



# THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET



## Crufts Success for Poundstock Parish Resident

Heidi Clelland and her two working sheepdogs, Rex and Ruby, have competed across the country to



Rex leaps over a long jump

achieve enough points to compete in the YKC Senior Agility event at Crufts 2011. Last to compete over the agility course consisting of jumps, tunnels, weaves and touch points, Heidi and Rex had a great round, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Crufts in the final. Heidi said 'I am absolutely thrilled, Rex is such a star and I am so proud of him'. Heidi who trains at Cornishmyth Dog Training had a great season last year, with both Rex and Ruby qualifying for Crufts 2011 and with both dogs moving up to their next competition grade, making Rex up to an Advanced Grade 7 dog, which is the highest possible grade. Heidi says that agility is a great sport for all dogs; it is lots of fun and a great form of physical and mental exercise for your pet. (Cornishmyth Dog Training - 07971783597)



### DON'T MISS OUT ON THE LATEST GOSSIP

You have 3 more chances to hear what everyone in Poundstock is talking about. Oh, and there's some delicious soup to taste as well. Lent Lunches continue at the Gildhouse, Mondays 4th, 11th, 18th April 12-2pm

Lent Lunch at Bangors Chapel: wonderful soup, brilliant conversation and generous donations to Stratton Hospital

Supported by funding from ...

Poundstock Parish Council

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PRODUCED EVERY TWO MONTHS

No. 48 April/May 2011

**April**

- 1 Bude Community Cinema, *The Lives of Others*, 7pm Parkhouse
- 2 Marhamchurch WI Coffee Morning, Methodist Schoolroom, Marhamchurch, 10.30–12, in aid of Stratton Hospital Appeal
- 3 Garden open at the Barn House, 11–5, in aid of NGS
- 4 4th Lent Lunch at Gildhouse 12–2pm
- 6 Widemouth Summerhouse Lent Lunch 12–2pm
- 9 Bude Choral Society ' Concert of American-Themed Music' 7.30pm  
Bude Methodist Church
- 11 5th Lent Lunch at Gildhouse 12–2pm
- 11 Poundstock Packet AGM 7.30pm Treskinnick Farmhouse
- 13 Gildhouse 7.30pm Cookery demonstration with Nicky Vereker
- 14 Jacobstow WI Talk 7pm at the Tub Boat Museum Helebridge
- 18 6th Lent Lunch at Gildhouse 12–2pm
- 22–24 Easter Craft and Gift Fair The Bray Hall Marhamchurch
- 27 Gildhouse open every Wednesday from today till October, 10–4
- 27 Gildhouse Quiz 7.30pm Booking essential, 01288 361233.
- 29 Parish Royal Wedding Beach Party, Widemouth Beach, 6.30 on

**May**

- 5 Alternative Voting Referendum
- 13 Bude Community Cinema: *The King's Speech* 7pm Parkhouse
- 28 Poundstock Revel 2pm
- 29 Poundstock Well Blessing 2.30pm, tea afterwards in the Gildhouse

**June**

- 3 Concert, Launceston Male Voice Choir, St Winwaloe's Church, 7.30p.m.

**FREE ADVERTISING HERE FOR YOUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITY EVENT**

Just send us the details by 20th May for events in June/July 2011

**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. P. Lane 01840 230743  
 Marhamchurch WI president: Mrs. S. Steward 01288 361556  
 Poundstock Ladies Skittles: W. Orchard 01288 361653  
 Tilley's coaches: 01840 230244  
 Hookways Jennings coaches: 01288 352259  
 National childline: 0800 1111  
 Police—non emergency 08452 777 444  
 Farm Crisis Network 07002 326326  
 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

**BUDE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:**

Neetside, Bude, EX23 8LB

Tel:- 01288 354531

Monday	10.00am–12.15pm, 12.45–3.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am–1.00pm
Friday	10.00am–1.00pm

**MOBILE LIBRARY**

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

April 4, 18

May 16

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?

**2nd BUDE SCOUTS**

Meet in Wainhouse Scout Hut

Thursday: 6.30–8.0 pm SCOUTS

(Daphne Dowling 01288 352786)

And at Jacobstow Village Hall

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

Bangors Chapel Hall is available for hire.

Enquiries 01288 361309

or 01288 361775

**MARHAMCHURCH W.I.**

Meetings

12 April Ikebana, Mr and Mrs R. Hull

10 May WI Resolutions

**JACOBSTOW WI**

Meetings

14 April 7pm at the Tub Boat Museum,  
Helebridge

Talk by Mr. C. Jewell

12 May Mobility and exercise evening

**Bude Community Cinema**

Friday is film night in Bude – Top movies  
The Parkhouse Centre Bude, doors open at 7pm  
Tickets on the door or from the Ark Angel book-  
store in Bude

Information [www.budecinema.org.uk](http://www.budecinema.org.uk)

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One of Heidi's dogs in training  
See page one

**.GOOD NEWS ....?**

If you've got any, we'd like to hear about it. We'd also be pleased to receive any photos you have to go with your good news, or any photos of general interest. We were delighted to hear from Heidi Clelland about her success at Crufts (see front page) and I'm sure there are many other examples of success around the parish. So don't be shy, share your good news and your photos. We'd like to feature them for everyone's interest.

