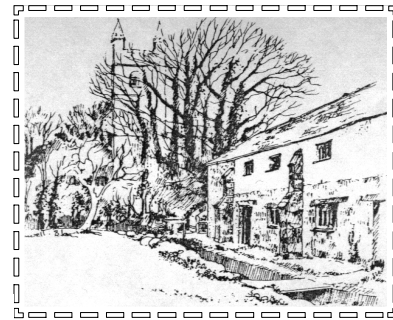




THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET

KERNOW BYS VYKEN !



It was a perfect June afternoon, and Trebarfoote Manor provided the perfect setting. What more could you ask, except perhaps a bowl of strawberries and cream? The Strawberry Garden Party was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We are very grateful to Pamela Idelson Smith for her generous hospitality.



A Stradivarius? A Rembrandt? Something by Fabergé, or a piece of priceless porcelain?

No, it's a fire bucket!

Tim and Sandy Dingle joined the queue to consult the experts when BBC TV's *Antiques Roadshow* visited Hartland Abbey in early July.

Unfortunately the buckets aren't worth a fortune and the Dingles won't be on the telly, but for the full story see p. 13.

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TWO MONTHS

No. 50 August/September 2011

August

- 10 Launceston Priory, talk by Terry Faull, Gildhouse, 7.30 pm
- 11 Revd Tucker's 90th birthday Party. See page 3
- 13 Kath and her Blue Grass Boys, cider & pasties, Gildhouse, 7.30
- 14 Bangors Chapel Anniversary Concert 6.30pm
- 17 Jacobstow WI Garden Party, Jacobstow Parish Hall, 2.30–4.30
- 20 Bude Carnival, procession starts 2pm
- 24 Big Breakfast, Gildhouse, 9–2
- 25 Holsworthy Show
- 27 Bude Jazz Festival (to 2 September)
- 29 Bude Lifeboat Day

September

- 2 Bude Film Club, film to be announced, Parkhouse Centre, 7.30
- 8 Jacobstow WI Demonstration of bead craft
- 13 Marhamchurch WI Talk on Herbs and Spices
- 14 Widemouth Bay Residents' Group Meeting, Summerhouse 5pm
- 14 The North Cornwall Coast Path, talk and slides by Mary Street, Gildhouse, 7.30 pm

Bude Farmers & Craft Market every Friday 10 am—3pm
Contact Neville 01288 352921

FREE ADVERTISING HERE FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENT

Just send us the details by 20th July for events in August/September

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
 Marhamchurch WI president: Mrs. S. Steward 01288 361556
 Poundstock Ladies Skittles: W. Orchard 01288 361653
 Tilleys coaches: 01840 230244
 Hookways Jennings coaches: 01288 352259
 National childline: 0800 1111
 Police—non emergency 08452 777 444
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 Floodline 0845 9881188
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Tuesday	10.00am–1.00pm
Friday	10.00am–1.00pm

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August 8th & 25th

September 5th & 19th

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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

August no meeting

September 13th Herbs & Spices: - Mrs J Hanscomb
(cooking, medicinal, cosmetic uses,
history, lore and magic)

JACOBSTOW WI

Meetings

August No meeting

September 8th Demonstration by Lyn Soutar
of Bead Craft

Bude Community Cinema

Friday is film night in Bude – Top movies
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JUNK MAIL?

We do try to keep in mind those of you who are not permanent residents in the parish of Poundstock. Maybe you holiday here regularly or are here on a one-off visit. You are still likely to find this magazine among the paper that comes through your letter box. We trust that you don't discard it as junk mail and we hope you will find something in these pages that interests you, and perhaps a local event or two that you might want to visit .

If you are visitors and have any comments you'd like to make about this magazine or about Poundstock in general (positive or negative), we'd love to hear from you (contact details opposite).

Of course all this applies to all our permanent residents too; the 'comments' bit, that is; you'd never treat '*The Packet*' as junk mail, would you?

Dudley Moore



THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET COFFEE EVENING On Thursday 7th July

Raised £121 towards our production costs. A big thank you to all those who came along to support us on this enjoyable evening, and also to those who were unable to attend, but made the effort to send in donations.

We are also grateful for a recent donation of £200 from the Poundstock Parish Council. It is good to know that there are people out there who appreciate what we do enough to support us in this way.

