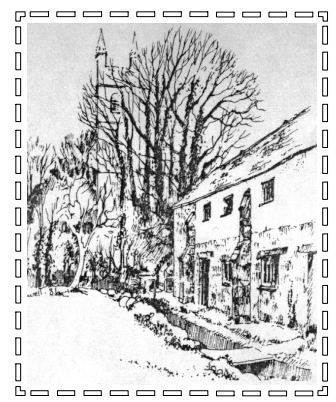




THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET

KERNOW BYS VYKEN !



Well Done!

The Gildhouse now has another lovely feature to add to its character: the newly restored well. It used to be buried in brambles, with a collapsed-in roof and broken door. We had always felt that it was the water supply for the poor house. When the Gildhouse won the Europa Nostra award it was decided that some of the prize money should go towards the well's repair.

Poundstock builder Eric Harris took on the job. Actually he asked if he could do it when the job was shown to him! He had never done one before and wanted the challenge, and what a good job he has made of it. The well now stands proud by the road with its new domed roof and door. A discovery was made during the restoration. We knew it had a couple of steps just inside the door but when Eric emptied the well, a set of steps all the way down were found that spiral around the wall.

Since the well has been part of the community for so long, we felt it would be nice if everyone had the chance to help with this project and feel some ownership of it. It was suggested that people could donate £5 for a stone used in the restoration, with a book kept listing the names of the donors. If you would like to 'own' a stone, contact Jen Spettigue or Sandy Dingle (01288 361525 or 361356). *Tim Dingle*



Right: the steps discovered inside the well. The steps go down about six feet and it's thought the well is only about eight feet deep. There is plenty of water in it at the moment!

JAIDEN HAS A MOST AMAZING ADVENTUROUS PLAN
See page 3 for full details



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TWO MONTHS

No. 59 February/March 2013

February

- 4 Revel Planning Meeting Treskinnick Farmhouse 7.30pm
 10 Sankey Singalong 3pm Bangors Chapel
 18 Lent Lunch Bangors Methodist Hall 12-2pm
 22 Community Cinema, *We Bought a Zoo* (PG), Parkhouse, 7.30pm
 26 Juliotter Garden Club, 'Plants to grow in our weather', Otterham Village Hall, 7.30pm.
 25 Lent Lunch Bangors Methodist Hall 12-2pm

March

- 4 Lent Lunch Bangors Methodist Hall 12-2pm
 7 Boscastle Buoys, Gildhouse Charity Evening, 7.30pm (see p. 3)
 9 Bude Concert Orchestra concert 7.30pm Parkhouse see p. 19
 11 Lent Lunch Bangors Methodist Hall 12-2pm
 15 Community Cinema, *Anna Karenina* (12A), Parkhouse, 7.30pm
 18 Lent Lunch Bangors Methodist Hall 12-2pm
 20 St Winwaloe's APCM, Gildhouse, 7pm
 25 Lent Lunch Bangors Methodist Hall 12-2pm
 25 Poundstock Packet AGM 7.30pm Treskinnick Farmhouse
 29 Good Friday
 31 Easter Day

FREE ADVERTISING FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENT

Just send us the details by 20th March for events in April and May.

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: Jacqui Carroll 01288 361883
 Poundstock Ladies Skittles: W. Orchard 01288 361653
 Rebel Cinema 01288 361442
 Tilleys coaches: 01840 230244
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 Bude New Life Centre 01288 359714

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The Crescent 3.0—3.20pm

Atlantic Close 3.25–3.40

2nd BUDE SCOUTS

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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

MARHAMCHURCH W.I.

Meetings

12 February 2013

"THE GUIDE DOGS FOR
 THE BLIND ASSOCIATION"

12th March AGM

JACOBSTOW WI

Meetings

14 February Memories as a bra designer

Susan Swanepoel

14 March AGM

Members' Evening

Bude Community Cinema

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OTTER BREAKS COVER ON THE BUDE CANAL

Poundstock Lent Lunches in aid of Stratton Hospital League of Friends At Bangors Methodist Chapel Hall

Mondays 12–2pm

February 18th, 25th March 4th, 11^h, 18th, 25th

Help will be needed please. As always, I'm looking for helpers, who can spare just a couple of hours on the dates above. Or, if you could make soup, give bread, butter, cheese, that would be a great help. Please call me on 01288 361525. Come and enjoy a great social time and help give support and comfort to the patients of our much needed hospital at Stratton. Thank you

Jen Spettigue

FRESH BLOOD?

Is it just my ageing, sentimental imagination or is Poundstock getting younger? I know for sure that fairly recently several families with young children have moved into our parish. For me, they have brought a breath of fresh air and vitality with them. I'm delighted to notice that some of these younger elements are beginning to appear in these pages.

Fiona Owen's Christmas Quiz prompted a great response from our local children. Anna Spettigue's gaming column aims to interest a younger generation. Jaiden's story (below) shows us that we have young people in Poundstock actively engaged in wonderful ventures. The creative writing on page 11 confirms that our youngsters can express themselves most effectively.

All this is very welcome.
More please!

