

Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust

An environmental charity dedicated to the recognition, protection, enhancement and enjoyment of the Lizard Peninsula

Friends of the Lizard 1997-2006

Newsletter No 52 July 2012

Registered Charity No 1092934



Patron: Jill Morison DL

Events programme 2012-13 (see earlier sheet for full details)

Saturday 4 August. Annual BBQ – at Bodlowen, Coverack – home of Gill and David Richardson. *Booking necessary - see slip inside*

Wednesday 15 August. Walk Cury / Gunwalloe with Tim and Linda Hawkins. Meet 11am Cury Village Hall CP. Bring a picnic!

Tuesday 4 September. Visit to Kestle Barton. Meet 2pm Kestle Barton CP – enjoy the gardens, and art exhibition by Richard Cook

Monday 17 September. Visit the new Lizard Lifeboat Station with Peter Greenslade - meet at Lifeboat Station CP at 11am.

Wednesday 26 September. Archeological walk around Gunwalloe with James Gossip. Meet 11.30am in NT CP at Gunwalloe.

Diary date

Tuesday 6 November LPHT AGM
7.30pm Mawgan Village Hall

Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Subscription renewals were due on 1 April and, as members have already been informed, they remain unchanged at £6 for an individual or £9 for two adults at the same address. In recent years, we have continued to achieve very high renewal rates, sometimes at 100% renewal of the previous year. We are hoping to continue these success rates and, in addition, already have several new members. Approximately 17% of our members have paid a 'Life' subscription and, of the remainder, a further 68% pay by Standing Order, which is easier for both them and us. If you are one of the 15 members who is not a Life Member, nor someone who pays by Standing Order, and have not already paid by cheque, there should be a reminder and renewal slip with this Newsletter. Please continue to support us.

The Gift Aid option significantly increases our income, without any extra cost to our Members, and without any intrusion into their tax affairs. We have been pleased with the response and have received significant refunds from HMRC. However, very many more could tick the box that would allow us to claim the extra from the Inland Revenue. You will notice that the renewals slip includes a simple tick box for you to agree. We have to say that we find it a mystery why every tax-paying member does not agree to this simple facility.

Message from the Chairman



Photo credited to Earl-Wilkerson (flickr)

My apologies for writing about Wind Farms in consecutive Newsletter issues, but there has been what may be a significant development in the ongoing battle between local objectors and wind farm developers over a proposed site near Great Yarmouth for turbines 345 feet high; this is approximately the height of the Goonhilly turbines. At the end of May, a judgement was given in the High Court by Mrs Justice Lang in this case where the developers were appealing against refusal of planning permission. In fact, permission had already been refused both by the local council and a Government Planning Inspector and the saga had dragged on for three years. Justice Lang rejected the appeal but, significantly, included these words which I repeat in full:

“As a matter of law, it is not correct to assert that the national policy promoting the use of renewable resources negates the local landscape policies or must be given primacy over them”. This implies that Government Policy to develop wind power cannot outweigh local objections based on special landscape quality. Or does it? Everyone will have their own view!

The site in question was within 2 miles of the boundary of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, namely the Norfolk Broads. Obviously, such a judgement could well be used by objectors in similar cases to these developments. Anticipating this, the organisation which speaks for Wind Farm Development said that each case must be looked at on its merits and rejected the comments made, above, by the judge. They have to make this point as the judge's comments could in theory be used to object to all wind farm developments in special landscape areas.

Sea Land and Power Ltd, whose appeal was rejected, had made the point that East Anglia was already behind the Government target for wind turbines, but many people would argue that these targets are quite unachievable in any case. Any further relevant news will be reported in future newsletters of course.

