



# BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

No 53 Spring 2006

£1



*Copyright photos courtesy David Flower*

## Grand Finale of the Cave of Harmony

*The cast and crew applaud producer, director, designer Michael Turner, full story on page 20*

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# EDITORIAL: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

It is good to hear that the National Association of Local Councils has stepped up its campaign to further advance the role of parish and town councils within the new neighbourhoods agenda.

The Association is calling on the Government to extend the power of well being from principal authorities to the first tier. They feel that the gaining of this power is crucial as it will enable parish and town councils to step outside the narrow role and service provision they are directly responsible for and look more widely at community needs.

They would also like to see the relevance and importance of parish and village plans extended so that by statute principal authorities have to take them into account in their community strategies.

In a recent House of Commons debate several MPs from all sides of the House said how important parish plans are and how principal authorities needed to take more notice of them. One member remarked on the fact that whilst Defra awarded grants for their preparation they did not affect planning decisions.

A local government white paper is due out later this year and David Miliband MP, the minister for communities and local government, says that he wants to see a double devolution, not just to the principal authority but beyond to neighbourhoods and individuals. He calls for parish councils to be beefed up with new powers through greater rights of representation in decision making. Surely what is needed is nation-wide neighbourhood agreement to form a bedrock of commitment from national and local government.

## Boscastle Blowhole Editorial Team

The editorial team reserves the right to edit, accept, or reject any material submitted for publication in the Blowhole. The views expressed within the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

The team are: Arthur Bannister, Daphne Rogers, Philippa Arthan, Joan Cork, Chris Rodda and Noel Ward

The next Blowhole will be published in mid June. The deadline for copy is 22nd May. Please ensure that your copy reaches us by then or we may be unable to include it. Thanks

For advertising queries, contact Daphne Rogers 01840 250244

Copies of the Blowhole are available by post at a cost of £1.75 per issue, phone 01840 250483

Contributions to the Blowhole can be sent c/o Boscastle Post Office  
or by email to [boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:boscastleblowhole@yahoo.co.uk)

The Blowhole is published 4 times a year and printed by Easyprint of Launceston

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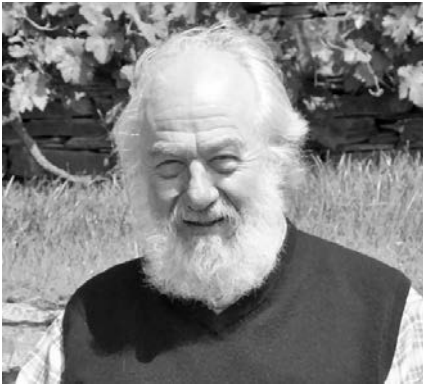
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# View of the Village



*Arthur Bannister's Regular Round-Up of News & Views*

*The following was emailed to the Parish Council's website, [boscastlecornwall.org.uk](http://boscastlecornwall.org.uk)*

Hello Parish Council,

As an ex Boscastle resident, I obviously take a lot of interest in the village, and make several visits during the year. The other day I was contacted by a fellow member of the internet website 'Friends Reunited,' Eric Snowdon. Then within days I was contacted by another member, Angela Ferrett. We all went to Boscastle C.P. around the late fifties and early sixties. Eric has listed as many names as he could remember from his times there, and placed them under the Boscastle C.P. banner, in the hope that maybe, if enough interest (or curiosity) could be aroused, perhaps arrange a reunion.

It would be nice if a short article or advert could be placed in the Blowhole to prompt people to visit [www.Friendsreunited.com](http://www.Friendsreunited.com)

*With best wishes, Bob Ginger (formerly of The Chestnuts, New Road, now living in Cricklade, Wilts)*

## **Children's Play Area and Sports Field**

Representatives of the Parish Council and Boscastle Football Club met Jeff Cherrington from the National Trust in order to draw up a leasing agreement for the 'football field'. The terms of the lease will permit the Parish Council to construct a play area for children whilst giving the Football Club security of the pitch and their

facilities. It is hoped that the School will be able to use the pitch - with the agreement of the Football Club - in the winter, and, that at the end of the football season, the field will be available for summer sports until the new season begins.

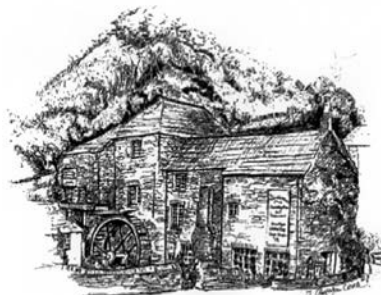
It is estimated that the play area will cost up to £50,000. Funds are in place for this amount with 35% of the total coming from Objective One. The remainder will come from matched funding made up by the Boscastle Flood Relief Fund, and contributions from the Lions Club South West together with labour in kind.

The Parish Council will take on the costs of all insurance, maintenance, and daily inspections. It will also bear the cost of ROSPA training for those undertaking the inspections.

## **Old Printer Cartridges**

Instead of throwing away your old printer cartridges, which will then end up in landfill sites, causing pollution as they break down, donate them to the WRVS. Used printer cartridges can be recycled and the WRVS are collecting them to raise funds.

To find out more, contact Maureen Steege on 01840 250085



## **MILLER'S PANTRY**

*At The Old Mill*

*01840 250223*

*Decorative Home*

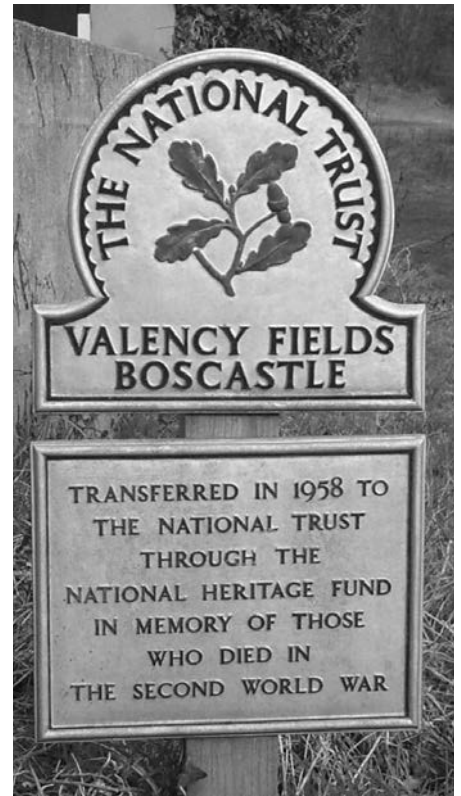
*Accessories &*

*Unusual Gifts*

**Coffee + Light + Teas**

**Lunches**

***At the going down of the sun - and in the car park - we will remember them***



The memorial reads "Transferred in 1958 to the National Trust through the National Heritage Fund in memory of those who died in the second world war" The car park extension proposed by NCDC encroaches further into the Memorial Fields.

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Sun 10am-2pm

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## New 'Local Bobby'



Police Constable 4117 Ed Burrows is our Neighbourhood Beat Manager, (ie local Bobby), and he is based at Camelford Police Station, Fore Street, Camelford, PL32 9PQ.

His work contact telephone number is 01840 213709 and his email address is ed.burrows@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Ed describes himself: "I am 47 years old, born Salford, educated St Johns College Southsea. I joined the RN at 19 and served as a Radio Operator in Diesel Submarines based at HMS Dolphin in Gosport before going to Dartmouth and then rejoining Submarines. I left after 13 years service and joined the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

"I live with my partner Caroline and between us we have four grown up children and two grandchildren. My grandson loves visiting 'BOB'S CASTLE'. My interests include sailing - I am currently restoring a 1938 Hillyard - most forms of outward bound activities and I play the guitar to a very average standard.

"I recently visited New Zealand where I fulfilled my ambitions to try white-water rafting, go horse riding where they filmed Lord of the Rings, and do a Bungy Jump."

## Juliotter Garden Club Spring Programme

Meetings take place at Otterham Village Hall which is situated off the A39, at Marshgate, and start at 7.30pm.

**28th March:** AGM with refreshments and talks by members.

**25th April:** Karen Halliday from Rising Sun Nurseries shows us how to plant up for year round interest.

**23rd May:** Nigel Eaton from RHS Rosemoor talks on using perennials in the garden.

Visitors and Member's guests are always very welcome at our meetings. For more information, contact David Porter on 01840 261164.

## Carn Awn Singers

Carn Awn Singers recommenced practices at the end of February and are now working towards their first concert of the season. They will be taking part in a concert at St. Minver Church on Sunday 26th March at 7.30p.m., together with Wadebridge Male Voice Choir and St. Minver Band. Programmes will be available at the door on the night.

If you are planning a concert and would like the Singers to take part or would like more information, please contact Jane Sadleir, 01840 213796

## 18th Cannon Found



*Part of an exploded Cannon found in Valency Valley*

A lump of very corroded iron found in the Valency Valley has turned out to be the rear end and knob of a small, late 18th-century cannon.

Nanette Little found the fragment of an exploded 'Falconet' cannon while dog walking in the valley. It came from a heap of debris that had been cleared from the harbour following the flood and must have been in the harbour bed for over 200 years. This piece of local history can be seen in the pottery. *RIL*

## Community Events Diary

Now available in the Visitor Centre, for all individuals & organisations to enter their events in, so that we all know what's on when, and can avoid dates clashing.

Call in to the Visitor Centre, or ring Rebecca on: 250010

Ruth and Alan Watson welcome you to:

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*A builder had fallen of a ladder at a house in old road and being tended by the paramedics. The air ambulance was waiting for the "ground" ambulance to bring him to the car park. This was last year but it illustrates that the Air Ambulance is always on hand.*

## Air Ambulance Charity Shop, Delabole

Lots of clothes, bric-a-brac, books and household goods have come into the shop recently, it seems as if everyone has been having a clear-out over the holidays. Unfortunately many of the items were torn, broken or dirty which obviously are not saleable and end up being put out for the refuse collection. It is requested once again that only items which are clean and in good condition are donated, and items not in this condition should be put out for your weekly refuse collection. It is also requested that goods are not left on the front or back doorsteps, not only do they cause an obstruction but usually end

up getting soaked. Having said all that, we would like to thank those customers who have donated some very saleable articles and if you come into the shop you will find all sorts of different

goods on display.

Recent sales in the shop amounted to:-

November - £487.00 net

December - £302.00 net

January was a fairly quiet month but the total amount taken in the shop amounted to £238.

This of course is net after rates, rent, electricity and water rates have been paid, plus sundry items such as stationery, cleaning products etc.

The Christmas draw raised a total of £114.

The following generous donations have also been received and many thanks are due to the following: Mr. Evans of Boscastle £401.47; Mrs. Martyn of Wadebridge in memory of her Mother - £73.00; anonymous donation of £20.00

The team of volunteers would like to thank customers for their continued support and wish everyone all the best for 2006. Opening hours are displayed on the door of the shop but subject to the availability of volunteers.

## VENNINGS

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# Ten Years ago in the Blowhole

No. 13  
SPRING  
1996



40p

## BOSCASTLE BLOWHOLE

### Farewell to Old Friends

Mr and Mrs Roy Sale leave Boscastle



Roy and Beryl Sale were finally tempted away from Boscastle by something their new location in Seaford, near Eastbourne, could offer and Boscastle couldn't - 'flannels'. They are keen walkers, but having had two new knees fitted a couple of years ago, Roy found that 'going downhill the knees don't like it; going uphill for any length of time, the ficker doesn't like it'. In their new home, they will be a short walk from the sea-front and the shops and an even shorter walk from the river, where the fish are important to him.

There was a large crowd in the Village Hall recently as friends gathered to say farewell to a couple who contributed a great deal to Boscastle over a period of 32 years.

The Venue for this party was particularly fitting, as Roy Sale's most recent project was the design of the extension of the Hall itself; he represented the Parish Council on the committee, and had given a great deal of his time and expertise, in harness with Peter Fanshawe, to ensure that the Village Hall plans came to fruition.

In common with many Boscastle residents, the Sales were tempted to Boscastle after spending a holiday here. Beryl, a former nurse, became Roy's assistant when he set up practice as an architect in Camelford. Over the years, both the Wellington and the Napoleon, the 'Doctor's surgery, Carole Vincent's Studio, Carpenter's Kitchen and the Church were some of the buildings which benefited from Roy's work.

The Sales were also active supporters of many village activities; Pongo Day will not be the same without them. For more about the Sales, see Jim Casting's article on page 13.

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## From the Blowhole of Spring 1996

### WI 50th Anniversary Luncheon 1946 - 1996

Boscastle WI celebrated their birthday.

### Police

Pc Michael Alcock became our local bobby

### Kernowdoc

Providing emergency medical care outside surgery hours. Dr Chris Jarvis explained how the new system would work.

### Josie Young

Josie Young left to spend three months working in Romania with Cornwall's White Cross Mission

### Roundabout

The Parish Council asked the County Council to install a mini roundabout at Doctors Corner

### Flood Alleviation

The Parish Council considered details of the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme

### Village Hall

We would like to start a short mat bowling club in the Hall and are about to purchase the necessary equipment.

# 'New' Faces at The Rock Shop



*Malcolm, Brenda and Liz Green*

Ironically Ye Olde Rock Shop was advertised for sale just a week before the flood devastated the whole row of premises. Undeterred, the partnership of Malcolm Green, his wife Brenda and daughter Elizabeth thought it an "opportunity too good to miss," and put in an offer. The refurbished shop, with completely new interior and first floor, also benefited from the improved walkway with its new walling and paving. As Malcolm poetically expressed it, "It was like a phoenix rising from the ashes (waves?)."

Originally from Birmingham, the family had holidayed in the County for

many years. Brenda's brother lived in Wadebridge and Malcolm, as a keen scuba diver, knew the coastline well. After thirty years in engineering, Malcolm sold his business and moved to Under Road six years ago. After a spell lecturing at St Austell College it was a relief, Malcolm said, "to be one's own boss again".

Their daughter Elizabeth, with a background in nursing and one of Boscastle's own First Responders, is about to take up a new job in the ambulance service. Malcolm will be known to many because of his expertise in lighting the Cave of Harmony concerts.

In their first weeks they have found running the shop a new and exciting experience. Relying on the advice of the previous owners they have resolved to make no major changes in the first season. Malcolm is amazed how popular mementoes of Boscastle and the phenomenal demand for real ales are. He enthusiastically supports local breweries and all West Country products.

shop the Greens recognise the importance of keeping up to date. The increasing trend towards shopping with plastic has become a significant factor in retailing and so they have introduced a credit/debit card facility. In addition they are shortly starting a mail order service via their new web site [www.boscastlerockshop.com](http://www.boscastlerockshop.com). Meanwhile they have appreciated the support and interest of local people during their opening weeks.



*Former owners, Russell & Yvonne hand over the keys to Brenda & Liz under the watchful eye of Parish Council Chairman, Arthur Bannister*

*Copyright photos courtesy David Flower*

Their range of wines, spirits and beers, gift items, fashion jewellery and fudges are aimed to tickle a variety of tastes.

Even though primarily an all-the-year-round village

Boscastle always welcomes novel and enterprising businesses run by people who know and love the area. We wish the Greens every success in their new venture.

