide a chaplaincy team at the market every Friday working together to support our farming community through good times and not so good. There should be a strong link between our desire for material food and also our spiritual food. Both are the gifts of God. As the Apostle Paul said (Acts 14 v 17) God has not left himself without testimony. He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in there season. He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy. Jesus said (John 6 v 35) I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry. So, join me in a quick mental check and be reminded that we are both physical and spiritual creatures who need material and spiritual food for which we give God thanks. Did you say you need more spiritual food. Good. Then feel welcome to come to Eden Chapel to "Explore the Bible" on the 2nd Wednesday of each month September to March at 8pm. Brian Parkman. Pastor to the Week-St-Mary Methodist Circuit.

St Winwaloe/Bangors Joint Services 2nd Sundays

At St. Winwaloe

8 November **3pm**

Remembrance

At War Memorial

at Bangors

11 October 11am

Harvest

followed by lunch

Lost

Gail Morwood has lent her keyboard to someone and can't remember who! If you know where it is, she would be very grateful to be reminded. Her number is 01288 341537.

Just for fun – Singing for Christmas

An evening of celebration for Christmas is in the offing, to include lots of good things including readings of all kinds and both well-loved and more unusual Christmas music. If you'd like to come (and we hope everyone will) there'll be more information nearer the time. But if you enjoy singing and would like a change from the same old carols, why not join in now? Come along to the Gildhouse at 7.30 on Wednesday 7 October, or ring Gail Morwood, 01288 341537, for more information.

You don't have to be a great singer or know anything about music – just come along and enjoy yourself. Everyone's welcome, especially men!

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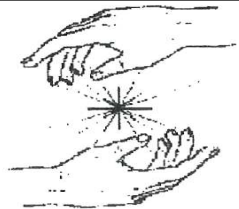
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A New Year Begins

After a damp and wet summer I think that, possibly even more than usual, both children and parents were ready to welcome the start of the school year and what a start we had at Jacobstow School; it was great! The second day of term saw us outside on a blustery but dry day involved in a whole raft of different outdoor education and team building activities. We carried buckets of water from place to place using ropes, and lots of encouragement not to spill it, we crossed the 'crocodile infested swamp' without getting 'snapped', we cracked codes and tried orienteering. We worked as teams to construct things and solve problems; a wonderful time was had by all.

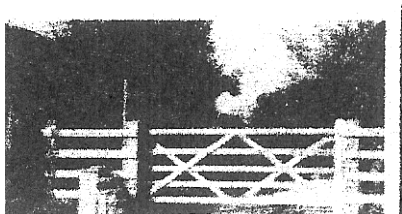
And then, instead of going home at 3.15 most of us stayed at school! We had a treasure hunt, played rounders, hide and seek and football and at 6pm had tea of fish and chips. All this was followed by more fun and games, hot chocolate, bed time stories and camping in school. The infants settled down at about 9pm just as the juniors were off for a 'midnight' walk; it was a beautiful evening and they not only saw the stars and lovely moon but the bats living in our school roof put on a good display. The hall was then full of very excited children all chatting, telling scary stories and getting ready to sleep. The lights went out, we snuggled into sleeping bags and eventually went to sleep at about 12.15am!! 5½ hours later we were all awake again, sleepy teachers and bright eyed and bushy tailed children dying to get out into the play ground to play football at 6.30am! Breakfast was served at 7.30 and after some more play mums and dads came to collect; a fantastic time was had by all.

At Jacobstow, school is about caring, sharing and being a learning team.

On retiring and leaving Jacobstow Primary School.

