



No. 101 February / March 2020

# THE POUNDSTOCK PACKET

KERNOW BYS VYKEN !



Don't despair if it's grey and wet and windy outside: spring has already arrived in Poundstock Churchyard. Many thanks to Sue Burrows for this cheering photo.

**Distributed free to every household in Poundstock parish**  
**Produced every two months**

Contact us at [poundstockpacket@gmail.com](mailto:poundstockpacket@gmail.com)

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We always welcome any input from our readers. If you want to get in touch or to send us an article or local information, contact the editor: Liz Jones, Langford Hele Farm, Marhamchurch EX23 0HR. Tel. 01288 361147. Email: poundstockpacket@gmail.com

**The deadline for our next edition is 20 March.**

If you wish to advertise, either in the magazine or on the website, or have any distribution enquiries please contact Jen Spettigue, 36 St Marwenne Close, Marhamchurch, tel: 01288 361525.

We do our best to deliver to everyone in the parish. If you know of anyone who has been missed, please let us know. Copies of the magazine are available at the Beach House and Wainhouse Country Stores. A few copies are available for people living outside the parish at a cost of 50p + postage or via email; please contact the editor.

\*\*\*\*\*

The editorial board does not necessarily endorse the views expressed by individual contributors and we can't accept any responsibility for the accuracy of information provided. We reserve the right to edit items submitted and decide on what is suitable for publication.

### **Please: tell the Packet!**

One of the things about producing the Packet is that you have to think a long way ahead, and that's not easy (for me, anyway, and I don't expect I'm the only one).

We really try to include everything that's going on in the parish in the foreseeable future, but with the best will in the world we can't know everything.

You'd be surprised, though, how often people assume that we do, and are surprised that something's missing from the latest issue. I know I'm always beefing on about this, but it's true: if you don't tell us you can't assume we know!

So please, when you're planning any event you'd like to publicise, try to think ahead and tell the Packet. We'll be delighted to give you great local publicity, and we certainly won't complain if you tell us twice. Always remember: tell the Packet!

*Liz*

### **Thank you on behalf of St Petroc's**

The two churches in Poundstock collected money for the St Petroc's Society (supports the homeless in Cornwall) at their Carol and Christmas Day services which enabled St Winwaloe's, Poundstock, and Our Lady and St Anne's, Widemouth Bay, to send the Society donations of £500 and £100 respectively. A large amount of clothing was also collected at Widemouth Bay and delivered to the Society in Truro.

*Barry Smith*

### **Revel planning**

**Friday 21 February at 10.30**

**Summerhouse, Widemouth Bay**

**Planning meeting for this year's Revel**

Please come and bring your ideas!

We need help more than ever this year for what has become a big part of Poundstock's year

### **Bude Concert Orchestra**

**Spring Concert**

**Saturday 7 March**

Parkhouse Centre, Bude, 7.30 pm

Haydn, Vanhall, Boccherini, Mozart, Mahler & Schubert

**Adults £6, children £2, light refreshments**

**More details from [www.budeorchestra.com](http://www.budeorchestra.com)**

### **A note about pictures**

We really appreciate your articles and are very grateful for them. A big thank you to everyone who takes the trouble to write for our magazine. There is one important point, though, that we all need to be aware of: many pictures from the internet come with a copyright fee. Please, when you're illustrating an article, be careful. It's sometimes very hard to work out which ones have to be paid for but y do. If we use them without permission we could be in for a big bill! Our deputy editor, Christopher Asbury, says:

I often use photos courtesy of the RSPB, and acknowledge the provenance. The RSPB, of course, are delighted to see their pictures broadcast. Other sources of copyright-free photos are <https://unsplash.com/> and <https://stocksnap.io/>.

There will be others, of course. And obviously if you have taken the picture yourself or have obtained the photographer's permission to reproduce it, there's absolutely no problem. We aren't trying to put anyone off adding pictures to their articles – they add a huge amount to the magazine. Do go on using them! We just want to remind everyone to be aware of potential issues when using someone else's pictures.

### **Bude Music Society**

**Sunday 9 February:** Tim Carleston, trumpet and voice, and David Robinson, organ.  
St Michael's Church Bude, EX23 8LQ at 3 pm.

**Sunday 8 March:** Barbara Degener, cello, and Paul Comeau, piano.  
Minstrels Music Centre, Canworthy Water PL15 8UB at 3 pm.

Tickets £13 but children and full-time students **free**. Tickets from <http://www.crbo.co.uk/> or on the door.

