

## THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET



#### KERNOW BYS VYKEN!

#### W-otter picture!

These amazing pictures of the Bude Canal otter were taken by Colin Taylor of Treskinnick Cross, who was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time – and with a camera.



#### The Parish Hall – the saga continues

Failure to obtain Big Lottery Funding for a new hall was largely due to being unable to show evidence of the current one's use. Since then efforts have been made (successfully) to make it more attractive but there is no getting away from its shortcomings. When it became clear that more than a lick of paint was needed, the Parish Council's first approach was to address the major structural defects. Much to everyone's surprise the cost of the 'facelift' scheme far exceeded our worst fears. It would be cheaper, we were told, to start with a clean slate.

New drawings are to be prepared still bearing in mind that the hall is to be an addition to the facilities that Poundstock currently has and not in competition with them. Funding will be obtained through diverse sources (grants, match funding, etc.) but the biggest benefit of starting from scratch is the greater freedom to exercise direct control and thereby keep costs down. Because of the new nature of the scheme, demolition and site clearance and construction will not be restricted by 'procurement requirements' to the larger and more expensive contractors and it is hoped that savings may be achieved through an element of public participation much in the way that efforts were made to rescue the hall and make it more attractive a year or so back.



The Parish Hall has stood for 75 years and was the product of the

participation of its parishioners. May the next one be the same: be used as it was in its heyday; and benefit from today's facilities and technology. Watch this space.

Colin Gilbert (Chairman, Poundstock Parish Council)

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No. 42 April/May 2010

#### April DIARY DATES

- 2 Good Friday service, 2.00 St Winwaloe's
- 4 Easter Communion, 11.00 St Winwaloe's
- 4 Guided walk from Lower Longbeak car park 10.45 am
- 5 Whalesborough Woodland Walk, details 01288 356628
- 9 Bude Community Cinema, Sherlock Holmes 7.30pm
- 13 Marhamchurch WI John o' Groats to Landsend, David Arney
- 15 Jacobstow WI trip to Davidstow Airfield Museum
- 23 Bude Farmers' Market reopens, every Friday
- 25 Black Rock Surf Festival
- 30 Bude Community Cinema, The Hurt Locker, 7.30

#### May

- 11 Marhamchurch WI Resolutions
- 11 Trip to Heligan Gardens 8.45am Wainhouse Corner
- 12 Ross Hoddinott, wildlife photography talk, Gildhouse, 7.30
- 13 Jacobstow WI Alpacas talk by Angela Locke
- 15/16 Battle of Stamford Hill re-enactment Stratton
- 29 Poundstock Revel, 2.00–4.00 p.m.
- 30 Blessing of the Holy Well of St Neot, time to be confirmed

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#### 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 Tilleys 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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#### Lent lunches 2010

The annual Lent lunches have become a part of life for the Poundstock community, offering the chance to enjoy a bowl of home-made soup among friends while making a contribution to the Friends of Stratton Hospital, a very worthwhile local cause. You never know who you'll be sitting next to or even what the choice of soup will be, but there's never any doubt that the company will be warm and friendly and the soup will be delicious.

Thanks to the generosity of this year's lunchers we will have a good sum to send to the charity – details of the final amount in the next edition of the Packet.



DONE DRECKLY—PROPER JOB! It's a few years ago that we first conceived the idea of creating our own website. It's taken a while to bring to fruition and we are now greatly indebted to our webmaster, Graham Jones, for producing such a great result. He has put a lot of work into making our site attractive, user friendly and packed with useful, interesting, local information. If you are an internet user, take a look (see below) and let us know what you think. It will not remain static; information will be updated and contents will gradually be developed further.

If you are not an internet user, don't worry; the website is in no way intended to be a replacement for the paper' Packet' delivered to your door. We will continue to print and distribute for as long as there is