## Boscastle Pottery

Est: 1962



*A family run studio pottery, we are probably the World's largest established dedicated Mochaware makers. We can decorate our pots with the most delicate trees and ferns as if by magic.*

*So come and watch the trees grow!*

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Tel: 01840 250527

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local wines and beers**

**Specialist in Cornish Biscuits, Preserves,  
Chutneys, Mustards and Honey**

***Cornish Ice Cream***

**Why not try our Belgian  
hand-made chocolates?**

# BOSCASTLE-BANJUL - 2006

On Tuesday 7 February that intrepid pair - Olaf Sargint, 54, from Smugglers in Old Road and his opposite neighbour, Tony Treweek, 74, from May Cottage - set off via Cherbourg in a twenty-six year old Mercedes to pass through France, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal to reach the Gambia. The 4000-mile journey is the route of the Plymouth - Banjul Rally, and Tony & Olaf are taking part, raising money for Village Aid and The Merlin Trust. Once there the venerable Merc will be auctioned to provide additional funds, and The Odd Couple will variously find their own way back to the UK.

Tony is an ex-Manchester University senior lecturer in Design, a gent who wears his learning lightly, who came first to Boscastle in 1988 and retired here ten years later. During his academic career he travelled widely and lived in the States during his tenure as



*the 'Wizards of Bos' take a break from loading the Mercedes*

professor at an American university. Olaf meanwhile has enjoyed a somewhat more chequered career, culminating in his present avocation as a landscape gardener which has given him the opportunity to design gardens all over the world and, on the side, set up as a Greek olive farmer.

Prior to the trip the likely lads hassled their Boscastle chums out of £500 at a come-all-ye-eat-drink-and-contribute day; followed by organizing a curry lunch for all their London connections at Ealing's Sherman Labour Hall which pulled in a

further astonishing £2500! In addition it must be said the two are paying all their own considerable expenses, so that all proceeds go to charity.

While superficially the trip might sound like fun, and no doubt will be both interesting and entertaining - which we shall hear all about via text, email and travellers' tales when they return - it is not without its hazards. Old cars (and old boys, it must be said) have a tendency to break down in

rough conditions and dry heat. They will need to travel in convoy (up to a hundred vehicles will be taking part) using local guides once Europe disappears over the horizon, and in the recently war-torn areas of Africa will pick their way gingerly between minefields to reach their destination.

Others have contributed selflessly to the project. Particular thanks are due to the doctors and staff of the Bottreaux Surgery who provided medical supplies and preventative jabs.

Richard Rigby-Jones, who himself took part in the Rally last year, was on hand to give first-hand advice on the trip and, most importantly, acquire (in some mysterious fashion) a roadworthy and reliable workhorse to see them through the rigours of the trip.

May all go well with them as we offer up libations for their safe return.

*Wizards update on p 35*

## Boscastle Short Mat Bowls Club



*members of the Bowls Club relax at their Annual Dinner*

*photo Carloe Flower*

Boscastle Bowls Club held their Annual Dinner on 20th January; it was well attended. The Club was promoted last season to Division I after coming top of the Division 2. However, with only one game left to

play it seems likely that the Club will be returning to Division 2 despite some close and exciting matches. Club membership has increased lately and new members will still be very welcome.



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website: [www.thenaturalhealingclinic.co.uk](http://www.thenaturalhealingclinic.co.uk)



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Forrabury and Minster Parish Council meet in the Village Hall usually on the last Thursday of each month. Members of the public are invited to attend with public participation at the beginning of the meeting at 7 pm.*

### Election of Chairman

On 15<sup>th</sup> December a letter was received from Mike Hircock saying that due to ill health he would have to resign as Chairman. Arthur Bannister was duly elected to the position and thanked Mike Hircock for all he had done.

### Car Park charges

The car parking rates for 2006 have been received and were increased throughout the range.

1 hour = 80p, 2hr = £1.40, 2hr = £2.40, 4hr = £2.40 and over 4 hr = £4.00. Charges for coaches remain at £1.50 per day, while a 52 week permit would now cost £70.

The Council felt that reluctantly they must accept these increases but would ask the District Council, when work on the car park is completed, to make some provision for residents to use the car park for a short period in order to shop

### South West Water

Graham King continues to report at every meeting on developments regarding the proposed sewage treatment works.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January Keith Field from South West Water attended the meeting to

present the planning application that had been submitted and to answer questions from Councillors and the Public.

He outlined the proposal and explained that SWW had endeavoured to minimise the effect of noise, odour and the visual impact of such a scheme. The treatment tanks will be covered and barn type buildings round three sides of the site would minimise the aesthetic impact. They would install a maximum number of odour control units. Keith Field also said that although it was impossible to be precise until the treatment works were operational tankers would have to access the site every four days during the summer and about once every two weeks in winter.

A good number of the public attended the meeting. Among points that were raised with Keith Field was had SWW taken due consideration for listed buildings close to the proposed site. He was also asked why the works could not be in the valley. Keith Field said that the National Trust would not allow the valley site to be used.

Ian Kemp from the National Trust also attended the meeting and answered concerns from the public. He told the meeting that the Trust would only agree to the Hillsborough site being used if all other options were ruled out.

Graham King then told the meeting that much progress had already been made, but the preferred option was to have a combined site with Tintagel and Bossiney. An independent survey has been commissioned to look into

the feasibility of such a scheme by the National Trust and TAIST – the Tintagel action group.

Glenton Brown (County Councillor) said he felt the National Trust should say whether they are for or against the scheme. He also said that there should be a hold on a decision on this application until after the result of the appeal on the Bossiney scheme is known.

There should also be solid costings; on a combined scheme made available.

### Planning Meeting

on 18<sup>th</sup> January considered the application for: *Sewage Treatment Scheme comprising a Sewage Treatment Works, plus adjacent Site Compound and ancillary works at Hillsborough fields, Harbour Pumping Station, and Associated works. Hillsborough Fields (Off B3263) Penally Hill, Boscastle.*

Graham King reported that he had a meeting with Chris Daley from Cornwall County Council planning department who told him that the Council had already received 100 letters re the development and that as a result there would almost certainly be a site visit. He further suggested that a flyer be delivered to every household proposing that villagers object to the planning application on the grounds that

1. No proper consideration has been given to a joint scheme
2. Consent to discharge is through a 58year old leaking pipe.
3. National Trust has not given permission for the use of the land at Hillsborough.



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## PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

Cllr Brewer said that he felt that SWW had rushed into this application. What other sites had been considered? Cllr Findlay said that many villagers supported the scheme and he proposed that the scheme be accepted. Cllr Brewer proposed that the application be rejected on the basis of the Liaison groups list of objections to the proposal. Cllr Venning seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 1 against. Therefore the proposal was carried.

## Belsham Court Properties

At the January meeting the Council were told that Belsham Court properties have revised their plans for the Bottreaux Garage site to include some affordable housing.

## Bus Shelter

The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of providing a bus shelter at the top of the village. A suitable site for this has yet to be decided. The clerk will contact the bus company to see whether they would have any objection to moving the bus stop for buses heading towards Tintagel from its current location to a site near to the Paradise Road junction, where the Mobile Library stops.

Any feedback or suggestion from bus users would be greatly appreciated, as it would be a pointless waste of Parish Council money to provide a facility that was not wanted or was in the wrong location. Please contact the clerk, Bob Smith 250440, or any member of the Parish Council would be happy to hear your thoughts on the subject.

County Cllr  
Glenton Brown  
writes:

## THE BUDGET

The Cornwall County Council finds itself facing a black hole of nine million short fall before it could address the 2006/07 budget. Bearing in mind the Government is now paying for Education direct. To overcome this nine million shortfall the following decisions were taken, some cuts regrettably had to be made in services and also one million taken off the highways budget, there was of course a three point one percent grant contribution from the Government and the five per cent Council Tax increase that you are now no doubt all familiar with has made up this amount. The possibility of having to take money from reserves was after all averted. Cornwall budget of two hundred and ninety three million six hundred and fifty eight thousand was therefore approved by full Council recently. Cornwall still has one of the lowest budgets of the entire counties and we possibly pay about forty six pounds less than the average. My disappointment is that the Government is still not listening to the burden of the Council Tax; it does turn a deaf ear to suggestions of a local income tax which would be far fairer for everyone.

## CORNWALL'S WASTE

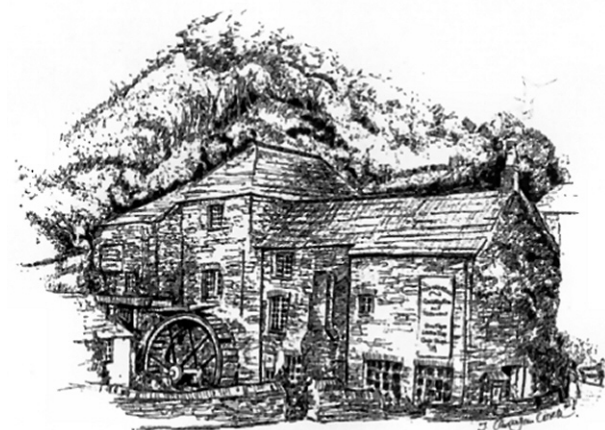
This has been a controversial issue to debate and make a decision upon since Christmas. The contract to handle Cornwall's waste was awarded to a French company called Sita, I



had many letters regards this issue as I am sure all members did. It is quite a natural reaction that no one wants an incineration plant in their back yard!! especially the people up in Mid Cornwall villages who fear they may be the likely recipients of such a plant. The actual site has not yet been chosen, but several sites are being looked at. Hopefully this will be the answer for Cornwall's waste for at least the next thirty years, as the landfill sites are nearing their capacity. I sincerely hope that this new waste plant will produce energy from waste and along with our recycling programme Cornwall will be amongst the leaders in this respect.

## SEWAGE

The battle for the right type of sewage disposal schemes continues to rumble on. It has been pointed out that from Boscastle to Trebarwith a distance of some four to five miles we have four outlets. It therefore makes sense for a better scheme to consider if there can be some effective joined up scheme. South West Water said this would be out of the question re finance, however with all the work that has been put in by the Boscastle Liaison Group and T.A.I.S.T. the costings would appear to be not out of the question at all, and an independent costings should now be presented and South West Water to present their costings also. This really says something for people power to have come this far and of course the recent news that Mrs. Beckett has agreed to call in and hold an Inquiry into this very issue GB.



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# Boscastle is entering the 2006 **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

Points are awarded for:

- No unsightly refuse dumps
- Tidy churchyards and war memorials
- Well-kept fences, verges, gardens, allotments etc
- Clean bus shelters and telephone kiosks
- Up-to-date notice boards

Judging takes place during June and July.

For further information, or to offer help to tidy up public land, please contact Pat Day or George Findlay.



## Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce

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- Potential promotion throughout Cornwall via the Cornwall Chamber.
- A unified voice on issues affecting your business.
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- Network with other local business people.

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For more information on joining contact a member of the committee:  
Ron Muffett (Chairman), 250204; Adrian Prescott (Secretary) 250570;  
Chris Searle (Treasurer) 250225; Suzanne Roberts (membership Secretary) 250202; Mike Parsons (Assistant Secretary) 250398; Diane Bentall (Events Organiser) 250599; Debbie Beszant 250684

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*continues on page 11*

## OBJECTIVE ONE FUNDING SUCCESS FOR BOSCASTLE GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO REGENERATION PLANS



A regeneration package for Boscastle worth almost £1.5m has been given the go ahead with the announcement of a successful Objective One bid.

A total of £707,088 of Objective One investment will come from the European Regional Development Fund and this will be match-funded by the main agencies involved to deliver a package of projects worth £1,473,100.

The initiative has been led by the Boscastle Regeneration Steering Group which was set up by North Cornwall District Council in the immediate aftermath of the floods to co-ordinate the work of the main agencies and local groups and help plan the regeneration of the village.

North Cornwall District Council is the lead partner and accountable body for the project. NCDC will be providing match-funding along with its partner organisations, Cornwall County Council, Forrabury & Minster Parish Council and the National Trust.

Over the next couple of years, thanks to this funding, Boscastle will benefit from enhanced features, services and facilities which will make the village more attractive and help support the local economy.

The car park and its surroundings will be landscaped to include a picnic area and will incorporate better facilities for visitors and locals such as public toilets, a bus shelter and tourist information point.

Future visitors will be encouraged to explore more of Boscastle with a new village trail, and the lighting, pavements and road surfaces will be improved to make them more in keeping with the village's historic setting.

The council's visitor centre which was destroyed by the floods will be re-located into an existing building in the harbour area. The Objective One investment will enable the council to improve this popular facility to include an archive area, a new display about the floods and public toilets.

In the harbour area itself river walls and banks will be restored, seating provided and traditional materials will be used for surfacing, cladding and paving.

At the top of the village, the National Trust and Parish Council will be working together to provide a new children's play area with play equipment and seating.

Cllr Janey Comber is district council ward member for Boscastle, a trustee of the Flood Appeal Fund and a member of the Regeneration Steering

## OBJECTIVE ONE FUNDING SUCCESS

continued

Group: "This regeneration scheme is not simply about reinstating what was lost in the flood. It is about improving facilities and enhancing the village to boost the local economy and make Boscastle even more attractive for everyone. This is a marvellous way of illustrating how Objective One money can help regenerate an area – especially one that has been as traumatised as Boscastle. All the agencies involved will be working closely together to ensure that the work on these various regeneration projects is co-ordinated with works on any flood alleviation schemes and other infrastructure improvements in the village."

Arthur Bannister, Chairman of Forrabury & Minster Parish Council said: "Everyone will be pleased to hear that Objective One money has been made available to fund the requirements of the Regeneration Project. This means that all of the proposals set out in the Business Plan can be undertaken thus providing a safer and more pleasant environment for those who live in Boscastle. People can now look forward to the gradual return of a way of life they enjoyed before."

Ron Muffett, Chairman of the Boscastle Chamber of Trade & Commerce said: "Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce is delighted that the bid for Objective One funding has been successful. The

success has obviously been achieved through the determination and hard work of individuals and co-ordination of all the agencies involved. Hopefully this co-ordination will continue throughout the years ahead so that the traumas of post-flood Boscastle can be laid to rest and our history in the making will be the prosperity of our next generation."

In preparing the funding bid, the Regeneration Steering Group organised extensive consultations with local residents and all the agencies involved to come up with a package that has widespread support. The consultations included a household survey and public exhibitions in the village. The village has already benefited from around £94,000 worth of funding to support additional tourism marketing and promotion during 2005.

Carleen Kelemen, Director of the Objective One Partnership, said: "This project will help to rebuild and improve an historic Cornish village where the residents survived a terrible natural disaster. The combination of restoration, improvement and new build will help to ensure the future for Boscastle by attracting many more visitors, supporting the residents and creating jobs."