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## Sea Pie



We start our story of the oystercatcher in Marseilles in the 1200s where there were some friars called the *Fratres Ordinis de Picca* meaning the Brothers of the Order of the Magpie. The Magpie's Latin name is *Pica pica*. The monks' name came from the colour of their clothes which was a black tunic and a white cloak similar to the Magpie.

Some of these friars moved to London in about 1250 where their name changed to the *Frères Pyes*, which translated to Pied Friars when English became the popular language. Pied means black and white, and that gives us the Pied Flycatcher, the Pied Wagtail, the Magpie of course, and the Sea Pie. And Sea Pie is an old word for Oystercatcher. So there! I'm glad you asked.

Meanwhile, all along the winter and early spring coast the Oystercatchers approach the speed of light as they scream and whistle along the tideline. Groups of two or three, sometimes a dozen, suddenly wheel round and land on the rocks. They pick among these rocks where there are no oysters to catch which is useful because no Oystercatcher even knows how to tackle an oyster. I suppose they *could* eat an oyster if they tried, but they really go for whelks and any other sort of cockle or muscle alive alive oh, crustacean, bus station or whelk.



The high viz beaks and legs are great identifiers, but why bright orange? The two big reasons for birds' colours are for camouflage and for attracting a mate. Neither of these ideas really fit the oystercatcher, so I'm bamboozled. Maybe the orange is for them to see each other from a distance on a grey day at Black Rock?

The black suit and white shirt is an artistic miracle: mix that with the orange bill and feet, and you have the perfect costume for a smart fancy dress party.

*Christopher Asbury*

*Photos: thanks to Ben Andrews of the RSPB.*

## Calling all gardeners and flower arrangers

The garland in the Gildhouse has been wonderful for several years but is fading and beginning to look its age, so plans are afoot to make a new one. As you plan what to grow in your garden this summer, please could you find a little space to grow a few plants which will produce flowers that can be dried and used in a garland? The kind of thing we need includes statice, helichrysum, love lies bleeding, Chinese lanterns, hydrangeas, grasses, leaves – you can probably suggest lots more. Many are annuals that are easy to grow, will look pretty in the garden, and will dry and last for ages.

These aren't fussy plants: they will grow quickly and don't need much attention. When the flowers appear, cut them just before they're fully open and hang them in bunches, upside down, in a cool dry place like a shed. They'll dry out in a couple of weeks and will then be ready to use. In the autumn, we'll be appealing for a garland group to come and assemble the bunches of flowers, just as they do at Cotehele.

Would you be able to help? Don't worry if you're not a great gardener. Most of these are annuals whose business is to produce flowers this summer, and they'll just get on with it once you've planted them.

This is what the present garland looked like when it was new. Wouldn't it be wonderful to replace it with another just as glorious!





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## theWI

### INSPIRING WOMEN

Members from Week St Mary Bonaventures WI joined us at Jacobstow for a Christmas wreathmaking workshop on 30 November when Judith Taylor demonstrated various wreathmaking and decorating techniques using natural materials and gave us her top tips for bow tying, maintaining our natural decorations and keeping them for future years. With soup and mince pies for lunch and cake available, everyone had a wonderful time and produced some beautiful decorations.



We held our Christmas party on 6 December (moved due to the General Election!) and enjoyed fun and games, an amazing spread of festive food, Secret Santa presents and some heartily sung carols.

January's meeting started the New Year well with an informative and entertaining talk from PCSO Christopher Krolick, a Cornwall-born officer, who gave us a very interesting look into policing in the local area and beyond. As well as reassuring overviews of local crime rates and coverage, he also gave useful insights into serious issues of county

lines and exploitation of the vulnerable. One of the main aspects of the talk was the promotion of ALERT, a two-way messaging system between the public and Devon and Cornwall Police where the public can receive messages about issues such as anti-social behaviour, crime, missing persons appeals, etc.

Looking ahead: 13 Feb. Mrs Sly, a local author, will be our speaker.

12 Mar. Our AGM, with members talking about their hobbies and interests.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to come along to a meeting, do contact Jill Baker, the president, for more information (details on the back page of the Packet). You can be sure of a warm welcome.

*Jill Baker*

### Parish Council Chairman's Report

On behalf of the whole Parish Council I wish all the residents of Poundstock a belated happy, peaceful and successful New Year. This is going to be another busy year with several longterm projects reaching an end and elections for Parish and District councillors due in May. By the time this reaches you we shall have co-opted a new Councillor to bring the Parish Council up to full strength for the few intervening months.

The preliminary results of the NDP consultation are reported elsewhere in the Packet and make interesting reading. There is still a fair amount of work to be done to bring together the work of the sub-groups and it is hoped that a draft plan could be in place by the end of June.

