

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 70, January 2017

Chairman's Message

Firstly, I would like to wish all our members a very happy and prosperous New Year. Secondly, thank you for all your support during my first year as Chairman; I cannot believe that the time has passed so quickly. Our Events Sub-Committee have been hard at work planning events for this year and provisional dates have been set for a few, including the Spring Lunch, which are included below. The full programme will be published for the April Newsletter. I hope to see as many of you as possible at these events and we welcome any ideas you may have for future events. We also welcome contributions to Newsletters; please send these to David Richardson. For the fourteenth successive year, the AGM resolved to support your Committee's recommendation for no increase in subscription rates for 2017-18. However, this can only be achieved by keeping costs in check, particularly for Newsletters and postage. Accordingly, we are now proposing to send out future Newsletters to members by E-mail, where possible, unless a specific request is made to continue to receive hard copy. This will have the additional benefits of seeing each issue in colour and receiving it as soon as it is published.

John Thompson

Events before the next Newsletter

(due in April 2017)

Spring Lunch

Friday 24 February 2017, 12:30pm for 1:00pm

We have a change of venue this year:

The Black Swan at Gweek, TR12 6TU

OS ref SW 706 268

Note that the car park is at the rear of the inn, turn into the little residential road and the car park is at the end of this.

We are awaiting full details of the 3 course menu choices, details of which will be circulated separately.

Cost will be approx. £25 and booking will need to be confirmed latest by 16 February 2017.

Trelissick Walk – Feock nr Truro TR3 6QL

(National Trust house and gardens) OS ref SW 836 396

Friday 17 March 2017 meet at 11:00am

At the grass car park (NT members park for free) for a walk around the grounds approx. 3.5 miles, dogs welcome.

Bring a picnic lunch. There is a formal garden and house to look around (no dogs) and café afterwards if anyone wishes to do so.

Advance plans for other events:

Wednesday 21 June 2017 – (longest day) sunrise breakfast.

Saturday 15 July 2017 – Annual BBQ at Mellan House.

Dean Super Quarry Issue update

We have been asked by some of our members and at the AGM if we would support CADS (Cornwall against Dean Super Quarry), both by action and by donation to their legal challenge fund. The Committee did discuss this at length during their last meeting. In respect of taking action, it was decided that the LPHT would consider making a formal representation when a planning application has been made together with the necessary environmental impact assessment. We did decide that the Trust cannot donate funds to the CADS legal challenge because, firstly, we are a registered charity and, secondly, a significant proportion of our funds are ring fenced for specific purposes.

The Quarry issue has been featured in the press and on both local radio and TV recently. Our local MP Derek Thomas also raised the issue in the House of Commons this month. Full details of all the press coverage and reports etc. can be found on CADS website <http://www.cads2015.com/>.

John Thompson

Nineteenth Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 15 November 2016

Agenda item 4 – Chairman's Report:

During the last 12 months, the Executive Committee has met five times to discuss finances, events, projects, planning and Newsletters. I am very grateful for the hard work and support of Committee Members.

We have again published 4 Newsletters, including a six page one in July which included 4 colour pages. I believe members find these Newsletters interesting and informative. We always welcome articles and features from our members about the Lizard Peninsula and ask you to include good quality photographs if possible. David Richardson has once again done a splendid job on the Newsletter and my thanks also to Jane Grierson for all her contributions. We are continuing to encourage members to receive the Newsletter by E mail. Apart from cutting our costs it enables recipients to see all the illustrations in colour.

Moving on to our Events programme, it has again been a very successful year. Lynda Blackman and her sub-committee are to be congratulated for producing such a varied Events Programme, with eleven events scheduled through the year. We started with a most enjoyable lunch at the Prince of Wales in St Martin and we hope to organise another lunch for 2017, probably at a new venue.

