

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

Registered Charity No 1092934

Patron: Jill Morison DL



Newsletter No 54, January 2013

Chairman's New Year Message

Firstly, let me wish all our members a very Happy New Year. I hope to see as many of you as possible on our Events this year – our Events Sub Committee has been hard at work planning the year ahead. Full details will be in the April Newsletter but if anyone has any additional ideas for Events please contact Lynda Blackman at lyndablackman@yahoo.co.uk or 01326 241722. Also, we are always looking for articles for the Newsletters, so please get writing !!

Cornwall Council has been considering the Strategic Plan including the all-important target for new housing. Figures banded around seem to vary between 29,000 new homes over 20 years to nearly 60,000 new homes. My personal view is that there will have to be new housing in Cornwall to meet Government targets and, inevitably, some will be on the Lizard Peninsula. Hopefully this will be done taking full account of Cornwall Council's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty environmental policies.

Geoff Blackman

Events; Winter Lunch

Your Events Committee is currently putting together a package of events for the year and members will receive a list of these with their next Newsletter in April. For advance notice, the 2013 AGM will be on Wednesday 27 Nov.

Meanwhile, included within this Newsletter are details and booking requirements for our **Winter Lunch**, that will take place at the **Mullion Golf Club** on Thursday 28 February, 12.45 for 1.00pm.

You will see from the enclosed A5 paper that the Golf Club has prepared a very inviting package for us, including 6 choices for each of the 3 courses, at an attractive price.

You will also see that booking of a place and menu selections, together with full payment, are required in advance, with an absolute deadline of Monday 18 February.

Review of the AGM 2012

Word has got around. It is the indoor event of the year. Record numbers of people left the warmth and comfort of their homes one winter's evening and joined the Gadarene rush to Mawgan Recreation Hall. Yes, it was time for the LPHT AGM once more, and we had the highest attendance ever, at 27 persons. For the remaining 117 of you good people, Yours Truly is here to report what an excellent evening you missed!

The evening's programme started with coffee and light refreshments. Light refreshments?

Light? There was enough food here to have kept our gross members occupied all night (I'm not being rude; there are 144 of us). And never mind the coffee, the drinks table was displaying a colourful selection of red and white wine plus several fruit juices. There was no "You'll have had your tea?" attitude here, and those of us who had already eaten, regretted doing so. Still, we managed to stuff enough sandwiches, tarts and other savoury delicacies down our gullets to make the ladies' endeavours worthwhile; we would not have liked their work to go unappreciated.

Having waddled to our seats for the official business, even this one-time back-seat complainer found it absorbing and communicative. It was precise, occasionally witty, and had much interaction from the floor (which makes it sound as though some of us had had too much wine and fallen over, but let's not get too silly).

Then came an interval and the second course: tea, coffee, homemade cake and mince pies. All thoughts of moderation and decorum had long been thrown to the winds, and we fell upon the offerings as Team Patisserie had intended.

That's four paragraphs on the prandials, so no change there. But now it was time for our guest speaker, Lesley Suddes, former Naval weather forecaster, to talk to us about Weather on The Lizard.

Lesley is an excellent speaker, not just knowledgeable about her subject, but with a sparkling method of presentation which kept her audience on the edges of their seats and left us with a deeper understanding of the hitherto incomprehensible Lizard mini-climate. Of her twenty six years in the Navy, Lesley spent fifteen in meteorology, so she knows her subject. I don't, but herewith my forlorn attempt at giving the gist of the presentation.

The British Isles are dominated by five weather systems, as follows: Tropical Maritime, Polar Maritime, Arctic, Polar Continental and Tropical Continental. We on The Lizard are affected most commonly by the first of these, and although the word "tropical" is not the first that springs to mind when discussing our climes, that is the region whence the weather cometh; and "maritime" speaks for itself. As these initially warm, moist winds surge across the oceans from the southwest, the colder air over the sea changes their moisture to mist, fog and rain, which is dumped onto the first outcrop of warmer land that they encounter. That's us. So it rains on The Lizard. The air can dry amazingly quickly once it is passing over land, with the result that, in summer, the eastern part of the peninsula might be dry and sunny, so those in the know head for Coverack or Cadgwith.