A 50 mph speed limit has been agreed for the A39 at Bangors and will soon be in force. We had tried for 40 mph but this was not permissible under Highways Regulations. Parking restrictions in Widemouth Bay are being finalised at a meeting with the relevant bodies. The plan is to have a No Parking zone on Marine Drive and Leverlake Road, including the verges, patrolled and enforced. It was very helpful to have comments from local residents and these have been taken into account, so the side roads will not be affected.

Further discussions have been held with Cornwall Council regarding the lease on the public toilets, and the Parish Council will shortly be deciding whether or not to take it on. At present there is a surcharge on car parking charges which is paid to us to cover the costs of running the toilets, so we have requested a release clause for the Parish if that grant is withdrawn after the Cornwall Council elections in May. There will also be a guarantee that outstanding repairs to the drainage and building will be completed.

We have had several generous offers to place defibrillators in Poundstock, and are currently discussing possible locations – Widemouth Bay on the toilet block and somewhere at Treskinnick Cross.

Friday 8 May has been declared a public holiday to commemorate VE Day. This would be an ideal time for the whole Parish to join together. Would anybody, or a group, be willing to organise a special event for this?

Finally, I am pleased to announce that once again the Parish precept part of your Council Tax bill will not be increased this year.

*Steve Pawley, Chairman Poundstock PC*



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 (for contact details see left)

Warden: Judith MacDonald  
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 Sundays at 8 am  
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**February**

**2** Holy Communion, 9.30 am  
 Candlemas service, 1.15 pm

**9** Morning Prayer, 9.30 am

**16** United service, tba, 10.30 am

**23** Morning Prayer, 9.30 am

**March**

**1** Holy Communion, 9.30 am

**8** Morning Prayer, 9.30 am

**15** United service, tba, 10.30 am

**22** Mothering Sunday service,  
 9.30 am

*Voices Together*, the magazine of the Central Cluster of churches, is available on the church welcome desk; please help yourself. Contact the rector to arrange special services such as weddings and baptisms.

**Candlemas: bringing light to a dark world**

On 2 February the Church celebrates Candlemas, or to give it its unabbreviated title, 'The feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple'. Candlemas is a feast rich in meaning highlighted with the revelation that Jesus is the light of the world, yet its strongest attraction is the bitter-sweet nature of what it celebrates. Simeon's prophetic words tell of the falling and rising of many and that a sword will pierce Mary's heart.

Candlemas is a pivotal point in the Church's year; it's a time to look back and a time to look forward. It's one final look back at Christmas and the birth of the Holy Child and a look forward to the Passion, the death and resurrection of Jesus. On Sunday 2 February there will be a special service held at Poundstock Gildhouse at 1.15 pm to celebrate this special event. All are most welcome.

Looking backwards and looking forwards is a key element in the Church's life. It's important to look back and give thanks for all those who over many generations have given their lives in the service of God. Looking back also gives us a clue as to how we have arrived at where we are today. However, looking back is only part of the process (as we all know, any church that continually looks backwards will only go in one direction); it is important to use what we have gained from the past to springboard ourselves into the future. We need to take heart from what has been so that we may go forward in the power of the Spirit of God to continue to do his work here in our parishes.

This year could be a great opportunity for the churches of our Deanery to look forward and discover how we can **make Christ known and grow the Church**. On Saturday 8 February there will be a Bishop's Conference at Otterham village hall to discuss the possible plans for our Deanery's future. It is a 10 am start and all are welcome. The meeting will conclude with lunch.

It's easy to look back at what was; however, it will be far more important to look forward to see what we might achieve through God's help and guidance.

*David Barnes*



**Messy Church**

at **St Michael's, Bude**

**Wednesday 19 February, 10.30–12.30**

**Theme: 'Joseph'**

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# Kids' page

## Fingerprint Flower Cards

You can have some messy fun making these fingerprint flower cards - perfect for Mother's Day on Sunday 22 March or Valentine's Day on Friday 14 February.

### You will need:

Pink and purple paint  
White paper  
Pink card

### Instructions:

On the white paper, print 3 flowers in a line. Use a purple finger print for the centre of the flower, and add pink fingerprints around the outside as petals. Fold the card in half. Cut out the flowers and glue the painted strip down the front of the card.



## Mothers' Day or Valentine's gift

**These Heart Tarts are ideal for an easy present for someone you love!**

You must always ask an adult before you do any cooking or baking and you may need some help with getting the tarts in and out of the oven. Have fun and please be careful!