life and breath in our magazine, and in us! **Dudley Moore** 

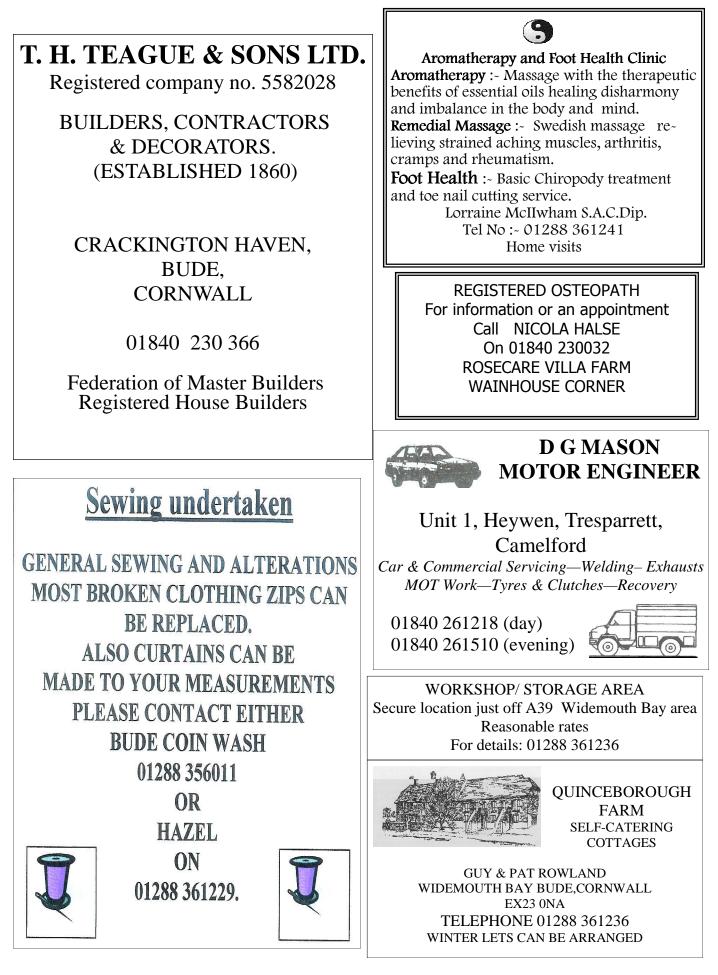


#### The Poundstock Packet is now on the web. Visit poundstockpacket.org.uk

The Widemouth Residents Group met on March 17th and welcomed Jolyon Sharp, the head beach ranger, who came to discuss the changes and improvements planned for the Widemouth car park and dunes area. He reported that the recent consultation day had been a huge success, with over 80 people attending and giving their views. These were largely positive about the plans which include creating more disabled parking places, and tidying up the car park area generally. This work will take place soon, with the planned work for the Downs area to take place in the autumn, so as not to disturb nesting birds.

He also said that Widemouth beach is now one of the cleanest beaches in North Cornwall as regards litter, having been one of the dirtiest before 2009. By the time you read this, there will have been another litter pick on the beach organised by the rangers, and one in the village by the residents group to clean up the verges and downs.

We received a very helpful letter from Dan Rogerson in response to a letter to him expressing dismay at Cornwall Council's apparent disregard for the opposition to planning applications - there is a free advice service we can appeal to, individually or as a group, if planning applications are granted when there is significant opposition. This was prompted by the granting of permission for the redevelopment of Spindleberry in Combe Lane - plans for which have created a lot of controversy. *Nicky Vereker* 



#### THE INTERVIEW - RON HICKS

Your connection with Poundstock started very early in life. My grandfather was a bootmaker and lived at Treskinnick Cross at first, but then moved to Highway Hill, which back then was a small farm, about 12 acres. My dad built a house at Treskinnick Cross two doors away from grandfather, just before the First World War. It was called 'Seaview' and it's still there now, the last house in what's now a cul de sac. It used to be the main road going right through. Father was able to build then with very little re-



strictions. When Father came back from the war, grandfather was getting on, and the farm was getting too much for him. So they changed places and dad moved into Highway with the family. I was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1929, the last of 8 children. I grew up on the farm there and walked 2 ½ miles to the old Jacobstow School. We kept our contact with Poundstock. Every Christmas the family used to walk out to Treskinnick Cross. On Boxing Day we used to go to the Christmas party there at the school or the Parish Hall. Sometimes we had tea with my sister, who lived in the house that Dad built. After it was all over we used to walk back home at midnight or past. We counted all the stars. That's one thing I miss now. Back then there was no electric light anywhere, so you could see all the stars.

What was it like growing up on the farm?

I had many happy years. We had 2 or 3 cows, then Dad would sell off a cow and a calf. We used to keep a couple of pigs, and a local butcher from Poundstock would come in and kill the pigs, and we'd store so much away for the winter. Mother used to keep a few hens, and we'd rear the young calves that came along and sell them at the market. That brought in a bit of living, as well as Dad going out and doing a bit of masonry work for the farmers. We would do the milking by hand and feed the calves. We'd trim the hedges by hand with a grass hook and all that sort of general work. We had no machinery, so we'd get other farmers in to cut the hay and so on. It was a wonderful life, we were very happy.

The old cottage was really dilapidated: an old slate roof and cob walls, tiny windows. In 1939 my Dad got a grant, and with my brothers practically rebuilt the cottage to what it's like today. *You were growing up here during the war years. Did that have much effect on you?* 

You knew it was going on, but didn't realise the seriousness of it. Dad helped build Cleave Camp at Morwenstow and the airfield at Davidstow. He went from earning £3 a week doing jobs locally, to getting £7 a week straight away, and being taken by bus to Davidstow. So, he was in clover. He took me with him one day and I saw the American Flying Fortresses coming in to land.

At Cleave Camp British troops were training to be Akak gunners. We used to see them marching past Highway Hill going from Morwenstow to Bodmin. When they came back, they weren't in the same order, mostly stragglers!