I would like to take this opportunity to say all the things I couldn't say at my farewell because I was feeling so overwhelmed and emotional. I was given a wonderful send off by the children, my fantastic colleagues and my family and friends. Thank you to all of you who contributed to my present or gave me gifts and good wishes. The painting of me and the children grouped around the wind harp on the school field has pride of place and will always remind me of the happy times and the children I met during my career. The school and teaching has changed greatly over the years that I have worked there. The one thing that hasn't changed has been the commitment and hard work of the whole team, from the time my own children were there to the present day. The current "team" are one of the best. Supporting each other and creating a good learning and working environment. The children are lucky to have such a dedicated, professional and hard working group of people, in a building and facilities which are being improved on the whole time. In particular the Rainbows classroom has exceptional teaching and playing areas and resources. Good luck and best wishes to Jo Sillifant who has taken over the class. It has been a privilege to have worked there. I hope to continue to have contact with the school and enjoy the best part of the job, which is the children, without the paperwork and workload which goes with it. Thank you everyone. I had a memorable and tremendous day. *Jenny Onions*

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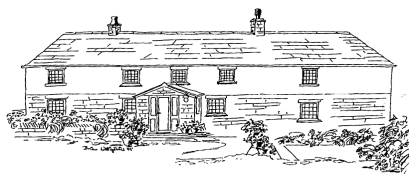
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Planning in Poundstock

Things are changing – or so we're told. One Cornwall, now officially "Cornwall Council", through the Cornwall County Training Partnership participated in a Planning Training course at Camelford in September at which I expected to learn what new procedures had been put in place under the heading "The New Planning System".

Parish councillors, to all intents and purposes, are the only democratic link (constraint or enabler, according to how you see it) which remains between the applicant and the bureaucrat. The aim is that only 5% of all planning applications should be considered by your Cornwall elected representatives in Committee, and bear in mind that this is composed of very few of the total elected by us. If this sounds like a whinge, it is. Cornwall covers too large an area for local planning concerns adequately to be taken into account. I think we all knew that when we rejected the concept of "One Cornwall".

The purpose of the Course seemed therefore to be less one of informing us of what the new system was ("that's still under discussion", "We don't know yet", "It will probably be..." etc) but more an attempt to educate us in the intricacies of development control. (Even this is now called "Regulation" because there is a presumption of acceptability.) What this comes down to is that if something complies with a development plan (i.e. an approved policy statement) and certain material planning considerations are met, then the green light is assured.

Our Parish concern is to examine applications for these "material concerns" and to make recommendations accordingly. I found from another delegate that it is not enough to say your council doesn't like, deprecates or registers concern at something- that just gets ignored: the key word is "Objection". In that event, the Case Officer of C.C. will arrange a meeting between the parties and if the matter cannot be resolved, the Parish Council can ask for the application to be put to members. There are about 20 "material considerations" which include overshadowing (but not loss of view), loss of daylight or sunlight, highway issues, and amongst many others, light pollution. This was a new one on me but being an avid watcher of "Grand Designs", I always get annoyed at the vast areas of glass that everyone now seems to want in every room of the house (including bedroom and lavatory!). I had not thought of how much light spills out of these windows after dark and, in the countryside, that really can constitute pollution.

It was clear by the end of the session, Poundstock won't have a new planning expert, but I learnt quite a bit which I'll try to pass on. Our Parish Plan will have some significance if it becomes a supplementary planning document, but the procedure of that has still to be determined. One parish had achieved that- after seven and a half years! (5 for the Plan and the rest to pass through the "system"- Regional Development Agency (what?) etc.) One real change since I was associated with planning, is that appearance is a material consideration. If you have a copy of the Cornwall County Council Design Guide ("rarer than hens' teeth"), you will know that your proposal must harmonise with its surroundings. Oops! We live and learn.

Rupert Powell

Councillor Report: Waste

I was very keen to be included in the Waste advisory group which reports back to the Cabinet about plans for the future disposal of our waste. Like many people I have been very worried about the landfill legacy which we are leaving our children. The concoction of nasty chemicals which leach from these sites is certainly nothing for any of us to be proud of.

The Government have made it clear that this process of 'hiding' a majority of the 245,000 tonnes of waste each year, in Cornwall, will incur stiffer and stiffer penalties. The previous administration took the decision, in 2006, to build an 'energy from waste' (EFW) plant at St Dennis which would deal with all this waste. The waste would be burnt and the heat from the process is used to make electricity, and also heat houses locally. Some of the energy would also be used by the clay industry.

The problem, as many will know, was that planning for the plant was refused. The contracts were signed in 2006 in order to get the waste out of landfill by 2014. The Government fines will ramp up further and landfill will exceed the cost of EFW just before this point.

