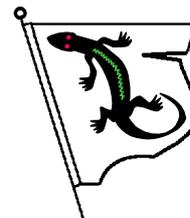


Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust

Friends of the Lizard 1997-2006

Newsletter No 37 October 2008

Registered Charity No 1092934



Events for Members

A full list of the events during the membership year (ie April 2008 – March 2009) was included with Newsletter 35. However, here are the headlines, only, of events up to our AGM in November. Further details are on the separate sheet, already provided:

Tuesday 7 October 2008, 10.30am:

LPHT event – Archaeological walk with James Gossip.

Meet: Helford carpark (the one with the little church).
Bring packed lunch.

Tuesday 18 November 2008, 7.00 for 7.30pm:

LPHT event – Annual General Meeting.

Meet: Mawgan Village Hall.

The invitation to Members, accompanying papers and programme for the evening are enclosed with this Newsletter. As you will see, the guest speaker is Dr Angela Stubbs from Cornwall Gardens Trust, who will give an illustrated presentation on Cornwall gardens. Light refreshments will be provided.

Membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions were due for renewal on 1 April, for those who do not pay by Standing Order. For those of us on the Executive Committee, who give freely of our time, it is extremely frustrating that we have to spend so much effort and time on chasing subscriptions. Please pay promptly or, if you wish to cease your membership, please let us know. Better still, pay by Standing Order; it is to everyone's advantage.

The Gift Aid option significantly increases our income, without any extra cost to our Members. We have been pleased with the response but very many more could sign the form that will allow us to claim the extra from the Inland Revenue. This is a non-intrusive procedure that, in no way complicates your private tax affairs. All you have to do is sign a standard form that we provide. Please contact Geoff Blackman, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, if you require another form.

www.lizardpeninsulaheritagetrust.org.uk

We have a new Website. Although not fully completed, we are now giving publicity to our new website, which is in an advanced stage of draft but, nevertheless, is far more up to date than our previous site. Incorporating features from our recently updated promotional leaflet, the design and commissioning has been carried out by Peter Wood of Coverack, with grant aid from Kerrier District Council and an anonymous benefactor from within our membership.

Your Executive Committee is delighted with the new site, particularly with its simplicity and speed. However, further development and updating will continue, taking into account comments received from members. One of the advantages of the site is the ability to see the most recent Newsletters with colour illustrations and an increasing number of high quality photographs of our area.

The Heritage Protection Bill

My former colleague at Devon County Council, Peter Beacham (now Heritage Protection Director at English Heritage), has published an update on the Heritage Protection Bill in the Summer 2008 edition of English Heritage's 'Conservation Bulletin'. Here are extracts to illustrate the Bill's main provisions:

The government published its draft Heritage Protection Bill in April. It contains the major package of reforms of the heritage protection system in England that have been the subject of extensive public consultation over the last few years and gives legislative form to the policies announced in last year's White Paper, 'Heritage Protection for the 21st Century'. The draft Bill is very comprehensive and, if enacted, will repeal almost all of the substantive legislation on which our current system of heritage protection is based. The key reforms are:

- The creation of a unified national designation system by the merging of the current listing, scheduling and registration regimes and their extension to cover the maritime historic environment and sites of early human activity without structures;
- The establishment of a single register for nationally designated assets, which will contain all existing Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered parks, gardens and battlefields, designated historic wrecks and world heritage sites;
- The delegation to English Heritage from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, of decision-making on national designation applications;
- A new heritage asset consent that merges the current Listed Building Consent and Scheduled Monument Consent regimes, administered by local authorities;
- The establishment of heritage partnership agreements – statutory management agreements that allow long-term strategic management and prior consent for agreed works;
- A statutory duty on local authorities to establish and maintain an historic environment record;
- The merger of Conservation Area Consent with planning permission;
- The strengthening of local management of the historic environment through restoring control over unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas, reinforcing the duty of local authorities to enhance as well as preserve the character and appearance of Conservation Areas, and the introduction of some control of demolition of locally-designated buildings outside Conservation Areas;
- Other miscellaneous provisions in the full Bill will include, widening English Heritage's grant powers.

The draft Bill has generally been widely welcomed. Certainly, the Lizard Trust is strongly in favour of these much simplified, merged and unified provisions and looks forward to their formal adoption and implementation.