As I look through these pages, I get the feeling that Poundstock is bursting with Springtime life; the diary looks crammed full of events and activities to suit a wide variety of interests. I hope you manage to enjoy some of them.

Remember too, if you have access to the internet, that our website has a much more comprehensive diary, as well as a 'Packet Extra' section, featuring items we just couldn't squeeze in to these pages.

*Dudley Moore*



Just for fun and whatever the weather!  
**Kate and Wills Beach Party**  
**Meet at Widemouth Car Park**  
**Friday 29 April, 6.30 onwards**  
Prize for the best sand castle  
Bring your bucket & spade and food to share

Bude Choral Society Saturday April 9th  
Bude Methodist Church 7.30pm  
'Concert of American-Themed Music'  
To include works by Dvorak, Samuel Barber and  
Thompson, and Chappel's 'The Daniel Jazz'

**WIDEMOUTH BAY SUMMERHOUSE**  
Lent Lunch & Table Top Sale  
on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 12 until 2pm  
Lent Lunch: £1 + donations welcome to go to-  
wards Stratton Hospital and Shelterbox  
Table Top & Book Sale: Tables £5 and **YOU**  
keep the proceeds.  
(Contact Hilda or Jenny on 01288 361363 or 361130)

**Poundstock Lent Lunches**  
**In aid of Stratton Hospital League of Friends**  
Continue Mondays 12-2pm  
At Poundstock Gildhouse  
April 4th, 11th, 18th  
All welcome

**POUNDSTOCK REVEL WEEKEND**  
**Poundstock Revel**  
**Saturday 28 May, 2-4 pm**  
Cakes and Plants, Tombola, Books, Bric-a-brac  
Sideshows, Ices, Coconut shy, Refreshments  
Races for the children and fun for all  
Signs from the A39  
**Blessing of the Holy Well**  
**Sunday 29 May, 2.30 pm**  
Meet at the church, then walk or ride to the holy  
well and dress it with flowers. After a short in-  
formal service, back to the Gildhouse for tea.

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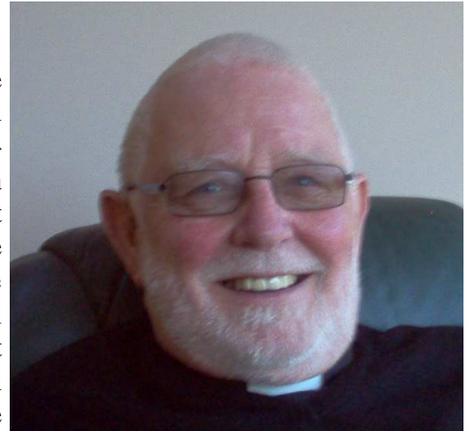
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WINTER LETS CAN BE ARRANGED

*Tell me about your Cornish connections, and what brought you to Poundstock*

I have a Cornish surname. My great grandfather was, as far as we know, a Cornish tinner from down west, who left his family home and moved up country to Hampshire, where he married and settled down. So my grandfather, my father and then I were all born there. In 1959, while I was serving in the Royal Air Force in Germany, my father got a job in Cornwall and brought the family to live at Par, on the South coast. When I came home on leave to see the family, my father walked with me in the garden and said, "You know, I've come home." I had to agree with him, so had I, and so from then on Cornwall became my true home. But it wasn't until about 40 years later, in 1999, that Sara and I actually moved to live permanently here in Poundstock, down in Widemouth Bay. We had, by then, both retired and one day took a trip to the Hampshire coast, where we looked across The Spithead to the Isle of Wight;



and as we strolled along the beach, Sara said, "We could do this every day if we went home." So it was we decided we'd come home to Cornwall. We didn't fancy the Par area again – it's inundated with visitors in the summer now, so we got in touch with our good Cornish friend, Jean Corne, whom I'd known since my teaching days in Hampshire and who now lived in Widemouth Bay. Through her we found and bought this place, and were installed here within a couple of months or so. I think it was just meant to be. Once here, we joined The Old Cornwall Society and the next year I started to learn Cornish; by 2005 I had taken 4 exams and I was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh.

*Since moving here you have also achieved a long held ambition to become a priest. When did that start?*

It started when I was 19, at an evening service; I had an amazing spiritual, a sort of out of body, experience, I felt changed, and I made up my mind to become a priest. I had walked out of school at 15 without any O levels, but had eventually developed a plan to catch up. While in the Air Force I took the opportunity to get enough O levels to get me into Teacher Training College and I knew that a teaching certificate was recognised for entry into Theological College. Unfortunately this plan was frustrated, because my first marriage during my final year at training college ended in divorce. Over the years I was helped by different people to plead my case to the church, but I did not manage to overcome this obstacle of having been divorced. I tried again, when I retired, but this time was told I was too old. It was after moving here and through Lent Lunches up at Bangors Chapel that we got to know more people, got talking, and started to attend Poundstock Church. Eventually I had a conversation with Fr. Rob Dickenson about my disappointment. He said, "You're not too old at 69!" Before I knew it I was a trainee minister, and was then ordained in the Cathedral as a Deacon in June 2007, and I was Priested a year later over at Week St. Mary. It took me 50 years to get there, but God's call triumphed and we made it! What a tremendous privilege!