We had excellent weather for our visit to Pencarrow House and Gardens, which was very interesting and informative. These out of area visits have been successful and we are planning another one in 2017. A challenging Treasure Hunt around Church Cove and The Lizard was also blessed with good weather. Thanks to Anne Roberts and Gill Richardson for organising these events. The Annual BBQ was again held at Mellan House and thanks to all who helped with the food. Our Midsummer Picnic looked like it was going to be a wet one but the rain stayed off and clouds cleared just enough to produce an amazing sunset. Thanks to Lynda for organising that. Steve Townsend led another interesting Botanical Walk on Goonhilly and thanks to Steve for organising that one. Thanks also to Jane and John Grierson for organising the annual Veggie Bonanza in their garden which was enjoyed by all. The latter part of the year included a visit to Helford village, the Helston Railway, a walk from Penrose to Porthleven and finished up with Post Cards and Cream Tea here in Mawgan Village Hall. Thanks again to all who helped with these events and the catering. Planning for our events in 2017 has already started so please advise the Committee of any ideas you have for this.

A new project we have taken on this year is to re-vamp and update our website and move it to a new platform where we will be able to maintain it and keep it updated ourselves. We have enlisted the help of an IT specialist to design and produce the new website, we expect to be able to go live with this in the first half of 2017. Thanks must go to our member Peter Wood who has looked after the old website for many years and painstakingly updated this for us on an as-needed basis.

I have already mentioned a number of people for their support during the year. In addition I would like to thank our Patron Jill Morison, Honorary Auditor Tim Hawkins and our printer Colin Chapman for their continued support. In addition may I offer my sincere thanks to Adele and John Brazier and Avril Evens who are standing down from the Committee this year.

Absenteeism Grieves Members

What can one say about another successful LPHT AGM except that it was just as enjoyable, business-like, fun, educational and exceptionally well-provisioned as all the previous ones? Well, one could say that it was not quite so well-attended, and this was rather sad. There seemed to be more apologees than attendees. However, sometimes life just works out that way, and we hope that some of our absent friends will be with us next year.

Members of the Committee work hard on logging and presenting the Minutes of each AGM, so it seems only fair that one should address those pages with due diligence, something I have seldom done. This year, however, with closer attention I was rewarded by a greater knowledge of the intricacies of our charitable organisation. Details are meticulously chronicled, so that everyone will know who said what to whom and what the consequence was. For example, at the 2015 AGM, my other half expressed concern at the amount of money sitting in the LPHT coffers. The Minutes record, with a perhaps Freudian typo, that "The Treasurer assured John Grierson that his concerns would be disused at Committee."

Teasing aside, the AGM always reminds me of how our membership is dwindling, although the Committee does a sterling job of trying to keep the numbers up. The decline leads me to wonder what would attract new members and what, indeed, keeps our current flock in the fold. So, perhaps a new page on our soon-to-be-updated interactive website would be a good idea, with a questionnaire that might go like this:

We are members of LPHT because:

- We enjoy the walks, or at least the first mile or two until knees/back/hips start complaining.
- We relish the Team Cuisine productions.
- The camaraderie is wonderful and we have made many friends over the years.
- We love the Newsletters (*so do I, and the bottle of wine at year end! JG*).
- We regard the LPHT as an insurance policy against any more callithumpian rock festivals.
- Being magnanimous, we don't mind forking out £9 p.a. for a good cause, whatever it is.
- We sometimes worry about The Lizard's heritage. It is good to keep up to date with what is happening on that score, and know that we can help by going for a walk/picnic/interesting meeting.
- Any other reasons.

Then you can email us your replies (yes, come on, give us those email addresses!) and we can save them to our hard drive for use in a membership drive (or is it vice versa?).

Where was I? Back at the table d'hôte in Mawgan Village Hall, availing myself of the choice morsels and wine. Excellent as always. This was followed by another illustrated talk by Steve Townsend of Natural England, who could hardly believe, along with us, that it was six years since his last one. Steve has led us on many a fascinating local walk over the years, and his expert knowledge and keen sense of humour is always a highlight. His presentation was equally proficient, and held us spellbound for nearly an hour while he talked about his work, illustrated with slides of flora, fauna, landscapes and his favourite members of staff, the Shetland ponies. His devotion to his work comes across as a shining example of how we should all care passionately about our environment.

Which brings me back to where it all started, 19 years ago, when a group of us decided to fight the local rock-fest. One of this group was Mrs Avril Evens, already a stalwart member of the CPRE at that time, and who became a founder member of the Friends of The Lizard; indeed, it was Avril who came up with that name. Sadly, Avril has had to retire from the Committee, due to ill health, but she will remain a supportive member and her name will go down in our history. John Grierson made a short speech to express our gratitude to Avril and to wish her well. We still hope to see her at some of our future meetings. Along with more of your good selves. We promise that you'll enjoy it.

