

THE **POUNDSTOCK PACKET**



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TWO MONTHS

HOUSEHOLD IN POUNDSTOCK PARISH

PRODUCED EVERY No. 41 February/March2010

A REALLY WHITE WEDDING

Brenda Woodley, daughter of Carol and Michael chose a really white day-9th January-to marry Philip Uglow at Bangors Methodist Church. The radiantly happy couple show little sign that the temperature outside was freezing.

POUNDSTOCK'S SHARE OF ICE AND SNOW

There were many rare sights around Poundstock in the recent weather. It's not often you see Poundstock churchyard and the fields beyond covered in snow. And what's this below? frozen fish?? These strange shaped icicles were formed by the stream at St. Neots



DISTRIBUTED FREE TO EVERY

DIARY DATES

February

- 9 Marhamchurch WI, Folk Tales Old and New
- 11 Jacobstow WI, Norfolk Lavender
- 19 Bude Community Cinema—Australia, Parkhouse 7.30pm
- 22 First Poundstock Lent Lunch, Bangors Chapel 12-2pm

March

- 1 Poundstock Lent Lunch, Bangors Chapel 12-2pm
- 8 Poundstock Lent Lunch, Bangors Chapel 12-2pmc
- 9 Marhamchurch WI AGM
- 11 Jacobstow WI AGM
- 12 Bude Community Cinema, Parkhouse 7.30pm TBA
- 15 Poundstock Lent Lunch, Gildhouse 12-2pm
- 22 Poundstock Lent Lunch, Gildhouse 12-2pm
- 29 Poundstock Lent Lunch, Gildhouse 12-2pm
- 29 Poundstock Packet AGM, Treskinnick Farmhouse 7.30pm

ADVERTISE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENT HERE

You will reach more than 450 households free! Contact us by email or phone. Details on page 3.

Want to advertise an event on Parish noticeboards ? Call Lynn Pluess 01288 361368 or Colin Gilbert 01288 361894

LOCAL CONTACTS MP: Dan Rogerson 01566 777123 Parish council chairman: Colin Gilbert 01288 361894 Parish council clerk: Lynn Pluess 01288 361368 County Councillor: Phil Tucker 01288 341617 Jacobstow WI president: Mrs. J. Spettigue 01288 361525 Marhamchurch WI president: Mrs. K. Reed 01288 361160 Poundstock Ladies Skittles: W. Orchard 01288 361653 Tillevs coaches: 01840 230244 Hookways Jennings coaches: 01288 352259 National childline: 0800 1111 Police—non emergency 08452 777 444 Floodline 0845 9881188 Citizens Advice Bureau: 01288 354531 Cornwall Council: 0300 1234 100 Doctors' surgery: Neetside 01288 356809 Stratton 01288 352133 Boscastle: 01840 250209 Anchor Staying Put 01208 815615 (help at home) Wheels minibus service 01579 349389

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 Tuesday
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 Friday
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Will call at Bangors Chapel on the following Mondays at 11.35–11.50:

March 8th, 22nd. April 19th

A cup of tea or coffee and a friendly chat awaits you, even if you don't borrow books.

Why not give it a try?

WIDEMOUTH MOBILE LIRARY

The mobile library also visits Widemouth on the same dates as above, calling at The Crescent 3.0-3.20pm Atlantic Close 3.25-3.40pm

2nd BUDE SCOUTS Meet in Wainhouse Scout Hut Monday: 5–6pm BEAVERS (Sally Grigg 01566 781356) 6.30–8.0 pm CUBS (Pat Moyes 01840 230026) Wednesday: 5.0–6.0 pm RAINBOWS (Geraldine Skinner 6.0–7.30 pm BROWNIES 01566 781234) 7.0–8.30 pm GUIDES Thursday: 6.30–8.0 pm SCOUTS (Daphne Dowling 01288 352786)

> Bangors Chapel Hall is available for hire. Donations (£7.50 per hour) Enquiries 01288 361309

> > or 01288 361775

MARHAMCHURCH W.I.

Meetings 9th February Folk Tales Old and New By Jill Lamede 9th March AGM

JACOBSTOW WI Meetings 11th February Norfolk Lavender By Philip Martin 11th March AGM And members evening 15th April visit to Davidstow Airfield Museum

Poundstock Gildhouse

can be hired for any event from meetings and parties to meals and receptions. For details, visit www.poundstockgildhouse.co.uk or contact 01288 341537

POUNDSTOCK PARISH HALL Is available for bookings £8 per session + heating /lighting Call Colin Gilbert on 01288 361894

PLANS FOR 2010

RAINBOW OVER POUNDSTOCK FIELDS





We have some plans to develop your parish magazine, and we shall be trying to get some funding to help us finance these early in the year. One of our ventures is the website (details below), which will provide a new, exciting dimension to our service to the community. If you'd like to have an input to our plans, your views

will be welcomed, and you have an opportunity at our AGM (see below). **Dudley Moore**



POUNDSTOCK LENT LUNCHES 2009 Well the time is approaching for our 6th year of Lent Lunches. There will be 3 lunches at Bangors Methodist Hall and 3 at the Gildhouse,

all on Mondays from 12 noon till 2pm. We do not charge, but ask for donations to Stratton Hospital League of Friends. I'm looking, as always for helpers please: men or women, who can spare just a couple of hours on the dates below. Or if you could make soup, or give bread, butter, cheese for a lunch, that would also be a great help. If you can help in any way please call me on 01288 361525, leave a message if necessary.