*So as things turned out, you ended up with a teaching career?*

Yes, for my training I chose to do Art, with Pottery as my main bit and Music as a subsidiary. Then I got a job as head of music at a primary school in Hampshire. Over 6 years I progressed up to Deputy Head and in January 1972 I was introduced to our P.E adviser, Sara. By October of that year we were engaged, and we married in April 1973. We had our family over the next 3 years, first Adam then Emma. I became a Head in 1979 and I really enjoyed my first 5 years, but then came changes to the educational system, many papers dropping on my table daily, financial responsibilities; I found my philosophy being compromised, I could no longer do things the way I liked to. I had, in addition, taken on doing an In-Service B.Ed. degree. I ended up having a nervous breakdown. It was nature's way of saying, "Hey, this is too much", and so I retired in 1989. After a while I got a part time job at a newly restored windmill at Bursledon. I helped to get the mill into full working order and running smoothly; drew up an educational plan, gave talks and slide shows; then was moved to take over the local museum, but still with responsibility for the windmill. After 3 years there, I retired at the age of 60; Sara retired too. So we became free agents and within a couple of years we moved home to Cornwall.

*What is it that you value most about living here now?*

We have made so many friends here. Personally I have been blessed, and have received much more than I have given out. I love the rugged, rough, tough beauty of the place and being so close to the ocean has helped to heal me. That's why I chose as my Bardic name, "Son of the Northern Cliffs" – 'Mab an Alysow Kledh'. There is something here in my beloved Cornwall, which is spiritual and healing. Here I have found myself, found contentment and fulfilment. I have to say that I really value the growing relationship and fellowship between Chapel and Church. Poundstock has a wonderful community spirit, and we share a special link between the two branches of the family of Christ hereabouts. I have a special place in my heart for our link, and I look forward to the continuing growth of the fellowship we currently enjoy together.

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I recently received a few books as gifts and one that I found especially interesting was called *Operation Mincemeat* by Ben Macintyre, Associate Editor of The Times of London. It was a 'hard to put downer' as they say. The book is about deceiving the Axis Powers regarding the invasion of southern Europe in 1943. Having driven General Rommel and his Afrika Korps out of North Africa, the Allies were poised to invade Southern Europe; the big question was where and when. How the Axis was successfully deceived regarding the location and date of the invasion was kept secret for many years after the war. The secrecy was eased somewhat when a book called *The Man Who Never Was* was published in 1953 at the behest of the British Government. Ben Macintyre mentions that in this book certain facts were concealed and other parts were deliberately misleading. Having first read *Operation Mincemeat* and then watching a DVD of that earlier *Man Who Never Was*, to say it was misleading was an understatement.

Operation Mincemeat was the code name for the deception plan and as soon as the plan was approved, the organizers went to the St Pancras Morgue where the body of a dead labourer of no fixed abode had been selected as suitable for their plan. The body was given the identity of a Major Martin RM, carrying misleading diplomatic papers about the Allies' plans for the expected invasion. The body was floated onto a beach in southern Spain; the area was chosen by British agents as having a pro-German population and it turned out to be a sure step on the journey to Hitler's desk. Hopefully Major Martin would be considered the victim of an airplane crash further out to sea. The extensive Nazi spy network that existed in Spain immediately became involved. As the leaks began to filter through to the public it seemed like a straightforward wartime spy story. However, until Ben Macintyre published his amazingly researched book *Operation Mincemeat* few had realized the extent of the planning, the roles of the spies, both German and British, the double agents, the Royal Navy, weather and tide experts, even a worn uniform and underwear. To create Major Martin's earlier life, an attractive secretary was recruited from the M15 office to be Major Martin's girlfriend Pam. He carried her photo in his pocket along with a few romantic and passionate love letters written by the head of Pam's office, who happened to be a spinster. If she had expressed such feelings in real life, she would not have been a spinster for long. Also in his pocket were two used theatre tickets to a show in London that they had supposedly seen a few days before Major Martin left on his ill-fated diplomatic mission. Also a Lloyds Bank manager cooperated by writing an angry letter to the imaginary Major regarding an overdraft.

The work of the Axis spy network in Spain was not always engaged in such imaginative problems presented by Operation Mincemeat. I was in a convoy that had to go through the Straits of Gibraltar a few months after the successful invasion of Sicily by the Allies. The success was partly due to the role that Operation Mincemeat had played in deceiving the Axis into concentrating their forces in Greece. The Straits are only about 9 miles wide at its narrowest and I thought I was going to see The Rock. However, we were told that we would be approaching the Straits after nightfall and proceed through in pitch darkness. The Moroccan side of the Straits was neutral territory and some areas were ablaze with light. Apparently Axis spies in Spain would observe the size and number of ships in a convoy going through the Straits as they were silhouetted against the lights on the Moroccan coast. Underwater devices called Paravanes attached to cables were towed at an angle from our ship's bow. The cables were designed to sever the anchor wires of submerged mines. I believe mines were supposed to disarm when released from the tension of their anchoring wires, but this could not always be relied upon.

