



THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET

KERNOW BYS VYKEN !



Ross at the Gildhouse

While the rest of us are still tucked up in bed, local photographer Ross Hoddinott is frequently out and about, flat on his face in the grass and up to his elbows in mud. The results are pictures like this beautiful study of a damselfly, which won Ross the title of Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009.

In a recent talk at the Gildhouse, Ross explained that he has always had a passion for wildlife, particularly insects. After being given his first camera at the age of ten, he developed an equal passion for photography and is now one of our most successful wildlife photographers, specialising in mini-beasts and winning many awards.

Ross, who lives near Tamar Lakes, is also famous for his pictures of the beautiful landscapes of the South West, like this view of the Bude breakwater, below. But there's no escaping the early mornings: the light is at its best then, he says.

A rapt audience was treated to a feast of Ross's pictures and went home inspired to get up early and go out with their own cameras.



The photo below was supplied by Bud Abbott, whose great grandfather x 6 restored this mill at St. Keverne in 1799. **See Interview p.15**



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No. 43 June/July 2010

JUNE

- 2 Garden open in aid of Church Heating Fund, Southfield (and every Wednesday in June, July and August), 10–4
 4 Widemouth Bay Gardening Club 2pm Summerhouse
 9 Coffee morning and garden open in aid of Church Heating Fund, Southfield, 10–4
 10-12 Royal Cornwall Show
 11 Art/Craft Chat Widemouth Bay Summerhouse 2pm
 18 Bude Community Cinema, *Alice in Wonderland* (PG), 7.30pm
 19 Widemouth Bay Community BBQ, Summerhouse 6pm
 22 Coffee Morning at Bangors Chapel for *Packet* funds 10am
 25 The Panama Canal and beyond—Guy Rowland, Widemouth Bay Summerhouse 2pm

JULY

- 2 Bude Community Cinema, *Up in the Air* (15), 7.30pm
 3-4 Southfield and the Barn House gardens open 10–4 for NGS
 9 Art & Craft, Widemouth Bay Summerhouse 2pm
 14 Explore and talk about Poundstock Churchyard 7.30pm
 23 Quick Croquet & Cream Tea, WB Summerhouse 2pm
 30 St Gennys and District Horticultural Society Exhibition

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
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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)

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Meetings

8 June 2010 "THE LIFE & LOVES OF A
 STORE DETECTIVE" by **Julie Turner**

13 July 2010 "RESTORATION OF WINSFORD
 WALLED GARDEN" by **Michael Gilmore**

JACOBSTOW WI

Meetings

3rd June Clive Hayes (of Wispas)

TALK ABOUT CHOCOLATE

8th July Mrs. M. Wood

TALK ON CALLIGRAPHY

Other Events

June 3rd National AGM

July 15th President's evening

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SPRINGTIME RENEWAL

At this time each year, we need to find advertisers to support us for the next 12 months, and the size of your magazine will always depend on how much success we have. Each page of advertisements funds roughly one page of articles or information. We are greatly indebted to Jen Spettigue, who has spent several weeks, tirelessly pursuing and persuading in her own special way, to secure enough advertisements to guarantee our viability for another year. Many thanks to some 55 advertisers, who succumbed and thus enabled our renewal.

You, too can help us, not just stay afloat, but also improve your magazine and its website. Come along and support our Coffee Morning (see below), we'd love to see you there.

As happens quite frequently, we received much more material than we have space for.

However, you can now view items, that didn't make it into print, on our website.



Dudley Moore

At the Gildhouse

Wednesday 14 July at 7.30

**Ann Hicks from the Cornwall Family History Society
Talk on Churchyard Memorials and Family History**

including a wander through the churchyard looking at the many Poundstock graves and memorials

**In aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care
Afternoon tea party**

at Manaton, Wainhouse Corner

Thursday 1 July, 3-5 pm

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**ST GENNYS & DISTRICT
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Friday 30th July 2010
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By Mr. J.H. Gliddon



The 2010 Lent lunches

Just a note to tell you we sent £1,750 to Stratton Hospital League of Friends. Many thanks to ALL who supported us again this year, and to Barclays Bank for match-funding. I look forward to seeing you all next year at the 2011 Lent lunches.

Jen Spettigue

SUPPORT YOUR PACKET

We will hold a

COFFEE MORNING

On Tuesday 22nd June 10am

At Bangors Chapel Hall

to raise funds for *The Poundstock Packet*.
We finance your magazine mainly through proceeds from advertising, and with the help of volunteers continue to provide copies to all parish households free of charge. Additional fundraising helps us to maintain this policy and update equipment from time to time.

Please support this event, if you can.