90th birthday party
for

Rev. Harold Tucker
on Friday 11th August
from 3.00 to 4.30pm

at the Church Summerhouse, Widemouth Bay
followed by Evensong at the Church.

Everyone welcome; no charge

Cornish Hospice Care

Jean Corne would like to say a big thank you to all who helped and supported the cream tea held at Tamarisk, Marine Drive, Widemouth. We raised £340, and fortunately the rain kept away.

Handbells

Have you ever thought of ringing the handbells? A friendly group meet in Marhamchurch on Friday evenings and would welcome new members. Please contact 01288 361285.

Do you know your place?

Many apologies to everyone who was expecting to find the answers in this issue of the Packet. Unfortunately there was some confusion over the closing date, with some people being told it was Big Breakfast day, 24 August, so to be fair we have extended the deadline. A big thank you to everyone who has already entered; the standard is very high but no one has got everything right yet, so it is still worth entering! The answers, and the winner's name, will definitely be in the next issue.

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WINTER LETS CAN BE ARRANGED

This looks like a house with character. I've seen the creative way you have developed the grounds. How much work have you done on this building?

It was originally built in the 1930s. Jenny and I bought it at auction. Other prospective buyers told us they loved it, but would never have bought it. Basically it was falling down! You will find signs of my DIY everywhere. I'm very proud of having created my own environment here, and I'm very lucky to have Jenny supporting me with her own special skills.

What made you choose to look for a home in Widemouth Bay?

Years ago I stayed with friends in a holiday village here. Later when Jenny and I were engaged we stayed in a hotel in Torquay. When the owner heard we were going to Bude, he suggested we visit Widemouth Bay. We hadn't considered that, because my old map showed Marine Drive in front of the Salt House and completely unsuitable for traffic. So that really introduced us to this area and once we had the children, we used to holiday down here. My parents retired, first to North Tamerton, then Bude and we stayed in the holiday village here when visiting them. But when I looked down on Widemouth then I never imagined that we would ever live here.

Then I fell out with the management of the London Borough of Bexley and got early retirement at the age of 49. We looked around here for a place to live and my redundancy payment helped us buy this house at auction. There's simply no better place on earth to live. I was a country educated kid, living in a village near Maidstone called Loose (just imagine the comments about the Loose Women's Institute!), moved to the suburbs and absolutely loathed it. I cannot stand being enclosed. What this house affords, and most of Poundstock too, is space.

What kind of work were you engaged in back in Bexley?

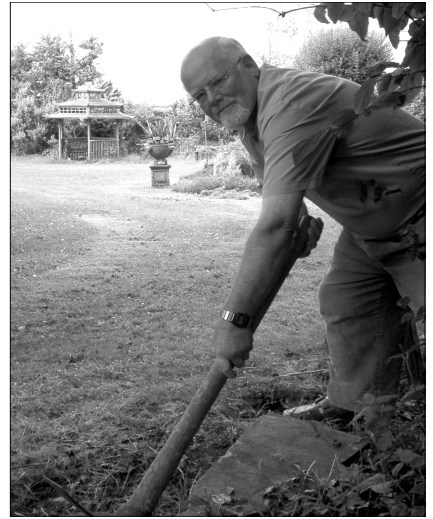
I worked for the local government as a chartered civil engineer, very much on the planning side of it. I managed to get roads built where others had failed, simply by putting together a good case. I called myself 'the innumerate engineer' – not very good with numbers (not good for an engineer!), but able to string words together. My role was Expert Witness in highway and town planning. But when there was a change of Chief Officer, I was told 'you say what we tell you to, not what the facts say' So that was me out! But I have a claim to fame. I was being fined for not stopping on a line at a road junction and took it to court on a technicality. I noticed that there were 2 narrow lines, when there should have been 1 thick line. I won the case and consequently they had to change all the stop lines at road junctions and modify the law.

It's quite evident that you keep yourself busy with work in your grounds, your DIY and Parish matters. Do you have any time for any other interests?