Come and enjoy a great social time and help give support and comfort to the patients of our much needed hospital at Stratton.

BANGORS: February 22nd, March 1st & 8th GILDHOUSE: March 15th, 22nd 29th *Jen Spettigue*

THE CONCERT FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

Held at Bangors Chapel on Sunday December 13th raised £256, to be divided between NSPCC, Children' Hospice SW and Action for Children. A wonderful effort by all those who took part and supported.

Poundstock Packet AGM

29 March at 7.30 pm at Treskinnick Farmhouse

If you live in Poundstock Parish, you are eligible and welcome to attend. Come and make your views known, and vote. We'd be pleased to see you and we promise not to give you a job unless you want one!

The Poundstock Packet on the web

We are very sorry that this has been held up by technical difficulties, but now it works!

The Packet's website will be fully operational from 1 March 2010

Visit www.poundstockpacket.org.uk

for current and past issues, local pictures and up-to-the-minute diary dates

POUNDSTOCK CAROL SINGERS



And THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Altogether raised £140 for Children's Hospice SW Thank you for all your generous support for these two ventures





Message from our local MP, Dan Rogerson

Well, the story of the month must certainly be the snow! I was very struck, watching television news during the abortive coup against Gordon Brown that there was brief reference to it at the beginning of the programme before a swift segue to "and our other top story today, the snow". A good number of people seemed to be tiring of weather-as-news almost as much as the snow itself by the end of the cold snap, but the period did highlight the problems we seem to have in countering very extreme conditions. I met with the Chief Executive and the Conservative Leader of Cornwall Council and tried to impress on them the acute disappointment of so many traders I spoke to, who had opened up and asked their staff to come into work, only to find that the Council had made little or no effort to grit town centre pavements. One



road sweeper even asked for grit, so that he could improve conditions while on his regular round, but was refused! More rural parishes have also made it clear that they would be more than prepared to keep a stock of grit – perhaps under lock and key – and to organise volunteers to see to their village centres during acute conditions. Again, the Council is reluctant, preferring to hoard control in Truro.

I contributed to a *Radio Cornwall* programme on this subject shortly before this article went to press. When debate raged about the merits of moving to just one Council, the plan was always to decentralise power from County Hall to each of Cornwall communities through area offices, committees of Cornwall Councillors from particular areas and parish councils. Instead, the administration is considering a plan to sell off £11 million pounds worth of Council property to reinvest more than six million in renovations at County Hall. That seems to me to be completely the wrong direction to go in, and I hope that they will rethink. The Council urgently needs to lay out a tariff of powers which could be taken up by the parishes – with appropriate support and funding – so that the new authority doesn't become entrenched in a "Truro knows best" culture.

Among other things, I also raised with the Council Leaders the housing waiting list. There were 17,000 people in line for somewhere affordable to live at the time the new Council took over, but they have made everyone on the list reapply on a 20-page form, reducing the number at a stroke to 6,000. While there are doubtless some people who – after years of waiting without any progress – have met their own housing but there will be many more who still think they're in the queue but have been unceremoniously despatched from the list. I'm pressing the Council to make sure everyone who was on the old list is contacted assiduously, and assisted with the new form, to make sure no one misses out unfairly.

Back in Westminster, I recently contributed to a debate on the future of local radio. Radio Cornwall is the most listened-to regional station in the country, and our quality independent stations aren't far behind. I've been working with *Pirate FM* and *Atlantic* to highlight their concerns that the switch to digital – "DAB" – could leave vital services like theirs behind. The present DAB signal is unreliable at best, and in some cases non-existent, so it's no wonder listeners are alarmed to discover that the FM signals for all current radio stations are likely to cease as of 2015. The transfer of familiar services like *Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4* to DAB will mean many sets will become defunct, and the new digital services may well work on regional transmitters, meaning that Radio Cornwall, Pirate and Atlantic would need to broadcast beyond the Tamar, probably to both Devon and Cornwall. This could cause the commercial services in particular some problems, since their listener base is firmly in Cornwall, and it may prove quite difficult to get sufficient advertising revenues to meet the cost of a full upgrade. Ministers' answer to these concerns is that FM will be maintained for community radios, but my colleagues and I are not yet persuaded that this will avoid stations in areas like Cornwall and the Scottish Highlands falling between two stalls: neither small enough to count as "community" – and stay on FM – nor large enough to be "regional" and transfer to digital. We'll be keeping a firm eye on the Government's plans as they develop, and insisting at every turn that the switchover when it happens should benefit every listener, and all local radio services, not just the big players in large urban centres.