Geoff Blackman

Goonhilly in the News



Recently, the Goonhilly Satellite Earth Station has been in the news, both for its history and also its future. The 50th Anniversary of the first transatlantic television broadcast to Britain was celebrated at the site by 300 former staff. On 11 July 1962, pictures from America were sent via the Telstar satellite to Goonhilly and the project led the way to modern satellite communications. The dish which received the first signals was Arthur (official name Antenna 1) which weighs 1118 tonnes. The Goonhilly site grew to 160 acres with 60 dishes handling computer data, fax transmissions, TV signals and 10 million phone calls per week. Its recent history has not been as good since satellite operations ended in 2006 and BT closed the site in 2008.

This leads onto the second news item about Goonhilly. Last year, the Government announced a £7m grant to transform the site into a new space science park. However, on the day before the 50th Anniversary, local MP Andrew George questioned the Prime Minister in the Commons, claiming that avoidable delays in delivering the funding are holding back the project. He asked the PM to try to speed up the funding delivery which Mr Cameron undertook to do. The project could put Britain at the forefront of space research and provide 750 jobs. Hopefully, I will have some more positive news on this matter in our next Newsletter.

Geoff Blackman

The places we live in and their Cornish meanings

Goonhilly Area

Goonhilly - briny or possibly hunting downs
Roskilly - heath of grove
Trewoon - farm of downs
Trewince - under town or town exposed to the weather

Many place names beginning with "Tre" are found in this area - it means a settlement and the place name is finished with the name of its founder such as Tregaddra and Trezise.

Lynda Blackman

Cllr Pam Lyne

We were saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Cllr Pam Lyne on Wednesday 27 June. She was found in her familiar white van outside St Anthony Church on the Lizard, midway through the milk round that she did every day. Her funeral was on 13 July at Manaccan Parish Church.

Pam was first elected to Manaccan Parish Council more than 40 years ago and served on the former Kerrier District Council from its inception in 1974 until its demise in 2009. Since then, she has been the elected member for St Keverne and Meneage on Cornwall Council.

As an "Independent" councillor for Kerrier and Cornwall, Pam certainly took an independent view of national and local planning policies, particularly with regard to supporting proposed developments that others deemed to be inappropriate in sensitive landscape areas. It was not surprising, therefore, that her stance frequently brought her into conflict with established environmental planning policies and, not infrequently, the Lizard Trust took opposing views when making representations on development proposals.

Nevertheless, we have always recognised her as a real character, with firm commitment to her constituents. In many ways, she will be a very difficult act to follow.

David Richardson

Mullion Footpath - Public Inquiry result

The long-running saga over a footpath diversion at Mullion Meadows has been resolved after a 2 day Public Inquiry which was held in May. The Government Inspector's decision was announced late last month and he confirmed Cornwall Council's Diversion Order relating to Footpath 37. The owner of Mullion Meadows can now divert part of Footpath 37, a section of unrecorded footpath and stop up two sections of unrecorded footpath. This will enable the completion of a new office building which has been delayed since 2010, following objections to the diversion by 11 local people.

The Public Inquiry heard evidence from both supporters of Martin Rafferty, the owner of Mullion Meadows, and the objectors. Issues raised included the allegation that the revised route passed through a grassy area which was slippery when wet and also the dangers of using steps which lead directly onto the B3296. However, the Inspector ruled that the surface of the proposed route was not any different from that which already exists and, accordingly, confirmed the Diversion Order.

One contentious issue was the claim by Mr Rafferty for costs to be awarded against the objectors, on the grounds that their objections were unreasonable and perverse. However, the Inspector rejected this argument and did not award costs. Hopefully this is now the end of the matter.

Geoff Blackman

Botanical walk with Steve Townsend (Natural England) to Gwendreath & Kennack, Lizard Peninsula

Plants seen in flower, excluding grasses.