Jane Grierson

Postcard Teas

I bet not many of you know that in New Bond Street, Mayfair, there is classily shop called Postcard Teas, where one can apparently purchase all manner of up-market beverages and very expensive postcards on the topic of tea. Well, who needs Mayfair? On an early November afternoon, a dozen or so of us gathered at Mawgan Village Hall and held our own version – more fun, more delicious, more educational and cheaper!

John Thompson had entertained us once before with his collection of historical postcards, based mostly on Coverack, but this time he extended that theme to include the Lizard peninsula generally. Some of the cards, and indeed other documents, dated back over one hundred years, so we thus learned some fascinating history about our treasured territory.

Did you know, for example, that Redruth ran a regular tram service in days gone by? Well, maybe that sounds obvious, but did you also know that, once upon a time, the incoming tide at Porthoustock came up to where the telephone box now stands? And not just one, but two entire cottages were knocked down in St Keverne square, making room for ... well, we don't really know, but the church has sported a rather splendid entrance gate ever since, and the Three Tuns Inn came into being; thus, perhaps, keeping all walks of village life happy.

Our afternoon held many amusing moments too. An ancient information leaflet for the Coverack Headland Hotel spoke of "this comfortable hotel" with the opposite page showing a lovely view of it - printed sideways. Not so comfortable if it caused the residents to roll out of bed during the night! Lesser establishments boasted, in their 1909 pamphlet, of "Choicest Cable Delicacies" and we all, for a moment, wondered if Marconi had been involved in some way. Then our error was spotted: the C was, in fact, a rather gothic T. The resultant "table" made much more sense, particularly when taken in partnership with the subsequent "reliable eggs". We mused momentarily on how an unreliable one would have been defined, but had to give up. Had there been a curate among us, perhaps we would have got the answer.



A postcard of the harbour, Coverack, posted in 1963

And have you ever heard the term "whiffer"? It was mentioned in a dated Coverack Guide, so I made a note to look it up once I got home. Mr Google's *Urban Dictionary* team gave me two meanings: "a smelly person"; and something so unmentionable that I am issuing a red warning to you not to explore further! In boating terms, the meaning is less urban and more urbane: the C.O.D. defines "whiff" as a "light, narrow, out-rigged sculling boat", which I guess is close enough for us. (NB - Some of our readers will be more familiar than others with the word "sculling".)

Enough hilarity for now. Another historical nugget was demonstrated by a series of postcards of Mullion Cove and Hotel, where we could see how the various footpaths between both had been gradually eroded over the years, or perhaps fallen into the sea. These days, global warming would be the

villain of the piece, but a century ago it was simply what the sea *did*, and coastal dwellers just got used to it.

Not all the postcards were of coast and cottages, however. Two of them, circa 1910 perhaps, sported pictures of rather, erm, fresh-looking young ladies, the writing on the obverse informing the recipient that it was "another one for your collection". Our minds boggled; even more so when one of our audience read aloud the rest of the greeting which spoke of being "knackered". I had no idea that this word was in common parlance a century ago, so was much relieved to look more closely and see that it actually said, "packed out". Should have gone to Specsavers!

And so the meeting went on, an absorbing and frequently amusing hour and a half, John happily sharing his collection, and patiently bearing our audience participation in the form of frequent interruptions – all perceptive, precise, well-honed and occasionally witty, as you would expect. Ahem.

The meeting ended, as again you would expect, with sustenance - the hugest, most delicious pile of scones, butter, jam and cream which we fell upon with our usual enthusiasm. Our thanks, once again, to Team Cuisine, and to John.

PS Hands up all those who googled "whiffer"!

Jane Grierson

In recent Newsletters, Lynda Blackman initiated an alphabetical series of brief notes on some of Cornwall's towns and villages. This is now a regular feature in our Newsletters, serving as a reminder of how delightful and attractive many of the County's historic settlements are:

Egloskerry (Egloskerri in Cornish) is a village and parish in the Deanery of Trigg major and Hundred East. It is five miles north west of Launceston bounded by the River Attery to the north. The name 'Egloskerry' means 'Church of Keri'. *St Keri/a* is thought to have been one of *King Brychan* of Wales twenty four children. The village and parish consist of churchtown plus a scattering of farms and hamlets. The manor of Penheale was mentioned in the Domesday Book but the present building only dates back to the seventeenth.