Dudley Moore



POUNDSTOCK PACKET AGM

25th March 7.30pm

At Treskinnick Farmhouse

Open to all Poundstock Parish Residents

If you wish to attend please call
01288 361525 for further information

POUNDSTOCK REVEL PLANNING MEETING

February 4th 7.30 pm Treskinnick Farmhouse

Please come along to help plan for an even better Revel in 2013. If you can't come do let us know if you have any suggestions. We would welcome your input. Contact Jen on 01288 361525.

YOUNG MAN PREPARES FOR GREAT VENTURE

On the 8th June 2013 Jaiden Pinchess, age 7, Bangors Green Poundstock, will be walking up Mount Snowdon, with his dad as his 'Sherpa', to raise money for two charities that have helped his little brother Ethan. The two charities are The Caroline Thorpe Ward (Children's Ward) at North Devon District Hospital and Little Rays of Sunshine in Bude, a group for families of children with additional needs.

Jaiden has set an ambitious target of raising £500 to be divided equally between the two charities. If you would like to sponsor him please contact us at karenpinchess@btinternet.com or call on 01288 361403.

If you would like some more information please check out his website at www.jaidensclimb.weebly.com and if you are on facebook please 'like' his page www.facebook.com/jaidensclimb.

Jaiden would like to thank you all in advance for all of your support.

Karen and Steve Pinchess, 24 Bangors Green, Poundstock. 01288 361403

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How long have you lived in Cornwall and in this old Poundstock village shop?

Well I was born in Cambridge, moved to Mill Hill, North West London, when I was 6. I was educated and worked there until 1970. My father lived most of his life in the suburbs of London, but at heart and through upbringing he was a countryman from East Anglia. He raised his family where he could best support us, in London, but he couldn't wait to get back to the country. His cousin had moved to Rosecare in the 60s and at his suggestion Dad came to look around and eventually decided to buy this village shop in 1970. He wanted to semi-retire and I hadn't been very happy in London, so thought I'd come here for 6 months to see what it was like. I never went back.

I'm interested to know what it was like working in the shop here in the 1970s.

It was a thriving business, we were kept very busy in the visitor season, which lasted from around Whitsun till the end of September. Father introduced cream teas, served in a little room here and on the lawn. It was before the new road was built, so although traffic could be quite busy, it was a lot slower. I remember vividly traffic jams right back here from Helebridge, where the road into Bude went across the narrow bridge over the canal. At busy times police would be there directing the flow of traffic. So by the shop there was a much quieter, slower pace of life back then. With the village school next door, the village hall opposite and young families in the neighbourhood, we had a fairly steady trade with local people. We were very much part of the local community and could expect customers 24/7, even on Christmas Day!

During this time you married and brought up your own family here?

I met Margaret in the mid 70s due to a shared love of folk music. There was a thriving folk scene in Bude then and I played in a group with Frank Campbell at the Tree Inn, which was very well known, not just locally, for Folk Music. (Interestingly the local folk scene has picked up again recently and there are sessions at the Falcon in Bude and at Stratton, Boscastle, Tintagel and Bodmin.) So we met at folk clubs, then married; and raising our children here was idyllic, working in the shop, growing our own vegetables, getting involved with local youth clubs and the Parish Hall. I kept bees, until I nearly died from an anaphylactic shock. I had to be airlifted to hospital and that was the end of beekeeping for me.

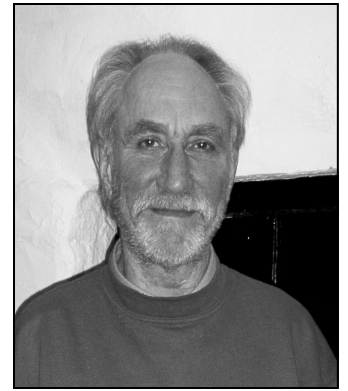
My father died in 1993 and business had already been declining for several years, mainly due to the new road increasing the speed of the traffic and making accessibility to the business difficult, but also life styles were changing and supermarkets arrived. I could no longer support our family through the shop, so after working in the family business for 25 years, the shop closed and I joined the opposition. In April 1995 I started working in Bude for Safeways (as it was before Morrisons took over).

This is quite an old building. How much do you know of its history?

I have here the original indenture dated 1817 granted by Sir William Pratt-Call to William Dart, a mason. It granted access to this land for 5 shillings. The original building was an L shape with a stable in 2 sections on the end. In the first instance this was a dwelling with, I imagine, a smallholding. At the front, where we used to have the shop, was a living area and above that presumably a bedroom. One section of the stable is still almost as it would have been 200 years ago, with its wooden hay trough. I believe that there was a shop here as early as 1860, as I have an original receipt here with that date, recording as 'shopkeeper' a previous owner, Thomas Proust. It says he promises to pay £15 to Fred Rattenbury, a watchmaker of Stratton. Our address 'Bangors Farm' goes back to the time when Mr. Morrish lived here and farmed land, which didn't actually adjoin the property. When we moved in there was a cattle yard with a shippen, but we converted it into a garage after the gales of '97 destroyed the existing one.

Following a speculative 6 months here in 1970 you've stayed a further 42 years, what keeps you?

Now I wouldn't consider living anywhere else. My original feelings about the peaceful, slower pace of life, have not changed. We've developed a deep appreciation of Nature and History around us. We're avid walkers and have a great interest in Holy Wells.