26 June 2012

Botanical name:	Common name:	Botanical name:	Common name:
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Early Forget-me-not
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-Dropwort
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift	<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> spp <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea Bindweed	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Chamomile	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	<i>Raphanus maritimus</i>	Sea Radish
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Bindweed	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder
<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	Southern Marsh-orchid	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony	<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great Burnet
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	Marsh Ragwort
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-Thistle
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-Thistle
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-robert	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg	Dandelion
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Thymus praecox</i> ssp <i>arcticus</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Honkenya peploides</i>	Sea Sandwort	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort	<i>Trifolium micranthum</i>	Slender Trefoil
<i>Hypochaeris radiata</i>	Catsear	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheep's-bit	<i>Trifolium scabrum</i>	Rough Clover
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Common Gorse
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Field Pepperwort	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-robin		

Total: 109

David Richardson, June 2012

Botanical walk with Steve Townsend



Photo: Geoff Blackman, Gill Richardson, Steve Townsend & Peter Wood at the Bray's Cot information board

Gwendreath and Kennack Sands:

Near the hamlet of Kuggar, on the east coast of the peninsula, this is one of the finest and most accessible beaches on The Lizard. The area is famous for its geological features such as red serpentine pebbles and exposed bands of gneiss. This is also a great spot for rock-pooling if the tides are low and in summer, the world's second-largest fish, the plankton-eating basking shark, can often be seen just off shore. For the more energetic, a walk inland can take you past old quarries, across grazed heaths, and along the wooded elm valley.

Extract from Natural England's website

The weather this summer has not been particularly kind to our events calendar and Tuesday 26 June was no exception. A small group of hardy members met Steve Townsend, Natural England's Reserve Manager for the Lizard Peninsula National Nature Reserve, at the lay-bys half way between Traboe Cross and Kuggar. It was very misty, with risks of drizzle, so everyone was toggled up with wellies and waterproofs just in case. After a quick safety check, Steve began by showing us a small shrew he had found dead that morning and outlined the plans for the day.

We began counting and recording (David diligently took on this task, as always – see accompanying sheet) all plants that we saw actually in flower. Pausing for a 'Kodak moment' at Natural England's Bray's Cot information board, we continued just off the road near a fast flowing stream and saw several species suited to the damp conditions, including the highly poisonous Hemlock Water Dropwort. After some fun paddling in the water hunting for plants, we cut in and across the heathland towards Gwenter. Steve showed us how to identify the main types of heather found on the Lizard and pointed out some rare orchids. The weather tried hard for us and we began to see clear views towards the sea. At one point, as we were heading towards Kennack, we came across a stile that was completely blocked by a large fallen bush. Lots of effort by all, plus a bit of pulling and pushing and everyone successfully made it through to the other side.

We ended up on the dunes to the east of Kennack sands where we enjoyed our picnic lunch on the lee side of the headland. Again, the different habitat brought several fresh species for our list including

Vipers Bugloss. After lunch, we walked down on to the edge of the beach where yet another habitat caught our interest including some edible sea plants. We had been feeling on the chilly side but on the sheltered edge of the beach it began to feel much warmer.

The walk back took us through the elm valley and into the remains of Gwendreath Quarry where we saw a number of different species taking our species count to over 100. Using magnifiers, provided by Steve, we examined closely the various extremely small, ground-hugging plants found in this habitat. The main mineral found here is chrysotile, a member of the serpentine group forming white asbestos. As we wandered back through the open access areas and lanes of the reserve, we reflected on the fantastic, wealth of botany on the Lizard seen, and shown by the accompanying sheet.

Everyone agreed that the event had been a great success, no doubt partly due to the modest attendance which had allowed the group to stay closely together. Also, our member Peter Wood played a valuable part by assisting in the precise identification of the rarer species. Before parting, we were delighted to hear that Steve would be happy to lead another botanical walk next year, in a different range of habitats and possibly a little earlier in the season.

Lynda Blackman

Looking towards harvest time

While planning this recipe, two factors came into play; firstly, the rather miserable weather more characteristic of spring than summer and, secondly, what produce is and would be available before the next instalment. As there will not be another article until October, and September is the month for harvest and preserving, the recipe here is for my favourite chutney. For the foragers among you, look out for rowan (can be made into a jelly with crab apples), wild mint, early blackberries, elderberries, sloes and hawthorn plus, if you have the knowledge (I have not), wild mushrooms. The recipe below makes about 4 jars but can easily be doubled up – I have not included details of jar sterilisation but please contact me on lyndablackman@yahoo.co.uk if you have any questions.