We look forward to seeing you

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The village branch of the Women's Institute meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Methodist School Room on Pinch Hill and would like to extend a warm welcome to new members. Our meetings often include an outside speaker and, at the next meeting on 8th June, an ex-store detective will entertain us with her career experiences. Our 2010 programme also includes speakers on the Bayeux Tapestry, life as a vet, beekeeping and cheese making. We also make occasional trips and, for example, in August we will visit the Winsford Walled Garden near Halwill to follow up on our July speaker who is to tell us the story of its restoration. Why not come along to our next meeting to be entertained and make new friends? For further information on WI membership and our programme please contact our secretary, Brenda Marynissen, on 01288 353940.

Jacobstow WI

I'm writing to say a big thank-you to Pat Moore for taking the names on our Jacobstow WI trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan. We had an enjoyable time, arriving at Heligan for coffee and with several hours to explore. What a wonderful month May is to view the array of trees, flowers and wildlife. Then going on to Veryan, where the church, school and parish hall are central to the village. The WI ladies gave all 46 of us a grand afternoon tea and a short history of the village. Also thanks to Ken West for driving us on many a road we had not been on before, making it a most enjoyable trip home. Thanks, Tilley's.

Jen Spettigue

Wild About Poundstock Aliens and Natives

The primroses are starting to fade and disappear into the taller plants coming on. They really have put on a wonderful show this year and of course lasted a long time with the cold weather. Walking through the woods at Millook the other day it was exhilarating to see the yellow all up the slopes under the trees. But now, you can't help but notice that the hedge banks along the roads around the parish are bright green with taller plants. It won't be long before it is all cut off probably, but in the meantime we get a wonderful splash of colour after the primroses.

The main plant is Alexanders, a member of the Umbellifers, the hogweed and cow parsley family. Its old name was Parsley of Alexandria and is believed to have been brought by the Romans. Many 'Mediterranean' plants that we have in the wild today are blamed on the Romans but in this occasion it could well be true. The fresh growth was used as a pot vegetable, tasting of celery. Apparently this ended when true celery was introduced as vegetable in the 16th century. This seems rather strange as celery is a true native plant. It grows in the marshes in Bude. The black seeds of Alexanders can be added to soups and casseroles.

Another bright green along the lanes is Golden Saxifrage. This is a low mat-forming plant of damp and shady areas. A true saxifrage, it really does glow golden and brightens up many a shady corner along the lanes and woods. It will soon lose its colour and become insignificant.

Last time I mentioned the flowers in the churchyard. I'd like to be able to encourage you to go and enjoy the next group coming through. A week or two ago the blue of the bugle and speedwell was beginning to carpet some areas but they are being mown off now. Such a shame.

Tim Dingle

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Widemouth Bay Gardening Club

The first meeting of the prospective Widemouth Bay Gardening Club was held on a beautiful sunny afternoon, just right for getting into the gardening mood. There were about a dozen people in attendance in the summerhouse next to the church. There was a brief presentation by Ann Morris in which she outlined the different gardens that she has created over the years. We can all see her present one as we pass Leverlake Cottage which is much admired by locals and holidaymakers alike.

Over a cup of tea we had an open discussion with questions and tips about our gardening problems sharing our solutions to gardening in the local conditions. We finished with a small plant sale.

Please come along and spend an hour with like-minded folk and see what grows out of it. We have agreed to meet monthly to see how things go and would very much welcome interested gardeners who can share with us their experience. We have a number of ideas which include plant and produce sales, seed swaps and garden visits.

Next meeting Friday June 4th at 2pm in the Widemouth Summerhouse.

WIDEMOUTH BAY RESIDENTS' GROUP

The Residents' Group met at the Summerhouse on May 19th. Neil Hembrow from Tidy Britain came along to tell us about the beach cleaning plans and to recruit some volunteers to survey the beach on a monthly basis. This data is then used by them to campaign on local issues and bring attention to specific litter problems. If anyone else would like to help with this task, which only takes about 30 minutes every month, please contact me, Nicky Vereker (361530), and I can explain more.

We are going to hold the annual Community Barbeque on Saturday June 19th at the Summerhouse, 6pm onwards. Anyone is welcome, tickets available from Rachel Roberts or me. £6 per ticket, and any profit will go to the Air Ambulance. Please come and along and perhaps meet some new fellow residents.

Our next meeting will be in September, date to be confirmed.

Nicky Vereker

SCILLY – A SPIRITUAL PLACE

"I used to be Prime Minister, you know." This was said by Harold Wilson to a son of one of the dozen or so people who came to hear Jean Corne's delightful talk "Scilly – A Spiritual Place" at the Church Summerhouse, Widemouth Bay, on Friday 14th May and was one of many reminiscences provoked by the tales of Jean's many years of visiting these very special islands.