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With two big celebrations, Christmas and New Years Day behind us, we head off into the New Year. Some people were asked what they thought about New Year Resolutions, a few said they make them and stick to them. Most said they make them but rarely stick to them and the rest said they were a waste of time. New Years Day is celebrated in England these days more than it used be, but in Scotland it has always been a very important time of year and goes by the name of Hogmanay, (named after a rich cake given to children on New Years Eve). The festivities may last as long as 4 days. Christmas was a low key celebration compared with Hogmanay in Scotland. Different New Years Day customs were followed depending on the district. One custom was called First Footing. At midnight on New Years Eve the back door of a house was opened to let the old year out, then the front door was opened to welcome a dark haired man into the house carrying token gifts of coal, bread and salt. This means that there will be food (bread), warmth (coal), and money (salt) available in the house for the following year. Salt represented money because at one time in ancient Rome, Roman soldiers were paid in salt, a valuable commodity back then for preserving food. The English word salary is derived from the Latin word for salt, Salarium. Years ago, to the best of my knowledge, there was not a great Scottish presence in Poundstock so only a few people followed the custom of First Footing and only to the extent that the first person to enter the house on New Years Day was a dark haired man. I do recall a lady called Katie Wright who used to visit my Grandmother's house in Treskinnick Cross. She was Scottish and she was always accompanied by her faithful Scottish terrier.

A world wide tradition at New Year parties and groups gathered to welcome the New Year is to sing Auld Lang Syne. Most of the song is attributed to Robert Burns, the Scottish people's poet and the words have a magical way of promoting a feeling of friendship between the singers. This is strange because the song has many Scottish phrases and dialects, the meaning of which is unknown to many of the singers. For example, in the fourth verse, how many people would know that *A right guid –willie waught* would mean a good will drink? This does not affect the enthusiasm of the singers with their noise makers and paper hats. Robert Burns was the son of a poor ploughman but he managed to get some formal education and wrote some beautiful poems, many were about his lady loves. He confessed to a young lady that all he knew of Latin was "Amor Vincit Omnia." (Love conquers all). It is said that he fell in love at age 15 and never fell out of it. He wrote about Love, Universal Brotherhood and the Human Condition. He managed to publish a small book of 18 poems that sold for 3 shillings each. The 612 copies sold out in two weeks. It is estimated that one of those original copies today would fetch £20,000. Some of those early copies were read by the people of Edinburgh society and Burns became an instant celebrity. He was sometimes known as the ploughman poet. In spite of his success he was more at home with people with whom he started out in life. His success was his downfall and in just over 10 years of fame, after a heavy drinking bout, he caught a fever and died at age 37. A few years after he died, as a tribute to his life and works, his friends started a ritual called Burns Night. It is celebrated with traditional suppers held annually on his birthday, January 25th. Burns Night is celebrated the world over; in America, Canada, Rome and in Dunedin New Zealand where a nephew of Burns, Thomas Burns, was a founding father. Burns Night is celebrated wherever there are Burns Clubs, expatriate Scots or aficionados of Burns Poetry. I consider myself one of the latter and even bought a 5 inch model of Burns Cottage made by Lillput Lane, a company in Cumbria. It is beautifully made with great attention to detail. Burns Night suppers usually follow a basic format; a Scottish Bagpiper sets the mournful note of the drone outside the gathering and then marches in to the melody played on the chanter. The Bagpiper is followed by the Haggis, the main dish of the evening which consists of lamb's offal, suet, onions, oatmeal, flavouring and was traditionally boiled in a sheep's stomach. A prayer by Burns called Selkirk Grace is recited. The words are as follows:--

*Some hae meat and canna eat , And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat, And so the Lord be thankit.*

The last lines of Burns poem, *A Man's a Man for A' That*, shows his deep feeling for the brotherhood of man, regardless of his rank or wealth:--

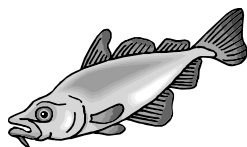
"That man to man , the world o'er, Shall brothers be for a' that."



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CHURCHES



ST WINWALOE POUNDSTOCK

Parish Priest: Revd R. Dickenson
01288 341134

Wardens: Peter Marfleet 01288 361233
Graham Jones 01288 361147

February

- 3 Holy Communion, 9.30
- 10 Joint service at Bangors, 11.00
- 17 UBC at Week St Mary, 10.30
- 24 Morning Prayer, 9.30

March

- 3 Holy Communion, 9.30
- 10 Joint service at St Winwaloe's, 11.00
- 17 UBC, place still tba, 10.30
- 24 Palm Sunday, Morning Prayer, 9.30
- 29 Good Friday meditation, 2.00
- 31 Easter Day Holy Communion, 9.30

Our APCM will be on Wednesday 20 March in the Gildhouse at 7pm. All parishioners are welcome to this meeting, which will elect the churchwardens and PCC for the coming year.

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE WIDEMOUTH BAY

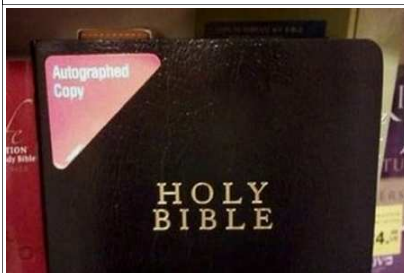
Warden: Judith MacDonald
01288 362254

Services:

- 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays 8 am
- Wednesdays 8.30 am
- Fridays 5 pm Evensong

JOINT SERVICES

St Winwaloe's Church and Bangors Methodist Chapel join together for worship on the second Sunday of each month at 11.00 am.
February 10th at Bangors
March 10th at St. Winwaloe's
Do come and join us.