THANK YOU

Jean Corne wishes to send sincere thanks to everyone who said prayers, sent cards and messages of sympathy, during the recent illness and death of her beloved daughter, Amanda

Snowdrops, the symbol of hope

An old legend tells of how God created the snowdrop.

When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, their lives became very hard. Eve hated the cold and found winter particularly difficult to bear. One icy day she was in real despair. 'Will this freezing weather never end?' she cried out to God. ' Please, please, give us some hope that things will get better!'

'It's no good,' said Adam. 'Look, the ground is still covered in snow.'

But God heard. Suddenly, although the snow still lay deep, through it came hundreds of tiny white flowers, opening their petals to the sun and bringing the promise of spring. Never forget, children of Eve, that all winters do eventually give way to spring.

NEATE FEET



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Councillor's Report

Snow and Ice After many days of snow and ice, it is apparent to me that we need to rethink the position and number of salt bins provided and areas which need salting. I have and will be asking the Parish Councils to identify areas where the ice has seriously impeded people's ability to operate. There is no way that anyone can expect an ice free road all over the county on every road. This is both impracticable, extremely expensive and very bad for the environment. However where there is a steep hill or tight corner which is the only factor which stops careful driving then a salt box at that position would be important. If you have experienced such an area it would be useful if you identified this with your Parish Council. Working with the highways dept we can then target those areas during ice or provide a bin if necessary. I will be collating those areas and during a meeting with highways we will design an action plan.

Councillors' Allowance Many people throughout Cornwall have been talking about Councillor payments and discussing the value of their respective councillor and rightly so. I consider that I wear two hats: a person who helps to get things done in the community and a person who helps run the organisation of Cornwall Council PLC. I don't consider that I should be paid anything for my work in the community: the person who helps run the scouts isn't paid, the neighbour who looks out for the elderly or housebound isn't paid, the parish and town councillors are not paid. I consider myself another cog in the wheel of a caring community.

But wearing my council plc hat I need to make sure this council is run effectively for the benefit of the community, that it is run fairly and is cost effective to the tax payer by offering value for money, and I need to make sure that decisions made have been fully researched and debated with a fair chance of representation from worried groups, so I need to be informed. And to be informed I need to be involved to be an effective elected member. I am required to attend important meetings and make decisions that affect everyone in Cornwall and for these reasons I need to be recompensed.

During the recent snow, staff were told "if you can't get to work you need to make it up or you don't get paid". There are councillors here who turn up for 1 or 2 meetings per month. Perhaps 3 hours and get paid £1000 per month. The decisions they make and vote on are at best uninformed and the situation is scandalous. I wish to work with 123 informed councillors who can operate this modern council effectively and really challenge the officers and cabinet. I welcome the decision to keep payments at present rates with a review next year because I want Councillors who don't work to be paid less, to be accountable for their payments and to be voting on important issues about which they are informed .

On any issue, if the usual avenues are not working for you, please contact me.

Cllr Phil Tucker 01288 341617 (philip.tucker@homecall.co.uk)

The weather in Poundstock during 2009

Time for another annual look at our weather as recorded two miles inland in the north-east corner of the parish. I now have records for two complete years to compare and we can also see how 2009 compares to the Met Office's most recent 30-year averages (1971–2000) for Bude. As I always point out, our weather station is inland and slightly sheltered from the full force of the gales.

Two months stand head and shoulders above the rest for rainfall. Even though November was the wettest month with 7.9 in (201 mm and 210% of the 30-year average for the month), July had the wettest day, with 1.4in (35 mm) on the 16th. November had the most days of rain with 28 (175% of the average). Looking at the statistics for dry days (well, we can but fondly remember them!) June had the most days of no measurable rain with 24, but the longest period with no appreciable rain was the 14 days from 12th to 25th March.

As in 2008, July 2009 not only had the wettest day but also the highest daytime temperature when it reached 29.3 $^{\circ}$ at 12.20 pm on the 1st. The highest night-time temperature was 17.2 $^{\circ}$ at 0.10 am on the 19th August. The warmest month was August with a mean of 16.5 $^{\circ}$. The lowest temperature of the year was -8.9 $^{\circ}$ at 4. 40 am on 7th January, but December was the month with the lowest average temperature of 5.3 $^{\circ}$. The current winter is producing equ ally low temperatures – see the summary for December and January on p. 17.