Quite revealing was the scale of development which has taken place over the last twenty years: time-share accommodation on Tresco, a large restaurant within what appears to be a row of fisherman's cottages on St Martin's and the growth of traffic on St Mary's, but none of this detracting from the ability to find comfort and peace from a friendly community exposed to the vagaries of the climate both on sea and in the air. As an engineer, from a personal standpoint I was fascinated by the pictures of the gigantic helicopter which now serves the islands – such a difference from bumping over the grass at Land's End with the largest person behind the pilot!

Bryher featured as everyone's favourite island although with life of the centuries frozen in time on the now deserted Samson (what an experience to set foot on this mysterious site) and the many archaeological remains to be freely examined, Jean left us with a lasting impression of the solace sought by millennia visiting these islands on the edge of the world.

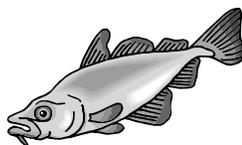
Rupert Powell

[Jean's reminiscences were just one of a series of talks and activities which take place at the Church Summerhouse on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. A Gardening Club holds its first regular meeting on the first Friday in June and on the first Fridays of each month thereafter. All are welcome to contribute to the development of what could become an invaluable asset to Poundstock and Widemouth Bay.]

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Wardens:

Peter Marfleet 01288 361233

Graham Jones 01288 361147

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2nd Sunday 11.00 Family Worship

3rd Sunday 9.45 Holy Communion

4th Sunday 9.45 Morning Prayer (1662)

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01288 352404

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June

6 Cleave

13 United service with PC at Bangors

20 Wilson (sacrament)

27 Preacher to be arranged

July

4 Hodges

11 United service at PC

18 Wood

25 Pearson

DIMMA METHODIST CHAPEL

Lay pastoral assistant: Brian Parkman 01840 212736

Contact: Audrey Wickett 01840 230268

LOOKING FORWARD—JUST A THOUGHT

As the Easter season draws to a close – Ascension Day, the day when our Lord was received into Heaven has just been celebrated – we look forward to Pentecost, a most important time in any church calendar; a time when we think of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem.

Pentecost, meaning ‘fiftieth’, is the name given, in the Jewish calendar, to the fiftieth day (seven weeks and one day) after their Passover. It is better known to the Jews as the ‘Feast of Weeks’, and it was their Harvest Festival. In the Book of Leviticus we can read of the instructions they received regarding the bringing of the first fruits of their produce, grain, lambs, calves and wine – harvest in its broadest sense – to the Temple to be offered to the Lord. We have only recently shared a service in Hallworthy Market to mark Rogation and ask blessings upon farmers, the work they do and the crops to come; which means that it won’t be long before our Harvest Festival will be upon us again. That is something else for us to look forward to!

For the moment we look forward to Pentecost, that time when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples who were gathered together in Jerusalem. What power it brought to them – it gave the tongue-tied Simon Peter a new voice and he preached the best sermon ever, during which he touched the hearts of many and we read that 3000 new converts joined them on that day. So Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the church, and we say “Happy birthday” church.

BUT! – It is not just about a birthday; it is about looking forward to the time when we have the opportunity to open our hearts to accept again and renew the spirit which is within each one of us. We can, each of us, do this if we choose – we can accept it and look forward to a year filled with the love and power that it brings.

That same spirit is at work here in Poundstock, in our community, and good it is to see and feel a wonderful sense of spirit amongst folk, working to make this place a happy community within which we all can share. So “Happy birthday” church and “Thank you” Holy Spirit!

Rev. G.

A small paragraph, a big thank-you

Sandy Dingle has just retired as churchwarden of St Winwaloe’s after many years of dedicated service. She has contributed enormously to the life of the church, and we are so glad that she will continue to be part of the congregation and the PCC. Thank you, Sandy, for everything: you have done a wonderful job and will be a very hard act for Graham to follow.

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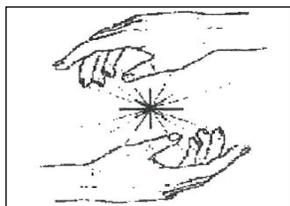


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The Jacobstow School Garden



Despite the chilly weather recently, the school garden is flourishing again with some tender loving care from children from all the classes.

We have broad beans, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, salads all looking healthy and we're look forward to cooking with them when we harvest them. The children love their Tuesday afternoons gardening under the watchful and expert eyes of Miss Haynes and Mrs Robinson. A chance to get muddy and learn in a very practical way about food, plants, healthy life styles and mud – skills for life.

Free seeds for all gardeners!

Jacobstow School have already planted their pumpkins but if you aren't so well organised, don't despair. Free pumpkin seeds are available at the Gildhouse, which is open every Wednesday from 10.00 to 4.00 throughout the summer. Visitors can admire the building's many features, have a guided tour, enjoy a free cuppa, and go home equipped to grow their own pumpkins for the Pumpkin Festival in October.