### Ingredients

**For the pastry** (to save time you can use readymade pastry if you like !)

250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
125g butter, chilled and diced, plus extra for the tin  
1 medium egg

### For the filling

100g jam, fruit curd or marmalade of your choice

Put the flour, butter and a pinch of salt in a bowl and rub them together with your fingertips (or you can pulse these ingredients together in a food processor if you have one). When the mixture looks and feels like fine crumbs, stir in the egg with a blunt knife.

Add 1 tbsp cold water, then start to bring the dough together in one lump with your hands. Add 1 more tablespoon (tbsp) of water if it's not coming together, but try not to add more than that as you don't want it to be too sloppy or wet! Wrap in cling film and put in the fridge for about 30 mins.

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Butter a 12-hole tart tin, then dust your work surface with a little flour. Unwrap and roll out the pastry so it's about the thickness of a £1 coin, then use a pastry cutter to cut out 12 circles, big enough to line the holes in the tin. Dollop 1-2 teaspoons (tsp) of your chosen filling into each one and cut out little pastry hearts and pop them on top.

Bake for 15-18 mins or until golden and the filling is starting to bubble a little. Leave to cool in the tin for a few mins then carefully transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Knock Knock  
Who's there?  
Mandy!  
Mandy who?  
Mandy lifeboats, we're sinking!

How can you eat an egg  
without breaking its shell?

(the answer's below)

Get someone else to break it!

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Annie  
Annie who?  
Annie thing you can do I can better!

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## Our night sky in February 2020

You might just see Mercury setting shortly after sunset, but Venus is unmistakable as an evening 'star' setting in the West about 2100. Mars will be rising in the South East about 5am, followed by Jupiter and Saturn about 6am, but these last two will soon be lost in the dawn sky. Orion is now well up after sunset, and will dominate the southern sky during the night.

Betelgeux or Betelgeuse, or 'Beetlejuice' as most schoolchildren would like to call it, is the red giant star in the left shoulder of Orion as you face him. Quite unmistakable normally, but during the last few months it has dimmed quite noticeably, which has been quite a puzzle for astronomers, especially as they are expecting the very opposite in the astronomically near future. This red giant star, 600 times larger and 10,000 times brighter than the Sun, is coming to the end of its life, having gobbled up all its nuclear fuel. As the last elements which have been sustaining the burning process turn to iron, an element that cannot take the thermonuclear process any further, the star will collapse inwards under its own enormous gravity and then rebound in a catastrophic explosion as a supernova whose light will be visible on Earth even in daylight. In this explosion, all the elements that we humans are made of are created and hurled across space, where they once more will coalesce into a new star and planetary system, ready to start a new life cycle which could support life.

Supernovae are popping off all over the universe on a very regular basis, but Betelgeuse is relatively close to us at only about 500 light years away, so its explosion will be a quite remarkable sight for us on Earth. When will this happen? Probably in the next 100,000 years or so, but explode it will, just like the last close one did 1,000 years ago, although it might not be wise to hold your breath waiting for it to happen!

Do keep enjoying our wonderful night skies, and a very happy 2020 to all my readers.

*Bill Turnill*

## Difficult pronunciation helps house prices grow

Homes in places with hard-to-pronounce names often cost significantly more than properties in the surrounding area, data analysis suggests. Estate agent comparison website GetAgent examined house prices in ten villages and towns with names that are often mispronounced.

Properties in these areas were worth 20 per cent more on average than those situated within the wider districts in which they are located, with the Highland town of Ballachulish among the biggest winners. The average property in Ballachulish sells for £247,221 – 46.5 per cent higher than the average £168,705 across the rest of the Highlands. Others included were Beaulieu, Hampshire (£605,000); Quernmore, Lancaster (£235,000); Rampisham, Dorset (£339,000); our own Woolfardisworthy, Devon (£240,000); and Ynysybwl, South Wales (£117,000). On that basis, one would expect each house to sell for at least £1 million in the Anglesey village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch. For the curious reader, this translates as 'The Church of St Mary in the hollow of the white hazel trees near the rapid whirlpool by St Tysilio of the red cave'.

House prices have generally slowed in recent months. Many commentators put this down to Brexit paralysis, or 'Where do we go from here?' The Brexit brakes are now slackening off, so one might expect to see sometime soon a resurgence in the market with the onward and upward march of house prices.

We here at Busbys wish all our readers the happiest of New Years.

*John Busby*

*[Do you think using the Domesday Book spelling of Pondestock would increase house prices here?! Ed.]*



All three units are looking forward to starting the new term this week (beginning 13 January) after our Christmas break. All units have lots of adventures planned for the year ahead including days out and a camp for Guides. Rainbows and Brownies would love some new friends to join us so if you have a daughter aged between 5 and 7 for Rainbows or 7 and 10 for Brownies we would love to hear from you.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, Louise would love some help with the Brownies, so please get in touch with her on 07817985661.