The Polar Maritime weather systems sweep down from the northwest with, obviously, lower temperatures, but on hitting land they produce much the same effect, and it rains again. The Arctic system – an infrequent winter visitor, one hopes – brings cold, moist air with a different effect: snow in most of the country but, on The Lizard, colder rain. The Polar Continental, coming from the north east, is also atypical (although lately it has become more frequent) and can bring hot, dry weather in the summer. Rarest of all is a Tropical Continental system wafting its way up from southern climes; this will bring warm, dry conditions - accompanied sometimes by a fine dust from the Sahara but we can easily forgive this.

So there you have it: default conditions, wet and windy; occasional treat, warm and sunny. No surprises, but it was good to have it all explained to us. Finally, Lesley answered questions from the floor, one of which was to ask about our appalling summer(s). It is all the fault of the jet stream. This normally moves up from the south in May or June, warming the Atlantic and thus the weather, but this year it didn't really happen. No-one knows why, and that about sums up the subject. So I shall leave you to muse on this well known philosophical verse by Anon:

*Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,
Whatever the weather, we'll weather the weather, whether we like it or not.*

Jane Grierson

Subscriptions will go up in 2014

A regular feature within the Membership Reports presented at our Annual General Meetings over the past ten years has been the Committee's ability to recommend no increase in the membership subscription rates. Again, for 2013, there will be no increase in the rates that apply from April.

However, acting on a recommendation from the floor of the meeting, it was agreed that, at this year's AGM, your Committee will propose modest increases that could be sustained for several years. As most of our expenditure on servicing members relates to printing and posting Newsletters, we may come forward with a proposal to discount for those members willing to receive electronic communications.

Ruan Minor Church

Among the most useful of sources for the local historian are the local newspapers, where, searching through the back numbers, the social history of the area is revealed to the reader. Most writers of traditional local history tend to write about the landowners and their fine houses, whereas to many the lives, working conditions, and housing, of those who toiled are just as important. Looking through the old files of the 'West Briton'. for 11th May 1855, I came upon the following paragraph regarding Ruan Minor church:

"The Parish Church of Ruan Minor was reopened for Divine Service on the 29th ult, after being completely restored and rebuilt. The west window of painted glass was the gift of Mr Lambe of Truro. The church was before in a very bad state, but through the exertions of the present rector, Rev C. F. Jackson, the building was restored to a very chaste and beautiful edifice. Appropriate services were performed on the occasion and attended by a crowded congregation. Collections were made to the amount of upwards of £31. The musical arrangements were conducted by Mrs Hempel of Truro and performed by the village choir."

Tony Hilton

Lifeboat for the Lizard

(from *The Times*, April 11th 1859)

"A correspondent writing from Mullion, in the neighbourhood of the Lizard, thus alludes to the necessity of a lifeboat in that dangerous locality, which has of late years been the scene of lamentable wrecks attended with distressing loss of life;- 'The stationing of a lifeboat at Port Mullion Cove has occupied serious consideration for a long time, but more particularly so since the awful wrecks at Porthurion Cove in September. In fact, it has haunted my thoughts day and night. I would have placed one there at my own expense had I been in circumstances so to do. The day after the unfortunate Czar struck on the Bogue Rock I went to the Lizard and had a long conversation with Mr Nelson, the chief engineer, and several of the sailors, then I looked at the wreck and was struck with the want of a lifeboat at Cadgwith, and although I still think that Cadgwith would be the right station for a lifeboat for that part of the port of Falmouth, yet the distance by sea is so great, and by land Cadgwith is such a dreadful place for a heavy carriage to get out of, that it would be of no possible benefit on this the west side of the Lizard Head.' The National Lifeboat Institution has decided to station a lifeboat in this dangerous locality. The Hon. Mrs Agar has munificently promised £50, and Mr T.J.A. Robartes, M.P. £100 towards this laudable undertaking. They have also promised to subscribe £10 a year towards the future maintenance of the establishment.