Every Tuesday I go to a spirituality group meeting led by Hilda Walter in the Church Summerhouse. I'm interested in Politics. and have been Chairman and President of the North Cornwall UKIP Constituency Association. I think all politicians should be answerable. I'm a collector: gramophone records of 1920s dance bands; old stamps of the period when they were engraved; engravings. As a child Jenny used to go into the grounds of Franks Hall in Farningham, and she found an engraving of that place, when we were on a visit to Carnarvon. She also found another interesting picture of the Pagoda in Kew Gardens, only it wasn't in Kew, it was in Hyde Park, where it was originally built, I think, for the 1851 Exhibition. I love those kind of curiosities and good architecture generally. I think there's a wonderful range of architecture in Barnstaple.

What do you value most about living here and what do you feel about the changes you have seen?

I accept that change is inevitable, but in the 22 years I've been here there has been a lot of new building within the grounds of properties and I'm concerned about the increasing number of holiday homes, making Widemouth like an empty shell in winter. What I value most is the wonderful sense of community, almost everyone knows everyone else; also the clean air, the space, and I love living on the coast.



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REPORT OF POUNDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2011 MEETING

Cllrs Stacey and Pluess were given leave of absence due to work commitments; Cllr Orchard did not attend nor did CC Cllr Philip Tucker.

The Public Participation session raised the contentious planning application for the change of use of The Trelawny in respect of which our Parish Clerk had represented PPC members at the CC Planning Committee and obtained a restriction on retail activities which could compromise the profitability (and thereby the existence) of the shop at The Beach House. The planning condition was not being observed and as a result of the urgency expressed by the shop owner, PPC is seeking clarification on an administrative issue promoted by Cllr Tucker (which appeared to have provided a loophole) and the possibility of issuing a Stop Notice. The public is reminded that PPC resolutions can be made only on issues which feature on the meeting's agenda, but welcome discussion of any matters of concern at this stage of the proceedings.

Several of Cllr Tucker's items were unresolved or not reported on and it is of great concern that PPC has been unable to establish worthwhile contact with any officer of Cornwall Council to discuss siting of the new Community Building. Cllr Alison Rowland regretfully withdrew her previous offer of land for this project. Also a list of website "constructors" is still being awaited.

The Annual Parish Meeting was agreed for 28th July at which CC Localism Planning Officer Chris Simms is to have spoken.

The Churchyard maintenance was considered and it was reported that moss on the path had been attended to. At Rev. Rob Dickenson's request, responsibility for repairing the crumbling path edges is to be investigated and will be on the next agenda. Biennial Health and Safety inspections of the Churchyard and Cemetery are to be carried out.

Bus Stop road markings, which were an objective in the Parish Plan, are to be pursued in the light of conflicting statements given by CC to PPC and the Widemouth Bay Residents' Group. It is remarkable that the few properly established stopping places carry no identification for either the passenger or the driver.

The only money matters which provoked discussion were the extent of the PPC grant to The Poundstock Packet and a strangely large water bill for the Parish Hall. (This latter is to be questioned.)

Planning Applications: these can either be supported or must be objected to. No option is given to PPC to make suggestions or propose amendments. Our attention has been drawn to the significance of the "heading"- the description and nature of the works proposed. Accordingly an objection was raised on a technicality in respect of a proposed agricultural building at Widemouth Fields Touring Park and the apparent privacy aspect of a proposed roof terrace at The Phoenix, Madeira Drive, but I am given to understand that as no other representations were made, both these applications were approved by CC. Three other applications were supported. Once again I stress the importance of representations both for and against development proposals which are advertised in the vicinity of your property.

This is not a comprehensive or approved record of the PPC meeting but is presented for information, reflection and, if necessary, discussion with your local councillor.

Rupert Powell

Coming up at the Gildhouse

10 Aug Illustrated talk by historian Terry Faull on the glory days of the once-powerful Launceston Priory

13 Aug Kath and her Blue Grass Boys, with cider and pasties; for tickets ring Jen Spettigue, 01288 361525

24 Aug Big Breakfast (see below). All morning from 9.00 to 2.00. Worth skipping your supper for!

13 Sept Mary Street with her superb slides of the North Cornish coast path. The easy way to get the best views

All events start at 7.30 unless otherwise stated. Further information from Graham Jones, 01288 361147.