*Louise Cowling*



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## News from Black Rock

We are all blessed to live in this area, and have on our doorstep, the beach, surf, glorious coastal walks, breathtaking views and the freshest of air. Everyday. Rain or shine.

We have a thriving local community, which makes Widemouth all the more special to be a part of – which I for one, will be very happy watching my children grow up to be happy, and enjoy all that Widemouth has to offer.

So it has made it all the more exciting and enjoyable to plan and put into action our developments to Black Rock, and continue to grow and develop the site into what we aim to achieve – which is a place that is accessible to all, reasonably priced and somewhere everyone, tourists and locals alike – can come down and enjoy all that this spectacular stretch of Widemouth Bay can offer.

This past 12 months has seen us redevelop our disused beach huts. These are now completely renovated and let out to those wanting their bolthole by the sea.

We have established a small coffee bar for those busy days, offering anyone wanting great coffee, quickly! In addition to this, a beachfront ice cream trailer offering customers a huge selection of Cornish ice-creams without having to queue up at the main café.



And in addition to all this, we've completely demolished our tired and outdated toilet block – replaced with a larger, modern and environmentally friendly set of beachside amenities for all our customers (and non-customers too). We're proud to say this will include a family room, featuring an accessible set of facilities. They will be well lit, airy and spacious, and in all aspects, a complete contrast to the expectations of a typical set of 'beach toilets'! Just what Widemouth Bay needs!

We are keen to play our part for considering the environment in our redevelopments. Our project includes a huge rainwater harvester, which will minimize our demand on mains water, and use this to flush our public loos with. Making perfect use of an otherwise wasted commodity! We are upgrading our outdated

sewage system for the entire site, which will be more eco friendly and certainly more reliable!

An extension to our existing kitchen – and new cooking equipment, is also part of this project. Meaning a wider range of food available with a quicker turnaround, whilst still all remaining freshly homemade and made to order.

Our build is due to be finished in time for Easter, with landscape work ongoing further into the season of 2020, when the weather is being kinder to us all!

Please do come down and take a look at our achievements and, as always, it would be our pleasure to welcome you down at Black Rock. Thank you.

*Mark & Helen La Broy*





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## Reminiscences of a wartime evacuee at Quinceborough Farm, March 1941–March 1947

*(Continuing Mr Smoker's memories of his childhood experiences)*

The late Mr William Rowland is always remembered for his ready smile and ruddy complexion and his completely white head for he always wore a cap. The late Mrs Rowland was a tiny lady who was forever busy and never relaxed but was always in charge.

The varied animals were so important to Quinceborough Farm and me, from the smallest to the bull and shire horses (Prince and Duke). Taking the bad-tempered bull out to have a drink with pitchforks pressed into his sides and also moving him out when his services were required at Quinceborough and the cows had to visit him as he was so bad-tempered. I fell off one of the shire horses but luckily fell onto a pile of muck.

Pulling a dead cow out of a shed and getting it jammed in the doorway.

Leaving the front garden gate open so that the sheep got in and stripped the garden bare; Mr and Mrs Rowland were not happy.

Leaving the orchard gate open and finding a hundred inebriated sheep now in the orchard.

Trying to handmilk cows; never did get the hang of this. Sheep shearing and dipping were events in themselves.

Looking forward to the little red post van coming up the drive, possibly with a letter from my father, and leaving by the other gate onto the A39. (It has a different layout now.)

The Italian prisoners of war being delivered six at a time from Cleve Camp, which was being used to house them, every morning and collected every evening. They were very pleasant but did not do much work. Mrs Rowland fed them too well so why would they attempt to escape?

The mine exploding on Widemouth Bay beach just by Black Rock. It picked up and moved the Tea House some 6ft. Often climbing Black Rock and having to wait for the tide to recede before climbing down.

When an American convoy of liberty ships was bombed and the coming ashore of cigarettes, radios, chewing gum and corned beef, etc. Many barns were very well stocked up overnight, only for safe keeping of course. Then a day or so later the customs men came round but only wanted the radios back, the rest was so wet it was revolting anyway.

What is now The Crescent in Widemouth Bay was then known as Soldiers' Path, the concrete road having been laid by the army as part of their training.

As a special treat going to see Laurel and Hardy live at Bude Cinema, where Sainsburys supermarket is now.

When Mary Bluett was shot in the leg going across a cornfield; apparently the offender mistook her for a rabbit.