We therefore sincerely trust that contributions in aid of so praiseworthy an undertaking will be forthcoming, as it will involve an expense at the onset of between £300 and £400. The National Lifeboat Institution has already eight lifeboats on the west coast-viz. Appledore and Braunton [three boats], Bude Haven, Padstow, Penzance, Lennea Cove and Teignmouth. These establishments require a large annual outlay to keep them in a state of efficiency. We hardly need refer to the noble services which the lifeboats at Padstow and Appledore have rendered within the past few weeks in saving a large number of lives from four wrecks. We should be glad to see lifeboats at St Ive's and at Fowey, and we hope that the day is not far distant when we can report that these exposed places have been supplied with them."

Tony Hilton

The Great South West Walk

The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team is taking part in a special event to celebrate the SW Coast Path Association's 40th anniversary next Spring. The 'Great South West Walk' will help fund improvement projects all along the route in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. In Cornwall, which has the longest stretch of the Coast Path at 300 miles, the AONB team is taking the lead in terms of support and publicity.

The Path is estimated to generate over £300 million for the regional economy each year, with walking one of the most popular activities undertaken by visitors. To raise funds for improvement projects, over and above general maintenance, the SWCPA is launching the walk with the message: "Putting 40 years of love back into the Coast Path!" Many organisations are involved including the Coast Path Team, National Trust, County Councils and AONB Teams, along with local walking groups, tourism businesses and individuals.

The event next April/May will see at least 30 walkers each day take a series of sponsored walks (56 in all) covering the entire 630 miles. The walk starts on the South coast at Poole on 3rd April 2013 with the North coast series starting at Minehead on 6th April. Each leg will be guided by local experts, rangers and wardens. The Cornwall AONB's Pete Maxted is leading the Padstow to Porthcothan leg of the walk on Tuesday April 30th.

Walkers will be asked to raise £50 of sponsorship each, so that further funding can be levered from relevant organisations via matched giving. They can specify which project their sponsorship should support, if they wish, so that a particular favourite part of the Coast Path can be improved. Teams of walkers are welcome and businesses along the way can sponsor the event.

Please circulate this information and please do get involved., For more information, or to sign up to take part, please visit www.GreatSouthWestWalk.co.uk or follow the event on Twitter @LoveSWCoastPath. For more details contact: Helen Mulhern at Event – Marketing & PR on 01326 376273, Helen@eventy.co.uk or Pete Maxted at the Cornwall AONB pmaxed@cornwall.gov.uk



Kynance Cove from the Coastal Footpath

Wreck Commissioners Court - The Suffolk

This was an inquiry into the loss, on the 28th September (1886), of the steamer Suffolk, off the Lizard, with a herd of valuable cattle from America.

Mr Israel Davis, representing the Board of Trade, said in his opening statement that the Suffolk was a screw steamship of nearly 2,000 tons gross 923 net register. She left Baltimore on the 14th September with 2,900 tons of general cargo and 161 cattle. She was bound for London under the command of Captain William H. Williams. The ship was the property of the Suffolk Steamship Company Ltd. She had a crew of 27, four cattle men and two young gentlemen, friends of the owners, as passengers. She made the Bishop's Rock, in the Scilly Islands, on the morning of Sept. 28th and at 11.20 of that day a course was set up channel from a point five miles south of St Agnes, in the Scilly Isles. At 4.15 the same afternoon she ran aground in a fog just under the Lizard Head and became a total wreck. The main question [for the Court] would be how she got there, and whether the wreck could have been made less disastrous in its results.

The Captain was under examination nearly the whole of the day. He stated he intended to pass 12 miles south of the Lizard, and that the distance from there to the point off St Agnes whence he took his departure was only 42 miles. He had applied the usual corrections to the compasses. Another steamer, the large passenger vessel of the North German Lloyd, the Rein, went aground in the same fog a little to the east of him. He complained of not hearing the fog horn on the Lizard. Eight of the cattle were saved in a lighter which was brought from Falmouth, 41 were landed on the rocks, and some of the oxen landed were fed on the beach and then driven up into the country by a gully which was widened for the purpose by a gang of labourers employed by the agent of the shipowners. He believed that the receiver of wrecks had said the cattle could not be landed without a special permit, but the other cattle were not saved because there was not time to get them over the side of the vessel. One ox had to be pushed over by 13 men.