And whatever you do, don't miss

The Big Breakfast, Wednesday 24 August, 9 till 2 in the Gildhouse

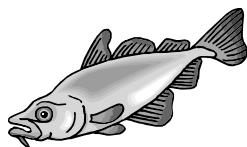
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ST WINWALOE POUNDSTOCK

Parish Priest: Revd R. Dickenson
01288 341134

Wardens: Peter Marfleet 01288 361233
Graham Jones 01288 361147

1st Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 11.00 Family Worship
3rd Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer
4th Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion

News from St Winwaloe's

At the end of June we said a fond farewell to James, our curate, and his family. They are off to a mega-church in Los Angeles, which is about as big a contrast as you can get with a benefice of eight small country churches in Cornwall.

As a result of the reduced number of clergy, our service pattern and times have changed slightly. We now meet at 9.30, except on the second Sunday of each month, when our joint service with Bangors remains at 11.00. Do come and join us.

CHURCHES

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

JOINT SERVICES

St Winwaloe Parish
Church and Bangors Methodist Church join together for worship at 11am on the second Sunday of each month.

Aug 14th at Bangors
Sept 11th at St Winwaloe

BANGORS METHODIST CHAPEL

Circuit minister: Rev. Neal Street
01288 352404
Services 11.00 a.m. Sundays

August

7th G. Rowe S
14th Greatham CA
6.30pm concert
21st M. Street
28th 10am Jazz at Bude

September

4th N. Street S
11th at St Winwaloe
18th T. Sillifant
25th J. Turner

DIMMA METHODIST CHAPEL

Lay pastoral assistant: Brian Parkman
01840 212736

Contact: Audrey Wickett 01840 230268

Services

August	September
7 11am Derek Daniel	4 at Tintagel
14 9.30am Rev B. Ede	11 9.30 P. Parsons
21 Jean Heywood	18 9..30 G. Brown
28 B. Parkman	25 N. Street Harvest

BANGORS CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

SUNDAY 14th AUGUST
6.30pm

North Cornwall
Community Choir
Refreshments

Everyone welcome

CHANGE

Henry Francis Lyte who lived in the early 19th. century wrote that beautiful prayer which we often sing- Abide with me.

Within this prayerful hymn are the words; Change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changes not; Abide with me.

Change is one of those experiences of life that many of us find difficult to cope with. But why? Life is one of continual change.

We have changing seasons that bring changing scenes. Changing fashions that bring changes in the wardrobe! Changing neighbours who give us the opportunity to meet new people. In Methodist circles we have changes to Circuit structure. The Week-St-Mary and Camelford and Tintagel Circuits have now united and are now known as Camelford and Week-St-Mary Circuit. Already I hear voices coming back to me saying; "We don't like change". OK then. What in life's experience does not change? The Bible has the answer to that. The Old Testament speaks of our God who says; "I the Lord do not change". (Malachi 3 v 6) James the Apostle in the New Testament (James 1 v 17) echo's the same truth and tells us of "The Father who does not change." Yes, I know, life is full of change and much of it disturbs and even upsets us at times. How good it is to know that within this disturbance and upset we can know the stability and experience the One who does not change

.Brian Parkman. Lay pastor of Camelford and Week-St-Mary Circuit.

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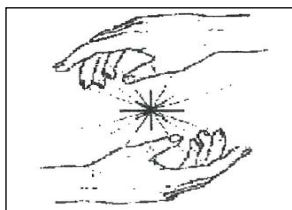
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Goodbye and Good Luck!

Everyone at Jacobstow Community Primary School and Preschool would like to wish Charlotte, Rhys, Molly, Harry, Chloe and Jack, good luck for the next stage of their educational adventure as they start at Budehaven in September.



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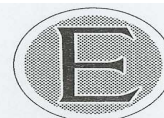


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WIDEMOUTH RESIDENTS' GROUP

We enjoyed a successful barbecue on June 19th and raised £210 for the Stratton hospital appeal. Thank you to various kind people who made a donation in lieu of attending. Everyone's looking forward to the Fish and Chips Evening before Christmas - watch this space!

Our Residents' Meeting the week before was chiefly concerned with arrangements for the barbecue, and some discussion about planning applications. Also, the gate has finally been fixed at the end of Combe Lane onto the bridleway - it only took 14 months(!), but thanks to Phil Tucker nagging the Council, it is now usable by walker and rider. Our next meeting will be on September 14th at 5pm at the Summerhouse. All welcome- please come to support us. *Nicky Vereker*

'I've Brought a Bucket!'