This 'autographed copy' was spotted in a branch of WH Smith.
Definitely worth buying!

BANGORS METHODIST CHAPEL

Circuit minister: Rev. Neal Street
01288 352404

Services 11.00 a.m. Sundays

February

- 3 G. Jose
- 10 D. Stokes **US**
3pm Sankey
- 17 J. Henry **SAC**
24 N. Street

March

- 3 B. Bryne
- 10 US at St Winwaloe's
- 17 C. Drew
- 24 LA
- 31 R. Cox

DIMMA METHODIST CHAPEL

Contact: Rev. Stephen Caddick
01840 214624

Or Audrey Wickett 01840 230268

February 3 9.30 A Rhodes

- 10 9.30 Parsons
- 17 9.30 Hicks
- 24 9.30 Church Fellowship

March 3 9.30 N Sparey

- 10 9.30 Church Fellowship
- 17 9.30 Caddick **Sac**
- 24 9.30 Church Fellowship
- 31 9.30 R Heywood **Sac**

Ruminations from the Rectory

Freezing nights and a touch of heat in the sun. God's gift of a morning, somehow lending credibility to the fact that it is still Epiphany; in the Eastern Church especially this is the time for the giving and receiving gifts in token of the visit of the Magi. Various described as astrologers, wise men and kings, these travellers from the East brought more than treasures: they carried, also, gifts of learning, wisdom and integrity to lay before the Christ child.

Now, in just sixteen weeks' time this United Benefice will begin its possibly quite lengthy interregnum; and how I for one will miss the friendliness and unity of this Week St Mary Circle of Parishes. I know from my own previous experience as Rural Dean that a vacancy sometimes throws communities into a sense of feeling somehow lost and lacking in leadership. But that will not be the case here where church leadership does not belong to just one person; because here we together are the church! We are the body of Christ; and he has given each one of us a special part to play and special gifts with which to resource it – however insignificant we may feel those gifts or our particular role to be.

So for us the message of Epiphany is that if everyone will bring their gifts of time, talent and resources to those responsible for managing our churches they will lay them also before God. How God chooses to use these gifts we do not know, but if we offer them in faith and love there is every hope that He will use them to retain the solidarity and vitality that our United Benefice has enjoyed over the years; a solidarity and vitality to be enjoyed, also, by our children's children. *Revd Rob Dickenson*

Revd Rob's Retirement

Most people will know by now that Revd Rob Dickenson is retiring after sixteen years as Rector of the United Benefice of the Week St Mary Circle of Parishes. His final service in the Benefice will be at Week St Mary on 7 April, when a united service will be followed by a bring and share lunch, and his last service at Poundstock is on Easter Sunday.

Rob and Sue's contribution to life in this part of North Cornwall has been enormous, and there will be many who will want to join in thanking them and wishing them a very long and happy retirement. Plans are well in hand for marking their years of dedicated service: please contact either of the churchwardens for more details.



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Examples of fiction writing from children at Jacobstow Primary school and Preschool.
Our children learn to write in many different styles during their learning through school, these are
just four different examples of fiction writing from the older junior children.

Instructions for the 5th of November
Set off at dusk

Advance to the bird's nest in the apple tree
Then plod the sodden field
Where the crows have gathered
To keep themselves warm.
Immediately, run to the haunted woods.
Up in the sky, the crows dart in the coming
night.

Note that the rain clouds
Are heading this way!
At the deep ditch's cauldron
Crouch and feel the woodland water
As it rises quickly.

Watch, watch spellbound,
As brownish bubbles rise from the puddle
And know that you have arrived at
BONFIRE NIGHT!

Written by a year 5 child aged 9

The Borrowers

As I walked through the door I felt myself shrinking quickly. I opened another door, sweat dripping down me. I saw these tiny people and I realised I was just as small. I smelt food drift past me, I don't know if it was rotten but I certainly thought it was. There were postage stamps and credit cards everywhere as decoration.

I got a tape measure that hauled me up. I saw a door and went through it, it was a boy's bedroom, I was the same size as an action man. I moved forwards quickly, I knocked a doll off the shelf, the boy saw, I ran. The boy got me. He put me in his money jar, the money was cold.
"You going to squirt me?" I said.
"No" he said.

Part of stories written by year 4 children aged 8 and based on the story of the 'Borrowers'.

The Queue

On the last day of the summer holidays, Chris Radfield went shopping in town with his mum. He did not want to go but his mum promised him a treat so he agreed. In town, he noticed a poster in a shop window advertising a new game.

"Mum, please can we get the games for my treat?" Chris said in a begging voice.

Mum agreed and they joined the end of the very long queue.

After a while, Mum was tired and said, "Are you sure you still want to be in this queue? It is taking a very long time and I'm getting bored of waiting?"

Chris smiled secretly at his mum and asked her to wait just a bit longer. "I can hear the shop owner getting ready to open up and he is turning the lights on."

"Oh alright then," said mum, "Only five minutes longer."