After further examination the Court was adjourned until Thursday.

(from *The Times* of 20 October 1886)

Tony Hilton

To BEEB or not to BEEB?

An article in the Sunday Telegraph on 18 November 2012, entitled "BBC's 'dirty little secret' lands it in a new scandal" caught my eye and prompted me to invite John Grierson to write an item for the Newsletter. The Telegraph article exposed the truth of a secret meeting that decided BBC policy on climate change. Apparently, the BBC has spent large sums of money fielding an array of lawyers against a pensioner from Wales to hide a secret. But that secret has now been disclosed, confirming how seriously the BBC has been misrepresenting its policy on one of the most far-reaching issues of our time. In 2007, the BBC Trust published a report claiming that its policy was established after a "high-level seminar with some of the best scientific experts" on climate change. When the names of the "experts" were recently revealed, the result was even more startling than had been suspected. Only three of the 28 specialists invited to advise the BBC were active scientists, none of them climate experts and all committed global-warming alarmists. Virtually all the rest were professional climate-change lobbyists, including Greenpeace, the Stop Climate Chaos campaign and the "CO2 project manager" for BP. The consequences of what this roomful of "climate activists" advocated as BBC policy were devastating. The seminar's organisers, were later able to boast that one of the first fruits of their good work was the BBC's Climate Chaos season, a stream of unashamedly propagandist documentaries and a string of ludicrous scare stories.

David Richardson

The BBC has become a centre for the practice of corporate masochism, shooting itself in both feet repeatedly. Now, however, everything in the Beeb garden will go back to being lovely again, because a Lord has been put in charge, and in true-Brit fashion, anyone with a title, however acquired, must know how to do things. Lord Hall, CEO will talk to Lord Patten, Chairman. What a cosy little BeebClub of Lords. I suppose Lord Hall could hardly do worse than his two immediate predecessors, but that remains to be seen. And heard. Almost un-noticed behind the Savile-Newsnight-McAlpine and other scandals, lurks the BBC's brass-necked approach to climate change and global warming, where its commitment to even-handedness has been thrown out of its ivory tower windows.

Humankind does not have the right to proceed as if it were the only species on Earth, owed the right to plunder, pollute and procreate without limit – and do all three at the same time. Frankly, to misquote Dr Johnson, the more I see of human behaviour the more I sympathise with animals, and the less I sometimes think we humans have the right to a future at all. But the errant behaviour of *some* humans does not give anyone carte blanche to scream "panic" and create, as has happened, a worldwide industry devoted to the sole cause of self-perpetuation in the name of planet-saving, waving banners about global warming - and climate change that the panic-mongers would have us believe is permanent. The people who run this doom-saying industry are making very good money, much of it sucked with enthusiasm out of the public purses of nations everywhere, and they don't intend, as doom-saying turkeys, to vote for an un-biased Christmas.

And this is where the Beeb comes in. Apparently happy to put aside the idea that there just might be another view on global warming and climate change (GWCC - I am going to use an acronym from now) the BBC brooks little or no debate on this, making a preponderance of room on its transmissions for the endless spawn of Gore with their messages of melt and flood. Have a look at the article to which our Newsletter Editor refers, above. But is the Telegraph right? Or, to put it another way, is there another side to this currently one-sided debate? I think there is, and I present for your consideration the following thoughts:

That *parts* of the Earth are warming up is a given. It just is. The ice caps *are* melting and hurricanes, fed by ever-warmer seas, *are* becoming more frequent and more fierce. Droughts *are* longer-lasting than they have been for ages. Plants *are* thriving or dying where they never thrived or died before; animals *are* being forced away from eating and breeding grounds which are eons old. But the GWCC lobby wants us to believe two things. First, that it's all our fault. All of us, everywhere. Second, that we are all doomed because this GWCC is never going to go away, and we are on the road to becoming a second Mars in very short order – hot, desiccated and lifeless. Tomorrow, possibly. The day after, at the latest.