The prize for the windiest month was taken by November with an average wind speed of 9.1 mph (4.1m/s), and the highest wind gust was 46mph (20.6m/s) at 2.10 pm on the 14th. As expected the predominant wind direction for the year was westerly, but it is not surprising to find that during the cold month of January the wind was more from the south-east. The average wind speed for the year was 5.1mph (2.3m/s), down by 0.8mph compared with 2008.

Overall, in 2009 the total rainfall was 40.4 in (1027mm) spread over 191 days, with 4 days having more than 1 in during the 24 hour period (9th February, 16th and 29th July, and 29th October). The average temperatures for the whole year were a mean maximum of 14.7 \degree (0.3 \degree greater than 2008) an d a mean minimum of 6.8 \degree (0.3 \degree less than 2008); t he overall mean for 2009 was 10.8 \degree , exactly the same as the p revious year. There were 38 days in the year when a temperature below freezing was recorded; gardeners will be interested to know that 12th April was the last day of spring when it fell below 0 \degree , and 17th October saw the first day of freezing temperatures in the autumn – this was 12 days earlier than 2008, but was very much a one-off because the rest of October 2009 was much warmer and there was no other significant freezing temperature until the end of November. Remember that all these temperature measurements are recorded at three feet above ground level.

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CHURCHES



ST WINWALOE POUNDSTOCK

Parish Priest: Revd R. Dickenson 01288 341134

Wardens: Peter Marfleet 01288 361233

Sandy Dingle 01288 361356

1st Sunday 9.45 Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 11.00 Family Worship
3rd Sunday 9.45 Holy Communion
4th Sunday 9.45 Morning Prayer (1662)

Christmas Day 9.45 Holy Communion

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE WIDEMOUTH BAY Warden: Judy McDonald 01288 361664

Services:Sundays 8.15 am Wednesdays 8.30 am Fridays 5 pm Evensong

BANGORS METHODIST CHAPEL Circuit minister: Rev. Neal Street 01288 352404 Services 11.00 a.m. Sundays February 7th Kyle Sacrament 14th Sinden United Service 21st Local Arrangement 28th Turner March 16th Church Council Meeting 2.30pm

DIMMA METHODIST CHAPEL

Lay pastoral assistant: Brian Parkman 01840 212736 Contact: Audrey Wickett 01840 230268

Ruminations from the Rectory

Epiphany stands between Christmas and Lent; I write this in Epiphany. The happy, sociable memories of Christmas are still with me; the relative austerity of Lent lies ahead. So, if you will bear with me, I want to look back and forward.

Just before Christmas both St Genny's Church and Week St Mary celebrated the annual United Benefice Crib and Gift Services, generously supported by some of you both in your attending and in your giving. A great sense of fellowship and 'Christmas spirit' was derived from this occasion but those of us who were there were also aware that, immediately after the St Gennys service, Sue, and later at Week St Mary, Chris and Cathy Jordan were loading their cars with the abundance of your gifts for the women and children of the Truro Refuge, so that they would arrive in time for Christmas Day. A great deal of rejection has travelled with those little families who find themselves at the door of the Refuge, especially at Christmas. So, by your acknowledgement of the presence of the Christ child, both in our lives and theirs, you were able to give them back some feeling of being cherished.

Similarly, back in November, some of you generously gave also a shoe box full of 'goodies' for a child in an Eastern European orphanage to be opened on Christmas morning. This is organised, year by year, by Samaritan's Purse, an organisation whose name is engendered by Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan which gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told his hearers, "Go and do likewise."

And for over 35 years, Samaritan's Purse *has* done likewise by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. Again and again, in the Name of Jesus Christ, it has proved itself an effective means of rapidly supplying hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance. Its emergency relief programs provide desperately needed assistance to victims of natural disaster, war, disease, and famine, meeting their most critical needs and giving them a chance to rebuild their lives, including, most recently, those hit by the earthquake in Haiti.

Which, in a roundabout way leads on to Lent because this is the period in the Church's year when we have an opportunity to pause and think about those things which unite us with Christ's love; those things to which we have, or maybe have not, devoted ourselves in combating pain and suffering of our neighbours in distress, both local and universal; a time for us to reflect upon the past year and to try to redress the balance in our lives and seek new ways to be at one with God and the created order of which we are a part.

Traditionally, Lent is also a time when we think about sacrifice, more often than not by giving up some little pleasure. Perhaps for most of us the thing that we have to learn to give up is self; that self which demands so much of our time, our energy, our attention, that it will simply not allow us to look beyond the blinkers and recognise those in our neighbourhood, and in our world, who are hurting terribly. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving."