Lynda's favourite - Dark Chutney for cheese:

*12oz (350g) Cooking apples – weight after peeling
12oz (350g) Plums – any variety will do but Victoria plums seem to give the best flavour
4oz (112g) tomatoes – I prefer green but you can use red
1 large onion
12oz (350g) Demerara sugar
8oz (225g) dried fruit – a mix of dates and raisins is good
2oz (55g) ginger – crystallised or stem ginger from a jar
1 clove of garlic
1 green or red Chilli or use dried flakes – depends on the chillies and your preference
3 tsp salt
½ pint malt vinegar (I use brown not white)*

To make this really easy, I use my food processor but do chop or mince (onion & apples) if you have not got a processor or prefer chutney with larger chunks. Process or chop the stoned plums, peeled apples and onions, dried fruit and ginger until in small pieces then put in a large saucepan or preserving pan. Add the sugar and vinegar, chopped garlic and chilli and cook on a low heat stirring all the time until the sugar has dissolved. Continue to cook the chutney slowly for about an hour and half or until it is thick and of a chutney-like consistency. One of the main mistakes when making chutney is not to cook it for long enough. Pour the thick, hot chutney into sterilised jars and seal, leaving for at least a month before sampling.

Lynda Blackman

After a brief rest at the top, we made our way down by a different route, round the eastern side of the hill back to the car park.

Lynda Blackman

National Planning Policy Framework National Trust Planning for People Campaign

Members may recall that, in the last Newsletter, I reported that many local and national environmental bodies were extremely concerned with some of the draft proposals in the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly with regard to the protection of the countryside against uncontrolled sporadic development. Prominent among the organisations seeking major changes was the National Trust, leading a national Planning for People Campaign. Sharing the same concerns, we supported the Campaign and have now received the following thanks:

David Richardson

'Dear Supporter

The Government published its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) back in March. Thanks to your support, there were some significant improvements on the draft version. However, the proof of whether the new NPPF really will protect special places for ever, for everyone, will only come with time. We are therefore keeping a close eye on cases across England where the new planning framework is being tested, such as that of the idyllic setting of Brandy Island, near the village of Buscot in Oxfordshire on the River Thames. It's a hugely popular spot with walkers and local people who visit the area in their thousands to enjoy its peace and tranquillity, and the chance to glimpse kingfishers, otters and other local wildlife. But plans submitted to The Vale of White Horse District Council, for commercial development of a disused water plant on the island, threaten to destroy the peace and special timeless character of the area.

We'll be keeping a close watch out for any other instances of where the NPPF is being tested by inappropriate development proposals. We've also written to all local authorities to encourage them to update Local Plans in ways which ensure the places we all care about most are protected. In the meantime, we'll be making sure all our staff and volunteers, especially at our places, have the right guidance available on the difference the NPPF makes, and how we can influence local planning decisions. Thank you again.

*Ben, Ingrid, Ian, Kate, James and Ellen.
The "Planning for People" team'*

Poltesco: Every Little Helps

A Ruan Minor rendezvous on a sunny Saturday in May led to a group of about 14 of us following our guides, Arnold Phillips and George Mitchell, down to Poltesco and around the coast to Cadgwith. These chaps know everything there is to know about this area's history, so it is a great shame that I neglected to ask either of them what Poltesco means. Pol is Cornish for pool, but

Visit to Godolphin House – Saturday 5 May 2012

The visit was planned as a tour of the house and garden followed by a walk up Godolphin Hill to have a picnic at the top - well that was the intention. Although the weather was misty, with sporadic showers, seven hardy members met at the new reception (the old piggery) of the main house. This 15th century house, home of the Godolphin family until mid-18th century, was acquired by the National Trust in 2007, although it has owned some of the grounds since 2000. Originally built on the site of Godolphin Castle, by the mid-17th century the house was the largest and most fashionable house in Cornwall. It is one of Cornwall's most outstanding historic houses and is surrounded by land rich in tin and copper. The Godolphins became very influential and moved to London, so the estate passed by marriage to the Dukes of Leeds. It was then neglected by absentee landlords through much of the 18th and 19th centuries and then owned by Peter Treloar, a Cornish miner, for a short period.