During the War our local Coastguard observed that a mine had floated into Widemouth Bay and settled among the rocks. In those days the area was not densely populated, so a disposal squad decided to blow up the mine rather than perform the risky procedure of disarming it. Residents nearby were advised to open their windows to avoid cracking glass from the blast of the explosion. Around Britain, any beach considered at risk from an invading force had defences installed. Rows of concrete tank traps were cast in place along the beach at Widemouth and a few concrete gun emplacements were on the lower cliffs. These were around for years until the wind and weather gradually eroded them.

*Don Sutton*

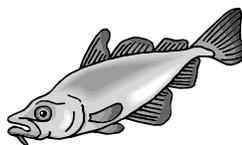
Easter Craft and Gift Fair at The Bray Hall Marhamchurch  
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## CHURCHES



### ST WINWALOE POUNDSTOCK

Parish Priest: Revd R. Dickenson  
01288 341134

#### Wardens:

Peter Marfleet 01288 361233

Graham Jones 01288 361147

1st Sunday 9.45 Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 11.00 Family Worship

3rd Sunday 9.45 Holy Communion

4th Sunday 9.45 Morning Prayer

#### Joint services

10 April at Bangors Chapel

8 May at St Winwaloe's

All services start at 11am, last about an hour. and end with a cuppa. Do come and join us: you will be very welcome.

### OUR LADY AND ST ANNE WIDEMOUTH BAY

Warden: Judy MacDonald

01288 361664

Services:

1st Sundays 11.15 am

2nd, 3rd, 4th 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

#### April

3 Street S

10 Hogarth US

17 LA

24 Street S

#### May

1 Stacey

8 US at St W.

15 G Street

22 Turner

29 Street

### DIMMA METHODIST CHAPEL

Lay pastoral assistant: Brian Parkman 01840 212736

Contact: Audrey Wickett 01840 230268

April 3 11am F. Routly

May 1 11am N. Sparey

10 9.30am B. Parkman

8 9.30am Rev Bryan Ede

17 9.30am R. Sleep

15 9.30am R. Heywood

24 9.30am Rev Doreen

22 9.30am J. Heywood

3.30pm children's party

29 9.30am P. Parsons

This year Easter is late. That means that during April and into May the church has a wealth of themes that both challenge us and uplift us. We move from the Fasting of Lent to the Feasting of the post Easter season.

To help us reflect that, I offer you a short piece to think upon.

A Christian perspective on Fasting and Feasting.

Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life.

Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.

Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.

Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens.

Every Blessing for Lent, Easter and Pentecost!

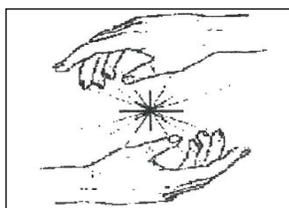
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# Jacobstow Community Primary School

## Jacobstow School Pre School

At Christmas Jacobstow School and parents were left without pre school provision at the school by the withdrawal of Happy Days Nursery. Since Christmas the school has been trying to establish some pre school provision, applying for grants and OFSTED registration. We are pleased to announce that we can now offer pre-school places to 3 and 4 year old children with nursery grant funding. Our offer is for 15 hours per week spread over Tuesday 9 -12, Wednesday 9 -3 and Friday 9-3. We shall also offer a lunch club on Tuesday from 12-1. We are able to take up to 16 children at any one session and places will be offered on a first come first served basis; we must also say that attendance at the preschool will not necessarily guarantee a place at Jacobstow School, as school places are allocated by Cornwall County and not the school. If our numbers on role increase, we may be able to offer a wider range of session times, although no more than 15 funded hours, as our OFSTED registration is for funded hours only.

We are very excited by our new adventure and believe that it offers excellent early start educational opportunities for the children and greater preschool choice for parents.

If you would like to know more or register your child/ren, then please do come and see us.

In due course there will be more information at [www.jacobstow.cornwall.sch.uk](http://www.jacobstow.cornwall.sch.uk)



**Red Nose Day**  
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## Marhamchurch Primary School PSFA Events

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**Wine & Wisdom Evening** Friday, 13 May from 7 pm Marhamchurch Primary School Hall  
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I thought it may be useful to produce an annual update of my work at Cornwall Council. I am very lucky to be involved in issues which I, and I know some others, consider vital to the peace, wellbeing and moral structure of our communities.

### Combined Sewage Outlets

I have been lead member in a study of cleaner beaches and the reduction of sewage outfall discharges onto our beaches. The outcome of this, and something I feel I must pass on to you, is that the problem (and by default blame) is not that solely of the water companies. Every new home, every changed road junction and every patio, which we lay puts a huge strain on the sewage handling systems. The extra runoff in times of heavy rain means the water treatment works must choose either to contain the influx and risk backflow into properties, or release backflow into the combined sewage outlets. The sewage works simply cannot be expected to handle whatever volume of combined runoff and sewage comes to them. Responsibility has to lie also with the planning dept, the highways and home owners. A group consisting of these groups and the Environment Agency, Surfers Against Sewage, some health agencies and others is now in place to reduce outfall emissions by increasing bunds and water retention systems to slow down rain-water runoff further. The planning dept will be recommending special paving, which holds water for a time and communication of outfall emissions will be improved. There is great understanding and cooperation between the agencies and user groups and fantastic progress has been made. The results are that beaches will be cleaner and users will be better informed.