Before Lent is upon us, many of you have already recognised that in your responses to people whom we will probably never meet. Let us all, then, make every effort, as we prepare for Lent, both to bask in the Christmas message of love and make ready for the gift of Easter, by responding to the needs of any of those who are rejected, or marginalised, or lonely, that in loving the unloved, we may give of ourselves; and in giving of ourselves, we may cherish them, as God unconditionally cherishes us. *Revd Rob*





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DID YOU KNOW?

Girls could marry at age 12, boys at age 14! They still had to live with their parents until they were 16 though.

The Tudors were great gamblers and loved to bet on just about anything. At one time Henry VIII had a bill for £3242 for 3 years gambling when the weekly wage was about 5p!

Toilets were just a hole in the ground by the

backdoor for some people.

Nine out of ten people died before they were 40. There was so much disease and they had no idea how to cure any of them or how to be hygienic.

Baths weren't considered healthy so Tudors just covered up the awful smell with strong perfume.

Open sewers ran in the streets and passed many of the diseases on.

Toilets were called 'Privies' and were not very private at all. They were often just a piece of wood over a hole in the ground and might have room for up to 6 people to go at the same time!

An average person drank about 8 pints of weak beer a day, it had very little alcohol and even children drank it, it was safer than the water! It was called 'small beer'.

A popular 'cure' for illness was blood letting. People believed that illness was caused by too much blood in the body. So they would cut a slit and let some of the blood out. Sounds like you'd feel worse after that!

Water came from village pumps, and they got the water from the local stream, which was most likely full of sewage from the town. No wonder they got so ill!

King Henry VIII had over 78,000 people executed while he was king. That is the same as 5 people killed every day for 38 years!

They knew that sugar rotted their teeth, and since sugar was so expensive, women used to deliberately black their teeth out to *look* rotten, because it showed they could afford to buy sugar!







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Wild About Poundstock Winter Gloom becomes Winter Glory

As I type there is a fieldfare hopping around the patio. These large and rich coloured thrushes have been forced into more urban situations by the hard weather. Most years, I can go for months without seeing one unless I go well in land. They are the Scandinavian equivalent of our mistle thrush, coming her in winter looking for berries....another reason for not hedge cutting until February!

I have been looking after four Red Ruby cows for the past two months. They come to my fields for their seaside holiday from Bodmin Moor, rather like the fieldfares. With the wet couple of months we've had they have poached the soil down in the valley quite severely. Looking at it now, I wonder if it will recover, which is a gloomy thought. However, in my heart I know that it will and the primroses will be there, and more importantly, the bluebells and later, the orchids, of which of course there is no sign at present.

It's the same in the garden. Last week when the frost was biting, the garden looked miserable, some plants looked dead and very little colour. I try to have an 'all the year round' garden, but not this year! After the ten years or so of mild winters, this has been hard to accept. Of course, I am old enough to know that this is what we would consider a 'normal' winter, and nothing compared to 1976; I can't quite remember 1947!

Once again though, the frost has gone and suddenly there is a daffodil in flower, the hellebores have stood erect once more, and there is viburnum, winter honeysuckle and witch hazel flowering. Actually, the winter iris have flowered throughout, there is always some winter glory.

Much to Sandy's enjoyment, the snowdrops are just showing signs of flowering. Everybody's favourites, they just get on with flowering, regardless of what is going on around them. How do they do it? Firstly, they have a toughened growing tip to the leaves enabling them to push up through the frosted ground and the flower buds contain an anti-freeze. Then, when they do open their flowers, they are held on very elastic stems which defy the winter wind. In Cornwall, we expect to see them along road banks, as well as out in the woods, and yet they don't appear to be native. Snowdrops are not recorded in Brit-

ain as a wild flower until the 1770s. The name does not appear in the Oxford English Dictionary until the late seventeenth century. Gerard's first Herbal, produced in the mid seventeenth century, makes no mention of it at all, and yet there is an illustration of it among the tulips! What may well be a snowdrop does seem to get a mention as a violet but we are still talking about a garden plant. Only in the west country can you expect to find it growing well away from habitation. It is possible that it is native here, at the edge of its European distribution. Even in European terms it is generally an alpine plant though.

Whatever the history, snowdrops are definitely one of the glories of winter. The green stripes



inside the flower are nectar lines, attracting early insects to visit the flower. They certainly have a lovely scent So, enjoy what is to be seen over winter, for anything that makes that special effort demands respect. *Tim Dingle.*

To see snowdrops in all their glory, take a walk down through the churchyard in the next few days. You may see celandines and primroses too – Ed.

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Remember When

Having received a few books for Christmas and the weather being wintry I have stayed indoors reading. I found one book, "The Anglo Files", sub-titled as a 'Field Guide to the British', by Sarah Lyall, especially interesting. She had been sent to London as a correspondent for The New York Times. She had married an Englishman which gave her an added personal view of things British, more than the average outside observer would have. Gloomy weather seemed to follow her around. She went to Trebetherick with her husband after hearing of the idyllic holidays he had spent there as a child. It hailed when she was there. It rained when they were at St. Ives but an old fisherman told her it had been sunny the day before.