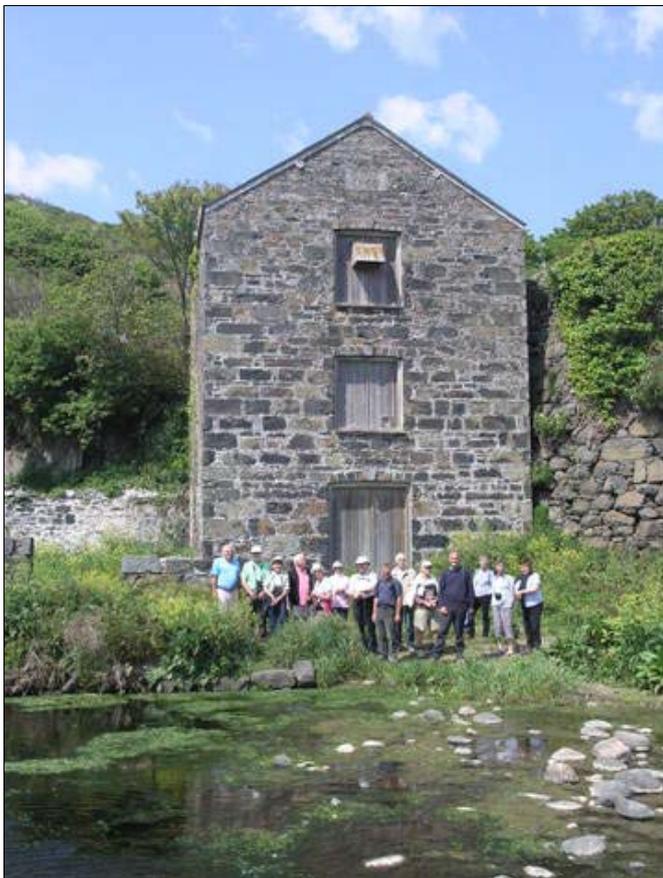
Sydney and Mary Schofield bought the estate in 1937 and made sensitive repairs. Last year, the National Trust purchased the remainder of the estate and opened it to the public. The building is only open on certain dates as it is rented out for holidays and short breaks. The house is large and has many beautiful rooms. The kitchen, with a large range, has been tastefully modernised and we dreamt of cooking Christmas lunch for 12 and eating in the dining room alongside with the wood burner roaring away. The upstairs lounge has views over the gardens and is furnished with sumptuous sofas which we all sampled. The accommodation sleeps twelve and has 6 beautiful bedrooms several with four poster beds. Tastefully furnished rooms gave us all a wonderful sense of history but, with a high tariff per person per night, thoughts of grand gatherings could only be dreams.

Following our tour of the house, we wandered around the gardens - probably the oldest surviving formal gardens in Cornwall. They are much in need of restoration but one can imagine former times. The weather was still trying to hamper our plans, so it was decided to have our picnic before walking up the hill. After lunch, we set off fearing rain which didn't materialise, so our efforts were rewarded with stunning 360 degree views from the top, ranging from St Ives to St Michaels Mount.

I cannot believe that the next two syllables mean the store that we all love to hate. Any guesses?

The walk from the village down Poltesco Lane was a delight in itself, the hedgerows chock-a-block with spring foliage. Queen Anne had been generously chucking her lace around, Robert threw in some of his herbs, and the red campion glowed pinkly.