### Housing

I am a member of a housing group, which seeks to improve the quality, insulation and standards of provision of both owned and rented properties in Cornwall. The lead member is Derris Watson from St Cleer and we have made good progress in rectifying a criticism of the old County Council. We have looked at and made recommendations of extra care provision, bringing empty homes back into use, helping people stay in the community, with help from supporting people, and alleviating fuel poverty, which is being suffered by so many, with the huge increases in oil and other fuel prices. I am very pleased to be part of this group, but the workload is huge, as the remit covers just about every facet of living in a house.

### Leisure

I was very concerned about the issues raised during the budget process regarding leisure, sport and wellbeing. It was evident that the council needed a more robust strategy for working with sports groups, communities and partners, such as doctors' surgeries and primary care trusts. I am therefore now the lead member of a group of three looking at a leisure strategy, which will be as inclusive as possible to all ages of the community, and work better with partners and sports clubs. The group was formed last Friday and will identify better how more people can be involved in leisure pursuits and gain fitness through doing things they enjoy.

*Cllr Phil Tucker If you have concerns, as with any issue whatsoever, please give me a call on 01288 341617 or philip.tucker@homecall.co.uk.*

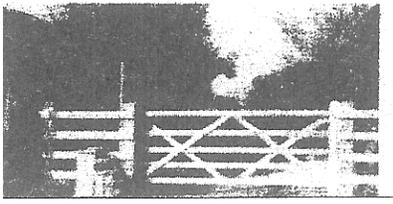
## Events at the Gildhouse 2011

This year's programme is bursting with good things. Make a note in your diary so you don't miss anything.

- 13 April 7.30** Cookery demonstration and talk by Nicky Vereker. Nicky has a wealth of experience as a chef, from catering for large receptions to cooking intimate suppers. Her food is always special.
- 27 April 7.30** Quiz night, for teams of a maximum of six. The charge of £4 per head includes light refreshments. Booking essential, ring 361233.
- 11 May 7.30** 'Cornish Pirates and Sharks': an illustrated talk by local author Richard Peirce on some of the more threatening aspects of the Devon and Cornwall coast. Small entry charge.
- 29 May 2.30** Annual well-blessing. A real community event: meet at the church and walk to the Holy Well, less than a mile over the fields with some lovely views. Transport provided for the less fleet of foot. After dressing the well with flowers we have a very short informal outdoor service, then back to the Gildhouse for tea.
- 3 June 7.30** Concert in church by the renowned Launceston Male Voice Choir, followed by refreshments in the Gildhouse. £7 covers entry and refreshments.
- 13 July 7.30** 'Cornish Crosses': an illustrated talk by Andrew Langdon, who is a Cornish Bard. Discover the many crosses to be found in Cornwall, some of which date from the ninth century. Small entry charge.
- 10 Aug 7.30** 'Launceston Priory': an illustrated talk by local author Terry Faull on what was once a very powerful priory that owned almost 250 lands all over north Cornwall and Devon. Small entry charge.
- 13 Aug 7.30** Kath & her Bluegrass Boys: Bluegrass music & song plus cider & pasties. Entry charge.
- 24 Aug 9-2** The Big Breakfast. It's the full Cornish! £5.
- 14 Sept 7.30** 'The North Cornwall Coast Path' with Mary Street. A photographic exploration along our beautiful coastline: wonderful views but without the aching legs! Small entry charge.
- 2 Oct 11.00** Harvest Festival in church followed by Harvest Lunch in the Gildhouse
- 7 Oct 7.30** Concert in church by the renowned Tintagel Male Voice Choir, followed by refreshments in the Gildhouse. £7 covers entry and refreshments.
- 12 Oct 7.30** Friends of the Gildhouse social evening. For details of how to become a Friend, ring 361525.
- 22 & 23 Oct** Annual Craft Fair and Pumpkin Festival – more details later, or ring 361147.
- 9 Nov 7.30** Christmas Flower Arrangements with prize-winning local florist Erica Tippett. Small entry charge.
- 18 Dec 3.00** Christmas Concert: seasonal words and music followed by refreshments. Free.

Don't forget that, from 27 April to the end of October, the Gildhouse is open for visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Friendly volunteers will be delighted to show you round and make you a cup of tea or coffee.

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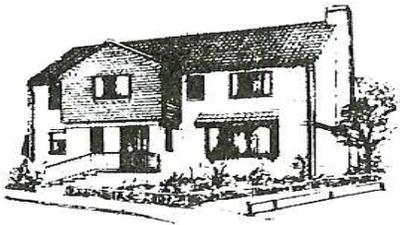
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## Our Sky in April 2011

We will have lost Jupiter in the evening sky for this year, at least until the autumn, but Saturn will dominate the night sky, rising in the south east about 8pm, and setting in the morning; if you have a telescope, do enjoy the rings, which are now more prominent than they were last year, when they were edge on to us for much of the time. Venus is now drawing closer to the Sun, and might just be visible in the early dawn sky at about 0500.