She concluded that the British do not let the weather bother them in the belief of the importance of being at the seaside in the fresh air, probably huddled behind windbreakers.

She found British sports difficult to understand, particularly Cricket and The Oval. Observing Parliament at work she found especially interesting. Nothing like Members Question Time existed in the American House of Representatives. After addressing each other politely as Honorable Members, Members of Parliament could then proceed with less than polite rhetoric. Sarah Lyall arrived in England some years after Mrs. Thatcher had left office but some of the impolite and unpleasant criticisms of her unpopular policies were still remembered. The Lady Prime Minister did not appear to be too concerned about some of the harsh titles she had been given. One was The Iron Lady. Early on she had cancelled the free milk for school children scheme run by the government. This had earned Mrs. Thatcher the rather bitter title of "Thatcher the Milk Snatcher". The House of Lords gets a whole chapter in Sarah Lyall's book, called 'Lawmakers from another Planet', which was an apt description of that Ancient House prior to Tony Blair's House of Lords reorganization.

Food occupies a prominent place in The Anglo Files. It seemed odd to the author that her husband liked Bread Pudding for dessert made with stale bread; he also relished a heated can of Baked Beans for dinner. Many of the food habits acquired by the British had been made necessary by wartime rationing and extended for many years after the war's end. I expect many of the older readers of The Packet remember Beans on Toast and got to like such comfort foods.

About 1942 a typical week's ration for an adult was as follows, it could vary as supplies allowed. Meat to value of 1s.2d: Bacon/ Ham 4oz: Butter 2oz.: Cheese 2 to 8oz: Marg. 4oz.: Milk 2-3 pints: Sugar 8oz.: Tea 3 oz.: Eggs 1: Dried eggs 1Pkt. per month: Sweets 12 oz. per month. Rationing continued after the war into the early 1950s. Bananas appeared a year after the war and one per child was the ration allowed. Evelyn Waugh's son, Auberon, recalls the family receiving 3 bananas, one for each of the children. Their famous father put them on a plate poured 'hard to get' cream over them and ate the lot in front of his "anguished children". Returning from Egypt during the war I wrapped and stowed a three foot bunch of green bananas under my bunk. It was a slow trip home and when I slid them out what a ghastly brown mess they were. Quite unsuitable for the returning home present I had planned. I discovered later that bananas are shipped in a controlled environment.

One of the Nazi Germany's tactics for defeating Britain was to cut off the food supply. However, the country rose to the challenge. We were told carrots were good for the eyes and night fighter pilots would eat lots of them; so we did also, not knowing there was a surplus of carrots at the time and it was a ruse by the government to use them up. Only one war motto raised objections, along with "Loose lips cost lives" they published "Be like Dad, keep Mum.". The feminists rose up against that one. The women's war effort was very strong, working in factories and in the Land Army. I don't know if the hardships of food rationing were felt as strongly in the countryside as it was in towns. Farmers had to keep an official inventory of their animals and slaughter houses had to be accountable. Around Pound-stock the occasional dead sheep would be found on the beach, having tumbled over a cliff, and lamb chops would suddenly appear for the butcher's privileged customers. A sheep had never been known to fall off a cliff in peacetime.

Having enjoyed reading Anglo Files I wondered why the so-called oddities of Britishness made this book a bestseller. The oddities do not seem odd to me at all. As far as the weather is concerned I like Lawrence of Arabia's remark after he had served many years in the heat of sunny Arabia. He longed for "England's Comforting Canopy of Cloud". *Don Sutton*

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Our Sky in February 2010-01-13

Mars rises at 1900 in the early evening at the middle of the month, and will be a conspicuous object throughout the southern sky during the night. Saturn rises at about 2100 and, although less bright than Mars, its steady yellowish light marks it out as a planet rather than a twinkling star. We still have the winter constellations to enjoy, with Orion due South from dusk onwards.

We spent three days in Cornwall for Christmas, and one of the many delights of that part of the world are the dark skies. I looked out of the window one early morning and was overwhelmed with the brilliance and sheer number of the stars that I could see; it is a tragedy that we have deprived our children and grandchildren of the most spectacular free natural sight in the world by our incessant demand for more light. If you have the chance to visit a dark site, make sure you take your children and some binoculars, and listen to their appreciative 'wows' as they scan the skies with more stars than they have ever seen before.

Not all astronomy takes place in space or on mountain tops; Last December a NASA jumbo jet that will help scientists unlock the origins of the universe with infrared observations reached a milestone when doors covering the plane's telescope were fully opened in flight. The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, a modified 747 jet known as SOFIA, flew for one hour and 19 minutes, which included two minutes with the telescope's doors fully opened. It was the first time outside air has interacted with the part of the plane that carries the 98-inch infrared telescope. Because infrared radiation is absorbed by moisture in the Earth's atmosphere, telescopes have to be as high as possible; this aircraft would be flying at about 6 miles above the Earth, and so would be above the majority of the absorption layer.