You may not reach the world record of 1,227 lb but maybe you can challenge last year's 49½ lb winner. It came from Devon, so come on, gardeners of Cornwall, start cultivating your champion pumpkins now!

This year's Craft Fair and Pumpkin Festival will be held over the weekend of 23–24 October, so if you get going now you have plenty of time to grow a whopper. More details and pumpkin seeds from Sandy Dingle (361356).

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Our Sky in June 2010

As we approach mid-summer, our skies, especially in the North, still show the faint glow of the Sun as it tracks just below the horizon, and occasionally lights up the Noctilucent clouds that exist 50 miles up in the tenuous atmosphere; these are a real treat to see, and can be distinguished from the lower Cirrus clouds which appear dark against the background since the Sun's rays do not reach them at 5 miles high.

You will have to wait until after sunset to see Venus still shining brilliantly in the West, accompanied by Mars and Saturn, both of which will be setting in the West at about midnight in the middle of the month. Jupiter rises in the East at about 0200, and is unmistakable as a bright, non-twinkling object, well worth studying with binoculars to see the 4 Galilean moons perform their nightly dance around the planet.

Vega, Altair and Deneb make a welcome appearance as the Summer Triangle, and the Milky Way becomes a glorious object, especially through binoculars if you can find a dark spot that is not plagued by street lights.

The Japanese are active in the field of space exploration, and their latest exciting project is a space probe that aims to 'sail' to Venus. This Solar Yacht called Ikaros (Interplanetary Kite-craft Accelerated by Radiation of the Sun) has a 20 metre sail consisting of material the thickness of a sandwich wrapper, and coated with microscopic mirrors to reflect the Sun's photons, thus giving Ikaros a relentless tiny acceleration which should enable it to match its speed to that of Venus. The sail will also be coated with thin film solar panels which will provide energy to power ion propulsion jets which will give Ikaros some navigational and orientation capability. Ikaros is hoping to prove that the concept of solar yacht propulsion works; if it does, the Japanese plan to send a larger 'yacht' to Jupiter in the next decade. I will keep you informed of the progress of this ambitious project over the next few months.

Bill Turnill

The weather report

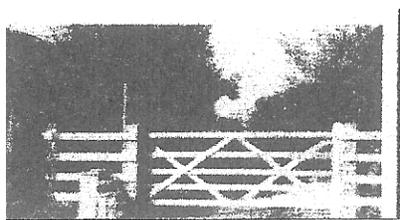
Since the last *Packet* report our weather station in the north-east corner of the parish, two miles inland, has recorded:

	April		May (to 20th)	
Wettest day	8.6 mm	(2nd)	7.9 mm	(14th)
Total rain	29.2 mm		20.8 mm	
Days of rain (>1 mm)	7		5	
Highest temp	20.2 °C	(28th 12.40)	16.2 °C	(6th 15.50)
Lowest temp	-0.8 °C	(23rd 05.50)	-0.2 °C	(12th 04.20)
Max wind gust	29 mph	(2nd 14.00)	26 mph	(2nd 11.30)
Windyest day	8.6 mph	(4th)	6.2 mph	(2nd)
Total sunshine hours	241 hrs		136.3 hrs	
Sunniest day	11.5 hrs	(23rd)	12.5 hrs	(15th)

April and May (so far) have maintained the pattern for 2010, drier and sunnier than average. The total rainfall for April was 53% of the Met Office average for the month over the years from 1971 to 2000 and it looks as though May will be almost as dry. Even though April's total sunshine hours of 241 were 65 more than the average for the month there were four days of air frost and we have had two such days so far in May (6th and 12th); I hope that all the gardeners were suitably prepared.

Graham Jones

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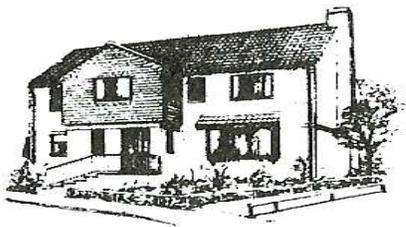
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THE INTERVIEW WITHBud Abbott

When and why did you first come to Poundstock?

Well, really it comes from 500 years of my family being in Cornwall. Before coming here we lived in Stratton in the old police house and magistrate's court, the old red house on the corner of Union Hill. It was a massive, lovely house, but on a busy road, and after cats being run over and a lorry driving into our front wall, we decided to move. What we looked for was somewhere we could buy outright, with a nice view, off the beaten track. This place here at Bangors was the best option we had and we moved in 10 years ago. It's the quietest place I've ever lived. I enjoy the peace, the lovely views. If you live in Poundstock, you live in paradise, really. We're very privileged people here.