Suddenly, the doors were opened and all the excited and happy children poured into the shop to buy the new game. Chris was worried that he would not get the game because there were lots of children in front of them in the queue.

Eventually, he got to the front of the queue and went to pick up the game but another child grabbed the same game at exactly the same time! It was the last one on the shelf!

They both wanted it and neither of them would let go. Mum suggested that she toss a coin to decide who got it. They both agreed and Chris chose heads and won!

Then the shop keeper said that he had some more games in the store room and that there were enough games for everybody!

Written by a year 6 child aged 10

Seeing the Borrowers

I heard a suspicious noise from the girl's toilets. "Who's in there?"

As I trotted in I heard a squeaky noise, it sounded like a mouse, a baby mouse. For some reason I was shrinking slowly. I saw the mother was wearing a squared shaped watch for a belt, beads for a hairband. It smelt like a dog had been in there, a stinky dog.

As I got closer items started to float, so did a boy. Then the house started to shake, I was terrified. Their table was the size of a Barbie table, and they were eating weird rolls I hadn't heard of. As I crept closer into the bedroom I saw a dressing gown for bedspread, a stamp and a CD for pictures. How weird.

As it got darker I saw the daughter sneak out and get a birthday candle and lit it. She used a tape measure as a lift and she and I were the size of an Action Man.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Go to ... Barnaby Innes - Aged 9 and Ella Henry-Brock - Aged 9

Winners of our Christmas Quiz

They each received a £10 token

Thank you for all your entries; there was a great response.

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Our Sky in February 2013

The evening sky is still host to all the best winter constellations, with Jupiter brilliant between Taurus and the Pleiades. Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, is low on the southeast horizon, following Orion, and is a lovely object in binoculars, flashing all the colours of the rainbow as the turbulent atmosphere causes it to twinkle like a frenetic diamond. Saturn rises about midnight in the southeast, moving westwards throughout the night; it will become more prominent as the year proceeds and will be observable at a more comfortable time. Venus rises in the east just before sunrise, so will probably be too difficult to see in the dawn glow.

ESA's space observatory Herschel has been observing a gas cloud in the process of collapsing to form a star which might well include a planetary system like our own. What is particularly exciting is that the cloud contains vast amounts of water vapour – enough, astronomers say, to fill Earth's oceans 2000 times. It is not very surprising that water should be so abundant in the Universe; Hydrogen is the most readily available element, with Oxygen also very common, and the two atoms are great friends, forming water molecules whenever they meet! As always, whenever water is mentioned life also becomes a possibility, although it will be many millions of years before that could happen in this particular stellar system.

Meanwhile, the Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes have observed what astronomers consider to be the most distant galaxy seen – 13.2 billion light years away; its light left when our Universe was only 500 million years old. I use the term 'our Universe' not to tease any readers, but to retain the very real possibility that the Universe we observe might not be the only one to exist. Two hundred years ago scientists thought they had discovered all there was to know; as scientific instruments uncovered more facts, so they unearthed even more puzzles, and that is just as true today. Only now, scientists are less inclined to think they have discovered everything; the Universe and our tiny part of it continue to pose more questions than we are able to answer. How lucky we are!

Bill Turnill

The Gaming Column

So this month the gaming calendar is dead, The lull after Xmas has hit and we are all either revisiting or buying the games we missed of 2012.

A recent addition to my collection is **Fifa 13**, like many games in the sporting genre, not much changes from year to year apart from player updates and changes to the games formats. I generally only buy every other year, then you notice a real difference in the game.

The online play has been fantastic, playing individually or making a team and playing alongside friends. **Fifa 13** has an extensive collection of 'offline' (no internet required) gaming, from personal challenges, careers and management. This game is fully worth a venture, Internet or not!

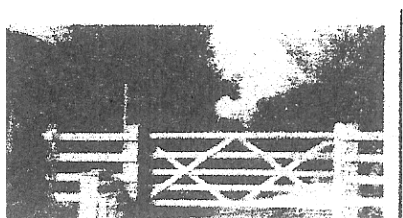


A recent discovery I have made is the game **thesettlersonline.com**, this is a free internet online game on PC. The main reason I have become addicted to this game is the depth of what you're doing from resourcing materials to day to day management of your new world. You have the option to take over neighbouring settlements, however, at a cost to the army you have spent half the day recruiting! If you're into the mundane life of the Sims or Commanders and Conquers brutality of world domination then this game will be a perfect medium.

This game does not require any fast reflexes or understanding of gameplay as the tutorial is extensive and can be referred to at any time. You can play this game for 10 minutes or 3 hours depending on your lifestyle.

Anna Spettigue

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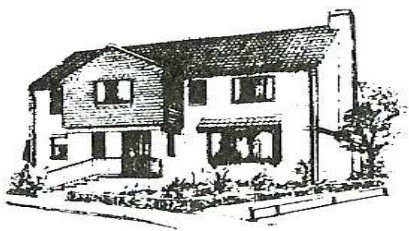
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TILL DEATH US DO PART?

I belong to the baby boomer generation. We were born in the years after the last war, when rationing was still part of every day life. Most of us, as children, experienced hardships - but as we were all in the same boat, we just saw it as normal. Our parents worked hard, were aspirational for their children, and created a post-war culture of opportunism.