This article is mostly about Mercury, which is appropriate because, on 18 March, the spacecraft Mercury Messenger is due to enter orbit round the planet, having travelled nearly 5000 million miles since it was launched in August 2004. In order to achieve a position where it could enter an orbit of Mercury, Messenger had to adjust its speed by a number of flybys – one of Earth, two of Venus and three of Mercury. The computation to achieve the accuracy required to enter a stable orbit is phenomenal, and space scientists are to be congratulated on calculating these manoeuvres over such vast distances.

Why are we interested in Mercury? Well, until the space age, very little was known about the planet, because it orbits so close to the Sun and is rarely free of the Sun's glare, so visual observation through a telescope revealed little, except the phases of the planet as it circled the Sun. In 1965, radar showed that Mercury spins on its axis every 59 days, so it does not keep the same face turned to the Sun, as was previously thought. It orbits the Sun in 88 days, and alternates between being an evening and morning 'star'. In 1974/75, the spacecraft Mariner 10 made three flypasts, and was able to photograph about half of Mercury's surface, revealing a landscape remarkably like our cratered Moon.

It is the smallest of the planets, with a diameter of just over 3000 miles, and is even smaller than Jupiter's moon Ganymede, and Saturn's Titan. Because it has very little atmosphere the conditions are brutal on the surface, with a daytime temperature of about 430°C by day and -173° C by night; however, it is thought that at the poles, where the Sun is low on the horizon, the temperatures might not be so extreme, except where the Sun never touches the floors of polar craters, where there has been a suggestion of ice.

For those of you who wish to keep up with this fascinating exploration, I recommend the following website: [http://messenger.jhuapl.edu/the\\_mission/index.html](http://messenger.jhuapl.edu/the_mission/index.html).

Finally, you might be interested in going to Newlands Corner on 9 April where the Guildford Astronomical Society will be taking several telescopes for the Public to view Saturn and the Moon, as well as a number of other objects; I hope to be there with my telescope and will be happy to show you some of the sights – clouds permitting! Wrap up warmly, boots or Wellies might be a good idea, and it is totally free, and children are welcome. Hope to see you there.

*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:

	February		March (to 26th)	
Wettest day	11.1 mm	(13th)	7.4 mm	(18th)
Total rain	72.4 mm		20.3 mm	
Days of rain (>1 mm)	13		3	
Highest temp	13.4 °C	(11th 12:20)	20.2 °C	(25th 13:40)
Lowest temp	-1.3 °C	(28th 07:30)	-4.2 °C	(3rd 07:30)
Average max temp	11.1 °C		12.2 °C	
Average min temp	5.5 °C		1.7 °C	
Max wind gust	39 mph	(3rd 21:20)	33.0 mph	(10th 05:20)
Windyest day	17.3 mph	(4th)	11.9 mph	(10th)
Total sunshine hours	69.3 hrs		135 hrs	
Sunniest day	7.7 hrs	(28th)	9.5 hrs	(19th)

February was warmer than average but with roughly an average amount of rain; March, however, has so far been warmer, sunnier and much drier than average but with a long cold spell!

The amount of rain in February was much the same as the Met Office's 30 year average for 1971–2000 but it was the wettest February since I started keeping records in 2007. However, so far, the rain for March has been only 30% of the 30 year average. There is heavy rain forecast for the last three days of the month but that is unlikely to bring March's rain up to average. The total rainfall since the start of October is just under 80% of the 30 year average.

February's average temperatures (both max and min) were much higher than the average and there were only two days in the month when an air frost was recorded. The temperatures for March tell a very different story. The average maximum temperature so far is 2 °C **above** the 30 year average, however the average minimum temperature is 2.7 °C **below** the average and there have been 9 days of air frost. For the first week of March the temperature went above 10 °C only once and that was for 3 hours on the 3rd.

The sunshine of the last few days is obviously making a difference but it is no wonder that the grass does not seem to be growing, if the rainfall for March is below average and we have had long cold spells.

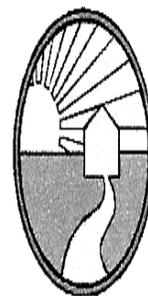
*Graham Jones*

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The housing market has been turned into a very unpredictable area of the economy since the recession. House prices have generally stagnated. Lenders who have already had their fingers badly burned with over-generous loans are reluctant to lend. Jobs are becoming harder to find. It has become the perfect storm for first-time buyers. But there are glimmers of hope which are detectable, and prospective first-time buyers should not give up their hunt for a property. Here are some thoughts.

**HOW MUCH CAN I BORROW?** When I first got on the property ladder it was very difficult if not impossible to get more than three times your income. Income is only one of the criteria now used by lenders. They will now also look at levels of unsecured debt and ability to repay any loan which may be made. They therefore rely on credit agencies and credit scoring techniques, which makes it much more difficult to predict how much will be lent, and whether any money will be forthcoming at all. The tip is to look at your prospective lender's website. Then go to the calculator section, type in your details, and see whether you are likely to qualify. Hopefully your details will match their lending criteria.

**LOOK FOR HELP** In the event that your income is not sufficient, look at other possible ways of getting the money. Getting help from your parents is the frequent first port of call. Parents may be willing to go on the mortgage deed as a joint borrower, or enter into a guarantee with your lender to pay up if you default. Other than that, you may persuade a good friend or a partner to join you in the property transaction. The down side of this is what happens if things go pear shaped and you then go your own separate ways? A sensible legal agreement should hopefully resolve that problem.