With the Antiques Roadshow recording so close to home it seemed too good an opportunity to miss to find out something about our vast collection of collectables. So after rummaging around we came up with a chair and Graham the Churchwarden at St Winwaloe's suggested we take a fire bucket belonging to the church. It made an excellent receptacle for my sandwiches and water and if I didn't have such a big bottom, a comfortable seat!! The day fortunately turned out dry and sunny as over 2000 people turned up at Hartland Abbey with their treasures. This meant long queues and hours of waiting to see the various experts, who are familiar to all who are fans of the show. As there were two of us we were able to take turns having a good look at how the show is put together as well as eavesdropping on valuations going on at the various tables. Filming the chosen items took easily an hour for each item, one of which was a large collection of surfboards.

The aforementioned bucket was consigned to the 'Miscellaneous' experts and that was the largest queue, so it took some time to reach our destination. I had noticed a few people walking around holding what looked like chalices from a church in gold or silver, so I plonked myself down and said "I've brought a bucket from our church.". All the experts on the day seemed interested in the items laid before them. Ours was no exception and he proceeded to ask what we knew of it and to confirm it was indeed a fire bucket made in the 19th century and quite in vogue today as it is considered shabby chic. We have to take care of it, as it is an integral part of the Church's history, as it has St Neots Poundstock painted on it. Do you remember when the church was dedicated to St Neot? He also suggested we try to find out more about it, when purchased etc. So a trawl through the church inventories may be on the cards, unless you can help. As to value, well it's irreplaceable to us but you may have to pay £150 in a decorator's shop. So we will be security marking it, and if you come to the church or Gildhouse, you may find it with a nice flower arrangement in it.

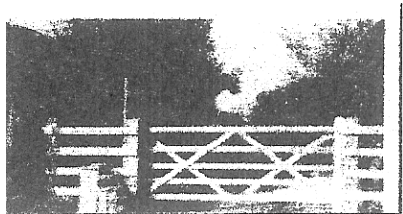
As to the chair, the furniture expert had never seen one like it before. He agreed with our belief that it is an Edwardian ladies' dressing chair with a lift up mirror back to do your hair. Not worth a fortune but interesting, but we again will have to do some research about it. So if anyone out there can help us . . . We had a great day out, saw lots of people we knew and made new acquaintances, but next time I'm taking some glass, that expert had far fewer customers!! *Tim & Sandy Dingle*

THE CHURCH SUMMERHOUSE, WIDEMOUTH BAY

On Tuesdays, at 2.30pm, 5 or 6 of us meet in The Summerhouse continuing what we started with Revd Gavin Douglas, going through the week's Bible Readings and studying books which explore the spiritual side of our relationship with our surroundings. We vary in Churchmanship but agree in principle. Over the years we have read various books and discussed what they teach. We started with "Cloud of unknowing" by an anonymous 13th century cleric and recently we finished "Silent Music" by William Johnston which explores the approaches of the East to material and spiritual matters. Our next book is "Living Well" by Allen Hargreave (Canon Missioner of Ely Cathedral) which draws upon 'rules of life' from Benedict to Iona. The afternoon finishes with tea and biscuits. Do feel free to join us and see if what we do is what you are looking for.

On Friday at 5pm we meet in the church for evening prayer from the B.C.P. with readings from the Lectionary. We begin with five minutes of music from the monks of Landevennec, Taize or even Zen. We remember those who have asked us to pray for them and at the end we have another 5 mins with music. Those of us who attend find it a calm haven in our busy lives. *Hilda Walter* *St Hilary, Madeira Drive, Widemouth Bay.*

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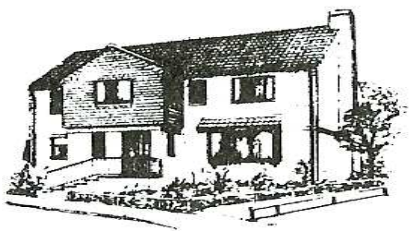
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Hey Ho Come to the Fair The Sun is arising to welcome the day, Hey Ho come to the Fair

So goes the Old English Folk Song. When Anderton and Rowland rolled into Bude for their annual visit early in September it was well timed. In those days most places out and about were farming communities, including Poundstock. Crops would have been harvested and other farm work would have subsided so workers were ready to relax and enjoy themselves.