Mine was the generation where education was free, where university places were available to all who got the grades, and where the professions and skilled jobs were there for the taking. Many of us grasped these opportunities with both hands, and have had rewarding lives and careers. Many have pensions and pension pots with guaranteed returns - a far better prospect than our children now face. So everything in the garden ought to be rosy. But the truth is rather different.

I have done many thousands of divorces as a solicitor. In the early days, it was a real rarity to see wives and husbands over the age of 60 seeking advice on ending their marriages. Those that did always seemed to have a very heavy heart. In later years, however, I have seen a very significant rise in the number of retired spouses telling me they simply have had enough. National statistics seem to suggest that my experience is replicated everywhere else. The Office of National Statistics says that the number of those over 60 separating from their spouse has doubled in the last 10 years. Last year alone 8 per cent of divorcing husbands and 5 per cent of divorcing wives were over 60. Why is the trend upward year on year?

For one thing, men and women reaching the age of 60 can expect to live to 88 and 95 respectively if a combination of relatively common factors kicks in. A generation earlier, men could expect to live into their late 60s, and women into their early 70s. Instead of seeing no more than a few years left together - and thinking "What the hell, it's too late to bother", many now think differently. "If I am not certain of my happiness as I approach old age, why should I put up with him or her any longer" is the modern-day approach.

Retirement is no longer seen as the natural end of life, where little gets done and the weight is lifted off the feet. Rather, it is looked on as a fantastic opportunity to pursue new goals in life and to meet new challenges and opportunities. In some cases that may well mean "out with the old, and in with the new" when it comes to relationships.

The changes in the divorce laws have also had a major effect, especially for women who have sacrificed their careers to bring up children. They know that the Court has now to undertake the exercise of achieving a fair result. If this means the outright transfer of property from one to the other or the splitting of a pension, then that will be done. Knowing that in old age and after divorce there is every prospect of economic freedom, an unhappy husband or wife may well decide that divorce is the only or best option available.

So reaching 60 or retirement age can be a major catalyst for really life-changing events, including whether a marriage should continue or not. Children will have long flown the nest, working life has or will shortly come to an end, and the lust for life may drive couples apart rather than keep them together. Many are no longer prepared simply to drift. In 1950 a mere 627 men and 350 women over 60 got divorced. A change in social, economic and religious attitudes have now removed the stigma of divorce. Individuals now feel they have the right and the ability to exercise freedom of choice. And if that means telling one's spouse that they are surplus to requirements, then the law is likely to oblige.

John Busby

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The weather in Poundstock during 2012

What a wet year! We had 178 days when the rainfall was at least 1mm; this compares with 151 days shown in the 30 year average for Bude that the Met Office publish. That means we had nearly a month's worth of extra rain throughout 2012 with the total rainfall being 132% of the average. However we mustn't forget that the first three months of the year were very dry. In the first quarter of the year we had only had 60% of the usual amount of rain and the monthly total for March was 36% of the average. The weather in 2012 was slightly cooler than average; there were eight months when the average maximum temperature was below the 30 year average and nine months when the average minimum was below the expected average. In particular the average minimum temperature for May was 1.5°C below what would be expected for the month – no wonder vegetables didn't grow very well this year. For the whole year there were 29 days of air frost, slightly more than average. The last spring frost was on 16 April, almost a month later than 2011, and the first autumn frost was on 15 November, eight days later than 2011.

At least the wind during 2012 was very similar to previous years with the average wind speed over the year being 5.1 mph. The highest wind gust in the year was 46 mph on 27 December. As always the dominant wind direction was westerly.

The lack of sunshine in 2012 didn't help the garden. Overall we had 1210 hours when the sun shone: that is 75% of the 30 year average. From April to December we had considerably less sun than is to be expected, May was the sunniest month with 161 hrs but the average for May is 212 hrs. However don't forget that 'sunshine' is a very difficult thing to define and measure – does it count if the sun is behind a thin cloud? And what if there is only one cloud in the sky and that happens to be covering the sun? Let's hope that 2013 brings better weather.

Graham Jones

The weather report

Since the last Packet report our weather station in the northeast corner of the parish, two miles inland, has recorded:

	December	January (to 29th)
Wettest day	30.0 mm (22nd)	14.1 mm (29th)
Total rain	209.9 mm	91.1 mm
Days of rain (>1 mm)	24	14
Highest temp	13.7 °C (22nd 23:11)	12.5 °C (7th 12:00)
Lowest temp	-2.9 °C (11th 06:23)	-3.1 °C (21st 04:42)
Average max temp	10.0 °C	8.1 °C
Average min temp	4.4 °C	3.4 °C
Max wind gust	46 mph (27th 06:38)	40 mph (28th 15:23)
Windiest day	14.4 mph (7th)	11.3 mph (27th)
Total sunshine hours	54.7 hrs	44.7 hrs
Sunniest day	5.2 hrs (18th)	5.1 hrs (13th)

December was wet! The total rainfall for the month was over twice the 30 year Met Office average for Bude and it was the wettest month I have recorded in the last 5½ years. Not only were there 24 days when it rained (at least 1 mm) but there were two days when we had over 25 mm (1 inch). The temperatures for the month were about average although the number of days of air frost (7) was above the average of 5.