There was no electricity, just candles, nightlights and paraffin lamps, and no running water: the drinking water came from the well and the rainwater was stored for washing and bathing.

The seat on Widemouth front in memory of Mr Yeo, who was the housing officer, is partly because he managed to find homes for many evacuees, most of whom appreciated what Widemouth citizens did for them but a few brought a bad name mainly for petty thieving, usually vegetables and the like. My mother assisted him from time to time when he was very busy.

Mrs Rowland produced some wonderful food from very limited resources; her Cornish pasties and cakes are well remembered, as was her junket (yuk! I never did acquire a taste for this). Bringing the lunch baskets out to the fields at harvest time, there were no combine harvesters then, just much hard labour and backache.

The going and still going to the top of the big field for the super 360 degree views at different times of the day, especially the sunsets on moonlit nights.

Then came the birth of Eileen (Guy's younger sister). I was standing on the landing outside the bedroom at Quinceborough Farm when she was born and heard her first cries.

The admiration for the man with one leg who walked up hill and down dale to and from Bude some seven miles every week on crutches.

Being included in everything and going everywhere with Mr Rowland included being saved from falling down the well and also the bull.

The time I went missing and a search was made of the cowsheds, stables, pigsties, fields and copse with no trace! I had fallen asleep in one of the haylofts.

Learning to control the sheepdog rounding up the sheep, also with the lambing and the ones to be reared by hand, collecting the eggs.

The chill and fresh smell from the larder. Mrs Rowland made most things including beautiful butter.

My father was allowed a four-day weekend break every eight weeks and used to come down on the Friday overnight train to Bude. He was collected from the station by Mr Rowland at six o'clock on the Saturday morning and was superbly looked after at Quinceborough.

*John R. Smoker (to be continued)*

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## POUNDSTOCK PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### Steering Group Report: January 2020

The wonderfully well supported consultation run by two Sub-Groups in the autumn of 2019 resulted in a total of over 150 completed questionnaires, and analysis is underway. The people taking part were from all over the parish: 53 per cent residents of Widemouth Bay and 42 per cent lived on the Poundstock side of the Parish (including Treskinnick Cross, Tregole, Bangors and Millook). The remaining 5 per cent lived 'in between' or just 'in the parish'. The enormous amount of data and the many comments will result in a detailed report, meanwhile some **Headlines** are emerging:

**Development:** a large number stated that they would prefer no more building. If new building is to happen, starter homes are preferred in Poundstock and Treskinnick Cross and preference in Widemouth was for bungalows. **Speed** is a real concern, in particular enforcement of current speed limits. People remember a volunteer speed gun scheme years ago which had 'not achieved a great deal'. New speed limits and/or traffic calming were called for by some.

The **safety of pedestrians** is a major concern on all major roads in the Parish. There are (for example) serious concerns about school children crossing the A39 to get to school buses and children crossing Marine Drive from the beach. Two-thirds of respondents listed places where they would like to see new pavements and footpaths to improve safety. A number of people reported issues with **footpaths, bridleways and green lanes** and 66 per cent of those who replied called for more **cycle tracks**.

There was almost a 50/50 split in terms of the number of people who expressed a view about the need for a newly built **Community Centre** to replace the condemned **Parish Hall**. While people listed what they would like to see in a new centre, many people believe that a new hall would not be used and would become a White Elephant; the best plan (they suggested) would be to purchase and refurbish the Bangors Chapel and Hall – perhaps selling the old Parish Hall as a site for affordable houses.

When told that the future of the **toilets** in the car park at Widemouth Bay is in question, 94 per cent of respondents wanted them to be either improved/enhanced or to be rebuilt with environment friendly toilets. ('Sorting the blockages once-and-for-all'.) Residents were overwhelmingly in favour of the toilets being open all year. Sixty-four per cent who answered questions about the **car park** wanted to see changes. Many of these were about improvement to the surfacing of the car park; better and more spaces and a review of charges. In recognition of the value of the seafront to the whole community, a 'sprucing up' of the car park area was mooted, perhaps a community information hub around new toilets, with bus shelter, water dispenser, notice board, defibrillator, children's play equipment, etc.

Eighty-one per cent do not want any changes made to the car park/layby at **Penhalt View** apart from filling in the potholes and removing the ledge at the entry, possibly adding a bench and a dog poo bin – and stopping overnight parking.