And here then is the rub. Our community funds can be increased if we spend less on our landfill and the landfill taxes. 520kg (over half a tonne) of waste is produced by every person in Cornwall each year. The cost of landfill and the fines amounts to some £85 per tonne. At the moment we recycle about 27% of dry recycling (140kg) leaving 380kg (£32.30) of cost from every single person in the County. All these figures refer to household waste, industrial and business waste is in addition to that quoted.

We can always recycle more. It makes sense for the community and the environment. My request this month is for all of us to make that extra effort with our waste, to clean and separate more and reduce the tonnage going to landfill. The EFW plant is subject to an appeal. I will keep you informed as this is reviewed.

Any problems I am always on the end of the phone so if the usual avenues have not helped please feel free to call me and have a chat. Phil Tucker 01288 341617

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Saturday 10-5 Sunday 12-4

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Our Sky in October 2009

October is a great month to see the Milky Way stretching overhead from North East to South West, and Jupiter continues to dominate the night sky in the South. Mars, glowing red rises in the East about midnight, and for the early risers, Venus can still be seen low in the East before dawn.

The newly refurbished Hubble telescope has been sending back spectacular pictures during the past month and they include multi-wavelength pictures of distant galaxies, a densely packed star cluster, an eerie 'pillar of creation' and a 'butterfly' nebula. Hubble's suite of new instruments allows it to study the universe across a wide swath of the light spectrum, from ultraviolet all the way to near-infrared. In addition, scientists released spectroscopic observations that reach across billions of light-years to probe the cosmic-web structure of the universe and map the distribution of elements that are fundamental to life as we know it.

In July, Astronomers were excited to see a collision of a small asteroid or comet on the surface of Jupiter. July's impact probably involved a single interloper no more than few hundred yards (meters) across, creating a superficial powder burn with a black core (where the body exploded below Jupiter's uppermost cloud layer) and a broader, fainter, asymmetric halo (fallback material from the towering plume of debris).

We'll probably never know whether the colliding object was a small asteroid or a comet — it was far too small to be picked up telescopically prior to its strike. The problem is to unravel material dredged up from Jupiter's deeper atmosphere (like ammonia) from that of the impact body.

Another snag involves disentangling the spectral signature from any water deposited by a comet in Jupiter's atmosphere and that from the ever-present water in Earth's own atmosphere. Meanwhile, the last vestiges of Jupiter's overnight sensation have nearly faded from view.

When NASA's LCROSS spacecraft and its Centaur carrier rocket crash into the Moon on October 9th. they hope to strike a permanently shadowed and presumably water-rich crater floor near the lunar south pole. With just under a month to go, scientists announced their choice of target: an unnamed 11-mile-wide (17-km) craterlet astride the rim of Cabeus A. It has desirable characteristics — a flat boulder-free floor, and a location favourable for telescopes back on Earth to watch the resulting plume of debris that should balloon above the crash site.

Detectors aboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (which accompanied LCROSS to the Moon) hint that the always-dark dust might contain roughly 1½% water ice. As I have mentioned before, the discovery of water ice on the Moon would be of immense importance to future exploration of the Solar System, since it would provide the fuel required by future rockets, and water, oxygen and hydrogen for the astronauts manning any future lunar base. I will let you know the results of this experiment in due course. *Bill Turnill*

The weather report

Since the last *Packet* report our weather station in the north-east corner of the parish, two miles inland, has recorded:

	August		September (to 26th)	
Wettest day	0.80 in	(21st)	0.42 in	(2nd)
Total rain	2.94 in		1.16 in	
Days of rain	15		10	
Highest temp	23.2 °C	(19th 13:30)	21.6 °C	(13th 14:20)
Lowest temp	7.4 °C	(8th 06:10)	4.3 °C	(18th 06:00)
Max wind gust	36 mph	(28th 10:20)	42 mph	(2nd 22:10)
Windiest day	15.2 mph	(28th)	15.5 mph	(3rd)
Predominant wind direction	W		W	