January has been more average for rain, although the final two days of the month seem to be doing their best to change that. It was a slightly cooler month than usual, with the average maximum just over 1 °C below the 30 year average.

Graham Jones

Poundstock Gildhouse Charity Evening in aid of Stratton Hospital and Mount Edgcombe Hospice

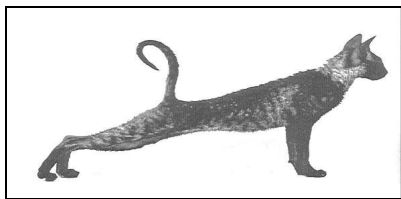
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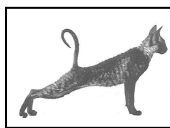
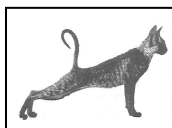
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We have wind turbine and solar park proposals all over the area. Most are yet to be formal applications and therefore I find it difficult to comment specifically. I think however it is important that as a community we have a view on what we hope to achieve from our renewable energy supplies and without specifically talking about individual plans or applications and therefore predetermining our view for future applications.

I keep being told that this is an unprecedented period of investment in Cornwall. What is happening however is the unprecedented pressures on the society with (as good as) no benefit to the community. Offering a community fund of (for instance) £20k a year is not even equivalent to one full time job (though don't get me wrong, it is better than a poke in the eye). People quote to me that this project or that project is £10's millions invested in Cornwall. I argue that no production has taken place in Cornwall (or probably UK) and that no local jobs are created from the project (except maybe temporary installation work and then limited to a few). I claim that no investment is made in Cornwall rather that investment is made which happens to be in Cornwall (and that is a clear distinction).

The household projects & small installations have spawned local companies who employ locally. There are loads of small companies in Cornwall which didn't exist and these small companies are installing small projects in gardens and rooftops and farms. More importantly the money produced from the schemes is owned by local people who then spend the money locally. It is similar to a small factory in that if a very small factory were built in Cornwall it would probably fund 100's of jobs along the supply chain, garages, restaurants, newspaper shops etc. and that could justifiably be described as investing in Cornwall. Millions more is spent on the major green energy projects which employ no one and the money probably doesn't even remain in the UK. This should not be described as 'investing in Cornwall'.

At times however major developments are useful in producing power (and we all need power) but major developments are very divisive in our community. As I said earlier they add little to the economy and many would go further and suggest that a major development actually reduces the local economy by reducing vacation income.

Major developments also focus opinion for or against Green Energy (which I think is a shame because it can be advantageous as I have pointed out earlier). I meet many landowners, with a chance of their own project, who are supportive of green energy. I meet many people, with no chance of their own major project, who are opposed to major green energy projects (especially local to their home!) and I meet very, very few people with land who are wholly against or without land who are supportive of projects next to their own home. And neither of these groups are willing to understand the other's views.

We don't have to agree with the others view but perhaps it will be useful over the coming months and years if each group takes a few moments to consider the argument for and against a project and imagine themselves in the other's shoes. And whichever view we hold the over-riding consideration should be 'how can I maximise the economy for Cornwall?' because these decisions are about your friends and relatives as much as they should be about you.

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. If I can't help I will know who can.

Phil Tucker 01288 341617 philip.tucker@homecall.co.uk

WIDEMOUTH RESIDENTS GROUP

Our pre-Christmas supper at Trelawney was a splendid evening! Vicky and her team provided a delicious supper and a fun time was enjoyed by all. The raffle raised a grand total of £80 for the Stratton Hospital Appeal, so thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets. *Nicky Vereker*

Bude Concert Orchestra Saturday 9th March 2013
7.30pm Parkhouse Centre Bude

One of the highlights of the evening will be a performance by eleven year old Jojo Zijie Yuan who will be performing with the orchestra in Mozart's Sonata Concertante for piano and orchestra. Programme also includes:

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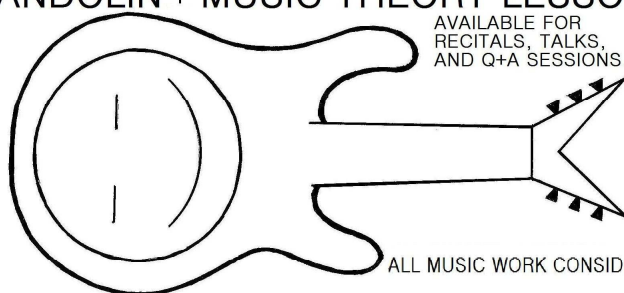
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Extracts from confirmed MINUTES OF POUNDSTOCK COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30TH OCTOBER 2012

An Ordinary Meeting of Poundstock Parish Council was held in the parish hall on Tuesday 30th October 2012 at 7.30 p.m Cllr C Gilbert was in the chair also present were Cllrs. Miss. A.R. Rowland, R. Powell, W.K. Stacey, G.N. Orchard, P.J. Marshall, W.G. Rowland, G.W.J. Pluess and the Clerk.

216/12 – Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. B.W. Furse. Cllr. R.S. Hopper was absent.

217/12 – Declaration of Interests: Items on the agenda – Cllr. P.J. Marshall declared an interest in agenda item 12(c).

219/12 – Public Participation: The cemetery hedges were discussed and found to be satisfactory.