At the bottom of the valley, we stopped to view the old corn mill, the only one remaining from three in the locality. This was in use only 16 years ago, and the water wheel can still turn; the drawbacks are that, first, the mill pool takes 2 or 3 hours to fill, from water drawn off upstream; then, when the wheel starts turning, the mill floor shakes and the dust flies everywhere. The stones on the bridge over the river still serve a useful purpose though: a line in one of them marks the boundary between the parishes of Grade and Ruan Major.



A few yards further along, passing its delightful multi-level terraced gardens, stands Poltesco House, a plaque on its wall commemorating a most important date: "5th September 1782. On this site. Nothing happened." A lovely bit of Cornish humour.

At the nearby yard, George led us into the National Trust workshop, where pictures of Poltesco in centuries past had us enthralled, then it was back to the beaten path. Eager to learn all we could, someone asked George whether the abundant yellow flowering things were rape or mustard. "Charlock," he replied.

But was I the only one who noticed the pencilled cranesbill? One of my favourites, that has cropped up on other walks, but is actually quite unusual.

Leaving the main path, we stepped onto the Todden (not to be confused with the one in Cadgwith. It just means, in Cornish, a piece of land between two beaches). From here we could see where the boats used to come in towards the shore, leaning over at half tide, so that coal, etc could be loaded, then they would set sail again at full tide. It sounded a perilous method and, indeed, a whole boatload of ornamental stone was once lost to the deep. After that, the winch in the capstan house was used to haul the boats ashore. Later, the capstan was used as a coal store, but that wasn't a complete success as some of the locals used to nick it!

Back on the path, we passed the most incredible memorial wooden bench, beautifully carved with a shoal of pilchards. As a memorial, that beats a statue any day.

At beach level, having admired the many mini cairns built by visitors to this pebbly paradise, we went inside the capstan house, where great beams, pushed by men and women, once powered the winch. The pilchards would be unloaded from the boats and stored in the buildings below. The capstan was here at least as far back as the 17th century, but the building next door was clearly labelled "LSCL" (Lizard Serpentine Company Ltd) 1866", the next stage of Poltesco's story. Ample evidence was all around of the workings, from the slabs on which the stone was sliced – itself deeply scored with cuts – to the sites of the old water wheel and the nearby pool which fed it.

We walked on up the now grassy road, built specially for bringing the serpentine stone down to the works, and here John, Tilly-dog and I parted company with the group. Our Til was a little lame, so we cheated, avoiding the coast path where the main group went, and taking a direct route back to Ruan Minor and the car. We met again in Cadgwith, where Arnold and George led most folks on to the Devil's Frying Pan. A few of us declined because we had been there recently – and of course knew all about it; it is, obviously, a frying pan used by the devil when he's playing at Celebrity Master Chef. The frying pan in The Cellars was more of a temptation, I confess, as the aroma of freshly cooked chips wafted enticingly under my nose. I succumbed, but purely in a spirit of investigation, as this was the site of the old pilchard cellars where fish were pressed and salted, and an old channel, where the fish oil slithered, can still be seen.

One cannot leave Cadgwith without mentioning The Stick, now a fairly modern piece of well-planed timber, but once a barnacle encrusted spar from an old ship. Here, fishermen have sat for centuries, smoking their pipes and watching for pilchards; or, as was hinted perhaps more accurately, gossiping about the passers-by. Whichever is true, we hope they continue to do it for many decades to come.

Jane Grierson

Joint Charities open garden – Bodlowen, Coverack

Well, it certainly came as a surprise, but the sun shone on Coverack for the afternoon of Saturday 7 July. That was the day that Gill and I opened our garden for the joint benefits of the Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust and the National Coastwatch Institution, Nare Point. We had put in countless days through the Spring and early 'Summer' to prepare the garden, mostly in miserable weather. Every two steps forward seemed to be followed by one step back, as heavy wind and rain battered plants into submission while, at the same time, denying nature its natural calendar. So, no sweet pea flowers, poor growth on runner beans, late Agapanthus and Dahlia, failed parsnips and asparagus etc all combined to leave the garden well short of our ambitious targets.