### Toads on the roads

It's toad crossing time again, and the Toad Patrol up near Treskinnick Cross is about to spring into action to help toads across the road. Common Toads are very particular about where they breed and often migrate back to their ancestral breeding ponds each year. They follow the same route, regardless of what gets in their way, which sometimes leads to them crossing roads. Toads tend to start moving around dusk and will continue into the night, depending on how cold it gets. Toad Patrollers record the numbers of toads and other amphibians they help across the road and how many they see killed. This data feeds into national monitoring projects and helps determine how the UK's toad population is faring as a whole.

If you would like more information, contact Froglife at [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org).

If you would like to become a patroller yourself, contact Brenda Alison, who coordinates the Poundstock patrol (contact details on p. 21).



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## Extracts from the draft minutes of the meeting of Poundstock Parish Council, 29 January 2020

**Present:** Stephen Pawley, Alison Rowland, Alistair Rowland, Brenda Alison, Kerensa Cobbledick, Colin Gilbert, Pamela Idelson, Fred Ward and the Clerk Lynn Pluess. Apologies were received from Kirsty Philpott and Alistair Rowland; Brian Furse did not attend.

**Minutes** of the previous meeting were approved.

**Chairman's report:** please see page 7.

**County councilor's report:** Nicky Chopak urged everyone to attend the open public meeting to discuss the overnight closing of Stratton Minor Injuries Unit. She reported that the plans for the Widemouth parking zone will not be implemented within this year's budget.

**Planning decisions:** approved by Cornwall Council: Mr S. Murdoch, Combe Dale, Combe Lane, outline permission for demolition of one dwelling and replacement with three dwellings; Mr A. Buckle, Hantreth, Combe Lane, outline permission for erection of one dwelling.

**Planning applications:** Mrs P. Idelson, Trebarfoot Manor, erection of a dwelling for agricultural manager, application was discussed at length (during which Mrs Idelson left the meeting) and was unsupported on the grounds that this would be a new development in open countryside in an area of outstanding natural beauty; Mr Devani, plans for an agricultural anaerobic digester at East Helscott, resolved to comment that traffic was now projected to be much heavier than originally stated, especially in the summer, although planning was originally given on the basis that it would be consistently low throughout the year; Mr and Mrs S. Pawley, Marlborough House, replacement of goat shelter with two-storey dwelling, agreed to support (Mr Pawley left the meeting); Rev. Linda Barriball, Dimma Methodist Chapel, pre-app advice on conversion to private dwelling.

**Cemetery:** lead member Brenda Alison reported on her research into the War Memorial. She has compiled information from funeral directors on local cemetery charges and policies. A report and policy document will be circulated at the next meeting.

**Footpaths:** lead member Alison Rowland reported on several issues concerning missing signs and gates; these have been reported to the Senior Countryside Officer and a response is awaited.

**Parish hall and new community building:** the Cornwall Rural Housing Association has suggested siting a hall on the Buttercup Fields site, where funding has been obtained for a further eight dwellings. The site would need to be purchased and associated charges met by the Council. The Council is currently investigating several possibilities.

**Public toilets at Widemouth Bay:** there have been continued problems with blockages and the inside is now covered in graffiti. After lengthy discussions it was agreed to investigate purchasing the toilets from Cornwall Council. Restrictions connected with the covenant on the buildings will also be investigated.

**Finance:** balances at 21 December 2019 were: current account £142,922.67; reserve account £80,556.63; total £223,479.30. Income: donations from public toilets £10, memorial fee £70, interest £40.15, total £120.15. Expenditure: cleaning public toilets (Dec. and Jan.) £860, clearing blockages (Oct., Nov., Dec.) and replacing locks £1,480, SW Water (for toilets) £6,584.93 (for cemetery) £17.63, NDP stationery £20.17, Denise Wellington Funeral Directors (refund) £247, Bangors Chapel hall hire £80, Information Commissioner (data protection fee) £40, clerk's wage for month (£733.50), PAYE £9.24, total £10,072.47.

The meeting was closed at 22.30 pm.

### Poundstock Parish Council

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

The Packet aims to publish notes on the most recent meetings but occasionally this isn't possible because of a clash with our printing deadline. Minutes that have been approved by the Council are displayed at the Parish Hall, on the parish noticeboards at Bangors and Treskinnick Cross and on the Parish Council and Packet websites.

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## Diary Dates

### February

- 2 Candlemas service, Gildhouse, 1.15 pm (see p. 9)
- 8 Bishop's Conference, Otterham, 10 am (see p. 9)
- 11 Marhamchurch WI, 'Being an artist', Nicky May
- 13 Jacobstow WI, talk from local author Mrs Sly
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 25 Garden Club, 'Plant peculiarities', Tim Ellis

### March

- 10 Marhamchurch WI, AGM and elections
- 12 Jacobstow WI, AGM, with members talking about their hobbies and interests
- 18 Gildhouse AGM, Gildhouse, 7.30 pm
- 22 Mothering Sunday/Mothers' Day

### FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

The Packet will always advertise local community and charity events free of charge. Just send us the details by 20 March for events in April and May.