David Richardson

Planning matters - Gweek Quay update

It is well over a year since we updated members about the on-going saga of illegally tipped waste material into the Helford River at Gweek. Members may recall that, in December 2005, Jeremy Dart and I attended a special meeting of Kerrier's Planning Committee, at which it was resolved to serve an Enforcement Notice on the Boatyard, requiring the tipped material to be removed. After over 18 months, during which the Boatyard utilised every legal procedure to delay, the Enforcement Notice was issued on 10 May and took effect on 21 June 2007, requiring complete removal of the tipped material by 21 December 2009. The Boatyard appealed against Kerrier's refusal of an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the continued use of the land as an extension of the boatyard, with the effect of suspending the Enforcement Notice until a Local Planning Inquiry had considered the Appeal.

In preparation for the Local Inquiry, the Boatyard was required to prepare and submit an Environmental Statement. Concerned at the apparent lack of progress, we wrote to the Planning Inspectorate in March to ask whether a date had been set for compliance with this requirement. In reply, we were informed that the Environmental Statement should be submitted no later than 28 May 2008. However, at the end of April, we received a further letter from the Planning Inspectorate informing us that the consultants, Richard Marsden of Laurence Associates, require a further 4 to 6 months to conclude the work and, accordingly, the Inquiry already arranged for 25 June 2008 has been cancelled.

Why are we not surprised at this? Simply because, in our opinion, the Boatyard has used every prevarication and delaying tactic available to avoid this issue being properly examined in the planning process. Meanwhile, as far as we know, Kerrier has to safeguard £250,000 of ratepayers' money to clear up the site, if the owners eventually default on the restoration Order. No doubt, some Kerrier councillors will be content for the new Cornwall Unitary Authority to inherit this scandalous fiasco next year!

According to the consultants' own timetable, therefore, the Environmental Statement will be available by October at the latest. Ha! Ha! Very funny! I'll eat my proverbial hat if it is available by then. We'll let you know.

David Richardson

Meneage Archaeological Group (MAG)

The Lizard Trust is happy to offer space in our Newsletters to local organisations having aims and objectives compatible with our own. Here is an item from a newly-formed Lizard archaeological group:

MAG aims to protect, promote and raise awareness of the rich archaeological heritage on our doorstep. The group was formally launched at a coffee morning at Mawgan Village Hall on Saturday 15 March 2008 and now has over 40 active members. At this first event, displays of archaeological finds and a presentation by archaeologist James Gossip unveiled plans for an excavation on the Lizard in the autumn, by the Cornwall Archaeological Society (CAS). Members of the public were invited to join MAG and all subscriptions and donations will be put towards the target figure of £2,600, needed to pay for post-excavation work such as radio carbon dating, pottery analysis environmental sampling. This will enable the archaeologists to produce a report, which it is hoped will be published by CAS in their journal. Other activities of the morning included a finds identification workshop with Anna Tyacke, Cornwall's Portable Antiquities Scheme Officer based at the Royal Cornwall Museum, a bookstall and a display lent by CAS featuring their excavation at St Newlyn East in the summer of 2007.



Salt Walk, Lowland Point

A series of events have followed: Salt, past and present, a walk along the cliff path from Coverack towards Lowland Point to see the site of early salt manufacturing dating to around 200AD and, in the afternoon, a complete contrast with a visit to the newly built Cornish Sea Salt factory at Porthkerris. May saw the group at Kynance Gate exploring the Bronze and Iron Age remains on the cliff above the Cove. This was followed in June with a visit to Poldowrian Archaeological Museum, and a walk through Mrs Hadley's beautiful garden before visiting the Iron Age Cliff castle at Lankidden.

As part of National Archaeology week, a visit to Boden fogou was arranged at the kind invitation of Chris Hosken, where members of the Cornwall Archaeological Society and visitors to the county joined MAG members. During the last few weeks, a series of field walking events have been held.

The highlight of the season will undoubtedly be the excavation near Manaccan in the autumn. An open day for everyone is planned on 4 October, between 11am and 3pm, when there will be an opportunity to have your finds identified, as well as seeing what the archaeologists have discovered during the excavation. Early in 2009, it is hoped to arrange a talk locally and another chance to see finds from the site.

The organisers of MAG have been delighted with the response from the public and a continuing programme of events is planned. Members of other groups are welcome to join us, (there is sometimes a small charge) and we look forward to working with everyone to achieve the aims of the group.