However, with splendid (non-gardening) help from a range of volunteers in the two charities, the event benefited from wide publicity on Radio Cornwall, local newspapers and newsletters, plus posters and roadside advertising, together with extremely generous donations of cakes, scones and plants for the refreshments and plant sales. We are particularly grateful to Lesley Suddes, the nominated liaison representative from the NCI, whose splendid organisational and promotional skills ensured the success of the occasion. It was Lesley, as a Radio Cornwall 'weather-girl', who announced on the morning that the sun would shine on Coverack that afternoon, so listeners should support the event at Bodlowen; this, at a time when Radio Cornwall was announcing the cancellation of so many other events due to adverse weather. We had several phone calls that morning, but were able to assure that the event would go ahead.

Neighbours in Bounder Treath offered their drives as car-parks; nevertheless, the road filled with cars and a steady stream of visitors kept the 'meet & greet' and exhibition display volunteers busy. Meanwhile, the many kitchen volunteers were keeping up with demand for refreshments, clearing away and even, on occasion, encouraging some to vacate the prime sitting positions in the sun on the terraces to make way for others.

By 6.00pm the last of the nearly 100 visitors had gone and the clear-up began. More importantly, our trusty Chairman and Treasurer, Geoff Blackman, declared that the net profit amounted to £432; so £216 to each of the charities. Since then, however, we have received a total of £30

from friends, neighbours and relatives who couldn't come on the day but who wished to support the event; in addition, we will endeavour to sell some of the remaining plants on other occasions. From our point of view, the day was a great success and it was particularly gratifying that so many keen gardeners made such complimentary remarks to us. The garden will be open again for the Coverack Gardens Open day on Sunday 5 August while, on the previous day, the Lizard Trust will be holding its annual BBQ here. We're hoping for a real 'Summer' by then!

David & Gill Richardson

Marconian Musings

It has recently occurred to me that quite a number of our LPHT outings revolve around food – walks with picnic lunches, annual social events at restaurants, summer barbecues – even the AGM does our appetites proud! So, it was a refreshing change to set out from Mullion one June afternoon and head for an afternoon of exercise and erudition. A group of us met at the car park and marched in a north westerly direction towards the coast path that leads to Poldhu.

It was a lovely afternoon for a walk, but our main purpose was to reach, first, the Marconi Monument, and then to cross the field to the Marconi Centre and learn some more of the history of this place. The monument itself is impressive, albeit with a rather strange looking globe perched on top, (I once persuaded a friend that this was actually a monument to Marconi's cat, and he seemed to believe me; either that or he was convinced that I must be raving mad and it would be dangerous to contradict me), but it was from the hut where the Marconi Centre now stands that the first transatlantic radio signal was sent. The letter "s", repeated three times, winged its way across the Atlantic Ocean to St John's, Newfoundland, on 12 December 1901. Marconi, being a native of sunny Italy, could have sent a message across the Med and saved himself much trouble, but he was eager to win the wireless telegraphy contracts for shipping, and the Atlantic route was the busiest and potentially most lucrative in the world. Also, he figured, correctly, that spanning three thousand miles of Atlantic would be more convincing to the cynics. Many had said that wireless could only work over short distances and would not be able to bend around the earth's curvature. How wrong they were, and how much we owe to this amazing and determined man.

The amateur radio enthusiasts at the Marconi Centre showed us a film giving a short history of the site, then answered any questions we had and showed us just a few of the exhibits. They can tell a better tale than I, and I would recommend a visit there; but one outing is certainly not enough to take it all in, although we learned much in the short time we were there. Outside can be seen the remains of hawsers to the original radio masts, set into huge concrete blocks built across the "morrops" (what a lovely term; it comes from "mor" meaning "sea" and "ryps" meaning "beside" and I believe someone once wrote a song on the theme).