One of the greatest surprises in the history of astronomy was the discovery that all the things we see in space amount to less than 1% of the universe's total matter and energy.

Add the hard-to-detect thin gas between galaxies, and all other forms of ordinary matter, and the total still comes to only about 4.5% of everything that exists. A much larger 26% or so is "non-baryonic dark matter," consisting of some kind of exotic, invisible particles that don't form atoms. The dark matter's gravity dominates the universe, shaped its history, and provides the gravitational pools in which normal matter could accumulate to make galaxies.

The remaining 70% or so is the so-called "dark energy" that's causing the expansion of the universe to speed up. The nature of this is an even bigger unknown.

But more bits of evidence keep being uncovered, and I will try to explain some of them in later articles; so stay tuned folks, and enjoy 2010. *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:

	December		January (to 27th)	
Wettest day	0.77 in	(29th)	1.00 in	(16th)
Total rain	3.64 in		2.5 in	
Days of rain	21		15	
Highest temp	13.2 ⁰C	(9th 12.50)	12.4 ⁰C	(16th 14.00)
Lowest temp	-6.1 ⁰C	(19th 03.40)	-8.9 °C	(8th 06.10)
Max wind gust	40 mph	(7th 16.40)	38 mph	(15th 22.00)
Windiest day	13.6 mph	(3rd)	12.7 mph	(12th)

For the first 13 days of January there were freezing temperatures and on six of those days the average temperature throughout the day was less than 0° . O nly once, very briefly on the 2nd, did the temperature rise above 5° . Graham Jones



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FREE CARE? DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH.

It seems along time ago now, but it was only two months ago that we heard the Queen's Speech on opening the last session of this Parliament. To get the retirement vote onside, the Government pledged to provide free personal care to those 'in greatest need'.

So who is likely to qualify? Well, it seems the qualification test for personal care will be based on an inability to carry out four essential tasks of daily living. Examples are the need for help in getting up, getting dressed, using the toilet, and being unable to carry out personal hygiene. In other words, if you qualify for Attendance Allowance, you are likely to satisfy the care criteria.

Then we ask who will be regarded as the 'neediest'? As always, this will be difficult to determine and will involve a lot of hurdle jumping. The current best guess appears to suggest that between 280,000 and 400,000 elderly people will fall within the neediest category, and therefore be entitled to personal care that will be free of charge.

But don't hold your breath if you think you might qualify. The present government has indicated that the new provisions are expected to come into effect in October 2010. Between now and then, of course, we have a general election. Any incoming government might, with the stroke of a pen, put a line through this particular provision. Let us hope not.

On a rather depressing note, it is sad and worrying to read that the standard of care for care home residents is still inadequate in spite of all the whistle blowing and exposes which have highlighted this endemic state of affairs. The Care Quality Commission has recently reported on this stubbornly worrying issue.

So why in this day and age are standards still so badly compromised? The report cites as the main reasons a combination of the high turnover of staff, historically low wages, and the absence of training. Cornwall Council has been cited as an area where the need for improvement must be regarded as a high priority.

I will write on a future occasion about nursing home fees and NHS care. For the present let us hope that government initiatives to provide free care, coupled with public exposure of inadequate care standards will lead to improvements all round

John Busby, Busbys Solicitors, Bude & Holsworthy.

Report from Widemouth Residents' Forum

We have at last gained a victory concerning the bus service in Widemouth - the stop at the main car park is now to be a compulsory bus stop, removing the need to spring out of the shelter to alert the driver to stop ! We now need to work out some way of marking the place, so as to show non residents where the stop actually is.

The beach huts near the Beach House are becoming a hazard - they are now half-buried in sand, and might prove a risk to children. The problem would seem to be establishing the ownership of the huts, and therefore responsibility.

Concern was expressed about people putting out rubbish and recycling on the wrong days and the subsequent mess and risk of encouraging rats, again! If people would only use a dustbin or arrange for neighbours to put the stuff out on the correct days, the problem would be solved. This is something that will only get worse as hot weather approaches.

Our next meeting will be on March 17th at the new time of 5pm - please come along. *Nicky Verreker*

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2009 (unconfirmed extract)

A meeting of the parish council was held in the parish hall on 8th December 2009 at 7.30 p.m Cllr C Gilbert was in the chair, also present were Cllrs R. Powell, B.W. Furse, Miss A.R. Rowland, G.N. Orchard, W.G. Rowland, P.J. Marshall, R.S. Hopper, G.W.J. Pluess, Cornwall Councillor Mr. P Tucker and the Clerk. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. W.K. Stacey.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST a) Items on the agenda – Planning Application 2009/01572 & Accounts Payable. b) Gifts over £25.00 – None declared.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The chairman suspended the meeting giving members of the public an opportunity to address the council, whereby representations were made regarding the planning application for a single mast wind generator at Bangors by representatives of Bangors Green and the Applicant, following which the chairman reconvened the meeting.