**THE DEPOSIT** It appears the best deals are available only if you put down 30% of the price. The higher the loan to value figure, the higher will be the interest rate you will be asked to pay. At present a 70% two year fixed interest loan would typically carry interest charges ranging between 2.8% to 4.5%. But if you need to borrow 90% (even if a lender is willing to loan that amount of the property value) you would be expected to pay between 5% and 7% at today's state of the market.

**ADD-ON COSTS** Your outlay does not stop with the deposit and the mortgage. Stamp Duty Land Tax may well have to be paid. If you qualify as a first time buyer there is a current exemption from 1% duty until 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012 up to £250,000 but if you buy at above £250,000 you will have to pay the Government 3% in Stamp Duty Land Tax and this tax increases after £500,000. In addition, you will have legal costs of purchase, search fees, land registration, your removal costs, and additional fees for a survey and valuation. You need to factor in these additional expenses when you are doing your calculations.

**SHARED OWNERSHIP** Shared ownership schemes are becoming more popular for first-time buyers who cannot otherwise get onto the property ladder. Under these schemes, a housing association will typically ask you to put 25% into the property purchase price. They put the rest in, and you pay rent to them on their share. You can then put in more of the purchase money in stages.

**LEND A HAND MORTGAGES** Five up-country councils are currently pioneering a scheme to help first-time buyers get on the housing ladder. These councils are prepared to put 20% of the purchase price of the property in a Lloyds TSB account with the lender asking for a 5% deposit. The funds do not go to the buyer. The mortgage rate is lower. The councils will lose money if the buyer defaults, but they get a generous interest rate themselves. First-time buyers may be able to get onto this scheme if they can afford the monthly mortgage repayments but do not have the lump sum saved up. Each of the councils will be helping 300 first-time buyers in their area, but other councils have now given expressions of interest and are looking to get involved. If that becomes more wide spread, the hope is that the local authorities in the southwest will also join up, and will be prepared to help cash-strapped first-time buyers wanting to get onto this elusive property ladder. The other consideration for councils is that it might spare them having to find the full amount they would otherwise need to build more social housing - which becomes more difficult as councils' budgets become ever tighter.

**ACTION** So do not despair. There are options available out there which might help you if you are a prospective first-time home buyer. Do your homework carefully. Look at all available options and all possible sources of help. Also seek good and sound legal advice. *John Busby*



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### From Dan Rogerson MP

Here in Cornwall, the issue of disproportionately high water bills is one which my Parliamentary colleagues and I have been battling for some considerable time. Last week I participated in a debate a colleague – Adrian Sanders, MP for Torbay – called for on South West Water charges. I made the point in the debate, that too often there is a misconception that the South West is a wealthy part of the country, and that somehow this makes it acceptable for the costs not being shared across the country, when in fact areas such as Cornwall are some of the most deprived, with the lowest incomes in the country. This is a matter on which we will continue to push.

Back in the constituency, I visited the new Wellbeing Centre in Bodmin last weekend and was shown around by Lamorna Spry the Chair, Peter Howard, Vice-Chair and Maureen Newman, the Chief Executive of Restormel Mind, the organisation responsible for the creation of the Centre. The team at Restormel Mind are committed to promoting mental health and wellbeing, empowering people to lead full lives as part of their local community and providing opportunities for vulnerable people to acquire skills to get back into work.

The last few weeks in Parliament have been dominated by the Education Bill which is going through its committee stages at the moment. I am really pleased with the part of the Bill which gives free early years provision for two year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is real Liberal Democrat policy and it is very positive to have a duty to this in law. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper was published last week by Sarah Teather, the Lib Dem Minister for Children and Families. The Paper proposes a new single assessment process joining up health, social care and education services, and came about from extensive consultation with parents, teachers and young people. The Paper identifies as its priority changing the bureaucratic nature of the process, which passes parents and children round several agencies, subjecting them to different assessments and so much paperwork. The changes proposed within the Paper involve services working together and also aims to identify problems early on to prevent their escalation

I would just like to end this month by offering heartfelt condolences for those families who have lost loved ones and for whom close ones are still missing in Japan. The scenes are truly heartbreaking and my thoughts and prayers are with all.

### WILD ABOUT POUNDSTOCK The Patient Spring

After the cold and wet winter, it was lovely to see a tortoiseshell butterfly in the garden about a week ago. Then, yesterday, a peacock butterfly made a brief visit. Both of these will be from end of year broods that hibernate as adults, often in a shed or deep in ivy. But is this a true sign of spring?

As soon as Christmas is over, we all look for the first signs of spring, like eager children waiting for the party food. The word goes around that the snowdrops are flowering in the churchyard, or there is a primrose. But these are not spring flowers but late winter ones, but still very welcome.

They are signs that the wild world is still there, in spite of all the frost. In the garden, it was easy to doubt that it would ever recover. But now, it is full of colour with the daffodils, the hellebores, and the primulas. There are even some tulips flowering. That is the point about our wildlife; they have a natural order of things. Many of the plants, bulbs especially, prepared for this year last summer and spent the winter resting below ground. The trees lose their leaves and take the sap back down to the roots. Many of the animals hibernate and survive by being somewhere warm and slowing down their heart rate. Even the reptiles and amphibians go below ground for the winter. We see frogs, and toads, marching across roads, as they migrate back to the ponds, unfortunately not always avoided by vehicles.