Joking aside, some of us intend to make another visit to the Centre to learn more, but for now we wandered

back to the village via various footpaths, one of which led past The Wesley Stone. Climbing over a stile into a wooded area, you could easily miss it, but this granite plaque marks the spot where Wesley once preached his gospel in the late 18th century.

And so we wended our way back to the home of our kind hosts, Lynda and Geoff Blackman, where, in true LPHT fashion, they had laid on some refreshments for us. Oh, didn't I mention that? A fantastic cream tea awaited us, created by Lynda's fair hands, and we stuffed ourselves silly as usual. Well, we wouldn't want to spoil what is becoming a grand tradition!

Jane Grierson

Roseland signage

Our on-going survey of roadside historic items ought to be given added impetus by this welcome news from the Roseland peninsula. There is no reason why the most important historic finger-posts in our area should not be similarly repaired, once the survey of these items has been completed. It may be that our volunteers should concentrate their efforts onto, say, finger-posts, milestones and telephone kiosks, rather than attempt to survey every item on the allocated routes.

David Richardson



Photo: historic fingerpost at Skyburriowe Lane, before removed by Cornwall Council

'The historic finger-post signs on the Roseland that point the way to villages, towns and other places of interest are being refurbished. With some dating from the 1930s, they are iconic features but many had fallen into disrepair and some were broken and almost unrecognisable. A restoration project, initiated by local Cornwall Councillor Julian German, led by Nigel Sumpter of the Cornwall AONB Unit in partnership with CORMAC Solutions and involving local parish councils and the community, is in the process of restoring many of these signs. The replacement parts, made of cast iron, have been produced in a traditional way by a Cornish foundry, Iron Bros near Wadebridge - using a process little changed for a hundred years. In late May there was a community painting event organised by the Cornwall AONB Unit and CORMAC Solutions where local people were able to put the finishing touches to their signs.'

(Cornwall AONB Newsletter, July 2012)

Rural roads and AONB presentation

'A rural roads protocol is being developed that will help Cornwall to have road and transport schemes and associated infrastructure (road lighting, signage etc) which respect and enhance the landscape character of the AONB while avoiding clutter and minimising light, air and noise pollution. The protocol will encourage the design of transport and Rights of Way infrastructure that conserves and, where possible, enhances the historic character, biodiversity and geodiversity of the AONB and supports the proactive de-cluttering of associated signage and lighting. The protocol will be integrated with the Cornwall Access Strategy.'

The Cornwall AONB team will be giving a presentation on the range of their work at Trebah Garden on Saturday 15 September and their inter-active display will be there for the following four weeks.'

(Cornwall AONB Newsletter, July 2012)

Chairman:	Geoff Blackman	Chy an Mordhu, 5 Park Enskellaw, Mullion	TR12 7JG	01326 241722
Vice Chairman:	Vacant			
Secretary:	David Richardson	Bodlowen, Coverack, Helston	TR12 6TP	01326 280058
Treasurer:	Geoff Blackman	Chy an Mordhu, 5 Park Enskellaw, Mullion	TR12 7JG	01326 241722
Committee:	Avril Evens	Tresaddern House, Ruan Minor, Helston	TR12 7NA	01326 290629
Committee	Ann Chapman	Chy Lean, Mawgan, Helston	TR12 6AY	01326 221648
Committee	Gill Richardson	Bodlowen, Coverack, Helston	TR12 6TP	01326 280058
Committee	Anne Roberts	Pipers Green, Garras, Helston	TR12 6LP	01326 221243
Committee	Lynda Blackman	Chy an Mordhu, 5 Park Enskellaw, Mullion	TR12 7JG	01326 241722
Assistant Secretary	Linda Hawkins	Ancarva Gosel, Coverack, Helston	TR12 6TP	01326 280341



Published by Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust, Bodlowen, Coverack 01326 280058
E-mail: d813richardson@btinternet.com WEB Site: www.lizardpeninsulaheritagetrust.org.uk

President David Richardson
Vice Presidents John Grierson & Peter Greenslade