For further information contact: Annie Moore: 01208 893318;

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Warm salad of Boscastle red ruby with Trevalga potato crisps and Dijonnaise dressing  
Fillet of wild Cornish sea bass with champagne and roast scallop sauce  
Rack of Cornish lamb with garden mint jelly, sautéed root vegetables and red wine jus  
Caramelised vanilla panna cotta with a compote of garden fruits  
Tarte aux pommes with butterscotch sauce and clotted cream ice cream

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# BOSCASTLE SEWAGE TREATMENT

It is always pleasing to see how much can be achieved by a small group of determined and articulate Boscastle residents in their battle with corporate management. The Sewage Liaison Group was founded in 1999. Its members include Graham King, John Maughan, Hedley Venning, Peter Steege, Rob Lloyd, Ian Kemp and Arthur Bannister. Two years ago it became affiliated to the Parish Council. Its objective was simple: to provide clean water in the harbour for the benefit of locals and visitors.

South West Water proved difficult to persuade. Its first response was to offer only first stage treatment, continuing to empty waste near the harbour, pumped along ancient and leaky pipes from an ugly and hugely visible plant, with no odour control, sited next to the Valency Carpark.

The public meeting to discuss SWW's proposal was the best attended in living memory. SWW maintained that it was constrained by EU legislation from providing a higher level of treatment as, according to their complex calculations, the village population was under two thousand. The figure was challenged by the Sewage Liaison Group, the Environment Agency and eventually the Ombudsman. A defeated SWW had to accept that, taking into account holiday accommodation of various types, a more accurate figure would be much higher and therefore, after all, they would be obliged to install secondary treatment.

Objections to the Valency site were pursued by the indefatigable Liaison Group. They based their arguments on examples and illustrations from similar sites all over the country; the National Trust refused to grant permission, and this, along with hundreds of letters and phone calls from residents, forced SWW to change its mind look and for another location.

It then chose Hillsborough. Meanwhile Boscastle's efforts alerted our neighbours in Tintagel that their rights were similarly being ignored.

The proposed works for Tintagel cannot even boast primary sewage treatment. Its effluent flows downhill into deep water alongside the Castle. SWW proposes installing a wire mesh (Fine Screening) somewhere along its flow to deter big jobbies entering the swimming area. At the same time Bossiney (which is regarded as a separate entity in SWW's calculations) would get settlement tanks.

Neither community, say SWW, deserve better because neither population adds up to the magic two thousand figure. Outline planning for these two separate schemes was somehow granted without much attention or publicity (or timing,

***SouthWestWater is ... proposing three separate sewage treatment sites over 2.8 miles of coastline.***

***This makes neither economic nor environmental sense.***

SWW is fond of submitting plans over Christmas). As soon as Tintagel Parish Council became aware of these applications TAIST (Tintagel Against Inferior Sewage Treatment) was formed. As a result, the applications to discharge effluent into the sea at Tintagel and Bossiney will be the subject of an inquiry requested by Defra's (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Secretary of State Margaret Beckett. She will ask the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol to set up the inquiry. Based on its findings she will ask the Environment Agency to take appropriate action.

Are you sitting comfortably? It gets even more interesting. South West Water is therefore proposing three separate sewage treatment sites over 2.8 miles of coastline. This makes neither economic nor environmental sense. They argue that combining one or more sites would need more pumping stations and this would increase CO2 emissions. In response, TAIST commissioned an independent surveyor to look at the feasibility of a



*Lady's Window*

joint scheme. Rather than screening at Tintagel, primary treatment at Bossiney and secondary at Boscastle, a site somewhere near Trevalga, designed to look as inconspicuous as the Hillsborough Scheme, might just be the ticket. As one local resident remarked the proposed site "would not be in anybody's backyard". The impact of pumping emissions and stations was not an issue; and the scheme would have the added bonus of restricting usage of Boscastle's harbour pipe to a maximum of four times a year, to accommodate storm overflow.

Inhabitants of Tintagel/Bossiney are naturally enraged that SWW has attempted to avoid its obligations under EU law by splitting the villages apart. If TAIST can demonstrate that SWW has deliberately exploited a technicality, or the population equivalent of either village is greater than two thousand the economics of scale alter considerably.

Vacancies exist for adults and children (beginners or advanced) to have

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## Sewage Treatment

*continued*

The result of the public inquiry at Bossiney (commencing 28 February) will affect the chances of a joint scheme. Locals there are objecting to a primary scheme being sited in a residential area. They argue that any site should be capable of expansion, which would not be desirable or even possible in its present proposed location.

*“Our firm preference would be to see .... this development removed from the village either by .... a joint facility serving ... Boscastle, Bossiney and Tintagel or by .... a less exposed site for the Boscastle facility further out of the village.”*

Artfully, SWW have never sought EU permission for any of the local beaches to be designated as clean bathing water, knowing full well that sewage outfalls would not be permitted.

Graham King asked locals to object to the Hillsborough site on the grounds that alternatives had not been properly evaluated. As a result County Planning have received over a hundred letters on the subject. While Hillsborough satisfies most criteria regarding location, odour control and appearance, the question still remains about the desirability of discharging effluent at Boscastle. Sewage would still be pumped uphill to



*looking up the coast from the cliffs near Trevalga*

Hillsborough and then back to Penally Point. The Environment Agency has therefore asked the Parliamentary Ombudsman to look at South West Water's application for a consent to discharge at Boscastle.

One other factor is the National Trust's reluctance to release land at Hillsborough until all other options have been exhausted. In his letter to Chris Daly at County Planning, Andrew Davey, the Trust's Area Manager, emphasizes that “Our firm preference would be to see the need for this development removed from the village either by construction of a joint facility serving the communities of Boscastle, Bossiney and Tintagel or by the identification of a less exposed site for the Boscastle facility further

out of the village.” And further on, he notes that while prepared to make land available to South West Water, “we regard this option very much as one of last resort.”

While the results of all these inquiries are in abeyance, TAIST will be lobbying the Environment Agency (who have final say in allowing consent for discharges) over the Tintagel and Bossiney schemes, and the Boscastle Liaison Group will be making representations to the County Planning Department prior to their decision regarding SWW's application for Hillsborough. There should be a final decision in April CR

*The Public Inquiry is taking place as the Blowhole goes to press. We will report its outcome in the Summer edirtiom*

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# Church and Chapel

## Messages from our Ministers

We live in somewhat unsettling times don't you think? There seem to be many looming threats to our world, not least of which is global warming of course. Our abuse of the planet is coming home to roost much sooner than was originally predicted it seems.

There is also much alarm over the threat of bird flu, and the prospect of a possible pandemic if, or when, it starts to spread amongst humans.

All of which is pretty frightening, but I can't help thinking –what about the birds? Can you imagine a world with little or no birdsong, not to mention the environmental impact the loss of our feathered friends would have?

How come we always only get upset about these things when it looks as though they may directly affect us. We think we are so important but it was probably the worst thing to happen to this delicately balanced world when humans started walking upright and rubbing sticks together.

Christians believe that when God created the world - however it was created and we still have much to learn about that - He saw that every aspect of it was good. We have also long believed that we have a special role to play, being given charge over it or 'dominion' as it has been

translated. Unfortunately for the world, for too long 'dominion' has been seen as us having ultimate rights over everything. The right to use in whatever way we wish, so long as we are the species that benefits.

What we often ignore is the fact that with rights go responsibilities, in this case the responsibility to care for and maintain the delicate balance that all earthly life depends on, not just humans.

As our bit of the world is coming into its best with the onset of Spring, it seems a good time to reflect on how we can all do our bit to try and ensure future generations may enjoy it also.

*Rev'd Chris Musser*

At Eastertime we remember the great miracle of the Resurrection - Jesus, who had been killed by crucifixion, came back to life and was seen by many of his followers. Earlier in the story of Jesus, we read of how he healed the sick, fed hungry people, and stilled a storm and his story begins with his being born to a virgin. Christians believe that Jesus was God in human form, and so give him the title 'Son of God.' However, if this claim is true, we should not be surprised that there are miraculous elements to his birth & life, or that he could overcome death.

I believe that there is an even greater miracle that we remember in the Passiontide -Easter season, and that is the miracle of Jesus' crucifixion. Not that the cross defies physical explanation. We know that cruel, jealous men arrested Jesus at night, and after a false trial nailed him to a cross to die, a not uncommon form of death penalty in those days. However if we are right in believing that Jesus is the 'Son of God' he could have performed another miracle in order to escape from the cross. Indeed if he had avoided going into the Garden of Gethsemane on that Thursday evening, he would have avoided arrest. The powers that be avoided arresting Jesus during daylight, for fear of the reaction of the crowd.

The greatest miracle is that Jesus' death on the cross was part of the plan and purpose of God. Through the cross, generations of Christians have become more aware of God's love for humankind. Not only the resurrection of Jesus, but his crucifixion, is a victory over the powers of evil.

If Jesus is God made man, then the God Christians worship is rightly described as a 'crucified God'. This is the greatest miracle. How can we fail to respond to such great love?

*Rev Andrew Sowden*

## Service Times

**Methodist Church:**  
Sunday services at 11am and 6pm  
For Good Friday service, see Chapel notice board

**Forrabury Church, Boscastle:**  
1st & 3rd Sunday each month:  
10am, Morning Worship.  
2nd & 4th Sunday each month:  
10am Family Communion.  
1st Sunday each month:  
'Together@3', Family Service

**St. Juliot Church, Boscastle:**  
2nd & 4th Sunday each month:  
3pm Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday each month:  
10am Mattins

**Davidstow Church:**  
2nd & 4th Sunday each month:  
11.30am Holy Communion

**Lesnewth Church:**  
1st & 3rd Sunday each month:  
10am Family Holy Communion  
2nd Sundays:  
9am Said Prayer Book Communion

**Otterham Church:**  
1st Sunday each month:  
11.30am Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday each month:  
3pm Holy Communion  
4th Sunday Each Month:  
11.30am Morning Worship

**Trevalga Church:**  
3rd Sunday each month:  
11.30am Holy Communion  
1st & 2nd Sunday each month:  
11.30am Mattins

## Easter Events & Services

### Wed 12th April: 9.30-noon

Kids Activity morning at the Community Centre. To register your child for this event tel. (01840) 250359

### Maundy Thursday 13th Apr

8.00pm Holy Communion at Lesnewth Church

### Good Friday 14th April

Stations of the Cross Walk. Start at 10.30am at Bottreaux Surgery car park, or Village Hall if wet, with an Easter play. Walk with us as we carry the cross down through the village, stopping along the way, finishing at Forrabury Church, or join us there at approx. 12.30pm for a short service & hot cross buns.

### Holy Saturday 15th April

7.30pm Easter Vigil service at Otterham Church

### Easter Day 16th April

6am Dawn Service by the Cross on Forrabury Common, breakfast at the Rectory after.

### Easter Church Services:

9.00am at Lesnewth;

9.45am at St.Juliot;

10.45am at Minster;

11.30am at Trevalga;

3.00pm at Davidstow

Easter Eggs for children at all Easter Day services

## Forrabury Flower Festival

*"Thank you for the Music"*

26th – 29th May

Anyone wishing to create an arrangement please contact Odette on 250550. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a 1st come 1st served basis. Volunteer stewards needed, also offers of cakes or biscuits please, contact Jennie: 212336

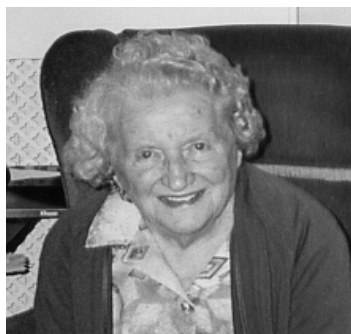
Flower Festival will be open from 10am-6pm each day.

### Scarecrow Competition 26th May

Anyone can join in and make a scarecrow to display in a garden or open space! We will draw up a 'scarecrow walk' and map for people to follow around the village and spot the scarecrows. Prizes awarded for best 3 entries. Entry forms available from 21st April at The Rectory, the Visitor Centre, Bottreaux Garage, the Old Coach House, Tintagel Road, and Long Meadow, Green Lane.

# RUBY VENNER SCOTT

## 1920 - 2005



Ruby Scott, née Nicholls, died at Highpoint Lodge, Wadebridge on December 9th. Her funeral took place at Forrabury Church on December 16th when she was laid to rest alongside Arthur who predeceased her by two years.

Ruby was Boscastle born and bred. She was born in 1920, the eldest of three children, at Penally Terrace above the harbour.

On leaving school she worked for D.T. Ferrett and Son, a retail grocer at the bottom of the village.

During the war she went to Plymouth to work in the munitions factories at Devonport Dockyard, returning to Boscastle when the war was over to work in the Co-Op in Dunn Street.

The family moved from Penally Terrace to Jordon Vale before moving to Ivy Cottage in 1947, Ruby to return with her own family in 1965.

She married Arthur Scott, a local boy, in 1951 at Minster Church and they had one daughter Elizabeth. They were fortunate to celebrate their Golden Wedding in 2001 with their daughter, son-in-law Phil and grandsons Richard and Ian along with other family members and friends.

Ruby had a long association with the Church and spent many years cleaning and also providing flowers, especially Arum Lilies grown in her garden for the adornment of Forrabury, Minster and Davidstow Churches.

She enjoyed homely pursuits such as knitting and cooking; especially splits and saffron cake and no doubt many of you reading this article will have sampled them.

Sadly life changed for Ruby when she lost her beloved Arthur two years ago and then suffered health problems herself. She had spells in hospital and also with Elizabeth and family but was always keen to return to Boscastle and Ivy Cottage with the help of her extended family and many friends.

As Ruby's health deteriorated she went to live at Highpoint Lodge in Wadebridge where she received wonderful care for the ten and a half months she was there.

She will missed not only by all her family and the people of the village, but also by the many people she befriended from far and wide.

Donations in her memory amounted to £506 for the Sunrise Appeal at Treiske Hospital.



### Contact Details:

#### Boscastle Methodist Chapel:

Rev Andrew Sowden,  
The Manse, Tintagel

Tel: 01840 770274

Sunday Services at 11am and 6pm

#### Religious Society of Friends:

Quakers meet each Sunday at 10.30am in the John Betjeman Centre, Wadebridge

#### Church of England:

Rev Christine Musser  
The Rectory, Forrabury,  
Boscastle

Tel: 01840 250359

For service times see previous page

#### Roman Catholic Church:

Fr Storey

St Paul's Church, Tintagel  
Tel: 01840 770663

# ALFRED CONNELL

## 1917 - 2005

Alfred was born in London in 1917 and was very proud of the fact that he started school at St. Mary Magdalene Church School when he was only three years of age. On leaving school he enrolled at the Borough Polytechnical College, known in those days as a trade school. One of the trades taught was carpentry and this eventually became a hobby. Quite recently Alfred discovered that his Grandfather was a cabinetmaker back in the mid seventeen hundreds and wondered if it was in his genes.

Alfred began his working life as a trainee quality controller with a local manufacturer of metal boxes. He met Lilian in 1935, they were married in 1939 and after the birth of their first daughter moved to Kent in January 1941.

He volunteered for the Royal Air Force as a wireless operator with flying duties in the latter part of 1941 and was posted to Cleve where his love of Cornwall began. At times his duties involved flying up and down the Cornish coast towing a target for anti-aircraft gun practice. It was a risky task and Alfred prayed that the Gunners would hit the target and not the aeroplane. (Cornish folk may well remember those days). Having gained his wireless operator's

'white cap flash' and 'sleeve sparks' he was posted to various places around England working on secret radio operations. He often said that it was a lonely existence, as he was not allowed to talk about his work and unable to strike up any lasting friendship.