The history of your family in Cornwall goes back quite a long way.

Yes, for ever! I can trace a direct line back to the 1620s, so I imagine the family were here for a good while before then. In 1620 my great x 10 grandfather lived in St. Allen just north of Truro. The family were there for 3 or 4 generations, then suddenly my great x 6 grandfather moved to the Lizard just outside of St. Keverne, where he restored an old, one storey 12th century water mill. He put another storey on, extended the front, replaced all the internal workings, put a new wheel on in 1799. Later, after the industrial revolution my great x 4 grandfather, James Charles replaced some of the wooden workings, including the wheel, with metal. Then his son, Philip Charles, was a champion Cornish fighter and wrestler, but unfortunately he killed someone and gave it up, so tradition has it. There were 4 or 5 brothers, in the family, who were all mill owners around the Lizard. The mill at St. Keverne stayed in the family until the beginning of the 19th century, when it ceased to be viable. It's now owned by an American recluse artist, but I have been to see it and he enjoys talking about the history. Eventually the family moved to Hayle, when whatever wealth they had seems to have disappeared! From there they moved to Redruth, where the family stayed until just after the end of the War, when my mother took me to London. I was actually brought up in London, but still maintained strong connections with family in Cornwall.

How was it you made your way back to Cornwall?

After 9 years in the Army, serving in Borneo, Aden, the Malayan peninsula, Swaziland, I trained as a countryside park ranger and worked for Milton Keynes Development Corporation. It was a fantastic job, looking after thousands of acres of parkland. But I always regarded Cornwall as my home, and intended to return. The kids had gone off to university and I had the opportunity to make the move. I managed to get a job here on a European project in 1992. After 4 years I retired, and now spend my time making stuff for farmers' markets, like chutneys, chilli sauces, and I sell a lot of stuff for other people too.

So how do you feel about being back in Cornwall now?

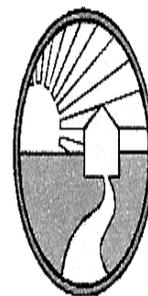
It's a real privilege. I can go down to St. Keverne and lay flowers on my great, great grandmother's grave, in Redruth I can visit my grandfather's grave. In Bodmin DCLI museum there can be found a whole story about how my great uncle Sidney died on the Somme, and my grandfather, who was in the Cornish Light Infantry, was badly wounded about the same time in 1916. I can also go to St. Allen, to Helston, to Constantine, and I can put my hands on relations' gravestones. So I feel very much part of Cornwall and its history, and here at Bangors I can enjoy the peace and the views.

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CARING FOR CHILDREN – AT WHAT COST?

I have been involved in a number of cases in the last couple of years involving children being taken into care. Sadly this is something of a growth industry in our local community, as well as in the country at large. Such cases put a large emotional strain on everyone involved, be it parent, relative, social worker, lawyer, judge – but especially the child.

DUTY Social Services have a duty in law to see if the child who is to be removed from parents can be cared for by another family member. Often it is possible to do so, but often it is impossible. Social Services will try their best to arrange for alternative care with the parents' consent on a voluntary basis. This saves a lot of time, a lot of worry, and a lot of cost.

FOSTER CARERS The number of foster carers called on by the local authority to look after children in care has been in short supply. Good foster carers are like gold dust, and they more than earn every penny they get in the fostering allowances paid to them by the local authority. Their hours are long. Their days off are few. They very often are dealing with very disturbed children who may be the victims of emotional, physical or sexual abuse. The ones I have known have been the salt of the earth.

FAMILY CARERS But what happens when the child who is removed from their parents is cared for and re-housed with a relative? The relative's duties are just as onerous and just as important as any foster carer's. In many cases the burden may be far greater. This can happen, for example, when abused children are taken away from abusive parents, and placed with grandparents. These are people who have often spent their lifetime bringing up their own children, working exceptionally hard, looking forward to retirement, and looking forward to putting their feet up for a well-earned rest. Suddenly they are catapulted into becoming full-time parents and full-time carers again. The price they pay is the price of unconditional love shown to their own flesh and blood.

RATES OF PAY You would think in such circumstances, wouldn't you, that grandparents would be entitled to the same rates of pay for caring for their grandchild in such circumstances as those paid to foster carers. Regrettably this is not the case.

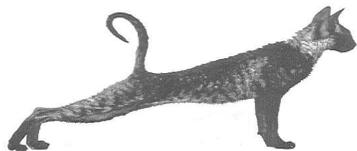
LEGAL CHALLENGE I was heartened, therefore, the other day when I was in London and picked up a copy of the Evening Standard when I got into the tube. It carried an article headed "Gran should be paid same as foster carer". The unnamed lady, aged 64, had gone to the High Court to fight for equal rights. She had agreed to take over caring for her grandchild, now 15 years old, at the request of Kent County Council's Social Services department. But when it came to payment, Kent CC paid her £63.56 per week instead of £146.23 per week a foster carer doing the same job would get.