We cannot go on polluting the atmosphere as though there were no tomorrow. That's a given too. But are we so arrogant as to believe that our puny selves can out-do Gaia or Mother Earth or Mother Nature when it comes to managing this massive organism on which we live, when she has managed herself in and out of umpteen global catastrophes millennia before homo became sapiens? We have a problem of perception here, and it is all down to our homo-centricity. We live, as individuals, for somewhere between 70 and 100 years. We measure everything in terms of our lifetimes, and cannot bear the thought that things happen at Earth-speed and in

Earth-time, not ours. So we have to assume, to hang onto our sanity, that if some scientists claim an imminent catastrophe, they must be right. What's the point of getting all upset if things are only going to happen in two thousand or two million years time? Complain *now!*. Agitate *now!* There's money to be made!

In the 17th Century, the Thames, and a lot else, froze over. There were Frost Fairs on the iced-over river. Did this herald the start of an ice-age? Of course not, because if it had, we would still be in it. But if Al Gore and his acolytes had been around at the time, you can be quite sure that they would have been all over the place with GCCC. Global *cooling* and climate change. We should have the sense to understand that the current surge of GW is likely to be just that – a surge, caused by sunspots, and/or cyclical activity we just don't understand - or an excess of hot air from the mouths of the GWCC lobby - and within something more than our lifetimes, overall temperatures will fall again. Then rise again, then fall again, ad infinitum. And very little if any of it will have been caused by human activity. We are just too insignificant to achieve that.

We have been gulled into accepting "global" warming. What is actually happening is that *some areas* of the Earth are showing signs of increased average temperature, but no-one has been able to show, at least not my satisfaction, that the entire globe is subject to that. There are areas where the temperature ranges have not changed for millennia, and that includes the great deserts, the great inland seas and indeed large swathes of both temperate and tropical forest. Same for vast areas of the oceans. Bear in mind the old saw about a man standing with one foot in a bucket of ice, and the other in a bucket of very hot water. On average, he is pretty comfortable. Averages can be misleading. To claim that the average temperature range of the Earth as a whole is going up is, for me, an argument too far. The GWCC jury has no business coming to a verdict, yet.

The same thing applies when we allow ourselves to talk about pollution, as if this were a global phenomenon too when, clearly, it isn't. Pollution is a local or regional thing. Who can argue that Los Angeles is not a pollution cesspool? Or Beijing, Kolkata, Mumbai, Cairo, and several other big cities, most of them in China? But do we really believe that this atmospheric pollution, caused by human activity, is enough to have created a world-wide blanket that is responsible for what is being described as the greenhouse effect – as if the entire Earth is one huge greenhouse?

But here's the thinking in those places where pollution is at its worst and really does need action: the equation, much trumpeted by countries described as "developing" (but in some cases, into what, exactly?) goes like this: "The amount of pollution is directly proportional to economic advance. The developed world developed on the back of massive pollution. So now it's our turn". Worse, these insouciant 21st century polluters are unmoved by arguments which hold that their selfish ways are causing problems beyond their own borders. Where?, they want to know? And that's part of the problem: no-one can prove even large-scale regional pollution as a fact, so as for global problems – it wasn't me, guv. And, in all probability, it wasn't.

Leaving pollution to settle, let's return to the matter of energy production, and clean, renewable, *electrical* energy in particular. That's what it is really all about. If we are going to crack the problem, we have to start drawing a clear line between local and national energy use, and at the moment that line is blurred. We have politicked and engineered ourselves into believing that locally produced, sustainable, clean electrical energy must, with some minor exceptions, be fed into a national cauldron to be dipped into by anyone for use anywhere and we are doing this through a system of subsidies and feed-in tariffs that boggle the mind. We can't go on doing this, because it is massively inefficient and comically expensive, so we have to think in a different direction. As follows: by all means generate electricity at huge power stations, and feed it to those who have to consume it in vast amounts. Factories, transport systems, massive office blocks, big city areas and so on, where local production for local use is not practicable. But when it comes to local use in homes, break up the national grid to the maximum extent and encourage a system where local use means local production and vice versa. And, while I am on about this, large-scale production has simply got to be nuclear, because it is the only means that makes proper sense if we accept that burning fossil fuels has to stop, as it must.