He was demobbed in 1946 and returned to the Metal Box Company. After 25 years with them he left as Head Quality Controller and joined a similar company as Works Manager. 15 years later, as General Manager and Head of Production he took early retirement. 40 years in the industry, he certainly knew all there was to know about metal containers.

Alfred and Lilian were then living in Sussex but in 1978 they retired to Cornwall coming to live in Trethevy where they joined the congregation at Trevalga Church thus beginning their long association with the Boscastle Group of Churches. After moving house several times they eventually settled in Boscastle 17 years ago.

Knowing he was a pianist, friends at church persuaded Alfred to attend classes under the Organist Training Scheme run by the Royal School of Church Music at Truro. He passed the Higher Examinations adding another love to his church activities and became the organist at



*Alfred and Lilian on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary*

Davidstow playing the beautiful old organ that he adored. He also became the organist at Lesnewth Church, St. Thomas's Church Camelford and Advent Church as well as playing elsewhere when needed. Lilian often joked about having to make an appointment with her husband on Sundays. She never knew if it would be Sunday lunch or Sunday dinner as he dashed from one service to another.

Alfred was well known for his D.I.Y work and spent almost two years helping with the renovation of Davidstow church which was one of his favourite churches. At the refurbishment dedication service the Bishop remarked from the pulpit that he had met many church organists as well many DIY enthusiasts but this was the first time he had met one who was both. He loved flowers as well carpentry and beautiful hanging flower baskets were among the many articles he made that were sold to those who those who attended our church fetes. He was proud of the fact that some of these items would be

taken to other parts of the country to be displayed in people's homes.

Sadly, about five years ago, Alfred suffered a minor stroke, which meant giving up his church duties. He had also to give up driving after seventy years but even worse was the fact that arthritic hands and slight memory loss put an end to his organ playing.

His health began to fail rapidly and, as Lilian was no longer able to care for him, he was admitted to Bodmin Hospital in July for nursing home assessment. However, his condition deteriorated further and he died on 15 November. Lilian and the family will always be grateful for the untiring and loving care he received from doctors and staff at the hospital.

Alfred and Lilian had recently celebrated sixty-six years of marriage. He leaves his wife, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

In memory of Alfred, a generous donation of £245.52p was collected at the Service and has been sent to The Stroke Association, Northampton.



# Opening Hours and Useful Phone Numbers

## **Boscastle Post Office**

**Tel: 01840 250259**

Monday	8.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Tuesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Thursday	9.00 - 1.00	2.00 - 5.00
Friday	9.00 - 12.30	Closed
Saturday	9.00 - 12.00	Closed
Sunday	Closed all day	

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**Tel: 01840 250419**

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## **Mobile Library**

**Tel: 01208 812202**

Calls on alternate Thursdays:

30<sup>th</sup> March/13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April/ 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May  
8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June/ 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July

Wellington Hotel: 11.30 – 11.40  
Barn Park, Tintagel Road: 11.45 – 12.05

## **Waste Tip, Bowthick Quarry Sanding Road, Tintagel**

**Tel: 01840 770778**

Monday to Friday	8.30 - 4.15
Saturday	8.30 - 12.00
Sunday	Closed all day

## **Camelford Library**

**Town Hall, Market Place**

**Tel: 01840 212409**

Monday	Closed all day
Tuesday	10.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	10.00 - 5.00
Friday	10.00 - 4.00
Saturday	09.30 - 12.30
Sunday	Closed all day

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**Camelford Police Station:** 01840 213709

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*Launceston General	01566 765650
*Stratton	01288 287700
Truro -Treliske	01872 250000
Plymouth - Derriford	01752 777111

**Dental Helpline:** 0800 371192

**RSPCA:** 08705 555999

**Boscastle Visitor Centre:** 01840 250010

### **Local Churches:**

Church of England	01840 250359
Methodist	01840 770274
Catholic	01840 770663

**Harbourmaster:** 01840 250453

### **Parish Council:**

website: [www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk](http://www.boscastlecornwall.org.uk)  
clerk: 01840 250440  
email clerk: [formin.parish@virgin.net](mailto:formin.parish@virgin.net)

### **Village Hall:**

Bookings: 01840 250558  
Pay phone: 01840 250171

### **Community & Recreation Centre:**

Bookings: 01840 250378

### **Cornwall County Council:**

Switchboard: 01872 322000  
website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

### **North Cornwall District Council:**

Main Switchboard 01208 893333  
website [www.ncdc.gov.uk](http://www.ncdc.gov.uk)



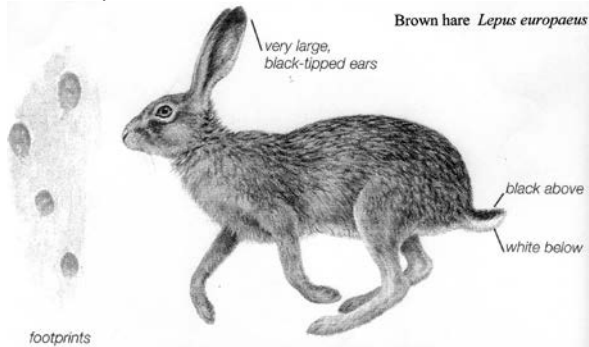
# END OF WINTER WILDLIFE WATCHING IN BOSCASTLE

National Trust volunteer James Wagner describes some of the wildlife that can be seen: in the area:

This time of year might seem cold and miserable, however this is a very exciting time in the wildlife calendar because now is the time when our year-round birds and mammals are beginning to pair up for the spring.

Soon one may be lucky enough to witness the spectacle of the boxing 'Mad March brown hare' which may be seen across the lonely stubble fields

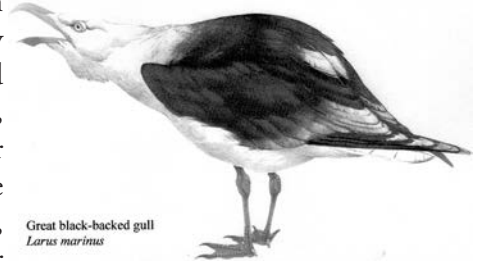
unwanted male attention. About forty days later up to ten leverets are born, already covered in fur and eyes already open. Because a hare's den, called a 'form' or a 'couch', is nothing more than a small depression in the earth with a little grass cover, it is ideal for a wandering fox or a hovering buzzard to locate. These predators will take full advantage at this time of year.



between now and early April, where the males are seen vying for female partners. However contrary to popular belief, it is the females that do all the boxing by fighting off

Other breeding mammals at this time include Badgers, Daubenton Bats, (bats that live around rivers), Foxes, Wood mice, Rabbits and even the odd escaped Wild boar.

In the avian world a very under-rated bird is on the prowl, preparing for the onset of the breeding season, *Larus marinus* or



Great black-backed gull  
*Larus marinus*

the Great black backed gull. This is Britain's main, if not only, real kleptoparasite or pirate. These huge birds mate for life and live in pairs amongst other seabird colonies such as Herring gulls, Guillemots, Razorbills, Puffins, Cormorants and Kittiwakes. They exalt themselves at the top of the food chain as if royalty. One will never witness this flagship gull species ever being bothered by anything around these particular waters. They stalk out, then rob unsuspecting seabirds returning with their quarry. It is amazing to see such a seemingly cumbersome bird become quite agile when the topic turns to freshly caught fish. They

are also partial to other bird's chicks and can even manage to swallow down rabbits. They lay their eggs just before the frenzied Herring gull season in order to take full advantage of the rich pickings on offer.

Fieldfares and Redwings, our main winter visitors, have March to prepare for migration to the Conifer and Birch forests of Northern Europe. They can be seen in large flocks on open farmland along with Corn buntings, Woodcock, Rock and Meadow pipits (which congregate together in the winter), Wood pigeons and Pheasants.

The period between March and April is the

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## WINTER WILDLIFE *continued*

avian version of a shift change where the winter visitors leave awaiting the arrival of the summer species, beginning with, the characteristic *Chiffchaff*, which hails the start of the warmer months.

From the raptors perspective the 'Pentargon two' *Peregrines* are relaxing before another hectic breeding season which begins in May and will hopefully be every bit as successful as last year. At the moment they only need to feed every other day, flying as far as Tintagel to hunt for their favourite pigeon prey before returning to separate vantage points high up on the sheer cliffs, in Pentargon Cove

Other birds to spot around the area are: the many *Kestrels* hunting *Voles* amongst the hillside bracken; *Sparrowhawks* darting through hedges pouncing on unsuspecting garden birds, (a tell tale sign is a pile of feathers underneath a fence post or

a low branch.); *Long-tailed tits* twittering in medium sized groups inside the canopies of bare deciduous trees along with *Goldcrests*, *Hedge sparrows* and the ever present *Robin* staking claim to his 'patch'. Down on the harbour rocks along with *Rock pipits* there are also *Grey wagtails* (yellow in colour), *White wagtails* (grey in colour), *Dippers*, *Oystercatchers* and possibly the solitary elusive Purple sandpiper which prefers to perch a few metres up the cliff above the crashing waves.



*Great spotted woodpeckers* are slightly more apparent than their larger Green cousins, along with *Nuthatches* and *Tree-creepers* and, in the boggy areas, look out for *Snipe* nipping out of sight very quickly.

Enjoy the Spring JW



Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*

## THE NATIONAL TRUST EASTER EVENTS

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 12 - 4pm:  
Easter Egg Trails

Different trails for different ages. Family trail around the Harbour. More extensive trail for older children in the Valency Valley. Follow the clues to claim your Easter treat.

£1 per trail. No need to book. Bring suitable outdoor clothing. Trails start from NT Shop, Boscastle Harbour. SX 097914

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 10 -1pm:  
Art and Sculpture in the Woods

A walk around the woodlands of the picturesque Valency Valley to view existing sculptures and gain inspiration. Then create your own art or sculpture using natural materials. A must for all budding 'Goldsworthys'!

Booking essential. Tel; 01288 331372. Meet Boscastle main car park (Pay & Display charges apply). SX 100913.

Basic tools and extra materials available to help with making your artwork! Bring suitable outdoor clothing.

For more information on either of these events, contact Mike Simmonds. Area Warden, Office; 01288 331372, email: [mike.simmonds@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mike.simmonds@nationaltrust.org.uk)



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# CAVE OF HARMONY 2006: THE SEA! THE SEA!

From the opening number, when jolly jack tars of an uncertain vintage (Messrs Roger and Nicky Nicholls, Roger Toy, and Stephen Piggott, accompanied by Jamie Arnott on the mandolin) galumphed around a capstan regaling the audience with a medley of sea shanties, the audience hugged itself in the certain foreknowledge that, as the evening progressed, the tone would be steadily lowered.

the Wind Southerly', longing for the safe return of her lover. The word maudlin also hardly described Stephen Piggott's last words to his crew: "You take to the boats, lads,/ Praying to heaven above,/ But I'll go down in the angry deep,/With the ship that I love."

Sailors, of course, are not renowned for subtle nuances of feeling, and at times their expressions of desire are tinged with



*Pauline Kent - Caz Boatfield*

*Copyright photos courtesy David Flower*

lady bold as she could be/ Pinched our whistles at the Golden Key".

The nautical theme was somewhat stretched (but easily forgiven) by one of the high (low)-lights of the evening, Mesdames Pauline Kent and Caz Boatfield's sincerely nauseating interpretation of Shirley Temple's "On the good ship Lollipop/It's a sweet trip to the candy shop/Where bonbons play/On the sunny beach of Peppermint Bay". As Stephen Fry once remarked, "Sometimes there just isn't enough vomit in the world."

Once standards slip, it is of course difficult to restrain licentiousness. Even when joined by two other lovelies, Maria Nicholls and Maria

Privett, the ladies could barely sustain "All the nice girls love a sailor," without a knowing wink.

Dear David Whitaker struggled to retain decorum (studiously ignoring shouts of Get Off! and similar advice from the audience) with an exhibition of previously-owned jokes to match his DJ while all about him mayhem reigned. He was not aided by that saucy minx Mary Baum whose tale of maidenly virtue and matelots' lusts brought a blush to listeners' cheeks. The advice that "Pretty girls don't go to sea/They're safer here ashore" gave whole new meanings to words like 'bunker' and 'mizzen tops'. Thus ended the first half.

*continued on next page*



*Stephen Piggott - Nicky Nicholls - Roger Nicholls - Roger Toy*

*Copyright photos courtesy David Flower*

Apparently, some sailors were out of sight of the fair sex so long, they mistook the dugong or manatee, for women, hence the legend of the mermaid was born. Left behind were wives and sweethearts, and one such siren. Caz Boatfield.

the bawdy. Hence Roger Nicholls' frightening leer as he questioned the audience 'Has Anybody Seen Our Ship?' (HMS Curious), a ditty by Noel Coward (someone else who was apparently quite fond of bellbottoms) after "A

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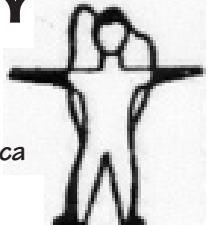
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## CAVE OF HARMONY 2006: THE SEA! THE SEA!

Fortified by liquorous substances, the audience braced itself for further plumbing of depths. They were not disappointed. In came the likely lads once again, still drunk, with 'They All Walk the Wibbly Wobbly Walk', what the French call roulement des hanches, and all the better for that, say the ladies.

Only Rupert Whitaker's magnificent renditions of the 1790 'Ballad of Tom Bowling' and that Victorian favourite, 'Asleep in the Deep', saved the evening.

After all, what could one make of Roger Toy's 'I Love to Go Swimm'n' with Wimmen' or, cor blimey, Roger Nicholls' 'I've Only Come Down For the Day' with their glorious non-PC sentiments?

Caz Boatfield and Pauline Kent once again gave their all to 'The Big Ship Sails on the Alley-Alley-O'. It is delightful to see how these two comparative newcomers have blossomed into a wonderful double act, so obviously enjoying themselves.

It was the jolliest evening one can remember, a fitting climax to a decade

of Michael Turner's Cave of Harmony productions. He has given enormous pleasure to audiences in their hundreds over the years and his scholarship and research has opened to a grateful public the whole world of Victorian and Edwardian Music Hall. Many of the original members of the cast were still performing this night, like Helen Pincus (who reminded us of her power with 'I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside') and Marianne Privet (whose sweet version of 'Matelot' thrilled the hall), testament to the loyalty and commitment Michael has inspired over the years. And under his tutelage and encouragement a great many newcomers have been able to develop both their confidence and talents. He will not be missed because his presence will still be there on the village stage.

Tribute was paid to the memory of John Bolitho, a great member of the cast and a great Cornishman.