JUDGMENT The Judge agreed with her, and made an award in her favour which would give her the same as a foster carer. He said that if the grandchild was regarded as looked after by the local authority but in grandmother's care, grandmother should get the full rate. There should be no kinship discount.

APPEAL There are far and wide implications for local authorities throughout the country, and for kinship carers looking after their grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Kent County Council were given permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal, given the widespread implications of this judgment. It will be interesting to see what the Appeal Court makes of it. I am hoping they will uphold the decision of the High Court Judge.

ACTION Cases involving children in care require very sensitive handling. As Legal Aid regulations presently apply, parents in care proceedings automatically qualify for Legal Aid regardless of income. Grandparents and other relatives are means-tested for Legal Aid, and also have to get the leave of the Court to bring applications, including applications for contact with the child in care. The children who are the subject of the care proceedings will have a Guardian appointed by the Court to represent their interests in the proceedings.

John Busby



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Donkey Sanctuaries

There seems to be a great deal of interest and affection for donkeys around the world. Donkey Sanctuaries have been created in many countries and there is one near Sidmouth in Devon. The Sidmouth Sanctuary, founded by Dr. D. Svendsen MBE in 1969, is home to about 500 donkeys and is open to visitors. More than 13,000 donkeys have been rescued over the years. Looking into the field on the road east of Sidmouth it is easy to understand the affection some people have for donkeys. Those seen in the field appear to be a patient, docile group, standing around slowly munching grass. In Cornwall there is a Donkey Sanctuary at St. Kew which is also the home base of NEDDI, an acronym for New European Distressed Donkey Initiative. The well known village of Clovelly is where donkeys pulled loaded sleds down the steep road through the village and returned up with loaded back packs. These days the Clovelly donkeys seem to be more of a tourist attraction. Many Churches give their congregations palms on Palm Sunday and some commemorate the way Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey by organizing a procession that includes a donkey. On request, the Donkey Breed Society, created in 1967 in Britain, will supply members of the society with a laminated copy of a Donkey Prayer and a special Palm Sunday Rosette for their donkey.

Before the Bude main Post Office was built in the early 1930s, I remember seeing a few donkeys grazing on the grassy area near where the Post Office now stands. In good weather they would be on Summerleaze Beach patiently giving rides to children. Many seaside resorts around the country offered donkey rides to children. The Tamar Valley Donkey Park at Gunnislake has about 30 donkeys and other animals. Donkey rides are available for children and the park is open April through October. Years ago donkey carriages were popular in some areas, especially with ladies as the donkeys were reliable and docile creatures. My aunt Polly Greenwood used to drive one around Davidstow. The Jane Austen Museum mentions that Jane drove one

A different attitude toward donkeys exists in the densely populated city of Fez, Morocco. The old walled part of the city of Fez, known as the Medina, has buildings packed together with narrow paths and lanes that are impassable to most forms of transportation except a handcart or a donkey. The donkeys keep the Medina functioning. An estimated 100,000 people depend on donkeys for their livelihood. In the Smithsonian Magazine, September 2009, Susan Orlean writes about her visits to Fez in Morocco and her memorable encounter with a donkey loaded down with six old heavy box-like television sets. The donkey was small and about waist high. As it walked steadily along the steep path she caught a glimpse of its face and found it utterly endearing, serene, weary and determined. A few times she had asked the name of a donkey, but without success. Later she learned a good donkey was valued and respected but considered just a tool, not sentimentalized or given names any more than you would give a name to a wheel barrow or a name to a taxi. In Fez it would be considered strange to give donkeys names such as Toby, Noah, Oscar, Jake, Laurel and Hardy like some of those at Clovelly and The Sidmouth Sanctuary.

On the outskirts of Fez is a free animal clinic established in 1927 with money provided by an American lady, Amy Bend Bishop, who was on a grand tour of Europe. She was disturbed by the poor condition of the 40,000 donkeys and mules that existed there during her visit. These days the Chief Veterinarian at the Clinic is Denys Frappier, a Canadian who came there 15 years ago, planning to remain for two years. He developed such an enthusiasm for working with the animals he is still there. A group of animals frequently wait outside the clinic before its 7.30 AM opening time, sometimes without their owners.

Easter was early this year and it is a time when we recall the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, a most humble form of transport. After Susan Orlean's brief glance at that little donkey in the old city of Fez, loaded down with the TV sets, she marvelled at 'The astonishing commingling of past and present; the timeless little animal in that medieval city carrying a load of modern-day electronics'.