My first experience of Bude Fair was in the late 1920s. It seemed to be run entirely by Anderton and Rowland with their travelling amusement show. My Grandmother took me to the Fair early one evening, and to enter into the spirit of the things she bought me a balloon. It was a special occasion for me because normally I would have been home getting ready for bed. The Fair was held on the Wharf with crowds of happy people milling around determined to have a good time. The coloured lights and amusements were fascinating; automatic organs were pumping out music and gigantic engines were humming away producing all the electrical power needed by the numerous amusements.

Some of the amusements were making people scream and laugh, both by those involved and those watching. There was something called a Joy Wheel. The wheel seemed to be about 20 feet wide; the edges almost touching the ground rising to a point about 2 feet high at the centre and it had a very smooth surface. People paid a small sum and sat on the wheel; those in the know sat as close to the centre as possible. When the surface of the wheel was covered with seated people the operators switched it on and it began to rotate, slowly at first and gradually speeded up to quite a fast rotation. People began to slide off with a great deal of screaming and flurries of complicated clothing as ladies in skirts tumbled off onto the low padded wall around the wheel. Only those at the centre could hang on and they received a prize. Another amusement that caused much laughter, mainly from the onlookers, was The Cake Walk. People would pay for their ticket and walk down this innocent looking gangway and around a corner to the Cake Walk part, then that part of the gangway would start to move forward and back. People already on that section would try to get back. It was a case of those behind cried forward and those in front cried back.

It seemed onlookers enjoyed watching people in difficult situations. This was borne out in some of the older fairs where tooth extractions would be undertaken. The area would be surrounded by onlookers, most of whom seemed to enjoy watching the discomfort of the patient wriggling and moaning as the tooth was twisted and pulled by someone who, by all accounts, appeared more qualified to be the village blacksmith.

What remained in my mind for a long time afterwards was that on my first visit to Bude Fair, in the excitement of all the things going on around me, I had forgotten to hang onto my balloon. The evening breeze whisked it up into the moonlit sky and I told Grandma I had seen it disappear behind the moon.

In its heyday, the success of Bude Fair seemed to be linked to that of The Anderton and Rowland Travelling Amusement Show. As country fairs go, Bude Fair was relatively recent. A few of the really ancient fairs originated centuries ago. Tavistock Goosey Fair for instance, goes back to the 12th Century, with farmers bringing in geese ready for fattening up for Christmas. Other fairs include St. Peter's Fair, Launceston Maids Fair, Callington Honey Fair. Then, to solve a transportation problem, we have all heard of Tom Pearce lending out his Grey Mare for the village boys who wanted to go to Widdecombe Fair.

Don Sutton

RAF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Are held every 2nd Monday each month at Bude Golf Club (upstairs) at 7.30pm in summer months and 10.30am in winter. All RAF, ex RAF, ex WAAF and friends are welcome. The cost is £2 per meeting, including a raffle. We have interesting speakers, but more would be welcome. Enquiries to Mrs. Val Tibbitts (ex WAAF) at The Mallows, Widemouth Bay. EX23 0AG. Tel. 01288 361922

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

	June	July (to 28th)
Wettest day	18.8 mm (12th)	13.7 mm (6th)
Total rain	56.6 mm	64.0 mm
Days of rain (>1 mm)	12	11
Highest temp	27.3 °C (26th 16:30)	24.8 °C (4th 14:31)
Lowest temp	4.7 °C (14th 04:50)	5.0 °C (3rd 05:35)
Average max temp	18.2 °C	19.5 °C
Average min temp	10.3 °C	10.7 °C
Max wind gust	32.0 mph (18th 15:50)	32.0 mph (18th 02:00)
Windiest day	12.2 mph (18th)	15.0 mph (17th)
Total sunshine hours	181.6 hrs	173.7 hrs
Sunniest day	13.7 hrs (26th)	13.3 hrs (14th)

This was the wettest June since we started keeping records in July 2007; 56.6 mm compared with an average for the last four years of 34.2 mm

July's average maximum and minimum temperatures are close to the 30 year averages as is the hours of sunshine. The rainfall is slightly higher than the 30 year average but considerably lower than the amount of rain we have had in recent Julys. This month's rainfall is less than 50% of the average for the last five years. July is maintaining the rainfall pattern of the earlier months in 2011; so far this year the rainfall is 76 mm (3 inches) less than the 30 year average, this is approximately 80% of the average