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT (i) Architects Update – Cllr. P.J. Marshall gave a report of the meeting he attended alongside the Chairman and Cllr. Powell with the architect Mr. M. Back on 7th December. Whereby, pending approval, the next stages to progress the project were discussed. Letter dated 8th December received from Mr. Martin Back, copied to members was read outlining RIBA Work Stages and costings. Fee proposals were based upon traditional procurement paths supported by initial advise from Quantity Surveyor. (ii) Recommendations – Following discussions it was proposed by Cllr. R. Powell to give consent to The Bazeley Partnership upon their receipt of planning approval for the appointment of a Quantity Surveyor, Cllr. B.W. Furse seconded. Cllr. P.J. Marshall proposed, upon their receipt of planning approval The Bazeley Partnership to proceed with RIBA Work Stage E, Cllr. G.N. Orchard seconded.

HIGHWAYS – (i) Excavation of Highway Property – Members expressed concern at the unlawful interference of a public highway and in the absence of information to the contrary it would appear that works have been approved without proper consideration to the function of the crash barrier, it was agreed to write concerns to the Highway Authority.

CHURCHYARD VEHICULAR ACCESS GATE – It was noticed that the vehicular access gate into the churchyard is in need of repair, members agreed to bring this matter to the attention of the Parochial Church Council, with an offer to assist with the cost of repair.

ACCOUNTS – (i) Financial Report – Was given when considering precept. (ii) Parish Council Precept 2010/11 – Following consideration of the budget for 2010/11 it was proposed by Cllr R. Powell seconded by Cllr R.S. Hopper and resolved to set the precept for 2010/11 at the sum of £20,000.00, all agreed. (iii) Payments received to date: None received to date. (iv) Payments of accounts received to date: R. Jewell invoice no. 41 of £1,640.00 for Churchyard & Cemetery maintenance, Cllr .G.N. Orchard proposed payment, Cllr. P.J. Marshall seconded. R. Jewell invoice no. 35 of £880.00 for PROW maintenance, Cllr. G.N. Orchard proposed payment, Cllr. P.J. Marshall seconded. R. Jewell invoice no. 35 of £880.00 for PROW maintenance, Cllr. G.N. Orchard proposed payment Cllr P.J. Marshall seconded. South West Water invoice no. 0077882055 of £12.46 for Parish Hall Water, Cllr W.G. Rowland proposed payment Cllr. G.N. Orchard seconded. Mrs. L. Pluess invoice for quarterly wage October – December of £375.00, Cllr. R. Powell proposed payment Cllr. P.J. Marshall seconded. (v) Grant Applications received for consideration: None. (iv) Correspondence – None.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – 2009/01572 – Installation of a 11 kw Gaia Turbine located at 18.3m AGL mounted on a free standing tower on a 5 square meter concrete base the dual blade has a diameter of 13m at Bangors House for Gill Faiers – Earlier representations were taken into consideration and the views expressed in the Parish Plan –The Built Environment Policy 4 *'although single mast wind generators received 80% opposition, they were highly rated at the prioritization event which points to the need for each application to be considered on its merits'*, therefore members respectfully requested the application be considered by a planning committee.

PARISH MATTERS – The green space at Bangors was discussed.NEXT MEETING – 26th January 2010.

Also from 24th November minutes :PLANNING DECISIONS – 2009/01237 Construction of dwelling at Site 2 Bangors for Mr. T Perry – Cornwall Council Approved. 2009/01268 Siting of a twin unit mobile home for Mr. G. Skilton – Cornwall Council Approved. 2009/01349 Prior Notification for the construction of a lean-to building at Silverdown for Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Cobbledick – Cornwall Council Approved. 2009/01351 Extensions to existing bungalow to form a two storey dormer style dwelling at Exonia, Marine Drive, Widemouth Bay for Mr. Kevin Seabourne – Cornwall Council Approved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – 2009/01484 Two storey side extension with formation of two dormer windows to front at Allins for Mr. D. Oxley – no objections. 2009/01487 Construction of new entrance and extension containing committee room, office and WC (phase A) at Poundstock Parish Hall for Poundstock Parish Council – No comments. 2009/01488 Rebuilding of western elevation and rebuilding of existing lean-to's with larger footprints (Phase B) at Poundstock Parish Hall for Poundstock Parish Council – No comments. 2009/01497 Proposed garaging at Higher Widemouth Farm for Mr. I Harrison – No objections.

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