Behind the scenes, the same commitment has been shown by a faithful crew of experts - front of house managers like the



Marianne Privett - Maria Nicholls

Copyright photos courtesy David Flower

Pickwicks, Jane Castling, Len & Gloria Quinlan, the ever faithful Martin Nash and his newest assistant, the young Harriet Dawson. Behind the scenes George Findlay has moved props with lightning dexterity, the place lit in glorious colour by Malcolm Green. Makeup and Backstage Assistants Joan Cork, Moira Hart and Odette Rigby-

Jones, Amanda Dawson and Noel Ward have kept things running smoothly while the period costumes have been designed or acquired by Pat Stanton-Nadin, June Hills and Marianne Privett.

Tribute to John Bolitho on page 40



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# SHOULD THE PAST HAVE A FUTURE?

*The Lower Bridge Boscastle, by Anne Knight*

Boscastle is a place with a unique combination of natural and historic built environment. It has one of the few sheltered harbours on Cornwall's north coast with clear physical evidence of its importance over a long period. It is a magnet for tourists attracted by the romance of the past in evidence in the unspoiled scenes around them. Much of what they find attractive stems from the mid 19th century.

In 1885 the death of the Lord of the Manor, Thomas Rickard Avery's heir Miss Ann Avery Hellyar prompted the sale of the manor estate. The estate was purchased by Henry Pigé-Leschallas, a business man resident in Surrey. There followed an injection of capital for the development of the village including the five substantial villas in New Road, civic and urban improvements including the sewerage system, piped water, oil street lighting, the replacing of Palace Stables, the conversion of Fox's Cellars into living



*the Lower Bridge as it looked before being damaged by the 2004 flood*

accommodation (now Harbour Terrace), the addition of the tower on the Wellington Hotel, the building of Lundy View and Bottreaux House, the provision of the Town Hall and construction of the lower bridge linking both sides of the harbour and facilitating activity around the head of the harbour. This bridge was adorned with a plaque inscribed 'This bridge is the private property of the Lord of the Manor August 1887 Signed by H.P.L. (Henry Pigé- Leschallas).

These constructions form important elements

of the character of Boscastle linking us with its import export trade and are a means of understanding the place and forming the village's essential distinctiveness. The area at Bridge is a well-preserved historic settlement with a mix of industrial and commercial structures and high quality, interesting historic domestic buildings (G. Kirkham – Aug 2004) all of which combine to illustrate the story of Boscastle's past to us, our visitors, archaeologists and historians.

The Lower Bridge is one such structure which

is listed and therefore protected by legislation. The listing describes it as a narrow road bridge of slate stone rubble with a single ashlar stone segmented arch and low parapets splayed over abutments. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (1884) shows a narrower bridge at this location, possibly the wooden bridge with handrail depicted in an undated watercolour of the harbour.

Following the floods of 2004 the parapets, part of the side walls and concrete plaque were demolished. The plaque was recovered.

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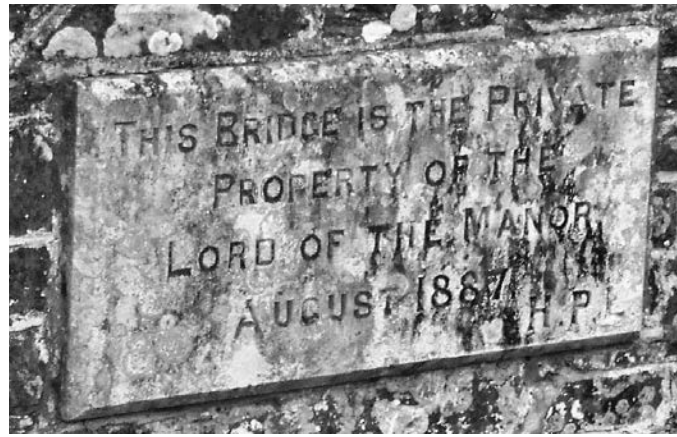
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Anne Knight's article continues:

The Historic Environment Agency's report of August 2005 recommends that reinstatement of the bridge parapets should be undertaken carefully to conservation standards, using appropriate materials and methods and guided by photographic evidence of the bridge's original form.

In January 2005 at a public exhibition the Boscastle Regeneration Steering Group outlined options for the future which included the demolition of the lower bridge and its replacement with possibly a clapper bridge of the sort seen on moorland but not the coast. It has been suggested that the lower bridge was a major contributory factor in the damage to properties upstream and therefore its demolition was necessary. However in a report (January 2006) Dr. Colin Clark concludes that having surveyed wrack marks caused by river flood for over 25 years and having due regard to the high flood level at Boscastle in the flood of 2004 it is hardly surprising that the lower bridge caused little if any significant backwater



plaque from lower bridge

which would have effected flood levels at locations such as Valency Row.

I use Lower Bridge as an example of just one of the things that need to be considered during the reconstruction following 2004 floods and realise it must be looked at in a wider context. Some works have already been completed. For example both Clovelly Clothing and Things have not been rebuilt as they were but they sit well in the historic area. The wall around Valency Lawn is as faithful a rebuild as possible and will weather in and look as though it was always there. In reconstructing the Harbour Light consideration has been given to the fact its entrance was below the surrounding area and you went down steps into the

shop. Now it will be a little higher and hopefully less likely to flood. Previous flood works in the 1800's raised the area between Cornish Goodies and the Harbour Light to prevent the area flooding at high tides.

What then should happen to Lower Bridge? Regard should certainly be had to its listed status. Can we find a way of reconstruction

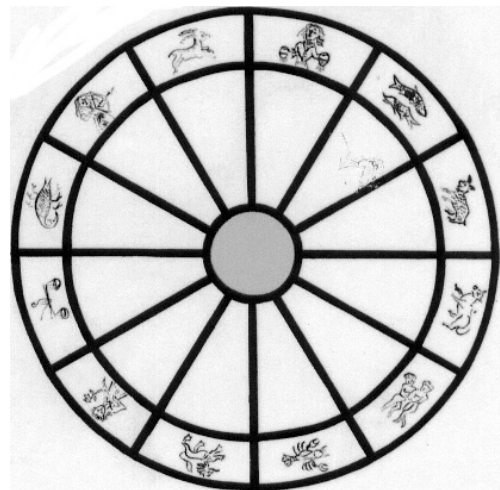
as recommended by the Historic Environment Agency whilst keeping the historic character of the surrounding area and meeting safety regards in the case of further flooding in the future? It is easy to build a new, safe, model village but much harder to preserve the uniqueness that is Boscastle.

AK, photos from author's collection



Henry Pigé- Leschallas

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# John Tyerman Williams MA (Oxon), D Phil



*John & Elizabeth Williams relax in their garden near St Nectan's Glen*

John Tyerman Williams who lived in the village from 1943 to 1977 supplied the accompanying reminiscence of Boscastle before it became famous. After the death of his beloved first wife Mary Starling he moved to his present charming house overlooking St Nectan's Glen, in the course of his second marriage to the eminent psychologist, Dr Elizabeth Mapstone.

John's academic achievements are the more remarkable since like Koko in *The Mikado* they were arrived at "by a set of curious chances." He was a child actor, appearing first at the tender age of fourteen, during his school holidays, in the West End production of Erich Krastner's *Emil and the Detectives*. He then starred in the hugely popular 1935 film version directed by Milton Rosner. Largely self-taught, John won a History Exhibition to Balliol College, Oxford. However he enjoyed only a 'short degree' course before he obeyed the summons of King and Country. He

then returned to the stage, playing the 'shy young man' in innumerable weekly rep performances followed by major roles in Old Vic productions of *Coriolanus* with Alec Guinness and appearing alongside Bernard Miles in *The Taming of the Shrew*. But John found life as a jobbing actor difficult to sustain at the same time as caring for an ailing wife so in 1954 he took up a post at the old Sir James Smith's grammar school in Camelford. There he remained for the next twenty seven years. "He was the best teacher I ever had," remembers Ann Knight, "he always treated us like adults."

It was during this period that John furthered his academic interests, gaining an Oxford Doctor of Philosophy degree on the strength of his thesis intriguingly titled: *Bearers of Moral and Spiritual Values: The Social Roles of Clergymen and Women c1790 - c1880*, as mirrored in attitudes to them as foxhunters.

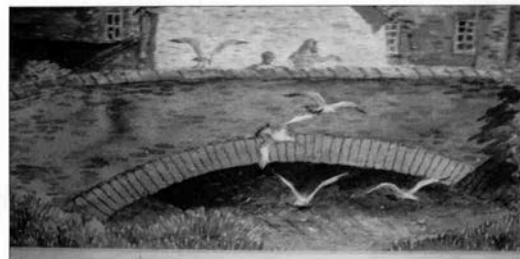
His unorthodox approach to moral philosophy and other questions have been most interestingly demonstrated in a series of critical studies of *Winnie the Pooh*. In 'Pooh and the Philosophers' (1995), John set out to prove that the whole of western philosophy, from the ancient Greeks to the existentialists of this century, may be found in the works of AA Milne. He expanded this theme in 'Pooh and the Magicians' (1997), where the Great Bear explores the mysteries of astrology, alchemy, hermetism, druidism, the Tarot and the Kabala. His last work, 'Pooh and the Psychologists' (2000), anticipates the modern eclectic approach to psychoanalysis, where

everything that is said, thought or dreamed has many layers of significance.

These books are not dusty nit-picking analyses or esoteric ramblings, but vastly entertaining, readable and informative, a must for every student of psychology. To take just one example, Pooh, growing hungry one night, goes in search of sustenance. He discovers a jar marked 'Hunny.' It is clearly labelled, its content smells and tastes like the real thing, but is it, questions Pooh, actually 'hunny'. Pooh, in his innocence, is postulating Karl Popper's theory of 'falseability' - things may not, despite all the evidence of our senses, be quite what they seem. John's books, commented one critic, are "best enjoyed, late at night,

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*continued from page 24*

in front of a roaring fire, with a snifter of brandy.”

At present John is planning another work provisionally entitled ‘Jeeves and Wooster: the Hidden Depths’.

John and Elizabeth married in 1970 at Richmond Register Office. Elizabeth is Chartered Psychologist, and among her published works are ‘War of Words’, dealing with the often stressful relationships between men and women, and ‘Stop Dreaming, Start Learning’, designed to help individuals develop their own abilities and personality. Much of her career has been devoted to acting as an expert witness in family courts, helping judges decide on the best options for the care of children in divorce or abuse cases, work which is both harrowing and contentious. As well as sharing his life with Elizabeth, John admits she has been the inspiration for many of his ideas, later formulated into books.

John is fortunate to have known Boscastle when it was a quiet seaside village, populated by real Cornish people, and his personal reminiscence helps to bring back to life an almost-forgotten period in its history.

## Boscastle Remembered by John Williams

I arrived at Harbour Cottage, opposite what is now the Youth Hostel, in 1943. Conditions were primitive, with only two rooms over a boathouse. There was electricity, but the only running water was an outside tap at the back of the cottage. There was a bucket lavatory, which had to be emptied into the harbour under the cover of darkness, making careful allowance for wind and tide. Nevertheless, my wife, the pianist Mary Starling, and I were happy to pay the princely rent of three shillings and five pence a week, rates included. I was then an actor, living in theatrical digs wherever the work was. In 1954, I started teaching at Sir James Smith’s Grammar School in Camelford, so we were able to live permanently in Boscastle.

To make the cottage more comfortable we had an extension built on to include a combined kitchen

and dining room with a balcony and a bedroom at the end, overlooking the harbour. The old part was altered inside, to make a bigger sitting room and a study. Later, we had an external lift fitted, to make it easy for Mary, by then stricken by rheumatoid arthritis, to get to her Invacar, parked below. During the holiday season, we gained mild amusement by making the lift go up and down, apparently by itself, to the puzzlement of passers by.

I used to walk our dog along the Valency valley, returning conveniently via the Cobweb, which then amply justified its name. Cobwebs drooped shoulder length from the ceiling, and one had to weave one’s way through them to the bar. Perhaps my best deed for Boscastle was persuading Ivor Bright to stock real ale. Though the Cobweb was my local, I by no means neglected the Wellington and the Napoleon.

Of the course the disappearance of the cobwebs was not the only change during my thirty

four years in Boscastle. The whole pattern of holidays changed. A few individual caravanners came, but they made personal arrangements with a farmer to use a field and usually to get eggs and milk from his farm. Most visitors stayed at the Wellington or at a cottage, where the same people often returned year after year, to enjoy the excellent local food and cooking.

Cars were much fewer and there were no public car parks. This led to chaos in the summer, when the whole harbour became a car park, sometimes so crammed with visitors’ cars that residents could not get their own cars in or out. What is now the car park was two fields.

These were the site of the four regular fetes to raise funds for - the British Legion, the Boscastle Band, the North Cornwall Hunt, and the Boscastle Carnival. I have particularly vivid memories of one sweltering afternoon I spent giving pony rides to children. After that, a lot of us cooled off with

*continued on next page*



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a late picnic and swim on Strangles beach.

I have vivid memories of the rebuilding of the outer harbour bar. To allow for the tides, the work was often done at night by floodlight: a very dramatic sight from the bedroom window.

Living in Boscastle extended my physical activities. My swimming greatly improved under the expert tuition of Carole Vincent, while Elisabeth Whitehouse, who had the pottery then, introduced me to riding and hunting, pleasures terminated only by age and infirmity.

We had a real butcher, Bob Cowling, who actually slaughtered his animals. He was rather scornful of those who called themselves butchers but, in his view were merely shopkeepers. Another character from those days was Ambrose Pearn. He was a regular churchgoer but he had strong views about the proper length of a sermon. If it went on too long, he would start

to rattle the change in his pocket. If the clergyman did not take the hint, the rattling would grow louder and louder till the end came. Ambrose Pearn lived in a cottage on the bridge, which was demolished when the bridge was widened after the flood of 1958. This was a trivial affair compared to the recent disaster. It ruined several people's carpets and the goods in several shops, but did no major structural damage. It did, however, kill one man, Charlie Berryman, who fell into the torrent while trying to save someone's furniture.

Though I sold Harbour Cottage years ago, I was pleased to see it was undamaged in the recent flood. Something that always delighted me when I looked across the harbour was the wonderful curving roofline of Harbour Lights. I hope that no bureaucratic nonsense will stop its rebuilding in its original form. Without it, the restoration of Boscastle would be not complete. *JTW*



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# BOSCASTLE WI CELEBRATE THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY



*Pictured above, with the celebratory cake are Committee Members and Guests:*

*L to R: Edith Gomell, Pam Jordan, Jenny Brown, Jill Clark, Nan Collier (County Chairman), Iris Olde, Pauline Hill (County Executive), Muriel Symons, June Swanson, Shirley Bannister, Joyce Jordan, Gloria Quinlan.*

## WI Report

In the last three months we again welcomed new members, sharing the festive mood of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, celebrated at the Falcon Hotel in Bude on 24<sup>th</sup> January. A proper Birthday Party with guests from the WI's of Tintagel, Marshgate and Camelford as well as our County Chairman. Mrs Nan Collier, members of the Executive Committee and two of our Founder Members, Mrs Iris Olde and Mrs Muriel Symons.

We were spoiled with presents and lovely cards and would like to thank everyone for being so generous. We even had our photograph in the local papers! At our meeting we learned how to make bookmarks in Mexican style, drawing and painting on specially treated wood bark, enjoyed a talk with slides about a very interesting trip to Tibet by Mr and Mrs Steven. Mrs Olorenshaw let us into her world as a clairvoyant: an excellent talk.