Graham Jones

Wild About Poundstock Of Bats & Butterflies

When we did the restoration of the Gildhouse, the contractors had to be very careful of the lesser horse-shoe bats that live in the chimney. Part of the project included putting baffles in the chimney to prevent the bats coming into the rooms. We did a bat count before work started and have done one each June since. Four of us did this at the end of June on a fine evening. It requires us to stand and keep count as they leave the chimney just as the light is fading. It is surprisingly difficult. Two stand in the churchyard, and two down in the road. It doesn't matter which side you stand, the bats always seem to come up out of the chimney and immediately zoom off to the opposite side from where you're standing. The count before the restoration work began was about 60. Each count since then has been about 45, but this year we did count 52. Overall, the bats seem happy with their restored home. What is sad is that hardly any bats seem to stay around the churchyard, but while it is kept so mowed there are few flowers, and therefore few moths, or other insects for them to feed on.

One of the treats at this time of year is to see the silver-washed fritillary butterflies down in the valley. With a wing span of about 3" it is one of the largest butterflies. Like all of the fritillaries, the upper wing is speckled orange and black. On the underside, the lower wing is suffused with green and the distinctive silver 'wash' line down it. This is a butterfly of large woodlands, although in Cornwall it may be seen along lanes with high hedges, and gardens. The males will glide above the tree-tops occasionally dropping down to feed on nectar or in search of a female.. The favourite food plant is bramble. Courtship is a high flying dance, the female flying in a straight line while the male loops around her. The females search for the caterpillar food plant, which is violets. However, they don't lay the eggs on them but on an oak trunk close by. The egg hatches after about two weeks, the caterpillar then goes into a crevice and forms a purse of silken threads in which it will spend the winter. The following spring they crawl down to the ground and search out the violets. By early June the mature caterpillar once more crawls up a nearby shrub or tree trunk to pupate, re-emerging as an adult in early July. Do look out for these delightful butterflies that are on the wing until early September. *Tim Dingle.*





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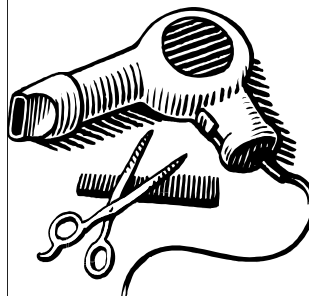
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LOCALISM AND US.

I am putting finger to keyboard because I am concerned at the vast chasm which exists between London and Poundstock (or even between England and Cornwall) in respect of "community". Localism is seen by politicians as a means for repairing dysfunctional (mainly urban) communities. I am not a Cornish Nationalist and I see any attempt to give greater autonomy to any part of Great Britain as divisive, but I do believe in democracy and respect the right of anyone or group of people to express their view or lobby for their interests. However, we have an established system of elected personnel whom, if they fail to act as we wish, we can remove through the ballot box. By attending Parish Council meetings, lobbying your councillors on planning applications and matters of concern or by just reading the meeting minutes, you can participate. We do not need a Localism Act. I see the government's current Localism Bill as a cynical way of bypassing your local council in favour appearing to offer greater public participation whilst placing almost insurmountable obstacles in the way of progress. Yes, as a constituted community land trust or interest company, you can express a wish for any change but then it has to be professionally assessed and put to a referendum which is a lengthy and costly process. North Cornwall District Council of blessed memory in effect did this by initiating the Parish Plan process in Poundstock.

Many of the aims have still to be realised. The Plan revealed parishioners' desire to come together and participate in a wide range of activities for which there is currently no suitable venue. The planning process and the fund-raising are long and complicated but we are getting there. Instead of just a new Parish Hall, we are looking at providing a recreation ground and a community centre which will have a sports hall with associated meeting rooms to accommodate those activities which showed the most support in the Questionnaire responses. No one pressure group is involved. We know what we want. We want to build a more cohesive community- the sort which does not exist in big conurbations but which you find in many other villages. Change will come; we can't resist it but everyone already is part of "the Big Society" if they will only take an active part in the affairs of our community.