When the Americans came over there were hundreds of them. We used to see them all over. One day we saw one in a Jeep at Bangors, and he took us for a ride into Bude and back. It was exciting for us youngsters. They had dances in Bude. They used to bring girls in by bus from all over. I wasn't much of a dancer, but we used to congregate around the dance hall.

When did you leave your home on the farm?

When I did my National Service, I had to go by train to Exeter for the medical. Big job, that! I'd never been out of Cornwall till then. When I came back I worked on building the council houses at Bangors and Dad retired and moved into one of the bungalows there. Then in 1953 Janet came to Poundstock to teach. There was great excitement, when we heard there was a new girl coming and as luck would have it she lodged at Bangors where I was also lodging with my parents. I arranged to take her out to the pictures. I remember all the neighbours looking out to see us go off. So it was almost an arranged marriage!

#### NEATE FEET



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#### A POTTED HISTORY OF WIDEMOUTH BAY BEACH HUTS

The beach huts are privately owned. I bought mine in 1987 at a cost of £1,250. We have to pay £323.82 per annum for rates. Nobody can give me an answer as to why we pay this.

We also have to pay £53.10 general rates. I have been given to understand that this is for the use of the toilets! £376.29 for what is virtually a garden shed 8ftx 8ft on a sandbank!

My friend acquired her hut in 1967. I understand they were in existence long before that, but I cannot confirm a date. They were originally on the west bank of the car park, facing west and the sea. They had their own car parking area immediately behind the huts, with an official noticeboard stating 'Hut Parking Only'. This remained in place until I asked for it to be repositioned to the front of our huts. It was immediately moved and not replaced.

Because of beach erosion the huts were moved to their present site around 1970–2. There were at least three additional huts then covered by sand, and also a very large hut nearest the sea, which I believe belonged to the Life Saving Club. Unfortunately this was blown down by the gales of 1987 and not replaced. We used to have life saving practice every Tuesday evening on the beach.

The huts are a distinguishing, historical feature of the beach and bay and have brought untold pleasure to many people. Nursing mothers found them particularly useful. The flora growing in front of the huts was both beautiful and educational.

We are now experiencing great difficulty with sand being blown up from the beach. This is due to reconstruction of the beach. Two large concrete gun-posts were removed and this allows the sand to be blown straight off the beach on to the huts and road. This problem has only arisen since 2008. Last summer it took four people four days to get to the door of our hut to open it. The hut was buried to the apex of the roof. Not a good start to a holiday.

A move is afoot to dispose of the huts in order to make a sand dune. This seems foolhardy, when you consider that the council receive £1,884.60 from five huts for absolutely no services whatsoever! I hope you will help fight to keep this unique, historic corner of Widemouth Bay safe for the future. *Vera Davies* 

(This was written in response to a note in the Widemouth Residents' Forum Report in our last issue (no. 41) declaring the huts a hazard and ownership difficult to establish. Ed.)

#### Public rights of way – a boring title which hides a labyrinth of complex legislation

The 1948 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act established, among other things, a network of bridleways, cart tracks and footpaths (the thing alongside some roads is a 'footway'!). Changes in legislation and periodic reviews have seen modifications to the extent and status of these public rights of way and we are approaching the end of this updating.

The Parish Council was delegated the responsibility for keeping these ways open although it falls to the landowners not to interfere with them to 'injurious effect'. There are several issues relating to PRoW designation in the parish and these are currently in hand.

One aspect of the Parish Plan is to promote the better use of footpaths and clearer identification is one means of doing this. Some paths have a recognised name, such as the Coast Path; others have acquired local names, such as Old Leverlake Road, but there must be many which have names known only to a few of our most longstanding residents. It is these which we would like to record for posterity, although polite suggestions for other paths will be considered.

Now's your chance! Anything you come up with can either be sent to the Parish Clerk, Trevoulter Barton, Poundstock, Bude, EX23 ODH, or pushed through the Parish Hall letterbox. Thank you.

Rupert Powell, Parish Councillor

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1st Sunday 9.45 Holy Communion		23 Satterly			
2nd Sunday 11.00 Family Worship	Contact: Audrey Wickett	30 Stacey			
<ul><li>3rd Sunday</li><li>9.45 Holy Communion</li><li>4th Sunday</li><li>9.45 Morning Prayer (1662)</li></ul>					
2 April2.00 Good Friday service4 April11.00 Easter Communion	Bangors Chapel/ St. Winwaloe United service on 11th April will not now take place as the Methodist Chair of District is visiting to take a Bude circuit ser- vice followed by lunch and discussion in the afternoon. Our United Service on 9th May will take place as planned at St. Winwaloe.				

**CHURCHFS** 

9

#### WHAT EASTER BRINGS

Suddenly, our garden is full of spring flowers. Days are longer, hearts lift, and life is there to be lived. After winter the passion for life is rekindled in my heart!