*Photograph above shows the members of Boscastle WI in 1951:*

*Front Row - Miss M Beadon, Betty Honey, Connie Olde, Gwen Parnell, Molly Nicholls, Rita Symons, Effie Brewer, Kath Snowdon, Jane Lobb, Mary Hilton, Vi Honey, Dora Cann, Miss Calloway; Middle Row - Miss Sleep, Annie Pridham, Miss Edwards, Miss Turner, Wills Robinson, Mrs W Pridham, Mrs K Higgins, Mrs S Brown, Anne Billing, Miss Gay, Elsie Tippett, Mrs N Ferrett, Mrs C Ferrett, Bertha Smith; Back Row - Neil Mitchel, Pam Pridham, Violet Mugford, ANnie Beard, Christine Olde, Muriel Knight, Zelma Allen, Miss Carr, Elsie Williams, Jess Perry, Mrs Kellow, May Tippett and Mrs Nash*

## WI RECIPE

### **Shirley's chocolate topping and filling for sponge cakes**

100 gram bar of plain chocolate (70% cocoa)  
Small pot of sour cream  
Melt chocolate - leave to cool slightly  
Mix in the sour cream  
Naughty but nice!



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# Doctor's Corner

*photo of Boscastle surgery's new doctor, Neil McKay with his wife, Debbie and their son Ben*



## Hello Boscastle

My name is Dr Neil McKay and I've recently had the pleasure of starting work at the Bottreaux surgery in Boscastle. We thought I should introduce myself to you this way in case anyone has the misfortune to meet me in the surgery first.

So far I've been here for a week and am having a wonderful time. It's been a long time coming but it's wonderful to be back in Cornwall. I'm from Truro originally but have been away to Cardiff to train

and work for the last 12 years. We moved back home in February and I'll be working here in Boscastle for the next year.

My wife Debbie is also a GP. She is originally from East Grinstead, but is already a convert to the Cornish way of life. She's currently looking after our 2 year old son Ben.

In terms of professional life, my interests lie in accident and emergency work and general medicine. I spent the last

4 years working in A&E departments in Cardiff and Swansea, but Dr Jarvis and the others are doing a great job converting me into the world of general practice.

I'm going to be working split between the two surgeries of Tintagel and Boscastle so should get to meet most people over the year.

Socially apart from spending time with my family, I love surfing and sports in general. My uncle runs the St Mawes gig

rowing club and is keen to persuade me to start rowing with them for next year, hopefully not to compete against the Boscastle team.

Looking out over blue sea is wonderful, I never could get used to the sea being brown in South Wales.

Next time I promise it'll be something more clinically orientated than this, but I thought it was best to introduce myself first and I hope you like the picture of my little boy.

*Neil McKay*

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### LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY NIGHTS, TILL MIDNIGHT

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 18th March: Jail House      | 13th May: Whiskey Thieves  |
| 25th March: Whiskey Thieves | 20th May: Fluid Druid      |
| 1st April: Atlantic Highway | 27th May: Brian T Williams |
| 8th April: The Big Three    | 3rd June: Inside Out       |
| 15th April: to be arranged  | 10th June: Festive Road    |
| 22nd April: Mood Indigo     | 17th June: The Big Three   |
| 29th April: Trevor Child    | 24th June: Mood Indigo     |
| 6th May: Blue Slate         | 1st July: Jail House       |



# THE NATIONAL TRUST



## • Sewagetreatmentworks

We are still in contact with South West Water over the best site for a treatment works as we do not want to be unreasonably obstructive to the shared desire to achieve improved sewage treatment levels. The Trust has therefore indicated that it may in principle be prepared, as a last resort, to consider releasing land. However this would only happen where:

- a) we are satisfied after consideration of other options that there is absolutely no realistic alternative site, and
- b) that such a decision could be justified in terms of the overall environmental impacts and gains.

In assessing this the Trust would consider not only the improvements in water quality that would result from the scheme, but also any negative impact on landscape, wildlife and public enjoyment of the area. We remain to be convinced that there is a genuine argument that the Hillsborough site is the most appropriate location for the Boscastle sewage treatment works and that the possibility of providing a joint scheme serving the communities of Boscastle, Tintagel and Bossiney has still to be fully explored, along with other options in the vicinity of Boscastle. In the meantime the National Trust will not consent to the use of the Hillsborough site.

• Contractors have begun on **Youth Hostel and the Visitor Centre** (former Harbour Restuarant) – These major projects are complicated because of the space in which to work and storage for materials and will mean the use of portacabins for some of the work. Fortunately the same contractor is working on both projects which means that a canteen can be shared as well as some storage facilities. As the work progresses we will explore the idea of relocating compounds to lessen the visual impact within the harbour area.

Within the Visitor Centre/Shop complex we have already exposed the press pole sockets which are associated with squeezing pilchards into a barrel. These historical features date from the days when the complex was a pilchard cellar, and we hope to keep these on show in the finished building.

• The **National Trust shop** will open on 20<sup>th</sup> March at its current location at the Old Forge

• **Football pitch/Play area:** The groundwork for the play area should begin in the next month and the legal framework is being put in place to lease the land to the parish council and to keep the football club in place.

Jeff Cherrington, 01288 331372  
[boscastle@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:boscastle@nationaltrust.org.uk)



# Pickwick Papers

I had some good news this month, the Criminal Records Bureau have confirmed that I have a clean slate with them and am therefore fit to carry on my duties as a church warden - let joy be unconfined!

I could have told them not to waste their time and effort but who am I that I should be believed anymore? In the voluntary field all sorts of people are required to have their names checked against the records to ensure that they are not a danger to children. In the church, paid employees apart, choirmasters, bell ringers and church wardens are just some of the people for whom it is now a pre-requisite to taking up office that they are fully checked up on!

Now don't get me wrong I am sure that the powers that be have got it right; even so it still seems something of an affront when you are asked to submit to the process and particularly

when you have endeavoured to keep your nose clean all these years. Interestingly there was no mention of the six points

registered against my driving licence for exceeding the speed limit, actually I was caught on a speed camera driving at forty miles an hour in a thirty mile an hour zone - not once but twice!

Whilst I have no previous record of child abuse it does seem that my potential for harming a child, or anyone for that matter, by my breaking the speed laws goes unreported to those enquiring as to my eligibility for a particular position. Someone once said that the motor car in the wrong hands can be as lethal as any fire-arm or similar weapon and any parent who has lost a child to a road accident will certainly confirm the truth of it. Before I dig myself into a deep hole here let me assure you that I am no boy racer but I do find some city roads confusing in that the permitted limit seems to vary between 50,40 and 30 mph , in Plymouth particularly it is a case of watch the road or clock the changing limit notices on the lamp posts - and look out for that camera ahead!

Getting back to the office of churchwarden, the position actually emerged into legal recognition by the thirteenth century and has been described over the years as a venerable one. A couple of centuries later it become law that two churchwardens should be chosen annually in a parish meeting with all adult parishioners having a voice in the election. Despite everything candidates for this centuries old office, possibly the oldest elected office in this country, do seem to be few and far between and indeed churchwardens seem to be elected year on year unopposed - I can name at least one churchwarden within the Boscastle Benefice who has been in office for over fifty years.

Churchwardens are the officers of the bishop, and they are answerable to him and the archdeacon, and at the end of each year of office should report on the state of the parish and report on anything that is amiss. They should also at any other time during office report to the bishop any matters in which he ought to be informed. There are of course numerous other duties and responsibilities such as keeping order in the church and churchyard, making sure that everyone has a seat when they come to church (not to difficult these days!) a duty delegated by the bishop who

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# Pickwick Papers

*continued*

has the right of disposal of seats in common law and really it harks back to the days of family pews and the collection of pew rents. On a more light-hearted note one is required to ensure that gentlemen remove their hats in church!

An amusing, and I am assured, true story about a parish in this benefice concerned a complaint from a churchwarden that the priest had thrown a brass cross, a gift from the former in memory of a departed daughter, across the church in a fit of anger. The warden duly reported the matter and the bishop visited the church to sort things out, as only a bishop can. On his return to Truro he made his report in a great tome called The Visitation Register, and it went like this: 'The incumbent here is clearly given to drink, indeed I suspect him to be an alcoholic - and if I had a wife like his then so should I be!' But that all happened over one hundred years ago and fortunately churchwardens these days, and in this neck of the woods, do not find themselves in such predicaments - unless of course you know differently.



We are at the time of year again when Council Tax is being discussed a lot in the media. None of us like paying tax but services have to be funded by one means or another. This year the District Council are looking at a 4.5% increase, bringing a band D household contribution to £147. This is an annual increase of £6.33.

The weekly amount for a band D household is £2.83. When you break this down into a weekly figure you get something like the following:

- Refuse collection 32pence
- Kerbside recycling 6p
- Leisure centres and sports provision 50p
- Beaches - lifeguards and cleaning 16p
- Street cleaning and dog bins, litter picking 17p
- Public health and toilets 54p
- Planning and building control 19p
- Economic and community development 23p
- Local democracy 22p
- Collecting council tax and business rates 18p
- Open spaces 13p



*District Councillor Janey Comber*

- Promoting tourism and looking after the countryside 13p
- Housing advice and homelessness service 13p
- Benefits administration 17p

There is 30 pence to come off this total due to income from car park charges, land charges and interest on investments which brings it back to the £2.83. Some of the reasons for the above inflation increase include the introduction of concessionary bus fares, increasing homelessness costs, the new alcohol licensing system, and falling investment income.

I hope this gives you all an idea of where your Council tax goes.

Janey Comber, NCDC. 01840 230497 or e-mail at [janey.comber@ncdc.gov.uk](mailto:janey.comber@ncdc.gov.uk)

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## MARTIN'S SPORTING BRIEFS

Johnny Brewer made an excellent break of 56 in a recent snooker match, when playing for the Boscastle A team. This is the highest break in the league so far.

The Boscastle Short Mat Bowls team are finding life difficult in the North Area Division One league as they are currently next to bottom, but they did have the pleasure of defeating local rivals Tintagel when the two teams met the other night.

Stephen Jose recently had to miss a week of darts and snooker when he 'chopped' off the tip of his thumb at work. Was it in the morning following a good night out?

Dave Ferrett and Mike Burnard are still reeling off the breaks in the Camelford & District billiards league.

Emma G is the star of the ladies' darts team this 55season. She tops the chart with the most wins and the highest score to date. She has joined the 'Caravan Club' & wants to know if she can play for the Sunday night pool team. the ladies' darts team this season.

'Muggy' has found a new way of keeping himself in trim for the remainder of the football season - by spending many hours a week taking his dog for a walk!!

At the age of nearly forty and after playing football for nearly 25 years, Robin Haddy is showing the youngsters the way as he has recently netted three goals in three consecutive games.

After retiring at the end of last season, Roger Perry has dug-up his boots and started playing football again to help the club during a mini-crisis.

Phil Higgs and Dave Scott are in training for the London Marathon and if they can keep injury-free they both hope to beat their previous times

Second team manager Richard Pethick could soon be facing the axe following a recent run of poor results that has seem the team slip perilously close to the relegation position.

Head groundsman and parish councillor Antony Brewer always has a lie-in on a Tuesday morning to sleep off the effects of a night out with the Boscastle B snooker team.

Steve Martin has at last found his form and has started to find his range in the Boscastle & District darts league. He recently had a checkout score of 116 in the Roy Rush Supplementary Cup competition.

Tacker Wickett spends two hours every day sitting in his greenhouse talking to the plants. He also thinks that if he stays there long enough he might grow a bit taller which would enable him to reach across the snooker table without using a rest!!

Quote of the Season: The quote of the season so far came from 'under fire' 1<sup>st</sup> team manager Neville Turner, who said "The hardest part of this job is keeping the six players who hate me away from the five who are undecided"!!

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## POSTIE'S CORNER

Well we are just about through winter and what a dry one it has been; hopefully it will not mean we are in for a really wet spring. All those daffodils that you volunteers planted after the flood are showing their heads should be a better scene than last year.

If you did not know, Karen is off sick at the moment, so you might see several relief posties until her back is better. Please be patient until they get used to the round, mistakes can happen and one learns by mistakes. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Down the harbour building work is at a premium what with Things nearly completed, the Harbour Light is up to roof level and the National Trust seems to have started on the Youth Hostel and the Harbour Café's refit, as a Visitor Centre; by late summer, we could be back to normal. I think we could be in for another busy summer because of public interest in the ongoing rebuild of Boscastle. Some tourists have been back three times in the last 12 months already, so be prepared for more chaos

- at least the Cobweb's traffic lights will be out of the way.

As I sit here writing this it is raining heavily outside, it seems to be testing flooding traps, grates and other measures in place, but it does seem to me that all the silt and debris washing down the rivers and streams is coming from unclean areas belonging to the private land owners which has caused blockages. We are always quick enough to blame someone else but we must look at our own backyard first.

Problems with winter squatters have been dealt with, eviction notices have been served, occupants have been removed; special brushes are in place and pellets inside against successful intruders, if there are any other problem boxes let me know

One other thing you should be aware of is that Royal Mail is not your only courier and other agencies are delivering parcels and passports, please check before you blame us and note that we cannot return their items, you will need to contact them.

Many thanks for all the Christmas gifts and generosity. We are here to serve you. *Postie Tracy*

*Photograph below shows the construction of a new retaining wall in Minster Churchyard, where water washed away the bank below the road in August 2004*



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# BOSCASTLE VILLAGE HALL

WELCOMES

## COPPIN ~ SILVER



*Johnny Coppin and Mike Silver*

Many of the residents of Boscastle know and look forward to the sessions in the 'Welly' on a Wednesday evening and amongst the singers there they will have occasionally heard Mike Silver. Mike's touring commitments preclude him from being there regularly but when he can he enjoys accompanying the Boscastle Busker on guitar and playing a few of his own songs.

On April 28th there will be an opportunity to hear more of Mike but this time in duo with another fine songwriter, Johnny Coppin. Johnny is a founder member of the Gloucestershire based Decameron and has recorded a large number of albums, the majority featuring his own compositions. Johnny's work with the poems from author, Laurie Lee, is well documented. His voice is warm and emotive and draws the listener in. Due to family reasons, Johnny had quite a break from touring, so it's really exciting that Boscastle is one of the venues where he can be seen on tour again.

Although neither Mike nor Johnny actually comes from this corner of the world, there is a strong West Country connection: the two have known each other since the late 70's when they met in Penzance. After a chance phone call about 18 months ago Johnny and Mike decided to explore the possibilities of working together. This led to Johnny asking Mike to help out with the recording of his latest CD, *Winding Stair*. From there it was a natural step to them taking the road in March and April of 2005. Their tour was a great success so the decision to continue working together was an easy one to make.

Roger Nichols (our local coalman) who, as you probably know, is a wonderful singer, appears as a backing vocalist on Mike's latest CD "*Heaven in Mind*" which will be released on 24th April. As a result of the Welly sessions Mike got to know Roger and knowing a good thing when he hears it, he had him flown out to Germany to work on the recording.