Has it been a 'barbeque summer' as predicted at one time by the Met Office? Well, I'll let you decide from your own experience, but the figures show that on average July and August 2009 were both warmer by approx 0.5 °C than 2008. July 2009 was slightly wetter (by 0.5 in) than July 2008 and had 3 more days of rain. However, August was much drier: this year's measurement was 2.94 in compared with last year's 4.55 in. We had 24 days of rain in August 2008 and only (only?) 15 in 2009. *Graham Jones*

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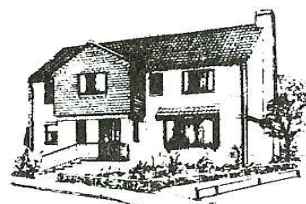
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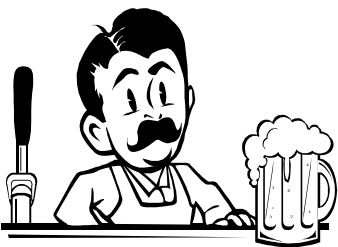
We are reminded that the previous Poundstock Packet article on accents and dialects left out many words that can still be heard occasionally. Various Old Cornwall Societies have collected words and phrases that were in danger of being lost and will be preserved even though they may no longer be part of everyday speech. Our Village newsletter could only touch on the subject so the last article had moved on to the subject of meanings being lost in translation. It is not a dialect problem but can be just as puzzling, also pronunciation can add to the problem of meanings being lost.

Venturing into foreign phrases recalls a time when Canasta was a new game. We were playing the game with a French lady and at the same time explaining the rules. The particular rule in question was the one where a card had to be discarded from her hand. Pointing to the card, she was told to discard this card and the more she was told the more irritated she became. While her knowledge of English was excellent her native language had no equivalent sound for the English 'th' so she saw no difference between the word 'discard' and the phrase 'this card'. After explaining, the Entente Cordiale prevailed.

Such a problem stretches back as far as Biblical times. The Gileadites used the word "Shibboleth" to trap the escaping Ephraimites. The Gileadites knew the Ephraimites had trouble pronouncing the initial 'sh'. Quoting from the book of Judges, Chapter 12 verse 6: is as follows: "Then said they unto him say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right." This resulted in 42,000 Ephraimites being slain; a heavy penalty for a slip of the tongue.

Another confusing situation is when the pronunciation of foreign phrase has a similar sound as an English phrase. A phrase that might cause a misunderstanding could occur if an Englishman, sitting in a draughty room, brusquely tells a French lady as she enters to, "Shut the door". This sounds very similar to the French phrase, "*Je t'adore*", a term of affection which could cause some embarrassment.

There is the anecdote about an Englishman who ordered a beer in a French bar. A Frenchman came in and sat next to him at the bar. He began staring at the Englishman's beer and pointing to it saying "*fourmi*". The man kept repeating the word so the Englishman pushed him away rather roughly so the Frenchman left hurriedly.



The Englishman's friend said to him, "That man was only trying to do you a good turn". "He wanted my beer", insisted the Englishman. His friend said, "Not really he was only pointing out an ant in the bottom of your glass. *Fourmi* is French for ant". Embarrassed, the Englishman said "I'll come here again tomorrow and apologize if he comes in". The next day the Englishman was there waiting and in comes the Frenchman so the Englishman calls over to him and said, "Come here". The Frenchman turns and leaves quickly. Puzzled the Englishman asked his friend, "Why did he leave in such a hurry"? His friend explained that "come here" sounds the

same as the French "*Comme hier*" which means 'same as yesterday'.

Maybe Professor Higgins had a valid complaint in the movie "My Fair Lady" when he despairs about the English teaching their children how to speak, while the French are not so particular as long as they pronounce things properly.

Don Sutton

Poundstock Craft Fair and Pumpkin Festival

It's autumn – and that means it's time for the Craft Fair and Pumpkin Festival. Now's your chance to enter that monster pumpkin you've been fattening up all summer. Or why not put on your artist's beret and come up with a beautifully carved pumpkin (for the adults) or a fantastically decorated pumpkin (for the under-12s)? All you need is a good idea and a pumpkin (marrow, squash, gourd, overgrown courgette ...). So come and join in the fun. Bring your pumpkins, plain or fancy, decorated or carved, no matter what colour, no matter what size. All entries by 11 am on the Saturday, please.