But shall we try to find another way to build nuclear power stations by *not* putting them on the coast where, for certain, there will be disasters of the Fukushima kind again? It's like building houses on flood plains; stupid, short-sighted, asking for trouble. Huge nuclear plants have to gulp down oceanic quantities of water to cool the reactors, but why does that water almost always have to be oceanic water? Are our scientists and engineers not yet clever enough to adapt the principles applied in ground-heat-exchangers for use in nuclear plants? You don't know about these? Have a Google and you'll see.

Now back to the BBC and its tunnel vision on GWCC. The massive Beeb organism is kept alive with annual injections of public money – approaching £4 billion every year. The licence tax (forget "fee"; it's a tax) is set by Parliament, which is populated by ... party politicians. And the parties, all of them, having nailed themselves to a policy of reducing CO₂ at any cost, will, through the Beeb's back door, demand that the Corp's programmes reflect that policy. Beeb independence? Phooey. It's no more independent than the Bank of England. And that's just a department of the Treasury.

The opinions expressed above are my own – not those of the LPHT. Agree or disagree, by all means, but do so by writing to the Chairman so that your views can be published in the next Newsletter. With my comments, of course.

John Grierson

Survey of Roadside Historic Features

Members may have seen reported in local newspapers that some historic fingerposts in the Roseland have been properly repaired by dismantling, sending to a foundry for restoration and reassembling in their original positions after painting. That was our intention when we started our own survey of historic features on the Lizard peninsula.

Recently, the St Keverne Parish Council gave publicity to its intention to seek improvements to fingerposts within the parish area. In responding to this initiative, I was invited to attend a

meeting of the Parish Council, when I outlined our own programme of surveying, including noting the condition of roadside heritage assets. It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide the Lizard Trust with a list of fingerposts in the parish, so that our volunteer surveyors could give priority to those features.

At the subsequent meeting of our Management Committee, it was agreed that two further GPS units would be purchased, to facilitate the accurate location of heritage finds, without our surveyors having to share the current single unit.

David Richardson

Planning matters - Extending permitted development rights

In November 2012, the Department for Communities & Local Government published a Technical Consultation "Extending permitted development rights for homeowners & businesses". Here is the **Introduction** from the document, from which you will see that the Lizard Peninsula area, being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, would be excluded from the proposals. I have a digitised copy of the full 30-page document. Please let me know if you would like a copy Emailed to you.

David Richardson

"Under the current system, homeowners wishing to extend their home more than a few metres from the property's rear wall have to fill in complicated application forms that can take eight weeks or longer for the council to consider. The large majority of homeowner applications are uncontroversial: around 200,000 are submitted each year, and almost 90 percent are approved, in almost all cases at officer level. The application process adds costs and delays, and in many cases adds little value.

We propose to make it quick, easier and cheaper to build small-scale single-storey extensions and conservatories, while respecting the amenity of neighbours. We estimate that up to 40,000 families a year wishing to build straightforward extensions will benefit from our proposals, and will be able to undertake home improvements to cater for a growing family or look after an elderly relative without unnecessary costs and bureaucracy. Some 160,000 homeowner applications will continue to be considered through the planning system as at present, including all the larger, more complex and controversial cases.

These measures will bring extra work for local construction companies and small traders, as families and businesses who were previously deterred take forward their plans. For illustration, 20,000 new extensions could generate up to £600m of construction output, supporting up to 18,000 jobs. In addition, each family who benefits will save up to £2,500 in planning and professional fees, with total savings of up to £100m a year.