**Don't forget: tell the Packet!**

### Defibril lators in the parish

There are two, both in Widemouth Bay. One is next to the Summerhouse (at the church in Leverlake Road), the other is near the top of Long Park Drive by the entrance to Pen-carra and Bellair, just below the junction with Edith Walk.

## Local Contacts

MP: Scott Mann	01208 74337
Parish council chair: Steve Pawley	01840 230697
Parish clerk: Lynn Pluess	0776 8100 560
Cornwall Councillor: Nicky Chopak	0781 030 2061
Cornwall Council	0300 1234 100
Jacobstow WI: Mrs J. Baker	01840 239829
Marhamchurch WI: Mrs P. Hazeldine	01288 682193
Poundstock Skittles: Pam Gilhespy	01288 361570
Rebel Cinema	01288 361442
Bude Library/One-Stop Shop	0300 1234 111
Library renewal line	0845 607 6119
Recycling centre/tip (Tiscott Wood)	0845 630 0300
National Childline	0800 1111
Police – non-emergency	101
Farming Community Network	0845 367 9990
Bude Food Bank	01288 448748
Citizens Advice	03 444 111 444
(Phone advice line, operates 10–4, Monday–Friday)	
CCS helpline/Age UK Cornwall	01872 266383
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Western Power (power cut)	0800 678 3105
Doctors' surgeries: Neetside	01288 270580
Stratton	01288 352133
Boscastle	01840 250209
NHS non-emergency helpline	111
Stratton Hospital	01288 320100
(Minor Injuries Unit is now open all day every day)	

## Local Organisations

### Libraries

Bude Library is open 9.30–5.00 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 10.00–1.00 on Saturdays.

The Pub is the Hub library (Old Wainhouse Inn) is open whenever the pub is; take your library ticket.

Poundstock's two pop-up libraries, in St Winwaloe's and Our Lady and St Anne's, are open all day every day. No need for tickets or membership; just help yourself.

### Poundstock Post Office

Still based in the old shop at Cornish Coasts Caravan and Camping Park on the A39. Open Mondays and Thursdays, 9.00–1.00 (ask at the new shop).

### Scouts and Guides

Cubs: Monday 6.30–8.0 pm (01288 352786)  
 Guides: Monday, Jacobstow parish hall  
 Scouts: Tuesday 6.30–8.0 pm  
 Beavers: Wednesday 6.0–8.0 pm (07855 001284)

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides: ring Louise on 078 1798 5661 for more information.

### Marhamchurch WI

Meets in Marhamchurch Methodist Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

11 February 'Being an artist', Nicky May  
 10 March AGM and elections

### Jacobstow WI

Meets in Jacobstow Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month.

13 February Talk from local author Mrs Sly  
 12 March AGM, with members talking about their hobbies and interests

### Jul iotter Garden Cl ub

Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in Otterham and St Juliot hall at 7.30 pm. More info from Alan on 01566 781559 or Paul on 01840 269178

25 February 'Plant peculiarities', Tim Ellis  
 24 March AGM

### Launcel l s/Bude Dog Training/Agil ity

Puppies, pet dog training, problem dogs, clicker training, socialisation. Classes for all ages and abilities, Bangors Chapel hall, Mondays from 6.30pm. All profits to charity. Details from 01566 86500 or 01288 321922.

### Bangors Chapel Hal l

Although the chapel has closed the hall can still be hired. It has easy access and parking, and is very convenient and comfortable. Ring Debbie Marsh, 01288 488195.

### Poundstock Gil dhouse

You can hire the Gildhouse for events from meetings to parties and wedding receptions. Ring 01288 341537 or 01566 781559, or visit [www.poundstockgildhouse.co.uk](http://www.poundstockgildhouse.co.uk)

### Bude Bridge Cl ub

Meets Tuesday and Friday evenings and Wednesday afternoons in the Parkhouse Centre. Further information from [www.bridgewebs.com/Bude](http://www.bridgewebs.com/Bude) or ring 01237 471111.

### Widemouth Bay Summerhouse

A friendly group (and their dogs) meet alternate Fridays at 2pm in the Summerhouse (by Widemouth Bay church). More information from Jann Bowers, 01288 361931.

### Whist drives

Whist drives are held at the Bray, Marhamchurch, every Thursday afternoon at 2.30. All are welcome.