And bring yourself, to come and enjoy the Craft Fair. This year we hope to have a Food Hall as well as the usual wide range of craftspeople selling jewellery, cards, clothes, pottery and much more, with the emphasis strongly on local produce and local producers. As always refreshments will be available, including lunches and cream teas. It's a great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping.

This year's festival is on Saturday 24 October 10am–5pm, and Sunday 25 October, 12–4pm.



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WIDEMOUTH BAY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We were delighted to see the community notice board put up, kindly crafted by Pete Bowers, with some assistance from Rupert Powell. This will be an asset for Widemouth and enable people to advertise events and services in the village. The successful summer barbecue funded it, and has left enough over for a £60 donation to the Air Ambulance. The Parish Council has paid for half the costs of the board, enabling us to make a charity donation as well.

As the barbecue was popular, it has been decided to do a 'Fish and Chips Evening' at the end of November. We will hire the Gildhouse or Bangors Hall and arrange the delivery of fish and chips. The prior sale of tickets will be necessary, so Watch this Space!

Some concern was expressed about overnight parking in the beach car park by camper vans and other vehicles. Although the Council has warning notices up, these are openly flouted. A decision was taken to write to our local councillor to see whether more positive action can be taken to fine offenders. Apparently one van was seen to spend two weeks there, using the toilet blocks freely (which after all we fund as council tax payers).

Concern was also expressed about Chinese lanterns being let off from the beach and also gardens – these then float inland, alight, and are thought to have caused a fire at a house in the Crescent. Obviously the sale of these potentially dangerous items should be controlled, if not banned, and we discussed what could be done. National awareness must be raised as to the potential danger, and we shall write to the Parish Council as a preliminary move.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 18th, at the Summerhouse, and everyone is welcome to come and discuss local issues.

Nicky Vereker

In aid of the RNLI

The forecast sunny day never really materialised but this didn't stop everyone from enjoying a pleasant afternoon rummaging through the bric-a-brac and gorging on cream teas one recent Friday afternoon at The Summerhouse, Widemouth Bay when £234.45 was raised in aid of the RNLI.

Jenny Powell presided over the raffle, assisted by her daughter and granddaughter, and Rev. George Rowe called out the winning tickets. All the facilities were put to good use and the rain held off despite the lowering clouds further inland. Everyone is to be congratulated for the hard work put into making this such a success and thanks are extended to all who attended and gave so generously.

Rupert Powell



Widemouth Bay's new notice board

Widemouth Bay now has another notice board. This one was co-funded by the Residents' Association and Poundstock Parish Council; it is on the verge outside The Summerhouse, Leverlake Road, and is for the information *and* use of residents. It is intended to supply useful information about what is going on in the parish and what services and facilities are available.

Conditions of use are minimal: one-day events and meetings which are open to the public can be displayed on card or paper to A4 size; frequent or regular events on A5 (a bit bigger than postcard); and services offered or goods for sale on half postcard size. If the board becomes congested or if the display content is too contentious, the Residents' Association reserves the right to remove any item, and therefore it would be appreciated if the originator's details were provided on the reverse.

Thanks are expressed to all who made this possible, to Peter Bowers who fabricated the notice board at cost, and to the Rector, Rob Dickenson, for his support.

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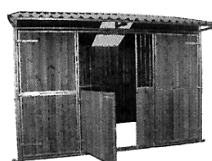
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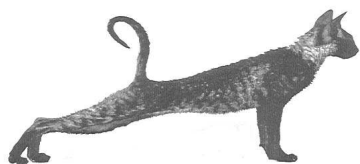
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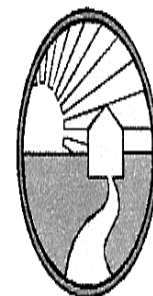
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Wild About Poundstock A Slither and a Zither

We had friends call the other day with two young children. A walk around my field path which takes us down into the valley helped to entertain the little ones. Along the path amongst the gorse and blackthorn I caught an insect to show them and their immediate reaction was "Spider". This is not unreasonable because a female dark bush cricket, for that is what it was, does indeed look like a spider to an untrained eye. These almost black relations of grasshoppers do have very long legs. They also have very long thread like antennae which is how you differentiate bush crickets from grasshoppers. The latter have quite short stubby antennae that are shorter than the body. Many people are aware that grasshoppers make their chirruping by rubbing their back legs against the wing case, sounding like a note on a zither. Not so the bush crickets; they rub the fore wing against the rear wing to produce the distinctive short high pitched chirrup. This is often easy to hear in evenings at this time of year, although they do it at any time of day. This, with the grasshoppers and bees makes up the lovely hum of a late summers day.