Johnny's piano and Mike's guitar are a great combination; they create a big, full sound, completed by the rich harmonic blend of their voices. Their obvious delight in sharing their music is infectious and enjoyed by all who hear them.

Boscastle welcomes Coppin/Silver at the Boscastle Village Hall Friday 28th April. Doors open 7.30. Tickets for the concert are £5.00 each and can be reserved from: Faymus Connections, phone Jean Camp on 07870 727747 or email [jean@faymusconnections.co.uk](mailto:jean@faymusconnections.co.uk) and collected on the night.

More information about Mike and Johnny can be found on their websites: [www.mikesilver.co.uk](http://www.mikesilver.co.uk), [www.johhnycoppin.co.uk](http://www.johhnycoppin.co.uk)

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Jacqueline Jarvis, Gay Kent and  
Penny Oram.*

*Papier-mâché by Renate Forsyth*

**29 May - 23 June**

### First Light

*Paintings of Cornwall  
by Linda Irwin*

*Pottery by John Webb*

**26 June - 21 July**

### Coming Through

*Paintings and Drawings  
by Bridget Sweeney*

*Woodturning by John Theobald*

*The Gallery and Museum are open Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, 1 April - 30 September*

*(Wheelchair access to Museum only)*

# RETURN OF THE WIZARDS OF BOS



Tony Treweek in the Gambia with the Jarju family; Olaf and others are sponsoring a programme to educate members of this family. One of the young men is already learning IT skills.

Tony Treweek and Olaf Sargent touched down in Bristol early on Wednesday morning, 8th March, despite being threatened by a French airport strike, looking sunburnt but relaxed, having spent a few extra days in the Gambia before handing over their trusty Mercedes for auction.

High spots of the journey include:

- The incredible vastness of the Sahara, at 2000 miles wide, twice the size of the British Isles
- The openness and eagerness to help of all whom they encountered on the way
- The cheerful shambles of African hospitality
- Staggering into a posh hotel, dusty and ragged, to luxuriate in clean sheets and hot showers and then

• Strolling through the crumbling remains of once fine town buildings and churches, the last vestiges of colonial occupation

• Colourful street markets, people struggling to get a foot on the economic ladder, everywhere internet cafes.

Thanks to their efforts, the people of Boscastle and various well-wishers: over £4,000 raised for charity.



roadside scene viewed from the car whilst travelling through the Sahara

a knock on the door: the Americans upstairs were complaining there was no toilet paper, could they help? Luckily Tony and Olaf had stocked up for the trip. Just as easily they discarded their whisky and clothes to grateful locals on the way

• The visit to a native village where they and the elders spent long hours in discussion under a baobab tree, Gambia's equivalent of The Cobweb

# COASTGUARD REPORT



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Hello again Blowhole readers, since the last report there has been just 1 callout.

## 25/11/06 Heavy snow fall over most of the county:

13:57 Call from Falmouth to L.Siford at work, put on standby at the station and await further orders on the possibility of proceeding to the A30 at Launceston to assist Police.

15:30 Snow falling heavier in Boscastle we were beginning to wonder if we would be able to get out of Boscastle after talking to our sector manager he told us to get the Mobile out of the Station to high ground.

16:00 Arrived at Wilsey Down and waited for orders from Falmouth.

16:15 Orders from Falmouth to proceed to the A30 at the nearest point, being Kennards House near Launceston.

16:45 On scene: First task was to drive down the A30 to Bodmin and pick up as many stranded motorists as we could and take them to the Bodmin Dragon Centre almost in to Bodmin and we were tasked to find a landing site for Air Rescue 169 - they had to pick up a casualty who had an heart attack and take the casualty to Plymouth. Then we proceeded to the Dragon Centre with our casualty. 22:40 Returned to Station In attendance L.Siford-G.King-D.Roots.

That's all for now Training goes on, the lighter nights will soon be here and we will be able to get out on the cliffs and do rope and harness work.

Take care on our coastline  
Les Siford S/O

## Lesnewth Official Rain Station

### Rainfall totals:



	2005	2004
December	130.0mm	186.2mm
Annual Total	1590.4mm	1152.5mm
	2006	2005
January	74.3mm	188.3mm
February	92.8mm	97.6mm

January this year was very dry at 74.3mm, the previous January to be very dry was in 1997 when only 29.0mm was recorded.

The highest rainfall in one day in February 2006 was on the 14th when 33.8mm fell.

Val Gill

# Correspondence

## *From the Kinsman family*

John, Joan and Jo Kinsman would like to say a **Very Big Heartfelt Thank You** to all of their family and friends for all their support over the last 18 months. Telephone calls, cards, gifts and offers of help in every way, including walking Ollie.

Too many of you to mention individually, but we truly are sincerely grateful.

Special thanks to Arthur and Mary, John and Wendy and to Andy for keeping the business going,

## *From Lilian Connell:*

Lilian and daughters thank friends and neighbours for their cards, letters and loving thoughts sent to us on this very sad occasion.

A special Thank You to the Revd. Christopher Kewell (Chaplain, Bodmin Hospital) for officiating and conducting the lovely Service; Maria for playing Alfred's favourites; Pat and Barbara for the beautiful Church flowers; Arthur for his endless copying; Bill Perry, and Shirley and Arthur for the generous use of their home after the Service. The many offers of help we received to guide us through this unhappy time have been a great comfort. Thanks also to the Co-operative Funeralcare, for their excellent arrangement and advice.

## *From Wanda Larratt:*

I felt like I'd just won Willy Wonka's Golden Ticket when I opened the tin of chocolate biscuits left on my doorstep recently!

I would like to thank all my friends in and out of the village ~ I did not realize quite how blessed I am to have so many wonderful friends.

I'd also like to thank all my friends, neighbours and family for all the support and help given over the last year.

With love,  
Wanda

## *From Karen Cowling:*

Just a note to say sorry to everyone for letting you down by being off sick for the past couple of months. I am not doing a lot for girl (or old girl) power!

The creaky old back finally said it had had enough and until I can convince it otherwise, I am attempting to be a housewife: not very successfully, as this apparently involves cooking and tidying.

Anyway, thank you for your well wishes and extremely kind comments and I hope I will be trudging up those hills soon. (I have a supply of dog biscuits I need to use up!)

All the best,  
Karen (Postie)

## *From the Nicholls family:*

Ian, Michelle, Cheryl & Steve Nicholls would like to thank everyone who sent cards to us, the many telephone calls and the good deeds. The deeds and favours are far too numerous to mention.

We would like to thank our families for the fantastic love, help, understanding and immense support given to us at a tragic time. To thank everyone who prayed for Ian and us, to special friends who took telephone calls, prepared meals, who helped clear Ian's flat at Cheltenham, business colleagues who gave breakfast to our guests when we all went to see the surgeon in London. The members of our Staff who loyally stood by us and helped us through this very difficult time. Our Neighbours who looked after the farm, even buying cattle for Steve. The Church and Chapel for their love, support and visits.

Perhaps it would be unwise to name any names, mainly for fear of forgetting someone, so much was offered by so many we would hate to miss anyone.

Once Ian was diagnosed the help of all the medical people, Boscastle - Truro,

especially the people (angels) at Lowen Ward, Treliske (Lowen meaning happy in Cornish). The Staff at Lowen Ward who cared for Ian and counselled us all. To Doctor Wheatley and staff at the Sunrise Centre. You will not be forgotten.

We would also like to thank all the people who raised money for Lowen Ward: St Teath Young Farmers/ Football Club, St Kew Inn, The Ship Inn Wadebridge & Mr Malcolm Prout who asked for donations in lieu of birthday presents. In total over £1000 has been given to Lowen Ward to help make other patients' stay more comfortable.

Special thanks to all Ian's friends, for their visits to hospital, visiting Ian at Trerosewill, for all the signed sporting paraphernalia (even the Spurs shield!).

To Ian's friends who relayed messages from Ian to us, to Ian's friends who saved us from phoning everyone by operating a telephone tree. Many thanks for Ian's fantastic birthday present to which many of you contributed.

Once again thanks to everyone for everything!!

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# Correspondence

*From Chris Searle:*

To the Editors

On behalf of the Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce we would like to thank you and Myrna Lester for the write up and pictures of the October Festival.

We would like to point out that we contacted all the local craft people we knew of, several times, and only the one local craft 'Willapark designs' took a stand. We were pleased there was a good presence of local food producers and hopefully they will be at this year's festival which will be on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of October.

We have had a lot of requests already from people to book stand space for this year's festival and we would like as many local crafts as possible and they will get priority. Any local craft people who would like a stand can contact Diane Bentall on 250599 or Chris Searle on 250225.

After last year's festival we held a post-mortem on what went well and what needs improving and all the points that were covered by Myrna were at the top of the list, so hopefully this year's festival will be better than last year. We would still welcome offers of help and if anybody/organisation would like to help or organise one of the venues and help we would be very pleased to hear from them.

Many Thanks,  
Chris Searle

*Dear Boscastle Blowhole,*

Firstly I am not a Boscastle resident – yet! (I plan to move eventually) Although my heart is in the village and I visit as often as I can – normally staying at the Welly!

I am a TV presenter and author of 5 books which sell internationally and do very well in various markets and I would like to offer my skill to make some money for the village.

My idea is to write a small booklet called 'Haunted Boscastle' which can be published locally and sold throughout the village to make money for the village restoration funds. My first port of call for this potential project is to see if I can get enough tales and stories to put in the booklet; so far I have many from the Welly, some from the witchcraft museum, one from the Mill and one from the Cobweb Inn but I will need a lot more!

I would like to hear from people with any experiences of ghosts they have had in the village or in their own homes at Boscastle?

Very Best Wishes,  
Jason Karl,

email :  
info@jasondexterkarl.com  
website:  
www.jasondexterkarl.com  
The Blowhole team  
could also forward any  
correspondence to Jason.



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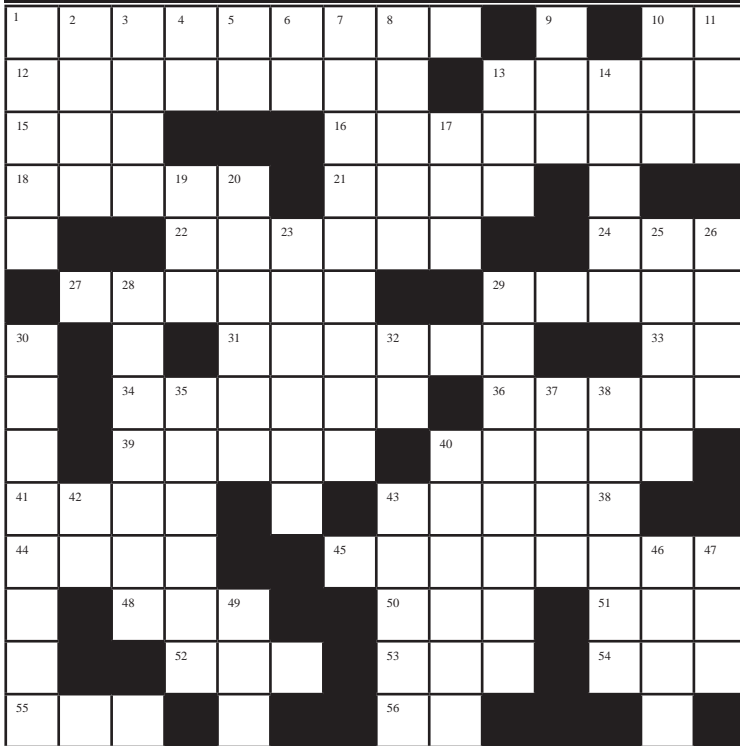
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# Moira Hart's Fiendish Crossword



## Across

- 1 fruit
- 10 sloth
- 12 exclusive
- 15 choose
- 16 sharkskin
- 18 antelope
- 21 sea eagle
- 22 bird of prey
- 24 animal doctor
- 27 girl's name
- 29 upright stone slab
- 31 bone lip ornament
- 33 alright
- 34 plant
- 36 yawning
- 39 shrub
- 40 grunt in one's sleep
- 41 rip
- 43 large american car
- 44 on one occasion
- 45 position
- 48 manage financially
- 50 and not
- 51 prompt
- 52 beer
- 53 as well
- 54 playing card
- 55 fall behind
- 56 street

## Down

- 1 plant
- 2 catch sight of
- 3 list
- 4 saint
- 5 that is
- 6 title
- 7 unhappy
- 8 pigment
- 9 rocky peak
- 10 consumed
- 11 man's name
- 13 period of history
- 14 official
- 17 unspecified number
- 19 cut off
- 20 masonry
- 23 public square (piazza)
- 25 run away
- 26 acquire
- 28 confront
- 29 level of quality
- 30 code of procedure
- 32 regarding
- 35 cry of joy
- 37 animal
- 38 medicinal plant
- 40 unit of time
- 42 unit of measurement
- 43 underwater detection system
- 46 exclamation of pain
- 47 maiden name
- 49 tree

answers on page 43

*Free extra copy of the Blowhole, to the first person to let Philippa know which regular article has been inadvertently omitted from this edition*

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# TEDDY BEARS GALORE

Teddy Bears Galore ...that's what you will find when you enter the Old Mill. Harriet's Corner as it was once known has grown to fill an entire unit in the Mill, with literally hundreds of the most popular Teddy Bear from the leading manufactures available from stock. Harriet now aged 10 years old started her little shop in earnest around four years ago when whilst visiting a trade show at Torquay with her mum, she got chatting to one of the exhibitors who was so impressed with her business acumen that he promised he would find her out a few end of line items for her to sell if mummy would let her have a little space in the Old Mill for her to display it. True to his word a week later a large parcel arrived at the Mill for her full to the brim with all manner of goods. Harriet's corner began, and shrewdly Harriet reinvested the profits from her sales in purchasing more stock.

'Urchins' as her shop is now named has been growing from strength to strength and now has many regular customers, who travel far and wide to revisit her fabulous little shop. She was bowled over last year in summer when after chatting to a visitor to the



*young entrepreneur Harriet Dawson surrounded by her bears*

shop for a few minutes he handed her a business card and said he was so impressed with the outlet that he felt that she should stock his company's product. The company's name on the card was Margarete Steiff GmbH; the famous German Teddy Bear manufacturers. They were celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005, with some fabulous limited edition anniversary bears which are set to be future collectable classics.

Following that chance meeting, Harriet now stocks an excellent range of gorgeous Steiff Bears, which are undoubtedly 'the bear to have'. Fortunately prices start from under £10.00 so as well as being considered *the* bear to have, they are also affordable and make wonderful christening and birthday gifts.



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# WITH A SONG IN HIS HEART

Myrna Lester pays tribute to the late John Bolitho



An evening in 1996 was when I first was introduced to dear John Bolitho. He was one of the three chaps and three chappesses who met and were gathered together in the village hall, under the auspices of Michael Turner, for the initial rehearsal of the Boscastle Cave of Harmony's first ever show due to open in the following February. We were henceforth to be known as 'The Gaslight Girls' and 'The Piccadilly Johnnies' and were an extremely happy band who went on to perform as soloists, in duos and as a great chorus-line in a huge variety of scenas and songs for a number of years.