I have been seeing bumblebees for several weeks now, in spite of the late frost. But that is the point, these early ones may not survive. I have come across two dead bumblebees on the path outside the house, possibly victims to the frost the other night. I wonder if my butterflies will survive. It is often said that "what we need is a hard winter to get rid of the harmful bugs". If only it were as simple as that. Surely the hard winter would get rid of some of the welcome bugs as well, and indeed it does, but some will always survive, good and bad.

The real signs of spring are the celandines, the golden saxifrage, or just the bluebell leaves pushing through. You can see these now in Millook valley, and the buds are fattening on the trees. The catkins and pussy willow are fading, but the true spring woodland and hedge-row plants are the bright green hawthorn leaves, or the ready to burst blackthorn. Have patience and enjoy your spring.

*Tim Dingle*

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**CONDENSED MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING : 22<sup>ND</sup> February 2011.**

Present: Cllrs Gilbert (Chairman), W.G. Rowland, G.W.J. Pluess, G.N. Orchard, P.J. Marshall, R.A.W. Powell, Cllr Miss A.R. Rowland and Mrs L. Pluess (Parish Clerk).

Apologies for absence from Cllr W.K. Stacey.

A record was made of declarations of personal or prejudicial interests by all present.

Public participation: no members of the general public were present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, although disappointment was expressed at Cornwall Council's validation process for planning applications, which had left this Council unable to evaluate the impact of a previous submission.

A report was read on the 5<sup>th</sup> January's Gildhouse meeting. No report was available from our Cornwall Councillor.

Consideration of the next steps in development of the new Parish Hall was deferred in the absence of attendance of the full Council.

Highways matters: The Area Highways Manager Mr Oliver Jones has been asked to look into excess surface water on the A39 at Helscott and Swelle Cottages; potholes in unclassified roads Treskinnick Cross to New Mills, and Trekennard to Trebarfoot at Coltsbrige. He is also investigating dumping of rubbish at Treskinnick Cross North.

Finance: £70 received in respect of interment at Poundstock Cemetery. Payments were made to South West Water in respect of water supply.

No grants were made on this occasion.

Cornwall Council planning decisions were noted, as was notification of an appeal against refusal of permission for an 11kW wind turbine within the grounds of a property at Bangors. No objections were raised by the members to proposals for a static holiday caravan at Penhalt Farm or for an extension to Kimanda in The Crescent at Widemouth Bay.

Correspondence: Seven items were discussed and noted, details of which can be found in the full Minutes on display at The Parish Hall. The Parish Council expressed a preference for dispersed development distribution in connection with Cornwall Council's Planning Future Cornwall consultation although concern was expressed that despite previous expression of views by this Council (PPC), Poundstock appeared to have been omitted from the Core Strategy Options.

Parish Matters: Various concerns were discussed for inclusion on the following agenda including the possibility of a Parish Website.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and the meeting duly closed.

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.**

Circumstances have combined to cause the Parish Council to re-evaluate its plans for the Parish Hall. The current position is that by selling the existing site, it should be possible partially to finance a new hall in another prominent location where interests from outside the Parish will, to some extent, subsidise the running costs of the new facility to enable it to meet the needs of our community. Already two sites have been identified, the owners of which have expressed a willingness to co-operate and talks will now take place with the Planning Authority to determine how best to proceed. The importance of securing a prominent site cannot be over-stressed and if anyone would like to add to the current shortlist and has an available frontage to the A39 between Swelle Cottages and Treskinnick Cross, it would be much appreciated if they would contact the Parish Clerk immediately.

But first a potted history: the current hall was a community project nearly 80 years ago. Despite a valiant attempt by volunteers a couple of years ago to smarten the place up, its full potential only came near to being realised when the building was filled with people at the market event which was held at the conclusion of the Parish Plan consultation. Since then, cold and damp have combined to demonstrate that something better is needed. Members have visited other new halls, examined how they were funded and how they are used and it is clear that additional accommodation for more intimate occasions is vital. Of course this was first examined in conjunction with plans for structural remedial works two years ago, but when costed, the works approached what would have been needed to build a complete new hall. Accordingly this solution was the Council's next approach. However, with a mind to the facilities sought in the Parish Plan and what was successful elsewhere, it was then found that the present site fell short of current requirements for those aspects which were most likely to attract outside funding. It is significant that all of the other community halls visited had started by selling their former sites for development.

The process may seem slow, but all alternatives have to be examined if Poundstock is to achieve the cohesion that a modern community hall, available to all and not in competition with other facilities in the area, can bring.

*Rupert Powell – Parish Councillor*

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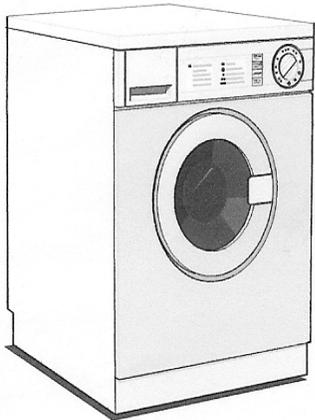
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