The fifteenth century church of *St Keri and St Petroc* was originally dedicated to *St Ide and St Lydy* in 1260 but rededicated to *St Keri* in 1506. Egloskerry railway station opened on 3 October 1892 when the London & South Western Railway opened a line between Launceston and Tresmeer.

The small goods yard at the station closed on 9 May 1960 and the station completely a few years later. On 3 October 1966, the line that passed through Egloskerry closed entirely. John Betjeman even mentions it in his biography. The old station now serves as a B&B.

(Location – 5 miles NW of Launceston at grid reference SX272866)

Lynda Blackman

Free-From !

I have noticed recently that being free from gluten, wheat, dairy or even sugar has become very trendy. Many people, of course, have needed to follow a diet free from certain ingredients due to a medical condition, unlike some people who now choose to follow a free-from diet. I have three friends all whom fall into need-to category rather than choose-to, so have many times investigated recipes. However, recently I helped on a cake stall for the RNLI and several times we were asked for such products – this particular recipe was a great success and enjoyed by people who do not need or choose to follow a gluten free diet.

Lemon Drizzle Cake

Replace ground almonds with gluten-free self-raising flour and make it nut-free.

Ingredients:

175 g butter or spread (I used vitalyte to make dairy free)
175 g (6oz) caster sugar
4 medium eggs, lightly beaten
125 g (4oz) gluten-free self-raising flour
1 tsp gluten free baking powder
1/2 tsp xanthan gum
50 g (2oz) ground almonds (replace with more gluten free flour to make it nut free)
3 lemons
75 g (3oz) caster sugar

Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan) mark 4.
Grease and line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin.
In a large bowl, beat together the butter and sugar with an electric hand whisk until fluffy.
Gradually add the eggs, followed by grated lemon zest and the juice of ½ a lemon.
Sieve the flour, baking powder and xanthan gum into the mixture - fold in the ground almonds. Then spoon into the tin and bake for 40-50min or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Mix the 75g caster sugar in a small bowl with the juice of the remaining lemons.
Prick the hot cake with a skewer or fork and spoon over most of the lemon and sugar mix. Leave to cool in the tin for 10min, then invert on to a wire rack to cool. Brush the remaining lemon and sugar mix around the cake sides.
Store in a tin – lasts well for about 4 days if not eaten by then!

Lynda Blackman

The Battle of the Lizard

Knowing of my interest in military history, my daughter recently presented me, as a birthday present, with a very large book entitled '1001 Battles'. Opening this tome at random somewhere in the middle I was astonished to see a description of The Battle of the Lizard fought in 1707. I had never heard of this before and will give a brief summary. The battle fought off the Lizard between the Royal Navy and the French Navy took place in the War of the Spanish Succession. Members will be relieved to know that I will not give a long explanation of the origins or details of this war. Suffice to say that it took place in the early years of the eighteenth century and its most notable event was the famous victory of the British Army under John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough over the French at Blenheim in 1704. Three years later a large convoy of English ships, escorted by 5 warships was heading for Spain carrying supplies and troops when it was intercepted by 2 squadrons of French warships. The first French squadron attacked aggressively and, when the second squadron eventually joined the battle, the English warships suffered severe damage. In fact, three of them were captured and another blew up killing virtually all its crew. The fifth, named Royal Oak managed to escape and reached safety on the Irish coast. However, most of the convoy survived although some were also captured. This was undoubtedly a major defeat for the Royal Navy.

Geoff Blackman

Winter walk in the wet

Just six hardy members, two guests and two dogs gathered at the St Keverne car park on Saturday 10 December for the walk to the Fat Apples Café via Porthoustock. It was raining but, undeterred, we donned the wet weather gear and boots and set off down the muddy footpath towards Porthoustock. The dogs had a great time charging around in the open fields in the first part of the walk before the path goes through the sheltered wooded valley with the stream running through it. By the time we got to Porthoustock the rain had almost stopped, so we were able to have a look at the beach there and show our guests who had not been previously. We then followed the Coast Path back inland – it goes inland from this point to avoid the old quarry workings and the salt works at Porthkerris. The uphill climb to Trenance was tricky in the mud – two steps forward, one back! A field of daffodils adjoins the path when you reach the top and some were already in flower; just goes to show what a mild winter we have had up to then. At least from Trenance it was a tarmac lane walk to where the Coast Path goes down through another wooded valley to the Café.