Permitted development already removes hundreds of thousands of developments from the planning system every year, benefiting homeowners and businesses of all sizes, and reducing costs and delays. Extending permitted development rights further will promote growth, allowing homeowners and businesses to meet their aspirations for improvement and expansion of their homes and premises.

It is of course important to ensure that any impact on neighbours and communities is acceptable. For this reason, safeguards under planning and other regimes will remain in place, and the changes to permitted development rights for homeowners and businesses will not apply in protected areas such as Conservation Areas, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. These proposals do not remove the requirement for separate Listed Building Consent."

Ruan Major Church

Nearing Ruan Minor, the traveller along the A3083 notices the pinnacles of a church on the left hand side.

The derelict church is now all that remains of the parish of Ruan Major, described by W. Boxer Mayne (The Parishes and Churches of S. Grade, S. Ruan Major and S. Ruan Minor) as unique 'in that it had neither village, chapel nor public house'.

The population was small, no doubt due to the fact that a considerable part of the parish lay on Goonhilly Downs. It is strange, therefore, that the church was large, chancel, nave and tower, with north and south aisles.

In 1861 E.W. Godwin, an architect from Bristol, carried out a survey of the west Cornwall Churches, and wrote of Ruan Major 'There is] more green and mould than any I have seen, the parish, like many of the parishes in the locality is very poor, the landowners non resident, the church is decaying and rotting with damp, choked with filth of bats and birds, unfit for decent worship, with unmistakable signs of approaching dissolution.'

Something had to be done, that the number of worshippers was small was never in doubt, so, the church was 'restored' in 1866, the aisles were removed, two of the three bells being sold to pay for this. Services continued to decline, the Rev C.S. Vyvyan, in writing to the Bishop, reported that the monthly Communion service had ceased because 'nobody attended, the parishioners all being dissenters'.

In the Courtenay Library are some notes written by T. C. Peter, who, writing on Ruan Major, remarked 'there was no proper entrance to the churchyard, and its proximity to the farmyard meant it was filthy and untidy.' In another booklet Robin Bates and Bill Scolding suggest that the church was used by personal stationed at RAF Predannack.

In May 1963 an Order in Council was made that the church was closed. Unloved, it appears that only one or two funerals had taken place since 1945, and the parish population of 40 odd could not maintain the church. The roof was taken down in the 1960's for reasons of safety, whilst the font was taken to Ruan Minor church.



The forlorn church of St Rumon, a Grade I Listed Building, described by Nikolas Pevsner in his Cornwall county volume of "The Buildings of England" as: "A deserted church among trees, with only a few farm buildings near it, so little visited that at the time of writing a white owl was nesting in the timbers of the south porch roof."

Tony Hilton

The January 2013 Recipe - Walkers Flapjacks

Last year was the wettest on record so, as 2013 begins, I am sure we are all looking forward to some drier, brighter days. It was with this in mind that I chose the following recipe for this month. I am certainly looking forward to walking along the footpaths on the Lizard peninsula, so here is an energy-giving bar to take along with you:

1. Preheat the oven to 180 OC and line an 8 x 11" tin with baking parchment (you could use a foil disposable tray)
2. In a large saucepan melt 5oz butter, 20z dark soft brown sugar and 397g carnation condensed milk
3. Take off heat and add 9oz porridge oats, 3 ½oz dried cranberries, 9oz chopped dried apricots, 2oz pumpkin seeds and 2oz sunflower seeds.
4. Press lightly into the tin and sprinkle on extra seeds if you wish. Bake for 25 -30 minutes until golden.
5. Cool and cut into bars.

The listed seeds and fruits are just one idea and any combination of dried fruits, nuts and seeds could be used instead.

Lynda Blackman

Positions of responsibility in the management of the Trust

At the Annual General Meeting of the Trust last November and at the subsequent first Committee meeting after the AGM in December, the following positions of responsibility were appointed or confirmed:

Patron	Jill Morison DL
President	David Richardson (<i>ex officio, as most recent former Chairman</i>)
Vice Presidents	John Grierson & Peter Greenslade
Chairman	Geoff Blackman
Secretary	David Richardson
Treasurer	Geoff Blackman
Membership	David Richardson (<i>manager of the database</i>)
Newsletter editor	David Richardson
Events	Sub-Committee comprising: Lynda Blackman, Gill Richardson, Ann Chapman, Anne Roberts
Honorary auditor	Tim Hawkins
Web site	Peter Wood
Printing	Colin Chapman.