This is becoming rather a long-winded way of saying that your parish council should be your first port of call if you have any concerns about your environment. To that end, as the only retired member of the Parish Council I have been asked to report on our activities at our monthly meetings. The foregoing is not a true record, but just my impressions. It is a salutary fact that our meetings have been attended by more people from other parishes than from our own, so please spare the odd hour to check if I've got it right and even have your say. (There is a 10 minute period at the beginning of each meeting to do just that.)

Rupert Powell

Councillor's Report

Please repeat my Mantra

Very few people would doubt the need for the Council to save money and most would agree that spending cuts need to be urgent. Most would equally agree that the council historically is not very good at being frugal. I would agree with those points myself and would certainly say that the council tax payer should get better value for money.

However, there are times that reducing costs can so adversely affect the community that the savings are outweighed by the extra costs incurred by a community least able to sustain those costs.

This is often true of rural area, where small changes can make a huge difference. If for instance a toilet is closed in Truro or Penzance, there is obviously an inconvenience (excuse the pun) of walking an extra 400 metres to get to a provision, perhaps in a restaurant or supermarket, or indeed another public toilet. However closing of a toilet in a rural area can mean a 5 mile drive. Equally if a bus route is lost in Saltash, then it will be inconvenient to wait an extra half hour to get to Plymouth. Lose a bus route in my division and we'll probably have lost the only bus that day.

I have voiced reasoned arguments to stop those seemingly inconsequential changes, which officers have identified as saving money. They might slightly inconvenience an urban area, but I explain how those changes will affect our rural community

Every chance I get when communicating at Council meetings or by letter I repeat my little mantra, "**urban changes affect more people but rural changes affect people more**". I have been uttering this for many months.

Last week I was at a meeting, where we were discussing a project which I am trying to get through council. The first stage of this is to get officer understanding and 'buy-in'. It was a tough argument because it demanded a capital cost but it would repay that in hard cash within 8 or 9 years (including interest) and would have a real benefit after that of £100,000 per year. The astounding thing during this meeting, which filled me with a feeling that perhaps council officers were not all autotrons from the land of 'companyline', was that one of the officers quoted my mantra.

I think the message is getting through. **Urban changes affect more people, Rural changes affect people more.**

Phil Tucker

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Our Sky in August 2011

Jupiter is the only planet worth seeing in August, and it rises in the East about 11pm, and will be a brilliant object in the night sky from now on, rising earlier each day.

Mars is our planet of the month, and it has been a planet of interest throughout history; named after the god of war probably because of its blood red colour. It features in the Planets Suite by Holst, and is famous for the 'canals' that Percival Lowell thought he detected and drew in the 1890s; better telescopes revealed geological features rather than intelligently dug canals, but it was not until 1965 that the existence of canals was finally disproved by the orbiting Mariner spacecraft.

Since then, there have been a number of orbiting and robotic lander spacecraft, and these have provided a wealth of scientific data; however, no life has been found as yet, but more sophisticated robotic landers are planned, which will search for the signs that life either exists or existed in the past.

It has been an ambition of a number of countries to establish a base on Mars, but the difficulties are immense; the surface itself is hostile to human life, with a very thin atmosphere incapable of being breathed directly, intense cold, and lethal solar radiation, which the negligible atmosphere cannot prevent reaching the surface; these all combine to make the task of protection vital for the first explorers. On the credit side, water, in the form of ice, is readily available at the Poles, and might even exist just below the surface in some areas of the planet; this would allow the astronauts to produce oxygen and hydrogen as fuels, as well as the all-important water to drink, and oxygen to breathe.

In the present financial climate it seems unlikely that any nation will make the attempt to send men to the Red Planet in the near future, but Mars will continue to beckon mankind as long as the urge to explore exists.

Bill Turnill



And finally . . .

It's always great to be able to end with some good news, and everyone loves a wedding. Many congratulations to Charlie Corner and Justine Baker, who were married at St Winwaloe's on 16 July.

The morning's rain and cloud gave way to brilliant sunshine as Mr and Mrs Corner left the church, just right for the photos.

Pictured are bridesmaid Rebecca Corner, Justine, Charlie and best man Paul Hughes.

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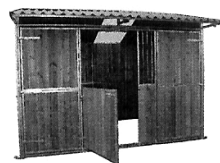
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