But another sort of Passion is in my mind too: that of Christ's Cross, and of all the tragedy and suffering that mars our lives, natural disasters and the inhumanity of man to man alike.

And that for me raises the big question of life. Will beauty, hope, love and justice have the last word? Are they the deep-down truth of things?

Easter comes for me as a sign and a demonstration that behind the processes of nature and evolution (which are scientific fact) there is also a purpose (which is spiritual truth). And both are true. Like the spring bulbs breaking through the ground cover in my dad's back garden, the power of God for life and good will not in the end be gainsaid. Co-operation as well as competition is at work, sacrifice as well as success. And at the end of our lives and at the end of the story of life, all will be well, and all manner of things will be well. God's pattern will become clear.

So at Easter we remember how, once only and once for all, the purpose of heaven intersected decisively with the processes of earth in a unique way.

By God's power a life beyond death was revealed to us, and by that same power we are – if we will – being raised to life in all its fullness ourselves, even now.

Once again, people young and old are choosing to open themselves up to that great power for good. Once again Easter brings its invitation to you and to me to join the resurrection song of Christ and share the work of bringing life to the world. And that is why I can wish all of you a really wonderful Easter, not just with the happiness of happenstance, but with the joy of Christ. *Rev. Neal Street* 





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#### ... and the National Trust

We have again been working with the National Trust to support learning. This time the topic was 'The Earth and Space' and the work took place on the beach at Crackington Haven as the Y4/5/6 children investigated the tides. It was a very chilly afternoon but successful, and again a valuable collaboration between the school and the National Trust – a huge thanks to the Trust and their staff and volunteers for all their hard work.



#### ... and the Sky at Night

We have also been exploring space with a visit from a mobile planetarium. It caused great excitement as a huge grey bubble was blown up in the school hall; there was great speculation as to what it was and more importantly who would be doing something with it! Eventually all was revealed with the children from Blue and Green bases having an hour workshop in the bubble looking at the night sky and linking it to their topic work on both the Earth and Space, and the Greeks. You could hear a pin drop as the children were spellbound by the secrets of our universe. Fantastic!

Can you work out what these strange sentences are about? My Very Energetic Mother Just Served Up Nine Pizzas Many Vast Elephants Munch Jam Sandwiches Until Nearly Popping Here's a clue: My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming Planets (The answer's below) Know any more good ways of remembering things? Let us know and we'll print them here.



They are all ways to help you remember the order of the planets from the sun. The first letter of each word is the reminder: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and poor old Pluto, which isn't officially a planet any more.

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#### Upstairs, Downstairs

*The Story of Poundstock Church and Parish*, by the Revd J.G. Edwards, tells us the population of the parish fell as low as 423 in 1911. He gives a number of factors that influenced the declining population of North Cornwall. From the end of the Napoleonic Wars and on, there was less demand for farm products, and there was no alternative work such as mining and fishing that existed further down in Cornwall. This, and the fact that farm labourers were paid about 7 shillings a week for another half-century, resulted in people leaving for more prosperous areas. The more adventurous emigrated overseas, particularly to Canada and the USA.

My uncle, Joe Greenwood of Treskinnick Cross, emigrated to Canada just before World War I. Soon after the war he sent photos home of his family seated in his large touring car. His mother and brothers in Treskinnick Cross were still getting around with their old horse and trap. This inspired another brother to go to London, where he became a waiter in a fashionable restaurant. His photo in his waiter's outfit was very impressive.

Those who chose to stay in the district sometimes had to resort to going 'on the parish' for meagre funds to maintain the family. In extreme cases there was always the workhouse where the destitute were maintained on 2s 6d a week, paid by the parish. Local workhouses existed in Stratton and in Camelford. Men who did not want to stay would check out of Stratton in the morning and walk to Camelford by evening, where there



would be shelter and food. These poor travellers supposedly put secret signs in the hedges to indicate cottages or farms that were good for a hand-out as they went on their weary way.

Poundstock school records have a column which notes reasons for leaving. Before higher education became available, most children left by the time they reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Reasons for leaving were usually given as farm work or helping at home. The brighter children went into service work. Girls became dairymaids, kitchen maids, housemaids, etc. Boys at the big houses would become gardeners, house servants, stable boys or even coachmen as they grew older.

My mother left Poundstock School about 1910, and in the remarks column it noted that she would work at home. After a while she went to work as an upstairs maid for a Miss Astley, who lived in a house called Curry Haven overlooking Wanson Mouth. Miss Astley's brother lived there also. He was a retired Indian Army officer with a taste for Indian food (hence the name of the house, I expect).

My mother thought Curry Haven was wonderful after living with her large family in a small cottage at Treskinnick Cross. At Curry Haven she had a room of her own, a nice uniform and three meals a day.