To join MAG, contact the membership secretary:
Meg Reed, The Old Byre, Tregarne, Manaccan, TR12 6EW.
Email meg.reed@email.com Tel 01326 281001

Sally Ealey

Businesses on the Lizard Peninsula – Rozen Furniture

Continuing our series of articles on businesses on the Lizard Peninsula, with particular reference to those that are unusual or have an interesting story to tell, here is Rozen Furniture Ltd:

Rozen Furniture came to be through the creative partnership of Ian Cox and Alan Pearce, both cabinet makers by trade. From modest beginnings 20 years ago, the company has grown and is now located on the beautiful Lizard Peninsula. Ruan Minor became home to the enlarged Rozen workshop eight years ago, giving Rozen a showroom as well as extended workshop facilities. In part, it is this beautiful Cornish location that has attracted craftsmen and women whose skills and craftsmanship have made Rozen into the renowned company it is today.

Rozen Furniture Makers has attracted clients from countrywide and the company's designers and cabinet makers have built an enviable reputation for producing bespoke furniture that is both admired and desired. Commissions vary, from individual furniture pieces, complete rooms, bespoke kitchens, dining furniture and interior wood works, such as reinstating traditional wood panelling and staircases for example. Commercial projects such as shopfitting, hotels and restaurant interiors are also part of the Rozen skills base.

Rozen has produced a splendid portfolio during its 20 years. Many of its completed projects have been photographed with the kind permission of their clients, and can be viewed when visiting the furniture showroom, or online. The website also includes information on commissioning, the design process and gives an insight into the Rozen company. The premises at Ruan Minor has a permanent display of examples of furniture for the Dining Room, Bedroom and Kitchen. Visitors are welcome to see behind the scenes in the workshop and to see furniture being made. If you are considering commissioning furniture for your home and would like to consider Rozen Furniture you can contact:

Ian Cox, Rozen Furniture,
Cherry Tree Workshop
Ruan Minor, Helston, Cornwall TR12 7JR
Tel: 01326 290100 Email: rozen@globalnet.co.uk Web: rozenfurniture.com



Colin Chapman

Personalities – Valerie Hadley



The Lizard Trust has some amazing personalities among its members, and here is another. You will have read about Valerie's garden at Poldowrian in the last Newsletter, but you would have learned more about the garden than about its creator. It's time to redress that, so read on.

Valerie was born and brought up in London. When war broke out she joined the ATS, ending up at the War Office and, in 1944, being posted to Washington DC. Sailing on the Queen Elizabeth, as a member of the British Army Staff, might have made anyone feel important but, upon arrival, Valerie was presented with a job which, she says, was too obscure to describe. More memorable was the cultural shock, albeit a pleasant one, of having no blackout system and lots of food!

Five months into Valerie's assignment, the Fates sent a young man into her office and her life. He had been given the choice of returning to his native UK or working in Washington, and chose the latter. His name was Peter Hadley and he and Valerie were married in 1945. Back to the UK they sailed, this time on the Queen Mary, and Peter was then posted to Germany. After his return, he and Valerie lived in London, then Guildford, with Peter working in advertising. Their son John was born in 1947, and Andrew arrived in 1960.

In 1964, those Fates stepped in again, and the family spent a holiday in Cornwall. Staying in a farmhouse at Mullion, they took a picnic to Kennack Sands one day, and Peter picked up his Sunday Times. 'One mile of Cornish coast for sale' read the advertisement in the property section. They went along to view it but, unfortunately, a thick mist had descended on the valley and they couldn't see a thing. Poldowrian's owner begged them, 'Do please come back on a sunny day'. They did and fell in love with the place, moving in as soon as they could.

For a while the family lived in the farmhouse, while they built the lovely house that Valerie still lives in today. Peter had taken early retirement, but wasted no time in setting up his new project, a pedigree herd of Friesian cattle. The herd was his pride and joy until about 1970 when another love came into his life; the garden. He and Valerie set about transforming the 3 or 4 acres, and it remained a labour of love for him until his death in 1996. As we know, Valerie retains her passion for the garden, spending most of her spare time in it, opening for charities, as they did during Peter's lifetime. It is worth noting that Peter was a Samaritan and the garden open days, plus his own Christmastime literacy competition, raised over £100,000.

John is now a rector in Bristol with two children, while Andrew worked for some years for the British Council, and has three children. Andrew's job entailed much travelling - Ethiopia, Greece, China - to name but a few, and Valerie and Peter enjoyed many 'free' holidays over the years.