The bush crickets will be laying eggs in bark crevices at this time of year, ready to hatch out as nymphs next year, which in turn develop into adults next summer. This is not the case with the slow worms we saw under my sheet of tin. The children, and their mum, were thrilled to see these. The slowworms will be about until late autumn before disappearing down a hole or into a Cornish hedge among the stones. They will reappear next spring once it starts to warm up. The slow worm is of course a 'legless' lizard. Actually, they do have the vestiges of limbs under the skin. As we had approached the same sheet of tin, there was a common lizard sat on the top! However, this one quickly scuttled away at our approach. I see surprisingly few of these, so it was a treat for me as well.

There's always something to see on a walk in Poundstock.

Tim Dingle.

Autumn Farming Report

The buzzard chicks have stopped their eerie cries now they're weaned, you can see them pitching in to eat the worms turned over by the plough after the sea birds have flown off. Some fields have already been tilled with rapeseed for next year and the shoots are breaking through, the others being ploughed now will be broken down and tilled to some sort of winter corn. Farmers can sow varieties of grain now or in the spring; the advantage of sowing now is that the crop next summer will be much bigger than spring sown seed. The fields full of maize have still to be harvested, they will be made into rich silage to feed dairy cows through the winter when the ground will be too wet for them to go out. The martins have all left us, even this year's hatchlings, always the last to go and soon the starlings will start flocking, looking for leatherjackets in the fields. I hope they get lots because I hate daddy-long-legs! [Also know as crane flies, the adult of leatherjackets but still horrid in the house]. Talking of houses, female spiders are invading most houses seeking places to lay their eggs; they are the bigger spiders of course. The males are smaller and run the risk of being eaten when approaching a female, and when trying to escape after the deed is done.

Rams are beginning to be seen with their harems in the fields, where they wear a harness with coloured raddle, [a sort of wax block fixed under the chest] you can see the marks on the ewes' backs as they are impregnated. In five months time the new lambs will make their appearance. We've sheared some of our smaller lambs so they'll eat more and grow faster. Many of the ewes and lambs around have had the wool around their bottoms clipped off to prevent fly strike. Flies lay their eggs on the dirty wool and as they hatch, the maggots feast on the flesh of the sheep. If left untreated the sheep will die in agony within a couple of days. Showery, damp weather is always worst for this.

Soon the older suckled calves will be parted from their mothers, some will go to market for growing on and some will stay on the farms where they are born for a couple more years until they are fit to grace our tables. As you know from cutting your lawns, the grass isn't growing nearly as fast now as the colder evenings are making a big difference to the rate of growth. This year there's a bumper crop of sloes in the hedgerows, not only good for sloe gin! They make an excellent non-alcoholic cordial which if left until Christmas is ideal for the younger members of the family to have diluted with lemonade.

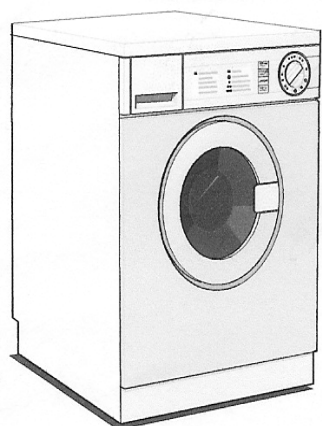
Sloe Wine Recipe

Add 1 pint of boiling water to every pint of sloes. Let it stand for a week, stirring every day. Strain and add 1lb sugar to every quart of the juice. Bottle.

Recipe taken from Gran's copy of Devon WI Cookbook.

Sue Shadrick

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