Don Sutton

Councillors Report. **Reports in the media**

You will no doubt have seen in the media that the old County Council were badly rated in audits in many areas of work, Adult Services, Children Services, Fire & Rescue, use of resources etc. What you probably haven't seen in the media is recent initial audits, which have praised Children Services in many areas.

So you won't know the Cornwall Council run a home in South East Cornwall, which provides short breaks for children and young people with a learning disability and complex needs, and is celebrating after being praised as "**outstanding**" in a positive report from Ofsted.

You won't have read the Auditors' glowing response to the work done in Adult Services and the commitment made by the officers and Portfolio Holder, Armond Toms.

It was reported heavily last year that the Fire Service was failing in many areas. We set up a Fire and Rescue Improvement Panel and have been working, meeting every two weeks, to address the problems. During a recent audit by other Fire Services in the County it was noted how much progress had been made and how quickly. "The peer challenge team, led by Chief Fire Officer Paul Fuller from Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, highlighted many positive areas in the service and some areas which they considered might be seen as notable practice to be shared with other fire and rescue services."

But, due to the wonders of media reporting, you probably didn't know that either!

If you have any issues which you feel are not being properly addressed or which you need help then please don't hesitate to give me a call. Phil Tucker 01288 341617 philip.tucker@homecall.co.uk

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30th MARCH 2010 (*unconfirmed extracts*)

A meeting of the parish council was held in the parish hall on Tuesday 30th March 2010 at 7.30 p.m Cllr C Gilbert was in the chair, also present were Cllr. Miss A.R Rowland, R. Powell, G.N. Orchard, W.G. Rowland, R.S. Hopper, W.K. Stacey, P.J. Marshall, G.W.J. Pluess, Cornwall Councillor Mr. P. Tucker and the Clerk. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B.W. Furse.

REPORTS - (i) Cornwall Councillor Mr. P. Tucker advised that he will be travelling the parish with the Area Highway Manager to inspect the various highway issues brought to their attention recently. He further reported that the people moving into the new properties at Whitstone are from the surrounding area, a successful project that can be attributed to great teamwork. The next Cluster Meeting of Parish Councillors is to be held on Wednesday 31st March at Week St Mary Chapel Rooms commencing at 7 pm. (ii) Reports of the Gildhouse Management Meeting held on 24th February 2010 and the AGM Gildhouse Management Committee held on 3rd March 2010 were received.

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT (i) Architects Update – Mr. Martin Bach of The Bazeley Partnership presented two concepts for the new parish hall. Members expressed a preference of the second drawing with a clerestory roof. (ii) It was agreed to hold a subsequent meeting with the architect

HIGHWAYS – (i) Marine Drive at Black Rock – Pending arrangement of a site meeting by Cornwall Council. (ii) Treskinnick Cross Road Closure – Pending.

WIDEMOUTH BAY CONSULTATION – (i) Mr. Graham Holland Manager of Cornwall Council's Car Parks and Mr. David Atwell of the Beach Ranger Team spoke to the Council on the suggestions for Widemouth Car Park and Downs. Following discussions various observations and suggestions were made. (1) Pedestrian road safety and the proposal for a disabled, pedestrian and cyclist path would be compromised if the verge on Marine Drive was permitted to go wild. (2) Management of the Downs would detract value and from this unique habitat. (3) The car park should be in-keeping with the rural area and members were opposed to any development whatsoever on the grassland of the Downs. (4) The car park toilets facilities at the entrance to the car park need to be refurbished and maintained regularly. (ii) Cornwall Council Car Park Charges Questionnaire – Received for completion by 21st April 2010.

CHURCHYARD – Proposals for Churchyard Maintenance – Following discussion on material options it was agreed Cllr. G.N. Orchard procure a craftsman's estimate for a vehicular access gate.

NORTH CORNWALL COMMUNITY HALLS NETWORK - (i) Minutes of the previous meeting were received. (ii) Training Programme for January to October 2010 was received.

ACCOUNTS – (i) Financial Report: Made by the Clerk. (ii) Payments received to date: None. (iii) Payment of accounts received to date: Clerk quarterly wage of £375.00 Cllr P.J. Marshall proposed payment Cllr. W.K. Stacey seconded. (vi) Payment of Grants: CAB Cornwall – Cllr. P.J. Marshall proposed £100.00 Cllr R. Powell seconded. Bangors Methodist Church and Dimma Methodist Church, Cllr. W.G. Rowland proposed £150.00 be paid to each Cllr. R. Powell seconded. (v) Correspondence (a) Parish/Town Council Precepts 2010/11 Letter received from Cornwall Council confirmed the precept request of £20,000 to be paid in two equal instalments. (b) Notice of the Annual Audit for year ending 31st March 2010 received. All agreed to instruct Ken Abraham to complete the internal audit. (c) Audit Commission – Appointment of External Auditor. Letter dated 9th March 2010 confirms appointment of Wayne Rickard as the external auditor to audit the accounts.