She had Saturday afternoons off and was expected to attend church with the Astley family every Sunday. She saved her little weekly wage and bought a bicycle, which enlarged her world. Her newfound mobility was addressed by some of the entries in her autograph book. One went as follows: 'Dashing down the country lanes, Like a streak of lightning, Scaring little ducks and hens, Little children frightening, Sweet and pretty you may be, You're very much too fast for me.'

Every Thursday afternoon Miss Asley was 'at home' for those with whom she socialized. The staff were required to be on duty for the guests on 'at home' days regardless of their normal household work. Those early years working for Miss Astley determined my mother's future political preference. She leaned toward Conservatism.

The division of the classes was the theme of the ITV production of *Upstairs, Downstairs* some years ago. It showed a cross-section of the society that existed at the time. No matter how bizarre the behavior of the high-class people upstairs, the downstairs staff was warned by Hudson, the butler, not to question the activities of 'our betters'. The third verse of the old Victorian hymn 'All things bright and beautiful' is as follows 'The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, He made them high and lowly and ordered their estate.' No doubt the hymn helped the upper classes feel good about their position in the society of the day. The verse has been omitted in some of the new hymnbook editions. Too undemocratic for today, perhaps.

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14

#### Wild About Poundstock – All Aflutter about Spring

Second half of March and still very few primroses, but they are coming, and so are several other traditional signs of spring. Most of us can remember when this would be considered a normal year. We used to bring daffodils to Mothering Sunday services but of course, the date of that feast is based on Easter, which varies over a month as to its date. This year it is quite early, but even so I'm sure there will be plenty of primroses and daffodils by then. Certainly the wild ones in the churchyard are starting to give a good show. By the time you read this they should be looking really good, so do make a visit.

By recent standards, the number of butterflies reported is very few. Not a surprise considering the frosts that we've had, but a few have been reported. Most surprising was a peacock butterfly seen in our valley by friends staying with us the second week in February. Another surprise was a peacock flying in church last week, despite the coldness of the air. I've heard of one or two red admirals as well. These of course are species that overwinter as adults and are often reported early in the year when there is a warm day.

When we do get a good warm spell with some sunshine, the more usual spring butterflies will appear. Along woodland rides and sheltered hedgerows the lovely lemon yellow brimstone butterfly will be on the wing. As one of our larger butterflies it is quite easy to spot. This one often overwinters in thick ivy on trees. The caterpillar's food plant is a rather insignificant little shrub called alder buckthorn. Not a common plant in Cornwall but most commonly found in damp woods and hedgerows in east Cornwall, and we have those!

Others to look out for are the readily identifiable orange tip. This is most likely to be seen along hedgerows or damp fields where the foodplant is found, cuckoo flower, or ladies' smock. The female orange tip has no orange and can be confused with the green-veined white. This has rich green veins on the underwing, while the female orange tip has a mottled underwing. Both will also use hedge garlic to lay eggs as the caterpillar will feed on this too.

Enjoy the spring when it arrives, won't be long now.

Tim Dingle

#### **Spring Farming Report**

The grass is ris' and the lambs be 'ere. Now's the time for some good cheer!

Or at least it would be if it was a bit warmer and the grass had started rising. The temperature has to be up towards ten degrees for the grass to begin growing and this spring has been a bit late with the warming up, especially at night. However it's an ill wind that blows no good and I've noticed several farmers taking advantage of this dry bright weather to get some dung spread on the fields, which means that when things do begin growing, the nutrients will be there ready. The birds haven't waited for the warmth either, some are busy building nests already and the woodpecker round here has been hammering non-stop. Any one would think he's building a log cabin instead of seeking grubs that have overwintered under the bark of rotten branches.



In our area there has been a steady rise over the last few years in liver fluke, these are parasites that, as the name suggests, make their way to the animal's liver and burrow in. Both cattle and sheep are affected and, unlike with worms, they don't build up any natural resistance. The fluke are rising in numbers because of the wetter summers we seem to have now. They spend part of their life cycle in mud snails that live in wet places in fields and around rushes etc. Fluke can and do kill and their control, through drenches, is an important part of the shepherd's work.

Many people have been lambing, although some are still to start, and most farmers would say that the lamb crop this spring has been very good, probably due to the abundance of autumn grazing when the rams went in last year. It's always good to see the lambs in the fields gambolling about without a care in the world, makes you feel good to be alive, don't it.

As you know the lambs nowadays have their tails removed when young. Actually an elastic band is put around the tail shortly after birth and within three weeks the tail drops off. In Grandma's day they used to eat lambs' tails.

Here's a recipe, but I can't say I've tried it!



#### Lamb Tail Pie

Clean lambs' tails by scalding and scraping then wash in salted water. Boil for half an hour in enough water to cover. Transfer to a pie dish and add streaky bacon, sliced hard boiled eggs, salt, pepper and parsley and a little of the boiling liquor.

Cover the pie with a pastry crust and bake in a moderate oven until cooked.

Sheepish farmer

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#### Camels at Poundstock Gildhouse?