221/12 – Verbal reports from meetings attended by Councillors:

Cllr W.J. Rowland gave a report on his attendance at the prestigious Europa Nostra Award Ceremony at the Gildhouse. Cllr P.J. Marshall proposed a communication to the Gildhouse Committee being that whilst Council members highly appreciate the award they were disappointed at not having been given the opportunity to be consulted on the siting of the plaque within the Churchyard under the management of the Council. It was considered a more appropriate position for greater public visibility would be on land fronting the Gildhouse, Cllr R. Powell seconded the proposal.

224/12 – Proposed Community Centre for Poundstock:

Pre-planning advise – Pending.

Security of Parish Hall – Cllr. P.J. Marshall reported having completed works to secure two entrance doors to the front of the building. Cllr. P.J. Marshall cautioned that two new doors were needed on the south wall of the building and an outside light to illuminate the car park.

Recommendations – It was agreed that Cllr. P.J. Marshall investigate costs to replace the doors and to install an outside light on the south wall after an electrician's appraisal. It was agreed to include the wall clock on the insurance schedule at an estimated value of £800 to £900.

225/12 – PROW:

533/9/1 Footpath from Widemouth Manor to Coastal Footpath – Report pending from PROW Officer.

Green Land Modification Order – Clerk informed members the application has been identified as low priority on the 'D' list and the officer anticipated in excess of 15 years before a decision is made. Further investigations are to be made.

226/12 – Cemetery:

Request for placing of a memorial seat/bench in the cemetery. Location of memorial seat/bench.

Cllr. P.J. Marshall requested this matter be moved to the following meeting.

227/12 – Finance: Money received by the Council:

Cornwall Council – Precept £12,935.00 (BACS) Arthur Bryant – Notice of Internment ref. 25140 £75.00 (100107)

Payments of Accounts:

It was proposed by Cllr. R. Powell seconded by Cllr. G.N. Orchard and resolved that the following accounts be paid:

Audit Commission 2011/12 Audit Fee Invoice 106673 £342.00 (100786) P.J. Marshall – Repairs to Parish Hall £621.30 (100787)

Payment of Grants: The Poundstock Packet -

229/12 – Planning Applications:

PA12/08606 Construction of dwelling and garage (resubmission of previous approval PA12/02120) Land to the North of The Breaker, Madeira Drive, Widemouth Bay for Mr. Kirk Dalgin – Application supported by Parish Council.

PA12/08726 Extension of time E1/2005/01596 for conversion of concrete block buildings into B1, B2 and B8 business units approved on appeal 28 September 2007 at Penfound Farm, Penfound Road for Mr. & Mrs. R. Hopper – Application supported by Parish Council.

PA12/08859 Retrospective permission for alterations to dwelling together with additional alterations and garden shed at Springfield, Helscott Road for Mr. M. Butler – Application supported by Parish Council.

PA12/08870 Proposed new garage at Springfield, Helscott Road for Mr. M. Butler – Unsupported by Parish Council.

PA12/0920 Modification of Condition 2 on Decision Notice PA11/05181 (Use of land for siting of static caravans) to remove the requirement to complete the sewage disposal works before development can commence at Widemouth Fields Holiday Park, Park Farm for Mr. G. Skilton – Members considered Condition 2 should be complied with as caravans could be sited.

231/12 – Correspondences & Notices:

Statement from Cornwall Waste Forum – Alternative to Incineration Rolls Forward – Copied to members.

Correspondence – It was brought to the attention of the Council that the Youth Club skittles and balls are missing from the Parish Hall. Members were asked for their assistance in tracing these items.

233/12 – Parish Matters – Letters received at the meeting from The Ladies Skittle Club and The Poundstock Packet are to be considered at the following meeting.

Poundstock Parish Council

Council Chairman: Colin Gilbert 01288 361894

Council Clerk: Lynn Pluess 01288 361368

Councillors:

Brian Furse, Trewint, 01840 230688

Rupert Powell, Widemouth, 01288 361130

Roger Hopper, Penfound, 01288 361214

Alison Rowland, Coppathorne, 01288 361239

Phil Marshall, Treskinnick, 01288 361049

Guy Rowland, Widemouth, 01288 361236

Neil Orchard, Treskinnick, 01288 361653

Kenneth Stacey, Penlean, 01288 361531

Graham Pluess, Poundstock, 01288 361368

Council meetings are usually held on 7.30 pm on the last Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall.

Council meeting minutes are displayed at the Parish Hall. Full confirmed minutes received are available on the Packet website

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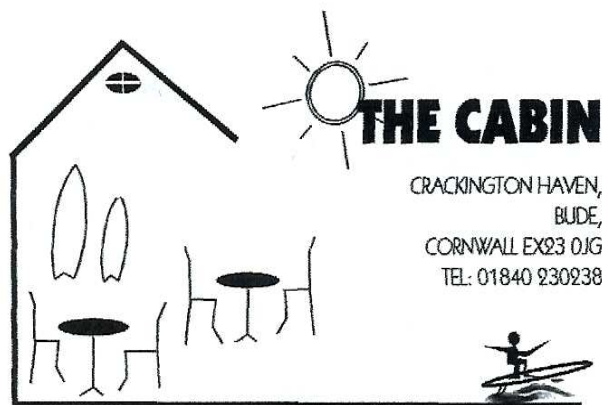
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