Continued...

Personalities - Valerie Hadley, continued...

With all the gardening, travelling, running the house and looking after visiting grandchildren, you wouldn't think Valerie would have had time for much else, but indeed she did. Entirely self taught, she took up wood and serpentine carving and proved a natural. Most of her work was sold, and she exhibited at Trelowarren along with Peter's work - when not tending cows or machete-ing his way through the undergrowth, he was a painter and poet. What an incredible couple!

The photograph shows Valerie with just one of her creations, but we saw a small gallery of them and fell in love with them all. Little sea creatures, flowers, dolphins, and one particular little fellow, a pale green Serpentine crab, looked as though he was about to crawl out of his rock and scuttle across the carpet. A lovely touch is that all Valerie's carvings have a lizard cut into them, usually on the back with the date.

Valerie's most outstanding creation must be the pair of floral woodcarvings she made in 1982 for Elizabeth Johnstone, former High Sheriff of Cornwall. Elizabeth was showing Valerie over her new cottage and, when they reached the alcoves on the landing, Elizabeth told her, 'You are going to make me two carvings to fill those alcoves', and indeed she did. It took her two years and she produced the most exquisite carvings from a large piece of yew, split in two; one piece depicted the wild flowers of Cornwall, the other cultivated plants. Those unique carvings are now somewhere in France, Valerie believes; we only saw the photographs but both depicted perfection, as indeed do all her other carvings.

One other little story is that when Valerie was in the Indian Ocean she saw a remarkable shell called 'Thatcheria Mirabilis'. She carved it, sold it to the Shell Company, and they presented it to Mrs Thatcher when she opened their computer terminal in Aberdeen in 1979.

It was a pleasure to take tea with Valerie again at Poldowrian. Neither my writing nor John's photography can do her justice. She's real treasure; as indeed are so many of our members. So - who's next for the 'Personality' page? Be prepared - it could be you!

Jane Grierson

Cattle grazing on common land

Members may have seen reported in the West Briton, earlier in the year, that an organic beef farmer from the Lizard has welcomed government approvals which mean that he can graze his cattle on three commons on the peninsula. Chris Oates will be able to use land, owned by Natural England, at Gold Gothern Common, part of Rosuick Common and Main Dale Common, and has received approval to implement stock-proofing measures, so that grazing can be introduced as soon as this winter. The measures will include putting up fencing and installing cattle grids and bypass gates. Fencing can remain in place for no longer than 10 years, when further approvals must be sort from the Secretary of State for the Environment, in full consultation with interested parties and commoners.

Our former Chairman, Jeremy Dart, attended earlier consultation meetings, when it was clear that local opinion was strongly divided on the issue of fencing commons. However, at that time, the Trust decided not to make a formal objection to the proposal, influenced by Natural England's view that grazing in these areas would help improve species diversity, especially when followed up with controlled burning on the heathland. Ray Lawman, Natural England senior reserves manager on the Lizard, said 'This is recognised best management practice for heathlands and we hope to encourage species which haven't been seen for a long time, such as orchids, to reappear. We will also be leaving some taller scrub areas in place for breeding birds.' The infrastructure will be funded by the HEATH project ('Heathland, Environment, Agriculture, Tourism & Heritage').

David Richardson

Knickers in the Fridge

Members of the LPHT will be delighted to learn that Jane Grierson, who regularly entertains us with articles in our magazine, has just published a book.

'Knickers in the Fridge' may initially seem to have little connection with the LPHT, but the central character in the book is none other than Molly, Jane's mother, who was a founder member of the 'Friends of the Lizard'. Sadly, Molly developed Alzheimer's Disease 12 years ago and the book focuses on how Jane and other members of the family have steadfastly and compassionately coped with looking after Molly and getting to grips with the many, varied issues that have arisen as her condition has advanced. Love and humour have been the mainstay of their approach, with an emphasis on the lighter and funnier side of life, which at times cannot have been easy. 'Knickers in the Fridge' is a real story about real people who have had to confront a condition which is bewildering, not only to the sufferer, but to those close to them.

Sad though the circumstances are, the book is a sensitive, humorous and down-to-earth account which makes for essential reading - I commend it to you all. It is available at present on www.lulu.com, Amazon.co.uk and Waterstones in Truro. On the other hand, Jane will sell it to you for a special rate of £7, plus postage - so why wait? Get in touch with her now!

Linda Hawkins

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