It was at that original rehearsal that we five waited with considerable curiosity to hear the 'ex Black and White Minstrel member' sing in our midst for the first time and WOW! what an impact he made! What a voice and what volume - we were thrilled! Never has 'I Want To Sing In Opera' sounded better. Subsequent years served to confirm time and time again what a versatile artiste John was as he sang his way through countless ballads, sea-shanties, comedy numbers, gems from operettas and many other romantic lyrics, in our shows and cabarets. Who will forget his 'Ballad of Sam Hall', 'I'm 'Eney The Eighth I Am', the 'Bold Gendarme' duet sung with such gusto with Roger Nicholls, 'Cover It Over Quick, Jemima' and many, many more.

John was always fun to work with and we all have our own memories of being part of that first chorus-line and of being on stage with him in subsequent scenas.



The first verses of either 'Trelawney's Men' or 'Dear Old Pals', the songs with which we have always closed the final performance, were always sung by our John. When sung in future it will be John's marvellous voice we hear in our minds and his loss we feel in our hearts - and rightly so. His absence will, I know, be felt at the next and all future performances by those who had the privilege of being

on stage with him and all those who came to see him doing what he loved best - singing.

ML



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# White House and Blue Uniforms

A new visitor season on the horizon and a new crop of people who'll be wondering just what goes on in the little white box up at Willapark. So, just in case you get asked the question we thought it might be time for a brief reminder of what NCI Coastwatch is all about.

The National Coastwatch Institution was created in 1994 when, after the tragic death of two fishermen below a recently closed Coastguard lookout, local people committed themselves to provide a visual watch. Now there are 30 stations across the country, manned by volunteers who give up their time to keep an eye on people enjoying our coast.

Your station is manned by a team of fully trained volunteers equipped with powerful binoculars, radar, up to date charts and weather instrumentation. Reporting directly to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the NCI acts as eyes and ears along the coast, monitoring radio channels, logging water-

based activities during each watch and providing current weather information to walkers, fishermen and leisure sailors who request it.

Watchkeepers come from all walks of life, some with more experience of urban living than a life on the ocean waves, and aim to stand a minimum of four watches a month. Training includes plotting, chart-work, a VHF qualification, ship recognition, and meteorology as well as the procedures involved in liaising with the front-line emergency services. Each Station is responsible for its own fundraising, maintenance and training programme and we currently have 31 active Watchkeepers and 10 in training, ideally we'd like 45 to give us the opportunity to run extra watches during the summer months.

That's the story of the White House and Blue Uniforms. If you have an interest in the safety of our beaches and shoreline you can find out more about becoming a volunteer



*the team from Calstock's The Boot Inn in the Lerryn Seagull Race*

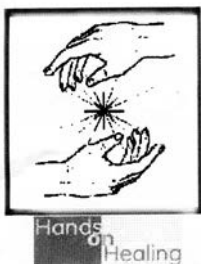
watchkeeper at Boscastle by calling the Station Manager, Mike Morrell on 01288 321384. Mike can arrange for you to visit the lookout and spend some time with an experienced watchkeeper to get feel for what is involved.

## Seagull helps NCI-Boscastle

Thanks to their trusty Seagull outboard, a vivid imagination and bags of enthusiasm, a team from 'The Boot Inn' in Calstock raised a total of around £450 to support the National Coastwatch Institution lookout in Boscastle.

The theme for the 18th Annual Lerryn Seagull Race was 'Nursery Rhymes' and a stylish crew from 'The Boot Inn' took to the water as 'The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe' winning prizes for their superb performance

Gill Mannings - Cox, NCI Fund Raising Officer at Boscastle and a member of the cold and triumphant crew said "When you add this to the £380 the village raised for us during the Trafalgar weekend you'll see we've had fabulous support from a village with no NCI station of their own"



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# Information for Cat Owners about FIV

*Sylvia Erdmann of Castle Goff Cat Rescue, Lanteglos, tel 01840 213365, email: castlegoff@hotmail.com, has sent the following, to alert people to the risk of the cat disease FIV:*

Recently we were asked to take in a stray tomcat who was sitting in a garden in the freezing cold in Boscastle.

On checking, we found he had not been neutered, so took him to our Vet. Shortly after the operation he became seriously ill and, when tested, was found to have the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). He had to be put to sleep immediately, which was very distressing, as he would have died in a few days.

Unfortunately, as he had FIV there are possibly other cats with it in the vicinity, and so far there is no vaccine against the virus. Although this illness is easily passed on by a bite however sustained - during rough play, fighting or mating. When cats are neutered they do become less aggressive so less likely to infect others. We would urge anyone who has not had their cats neutered to do so soon.

We took in a stray cat many years ago who tested positive for FIV. He was very gentle and friendly and lived happily with our other cats, never showing any aggression to them. As we had him neutered and he was no longer living rough and having to fight for his food, he didn't pass the virus on.

*Sylvia Erdmann*

*Local vet, Ruth Henderson, MRCVS from Holt's Practice in Camelford has provided the following information:*

## **FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV)**

FIV is quite a recent discovery, though it has been around for at least 30 years. It is caused by a lente virus similar to HIV in people and has been found in both domestic and wild cats.

In the UK 15 - 20 % of sick cats have FIV. 1 - 5 % of healthy cats have FIV. FIV is most commonly found in male, free-roaming non-pedigree cats. It is uncommon in cats less than one year old, with a peak incidence at 6 - 10 years old.

Bites from fighting are thought to be the main route of infection - the virus is in saliva. The virus is not very stable in the environment, so shared food bowls, mutual grooming, etc do not often result in infection. Kittens can get the infection from their dams both before and after they are born.

About 5 weeks after infection, the cat usually becomes slightly ill. It may have a slight temperature and its lymph nodes may be enlarged. Later there are signs of immunodeficiency:

- especially infections of the mouth, respiratory system & gastro-intestinal tract
- lethargy
- gingivitis (gum disease)
- weight loss, poor appetite, raised temperature
- nasal infections

- eye infections (conjunctivitis & anterior uveitis)
- enlarged lymph nodes
- neurological disease, skin disease, diarrhoea, tumours
- occurrence of unusual diseases e.g. pox virus, demodex.

Blood tests are available for FIV. They are quite accurate, though occasionally there are false negative results (i.e. a cat with FIV does not show up on the test).

**Treatment - there is no specific treatment for FIV.** However, symptomatic treatment of secondary problems, generally with antibiotics and occasionally steroids, can prolong most cats' lives. Particularly aggressive FIV-positive cats can be isolated to reduce the spread of infection to other cats.

Prevention is helped by neutering cats, especially toms, and restricting access outdoors. As yet there is no vaccine against FIV, though one may be available soon.

If you are worried about your cat, come in and discuss it with us.

If you have a lot of farm or feral cats, the CPL may help with the cost of neutering them, which will reduce the risk of your neighbours' cats becoming infected.



*healthy cat snoozing*



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## Launch of New Gig 'Torrent'



Copyright photos courtesy David Flower

On a cold but sunny Sunday in February, the new Boscastle and Crackington Gig was launched in Boscastle Harbour.

Club Chairman Chris Ingram thanked all those who had made donations, including the North Cornwall Flood Relief Fund. David Whitaker named the vessel 'Torrent', which was then blessed by the Rev Christine Musser and the Rev Rob Dickinson before being carried down into the water. The crew took their places in the gig and raised their oars but were unable to venture out to sea due to adverse weather conditions.

Celebrations moved to the Cobweb Inn where landlord Adrian Bright presented the club with a cheque for £1,000 towards a second gig.

## 20 Questions for a local personality

this edition featuring Christine Musser

**1 School life?** I started in a tiny village school with 2 classrooms in Somerset, until we moved to Birmingham when I was 8 or 9. (Big culture shock!) At age 11, I went to a secondary school of art & design.

**2 Strengths & weaknesses?** Strengths: I never take myself too seriously; I can still work late into the night if necessary, and I've had a wide variety of life experiences to draw on.

Weaknesses: tendency to not plan far enough ahead, forget to top up the fuel tank!

**3 What inspired you to go into the ministry?** God and other people telling me I should.

**4 What is your greatest achievement to date?** My beautiful children.

**5 Most embarrassing moment?** Watching the 1st episode of Seaside Parish with a room full of people! Agony seeing myself on TV!

**6 Dislikes of my profession?** How much space do we have here? No, seriously, over-inflated ideas of what a priest is.

**7 Who was your childhood hero?** Anna Pavlova, Russian ballet dancer. I wanted to be a prima ballerina.

**8 Which five famous people would you invite to the Rectory for dinner?** St. Francis of Assisi, Cliff Richard, Archbishop of Canterbury, Dave Gilmour (Pink Floyd), Queen Elizabeth I

**9 What are your hobbies?** Walking the dog, reading, gardening, drawing & painting

**10 Best countries visited?** Scotland - it's so beautiful in the autumn; Thailand - the most friendly, courageous people I have ever met.



Rev Christine Musser with Rev Rob Dickinson at the gig launch

photo Raymund Rogers

**11 Favourite food and drink?** Ham & egg salad, Thai green curry, cup of tea, red wine - not all together!

**12 Favourite music?** Pink Floyd, Queen, Most choral music, sung by a good cathedral choir, worship music from Taizé.

**13 With whom would you most like to be stranded on a desert island?** Jesus

**14 Favourite place in Cornwall (apart from Boscastle)?** Gwithian Towans on a sunny day out of season.

**15 Favourite TV programme?** The Antiques Roadshow.

**16 Favourite authors?** Jacques Berniere, J.K.Rowling.

**17 Person you would really like to meet?** Nelson Mandela

**18 What are your ambitions?** To continue what I'm doing, hopefully getting better! Oh and I've always wanted to go up in a hot air balloon.

**19 What is your favourite film?** I'm not a big movie fan, but Schindler's List was amazing, and one of the funniest films ever has to be Monty Python's The Life of Brian.

**20 What changes would you like to see introduced into the local Church?** Heating and comfortable seats!

Answers to Crossword:  
Across 1 persimmon 10 al 12 esoteric 13 aorta 15 opt  
16 shagreen 18 nyala 21 erme 22 osprey 24 vet  
27 sophia 29 stela 31 labret 33 ok 34 teazle 36 agape  
39 furze 40 snore 41 tear 43 sedan 44 once 45 location  
48 eke 50 nor 51 cue 52 ale 53 and 54 ace 55 lag 56 rd  
Down 1 peony 2 espy 3 roza 4 st 5 le 6 mr 7 miserable  
8 ochre 9 tor 10 ate 11 jan 13 age 14 reeve 17 any  
19 top 20 ashtar 23 piazza 25 elope 26 take 28 outface  
29 standard 30 protocol 32 re 35 eureka 37 goat  
38 arnica 40 second 42 en 43 sonar 46 ouch 47 nee  
49 elm

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# Pete's Peeps at the Past

**20 DEC 1811**

## **WRECK AT PADSTOW**

In a gale H.M. Brig 'Bloodhound', with Lieut. Bray, ran on shore in Harlyn Bay by mistaking Trevoze Head for Stripper, the western entrance to Padstow harbour, where she intended to go, and lost 11 lives. This proves the great necessity for a lighthouse at Trevoze Head.

[The loss of this vessel is commemorated in the name of Bloodhound Cove in Harlyn Bay.]

**8 MAY 1812**

## **A PUBLIC HANGING**

The prisoner Wyatt, convicted of the murder of Valentine, a Jew at Fowey was publicly hung at Bodmin, but as the executioner was about to let the drop fall, he (Wyatt) fell off sideways and the knot ended nearly under his chin to the amazement of the spectators and the pain of the prisoner.

Many early 19th century crimes carried the penalty of death, mainly stealing and killing a sheep, firing a hay rick or breaking in and robbing a dwelling house and murder of the worst kind. Public executions were done to deter people and also drew many spectators to watch and relate what they had seen.

**5 JUNE 1812**

## **DEATH AT TINTAGEL**

John Brown, servant of Mr. S. Wade of Tintagel, went to King Arthur's Island to view some sheep there of his master. It is supposed while gathering samphire, he fell from the cliff into the sea and disappeared.

[Samphire (once 'herbe de St. Pierre', hence its present name) is a cliff plant with salty, fleshy leaves and used to be widely gathered in Cornwall for pickling.]

**28 JULY 1815**

At Plymouth Sound the "Bellerephon" anchored, accompanied by the "Slaney" and the "Myrmidon" which



had the ex-emperor on board. Several gunboats kept many curious observers away.

[Napoleon was on his way to exile on St. Helena, having been defeated at Waterloo in June.]

**28 FEB 1840**

## **A CARGO OF CONVICTS IN FALMOUTH**

The ship "Mandarin" carrying 250 male convicts to Van Dieman's Land, put into Falmouth for repairs, amongst them were the Jews convicted of stealing gold dust and Frost, Williams and Jones the Newport traitors. Very few of the townsfolk were allowed aboard.

[The Jews (Money Moses and the Caspars) stole £4,600 of gold dust in 1839 from the Packet "Seagull" of the Brazilian Mining Co. The Welshmen were agitators for Parliamentary Reform when thousands of miners and ironworkers descended on Newport causing death and destruction.]

**2 APRIL 1819**

## **TO BOTANY BAY**

Pascoe Walters aged 19 was indicted for stealing clothes from Thomas Varcoe of Roach, he owned up so that he could be transported so as to be with his parents who are both at Botany Bay. His Lordship said as it wasn't with a felonious intent, he be acquitted.

In fact, first offenders and young criminals under 16 yrs served their sentences on prison hulks in Naval dockyards. The conditions were similar to slave ships. But the hardened

transporters were released on arrival until 1826 when the Government decided on a system of hard labour.

**28 APRIL 1826**

## **SLATE OUT OF BOSCASTLE**

A vessel from Clovelly "The Narrow Escape" was completely wrecked in a creek near Tintagel, but the crew escaped to the shore. Just before it happened it had just been loaded with slate at Boscastle from Messrs. Sloggatt & Co.

Messrs. Roseveare & Sloggatt owned the Nth Delabole slate quarry as well as a large part of Boscastle from where their produce was shipped.

**17 APR 1840**

## **A DOUBLE HANGING**

The execution took place of brothers William & James Lightfoot at Bodmin for the murder of Nevill Norway. This caused the town to be overflowing with sightseers and all the houses full, the demand was so great in the poorer public houses that meat was 1s 5d a lb and beer at 9d a quart. By the execution time there were between twenty and twenty five thousand people in the fields beyond.

**JAN 1843**

## **THE WRECK OF JESSIE LOGAN AT BOSCASTLE**

There has been severe gales along the coast and the 850 ton, East India Trader "Jessie Logan" from Liverpool was apparently making for Tintagel or Bude Bay, but got into trouble at Boscastle, she was 14 miles off at midday with part of her bulwarks, all of her sails gone, but at 3pm she struck the rocks at the entrance to Boscastle Creek where her bottom was carried away and her cargo floated out. During the night her masts fell & only the sides remained. Very little of the cargo of dyewood, gum, cotton, wool, indigo & hides was saved. The Coastguard kept watch but there was considerable depredation carried on by the wreckers. The crew took to the boats but were all lost, & the boats found in the morning capsized.