PLANNING DECISIONS – 2010/00027 Repair of existing freestanding garage/workshop and conversion to a garden room at Newmill Farm, Treskinnick Cross for Mr. S. Wallace – Cornwall Council Approved. 2010/00028 Application of Listed Building Consent for the repair of existing freestanding garage/workshop and conversion to a garden room at Newmill Farm, Treskinnick Cross for Mr. Wallace – Cornwall Council Approved. 2010/00029 Application for Listed Building Consent for repairs and alterations to building envelope including roof and window repairs and drainage improvements; first floor layout alterations and new service routes, ground floor replacement of concrete slab with introduction of damp proofing under floor heating – Cornwall Council Approved. 2010/00067 Decking, patio doors and chimney additions at 9 Atlantic Close, Widemouth Bay for Mr. J. Pearson – Cornwall Council Approved. 2010/00245 Application for Prior Notification for proposed agricultural tract at Langford Park Farm for Bray & Sons – Cornwall Council Approved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – 2010/00196 Amendments to previously approved scheme 2007/01087 Erection of a new detached dwelling namely changing garage into bedroom and utility room and addition of solar panels to roof at Plot 5 rear of Outspan, Leverlake Road, Widemouth Bay for Mr Graham Warr – Request site meeting. 2010/00197 Revised design to previously approved 2009/01237 namely construction of new dwelling at Site 2 Bangors for Mr. T. Perry – Objection. 2010/00245 Application for Prior Notification for proposed agricultural tract at Langford Park Farm for Bray & Sons – Decision Notice received.

2010/00286 Conversion of disused barn into one residential dwelling; amended design to previously approved application number 2004/1783 to incorporate extensions to form utility, main entrance and living area at ground level at Parlour Barn, Park Farm for Mr. A. Virgin – No objections. 2010/00294 Alterations and extension to dwelling together with provision of additional car parking area at Lansdowne, Crescent Close, Widemouth Bay for Mr & Mrs J Parsons – No objections. 2010/00302 Replacement porch, rear extension and loft conversion at Sea Haze, Madeira Drive, Widemouth Bay for Mr & Mrs Pettit – No objection.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE – (i) Town & Parish Council Newsletter March 2010 Edition 12 was received. (ii) Black Rock Development – Copy of the Discharge Consent was received from the Environment Agency.

CORRESPONDENCE

Cornwall Council – Tackling long-term empty properties – a wasted resource, letter read no action taken.

Devon & Cornwall Police Authority – Launceston Policing Sector.

Cornwall Council – Minerals & Waste Planning Policy.

Cornwall Council – Procurement through Cornwall Councils Contracts.

(e) St Gennys Parish Council – Feasibility of developing a community energy project.

(f) Energy Saving Trust – Join Green Communities for support and advice.

Lexis Nexis – Paterson's Licensing Law Conferences.

Cornwall Council – Consultation

NEXT MEETING – 27th April 2010. MEETING CLOSED – 09:47 p.m.

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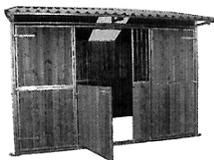
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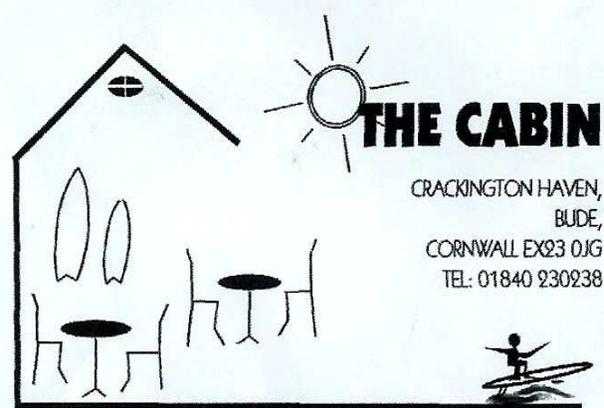
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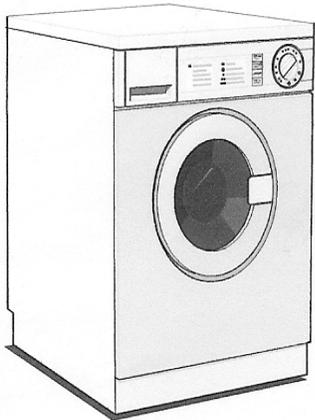
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