Dr Jo Mattingly recently gave a fascinating and informative talk and slide show at Poundstock Tudor Gildhouse .The talk was based on the research Dr Mattingly has undertaken into the history and use of church houses throughout the country and especially on Poundstock Gildhouse . Much of her information has come from Medieval manuscripts from sources as diverse as the Bodleian Library and Poughill and Stratton churches as well as pictures and carvings from the period. We now know that these buildings were erected to host 'ales' in order to raise money for the church .

An ale was held on most of the main festival days in the church calendar and much feasting and fun



went on. The main ale took place at Whitsun and carried on for a week with neighbouring parishes visiting each other adding to the festivities. From bench end carvings found in local churches it can be seen that music was played on instruments similar to Northumbrian pipes and dances included swords and bells similar to Morris dances . Much of the entertainment was provided by the 'Egyptians', or gypsies who travelled the country and often performed in the church houses. They brought animals with them including dancing bears and one bench end even shows a camel so it is not beyond the realms of possibility that a camel may have been housed in the Gildhouse!!

We may not brew in the Gildhouse now as they once did but baking and feasting still goes on both for the church and for individuals at events such as birthday celebrations and wedding receptions. Receptions have proved to be very popular especially with people wanting a smaller more intimate and interesting setting. They are also following an ancient tradition of Brides' Ales that started when the building was erected 450 years ago.

Thanks to Dr Jo Mattingly, we now have a much deeper insight to the past of our beautiful building and the thrill of knowing that we are carrying on some

of these wonderful old traditions. I'm not sure if we'll ever see another dancing bear or camel here though!!

Talks however do go on and the next will be by local man Ross Hoddinott, 2009 winner of BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year. This will be on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in the Gildhouse. *Sandy Dingle* 

#### The weather report

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

	February		March (to 29th)					
Wettest day	11.4 mm	(16th)	6.6 mm	(19th)				
Total rain	61.0 mm		40.6 mm					
Days of rain (>1 mm)	15		11					
Highest temp	11.3 ⁰C	(6th 13.30)	14.4 °C	(21st 14.10)				
Lowest temp	-5.8 ⁰C	(11th 07.10)	-4.8 °C	(5th 06.50)				
Max wind gust	35 mph	(26th 08.20)	30 mph	(22nd 09.10)				
Windiest day	10.7 mph	(26th)	6.6 mph	(20th)				
Total sunshine hours	83.7 hrs		137.0 hrs					
Sunniest day	6.0 hrs	(17th)	9.3 hrs	(11th)				
No wonder there isn't much green grass around for the farmers, March has been unseasonably cold								
and dry. The first 17 days of the month saw no appreciable rain and there was a frost on 16 of those								
days. Comparing this with the Met Office averages shows that this March we have had about half the								

#### Graham the postman

usual rain and five times the number of days of frost.

Graham, our much-loved postman, retired recently. His kindness and helpfulness were greatly appreciated throughout the parish. Mrs Ann Going organised a collection for his retirement and would like to pass on his sincere thanks to everyone for the gift, and for their goodwill wishes. We miss him very much and hope to see him around the area!

Graham Jones



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#### Message from our local MP

Parliament is now very much in election mode, and as I send this article to press, everyone is preparing to hear what will be in Alistair Darling's final budget.

Vince Cable and Nick Clegg will be calling for the changes I've so often mentioned in these articles. We'd make the tax system fairer and revive our shattered economy, from the bottom up – based on constructing new infrastructure, not betting again on failed banks.

Meanwhile, the announcement of 'Easter Recess' dates in Parliament suggests that polling day for the General Election will now almost certainly be on 6 May. I anticipate that this Parliament will end around

about 8 April, once all of the outstanding legislation has been dealt with in what they call the 'wash-up' – essentially an opportunity to speed up the passage of law on which there is agreement, and to end the passage of law on which there isn't. With the permission of the editors, I'll certainly keep you updated throughout April as well, and – if I am returned as local MP – of course I'll continue my contributions to the *Poundstock Packet*.

I plan a pretty hectic campaign schedule, as you would imagine, similar to the summer tours I do each year, making sure I get to every community in the constituency and talk to as many people as possible. I've always seen my job as listening to local people, and then speaking up for everyone in our area when I get to Westminster. Those who know me know that I don't go in for all the jeering and braying – the one-upmanship – of the House of Commons chamber, but if I am returned I will continue as I have until now, campaigning on the things that people tell me matter here, and that I know matter because I grew up in the area.

Before Parliament comes to an end, I've been drawn in the ballot for a 'ten-minute rule Bill'. It's an opportunity to propose a new piece of legislation, by making a ten-minute speech in Parliament about it; then there is the opportunity for someone to speak for ten minutes in opposition to it. I am drawing up the details this week, but the issue I'm going to speak on is second homes. Time and again as I meet people around the constituency, this is the number one issue. It's not an animosity to people coming in from outside – after all, much of the Cornish economy relies on tourism – but a real aversion to the idea that while thousands of people in Cornwall are without a home, some people buy houses and keep them empty. As I've said so often, doing so doesn't just mean lovely family houses lie empty when they should be filled, but that village schools, shops and pubs begin to wither away, and soon we're left with not much but a collection of houses instead of communities.