It can be seen from the above that we no longer have an Assistant Secretary, nor a position as Membership Secretary. To cover these activities, Lynda Blackman will take Minutes at meetings, while membership matters will be split between the Treasurer (who will continue to receive applications and renewals) and the manager of the membership database.

With the position of Vice Chairman again left vacant, in the event of the absence of the Chairman on a key occasion, an appropriate member of the Committee would be nominated to stand in.

Members of the Committee

Chairman	Geoff Blackman	01326 241722	
	Chy an Mordhu, 5 Park Enskellaw, Mullion		TR12 7JG
Vice Chairman	<i>(vacant)</i>		
Secretary	David Richardson	01326 280058	
	Bodlowen, Coverack, Helston		TR12 6TP
Treasurer	Geoff Blackman	01326 241722	
	Chy an Mordhu, 5 Park Enskellaw, Mullion		TR12 7JG
Committee	Avril Evens	01326 290629	
	Tresaddern House, Ruan Minor		TR12 7NA
	Ann Chapman	01326 221648	
	Chy Lean, St Keverne Road, Garras		TR12 6AY
	Gill Richardson	01326 280058	
	Bodlowen, Coverack, Helston		TR12 6TP
	Anne Roberts	01326 221243	
	Pipers Green, Garras, Helston		TR12 6LP
	Lynda Blackman	01326 241722	
	Chy an Mordhu, 5 Park Enskellaw, Mullion		TR12 7JG

Common Cornish Words as found in Fields or Fieldnames

parc/park	field
gweal/ gwel	cultivated field
gew	enclosed field
praze/pras	meadow
ton/todden	grassland
croft/kroft	small holding
dor/doar	small plot, ground
erow/ali	acre
lean/len	strip, stitch

Lynda Blackman

Ordnance Survey transcription project

We are about to start a "desk project" to transcribe every word and symbol, in our defined area, from the current 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.103 to a computer database. Every entry onto the database will be recorded by its OS 4-figure reference, plus an OS 6-figure reference where appropriate. It is anticipated that other factors such as Parish, entry type (eg word or symbol, building, settlement, coastal feature, carpark, picnic site etc) would be recorded and searchable from the database.

Once completed, we regard this new initiative as not only intrinsically valuable to the Trust in our day-to-day work and events programmes, but would also become a very attractive facility on our Website, by allowing visitors to the Website to search for locations, features, facilities etc that are of interest to them. In addition, as our current photographic archive project expands, the two databases could be linked to improve the facility yet further.

There are approximately 200 1km squares within the Lizard peninsula area itself, plus many more once we include the parishes of Gweek, Constantine and Mawnan that are included in our defined area. So the task is quite sizeable although it has a finite end.

If you would like to become involved in the task by, for example, being allocated a number of 1km squares to transcribe (initially onto a supplied Excel spreadsheet), please contact Geoff Blackman or me to register an interest.

David Richardson

Planning matters – Gweek Quay update

Members would have to look back to their October 2010 Newsletter (no 45), for my last comprehensive update of the Gweek Quay planning saga. As a brief reminder, however, the boatyard had tipped an enormous amount of illegal material into the Helford River at Gweek and the Kerrier District Council had negligently failed to use its statutory powers to stop it. Matters eventually came to a head when a Local Planning Inquiry was held in April 2010.

Subsequently, the Planning Inspector's decision, issued in July 2010, made four judgements, all against the boatyard and the Enforcement Order requiring the safe removal and disposal of the tipped material by 16 January 2013 came into effect again.

The ownership of the boatyard has now changed hands. Why are we now not surprised that a further planning application has been made, in yet another attempt to avoid their legal and environmental obligations? Along with many others, we have opposed it and recommended refusal.

David Richardson