We were all, including the dogs, made very welcome at the Fat Apples Café despite being very wet and muddy. Two further members met us for the lunch so that swelled the numbers to ten. We had booked for between ten and twelve in number but, as it was such a wet day, there was only one other table occupied. As usual, the food and drinks were excellent and again very welcome to re-charge the batteries before the next session of braving the elements. The two members who joined us at lunch thought we were mad and offered to ferry us all back to St Keverne in their cars.

Bravely, we declined the offer but, as it was raining even harder by now, we decided to shorten the route by taking the road up to Trenoweth Farm Nurseries where the path leads off down into the Trenoweth valley and comes out in St Keverne near the Village Hall. A good navigation aid when walking in that area is the St Keverne Church spire which, even on a cloudy day, can be seen from the roads and paths. No one could be persuaded to pop into the Three Tuns Inn for a quick drink, so we headed out through the churchyard and back to the car park. The church dates from Norman times but there has been a place of worship there since 600 AD. The church is actually named St Keverne Church and I assume the village is named after the church. In the churchyard is a mass grave for the recovered bodies of the 106 folks who perished at sea when the SS Mohegan was wrecked on the Manacles on 14 October 1898. 91 folks did survive but it was considered one of the worst maritime disasters at the time. The ship was supposed to be sailing down the Channel to New York but took a wrong turn near the Lizard and ran aground on the Manacles rocks; human error not bad weather was to blame apparently.

Bad weather aside, we all had a good walk and it is one to do again, taking in the full route and a look at Porthallow beach where there is an interesting weather forecasting stone named after yours truly. I suspect it would have been pretty accurate if we had seen it on the day!

John Thompson

The Battle off Lizard Point

While doing some additional research into the Battle of the Lizard (see page 3 of this issue), I discovered another little known military action near the Lizard. This is known as The Battle off Lizard Point and occurred in 1637 during the Dutch War of Independence. For eighty years until 1648 the Dutch tried to gain their independence from Spain, often receiving unofficial help from England. In February 1637 a Spanish squadron of warships attacked an Anglo-Dutch convoy of merchant ships, which was escorted by six Dutch warships, off Lizard Point. After a fierce battle, the Dutch flagship and two other warships were captured by the Spanish. The other three Dutch warships were sunk. The merchant convoy dispersed but fourteen of them were also captured by the Spanish who took all their prizes to Dunkirk after managing to avoid a much larger Dutch fleet sent to intercept them.

Geoff Blackman

Pleas for Bees

Those of you who attended our November AGM would have heard me making a plea on behalf of our Cornish bees, asking members to sign an online petition to encourage Cornwall Council to ban neonicotinoids. The scientific evidence that neonicotinoids are dangerous to bees – and other pollinators such as butterflies – grows ever stronger.

I hope you will all be pleased to hear that the petition worked. It was set up by Friends of the Earth, a few of whom dressed as giant bees and, just before the Council met, handed in the list containing thousands of signatures. A motion was subsequently passed, banning bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides on all the Council's parks, gardens and verges.

This is a small step in the right direction, and I, for one, am thrilled to bits! Unsurprisingly, however, it doesn't stop at The Tamar. Do please do your bit for our stripey friends and go to this website <https://act.foe.co.uk/act/join-generation-saves-our-bees>, then follow the instructions to persuade the government to ban *all* neonics (as they are not very fondly called). It will take a few seconds of your time, but could mean a lifetime to a bee. Meanwhile, the little fellows are doing their best to proliferate.

Jane Grierson

At the first meeting of the Committee after the AGM, as in every year, all positions of responsibility are discussed and agreed. No changes were made and post holders remain the same.

Members of the Committee

Chairman	John Thompson Mellan House, North Corner, Coverack TR12 6TH	01326 714417
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Vice Presidents: John Grierson, Peter Greenslade, David Richardson

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