As regular readers know, both the government and the Conservatives have stood in my way before when I've made the case for proper planning controls to sort the problem out, but that won't stop me making the case again! I simply will not be told that this difficulty for our area is not important enough for government to make a serious effort at sorting it out. I'll report back on the response I get in the Commons.

Meanwhile, I very much hope to see you in the coming weeks. Dan Rogerson MP

4 Tower Street, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8BQ, contact@danrogerson.org - 01566 777123

#### **Councillor's report**

#### **Children Services**

The audit commission has announced the interim result of an audit which has been running since the autumn. Children Services 14–19 is the first result of the audits running this year. I am very pleased to report that the audit, for this one part of the service, is reported as 'good'. This result reflects the hard work done by everyone in Children Services over the last nine months but especially by Sally Bain, the Portfolio holder of Children Services. Sally has been committed to turning around the bad news which has been blighting the service over the last few years. I mentioned this audit because, while the media report bad results, I could find no mention of this result in the local newspapers.

#### **Road safety and CDRP**

Deaths and serious injuries on Cornish roads have reduced by 40 per cent over the last year, although it isn't time to celebrate yet: there were still 196 people killed or seriously injured over this period. This is a problem caused predominantly by a very few. Some 15 per cent of the community exceed the speed limit as a matter of course. They often exceed the limit to an extent of more than half again. Instead of travelling at 40 they travel at 60. Instead of 30 they travel exceeding 45. A large percentage of the deaths on our roads involve at least one vehicle exceeding the set limit. This action of speeding is now less socially acceptable than ever before The Crime Detection and Reduction Partnership (CDRP), of which I am a member, are being much more proactive in addressing the problem of these speeding vehicles, obviously in addition to the other work being done regarding, for example, antisocial behavour and illegal drugs in the community.

I am setting up a pilot scheme in the Bude area where the Police, Highways, Fire Service and Council meet regularly to review all road accidents, rather than just serious ones, and discuss the factors causing each accident. I would reiterate though that the speed of the vehicle often plays a major role.

#### Smoke alarms

Please test your alarm and If you don't have a working smoke alarm, contact me urgently.

If you have any issues which you feel are not being addressed properly or which you need help with then please don't hesitate to give me a call.

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#### MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 (unconfirmed extracts)

A meeting of the parish council was held in the parish hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 at 7.30 p.m Cllr C Gilbert was in the chair, also present were Cllrs P.J. Marshall, W.G. Rowland, R. Powell, B.W. Furse, Cornwall Councillor Mr. P. Tucker and the Clerk. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Miss A.R. Rowland, G.W.J. Pluess, R.S. Hopper and W.K. Stacey. Cllr. G.N. Orchard was absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The chairman suspended the meeting for a 10-minute period giving members of the public an opportunity to address the council whereby concern was expressed about obstruction to the highway at Treskinnick Cross, following which the chairman reconvened the meeting.

REPORTS - (i) Cornwall Councillor Mr. P. Tucker – The written report stated that a 2.9% increase in the budget for the following year has been agreed. Cllr. Tucker is involved in the improvement of the Fire Service, he has received assistance in writing their Integrated Risk Management Plan, which covers every aspect of the Fire Service, and was chosen to represent the Improvement Group to answer questions put by other senior staff members from excellent Fire Services. 50% of homes in Cornwall are without working smoke alarms. (ii) Cllr. R. Powell – Reported on the meeting held at Jacobstow by Cllr. Tucker convened to bring local parishes together to discuss matters of concern. The next meeting will be held in two months at Week St Mary.

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT (i) Architects Update – Mr. Martin Bach of The Bazeley Partnership addressed the meeting giving a detailed breakdown of the Quantity Surveyor's Preliminary Cost Report based on the current scheme proposals in two phases. Phase A - Construction of new entrance and extension containing committee room, office and WC (2009/01488 as approved 21/12/09). Phase B – Rebuilding of western elevation and rebuilding of existing lean-to's with larger footprint (2009/01487 as approved 21/12/09). Various options and costs were explored at great length whereby Mr. Bach advised the council of possible vat implications in respect of the current proposals which would oblige the council to use approved contractors, he added that a new build would be vat zero rated and open the path to public participation and a greater scope of building contractors. (ii) Recommendations – It was proposed by ClIr. P.J. Marshall seconded by ClIr. W.G. Rowland and resolved to instruct the architects, using the initial brief, to explore the new build route giving consideration to additional new facilities and spaces in a conventional build. ClIr. P.J. Marshall thanked Mr. Martin Bach for attending the meeting and explaining the options.

HIGHWAYS – (i) HSE Highway Ditch Maintenance – This matter and the problem of surface water crossing the A39 above Swelle Cottages are being investigated by ClIr. Tucker. (ii) Marine Drive at Black Rock – Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 received from Highways Services was read whereby in discussion with the Legal Department it is the intention of the Highways Service to arrange a site meeting to look at the concerns, suggested dates will be given in due course. Members questioned what highway rights have been reserved following development on the highway verge and Stopping-up of the highway verge was discussed, it was noted that if pursued there should to be strict consultation between Cornwall Council and the Parish Council. (iii) Treskinnick Cross Road Closure - Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 received from Highways Services was read whereby Cornwall Council see no need to formalise measures with a Legal Order. The inadequate turning facility and therefore as a direct consequence the length of road vehicles must reverse pressed members to question under what legislation was the road closed.

CHURCHYARD – Proposals for Churchyard Maintenance – After due consideration and consultation it was proposed by ClIr R. Powell seconded by P.J. Marshall and resolved that current arrangements for the maintenance as undertaken by the Parish Council should remain in place. The new church car park was suggested as a more viable option for new management due to its size and aspect. Vehicular Access Gate - Costs and options for the repair/replacement of the gate were discussed.

WIDEMOUTH BAY CONSULTATION – Widemouth North Section – Consultation meeting was held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 at the Summerhouse attended by the Chairman and Cllr. R. Powell. Cllrs were surprised at the lack of prior consultation in view of the long history of the site with which the parish council has been associated. After discussion it was felt that planning permission for additional vehicle parking should not be given if permitted development does not apply and the car park toilet facilities need to be refurbished and maintained regularly. Whilst acknowledging the hard work put in by staff and the Cornwall Councillor, members would welcome the opportunity to discuss the details of the proposals because of their controversial nature. PROW – (i) Sand Road – It was agreed to contact Cornwall Council for clarification on the dual status. (ii) Green Lane – It was agreed to contact Cornwall Council for an explanation on the position for people using the route.

ACCOUNTS – (i) Financial Report. (ii) Payments received to date: Confirmation of payment by BACS from Cornwall Council PROW Maintenance £880.00. Payment of accounts received to date: South West Water £8.56 reference Parish Hall, South West Water £6.78 reference Burial Ground, EDF Energy £52.14 reference Parish Hall, Cllr P.J. Marshall proposed payment Cllr. W.G. Rowland seconded. The Bazeley Partnership Invoice 03 for the amount of £677.82, Cllr R. Powell proposed payment, Cllr. W.G. Rowland seconded. Smerdon and Jones Limited for the preparation and cost estimate and report regarding the Parish Hall Development Invoice 979 for the amount of £587.50, Cllr W.G. Rowland proposed payment, Cllr P.J. Marshall seconded. (v) PLANNING DECISIONS – 2009/01656 Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new replacement dwelling at Spindleberry, Widemouth Bay for Mr. Martin Reed – Cornwall Council Decision – Approved. 2009/01666 Variation to existing consent 2008/01444 for demolition of existing detached single storey coach house and erection of new Coach House namely change in material finish to the path around the proposed Coach House - Cornwall Council Decision – Approved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – 2010/00067 – Decking, patio doors and chimney additions at 9 Atlantic Close, Widemouth Bay for Mr. J. Pearson – No objection.

#### POUNDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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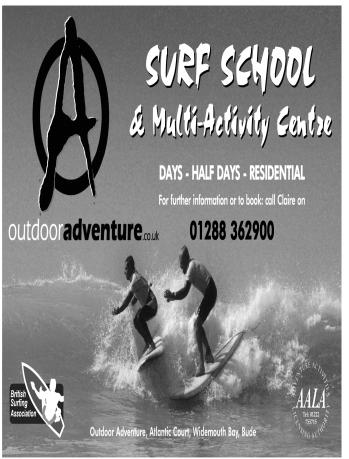
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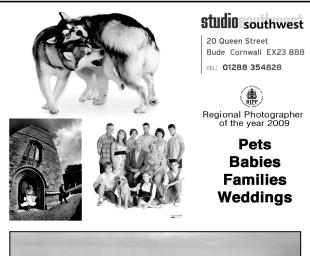
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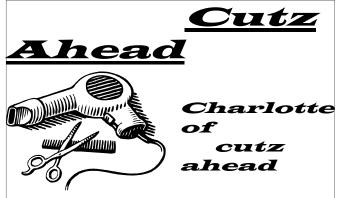


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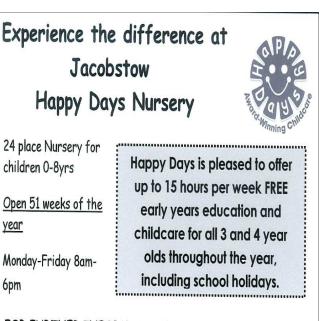
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