

INFORMATION

Village Activities

(All held in the chapel)

WI: 2nd Monday in the month
2.00pm: Sally Brocklehurst 864717

Coffee Stop: 1st Friday in the month, 10.00—11.30am; except Jan
Sale of coffee, cakes, preserves etc

Lunch Club: one Wednesday each month, dates vary. Contact Betty 863902 / Bridget 862662

ROCKs—Right On Church for Kids: every Sunday 10.30—11.30 am in the school rooms Sept—June. Contact Penny 862624

B*olders—8-16 year olds. Times vary. Contact Kath 864415

Café Church—every Sunday 10:45-11-30 am Sept-June (11-18 years). Contact Vicky 864729

Parish Office Opening Hours

Monday 9.30 am—12.30pm
Wednesday 1.30 pm—4.30 pm
Friday 9.30 am—12.30pm

At other times please leave a message — 863333.

Hire of Rooms

Penpoll Methodist Church
Meetings, functions, parties etc
contact Bridget 862662

Mobile Library

Saturdays—fortnightly
Penpoll Bridge & Point Green

Home Library Service

Angela Spurgin, Truro Library
0800 032 2345 (freephone)
enquiryexpress@cornwall.gov.uk

Corlink

Taxi service to nearest appropriate bus route
Tel: 0845 8505556
www.cornishkey.com

Bus Service

www.truronian.co.uk
01872 273453

Point Quay Association

Tez Smith 865413
www.pointquayassociation.org.uk

Restronguet Creek Society

Antony Lane 870123
www.restronguetcreeksociety.org

Village View Editors

Ewan McClymont 862624
Tez Smith 865413
Nicki John 864750

Printed by Mid Cornwall Printing

The Village Magazine for Point & Penpoll

From Penpoll
Methodist Church

Issue No 31
Christmas 2009



Message From...

Dear Friends,

'Teenage pregnancy rates go back up,' so the papers say. Earlier this year we heard of a young lad who became a 'dad' at 13. There are numerous reports of similar incidents. Youth homelessness figures are falling but at least 75,000 young people are still at risk. Which occupations would you consider to be the dirtiest? Refuse collecting? Cleaning out sewers? Clearing up after recent flooding? Shepherd? I'm not going into the incidence of mental illness, or, indeed, immigration. "What has all this got to do with Christmas?" you may well ask. Some will know but let me remind you of some of the people in the Christmas story.

Mary and Joseph, shepherds, John the Baptist (not in the Christmas story) called by God, to 'Prepare the Way' for Jesus, and the Wise Men. Jesus was born to Mary, who was engaged to Joseph. We, popularly, make her an unmarried teenager. We hold up our hands in horror but, not only was she pregnant before marriage, but this couple were also homeless. Yet Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, was born to a couple who were not married. There wasn't room at the inn, so Jesus was laid in a manger. The greatest event in history took place in the most awful conditions. A far cry from the hygiene and the warmth of a maternity hospital, and it happened to a young, unknown, unmarried girl. "I am the Lord's servant, I will do whatever he wants".

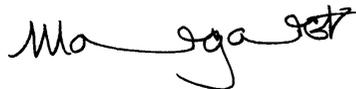
Halfway through Advent we usually go back a bit in the story and consider John the Baptist. Straight out of the wilderness unwashed, unkempt, a loner, crying out to the people. A cousin to Jesus, he had surely flipped. Today he would probably be

considered mentally ill and be admitted to hospital for stabilisation. Or perhaps the police would take him away for being a disorderly vagrant. He was waiting for Jesus, calling people to repent, preparing the way.

The message of the birth of Jesus was first heard by outsiders. The first people to be told that Jesus was born were a group of lowly shepherds at work. Today it might be refuse collectors, or those who clear the drains or sewers. God came to the common people – not people that you would expect to be given the message first, but God knew what he was doing. And, very much a part of our nativity plays are the Wise Men. We admire them for their perseverance. They listened to God. We know they were foreigners but not the colour of their skin. They eventually found him, and they responded with their gifts and their joy. God used people from other countries, strangers, to show us the way. They were welcome. Racial prejudice is still rife in our country today.

These are the characters of Christmas that is more than story, it is fact. They help us to prepare for the arrival of Jesus, the ultimate outsider/insider, for whom there was no room at the inn for his birth, but there was room on the cross for his death. He would be heralded by a mad man, born to an unmarried girl, born somewhere pretty rough, visited by lowly shepherds, adored by Wise Men, servant of all, King of Kings. Welcomed by those whom we shun. Christmas above all, shows the world upside down, when outsiders lead the way.

I wish you all a Very Happy & Blessed Christmas, and rich blessings for 2010. With love,



Reverend Margaret Barnes

R.K. and L. POOLEY BUILDING CONTRACTORS



**Maintenance
Repairs
Renovations
Extensions**

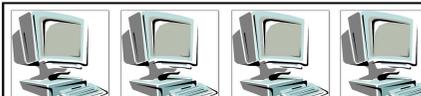
**Tel: 01872 862361
01209 716411**



ALMOND'S MOBILE NEWSAGENTS TEL. 01872 870477

*NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR
WE PROVIDE A FRIENDLY AND
EFFICIENT SERVICE—WHATEVER THE
WEATHER, 364 DAYS OF THE YEAR*

PLEASE CALL TO DISCUSS YOUR
REQUIREMENTS



Computer Training

For friendly, professional
help with:

E-mail, Digital Cameras,
Internet, Windows, Word,
Excel etc.

Call Ian on:
01872 870702



David Vowles Interior and Exterior Painting and Decorating

**The Old Couthouse
Creegbrawse
St Day
Cornwall
TR16 5QF**

Tel 01209 822575



CHRIS ELLIS GARDEN SERVICES

All basic garden
needs undertaken

Grass Cutting, Hedge
Trimming, Strimming, Ground
Clearance, Fencing and
Pressure Washing of Paths
and Patios

**Friendly, prompt and
polite service at all times**

**Tel. 01872 870400
Mob. 07974 563857**

**PC
Doctor Dickson**
First Aid For Your PC

Complete PC and Network Support
for Homes and Businesses

Computer Repairs
Upgrades
Wireless Networks
Virus Removals
Training Services



01726 883748 07801 952675

Web: www.pdoctordickson.co.uk
Email: sales@pdoctordickson.co.uk
Probus, Truro TR2 4NE

Sharon Thomas

**Ladies Mobile
Hairstylist**

25 years experience

Tel. 01872 862 361

For an appointment

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
ADVERTISE HERE
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Nicki John

01872 864750

Sessions offered
IN YOUR HOME or
AT PRACTICE in Truro

A physiotherapy practice

that specialises in

stroke and

neurological disorders

Movement Solutions
01872 241956

CONTENTS

Telephone Box	page 4	Memory Lane	9
WI	5	In Memoriam - Arthur Cope	10-11
PQA	5	In Memoriam - Ralph Bird	11-12
B*Olders	6	Night Sky	13
Chapel History	7	Adverts	13-15
Concert and Nativity	8	Local Information	16

WHAT'S ON AT PENPOLL METHODIST CHURCH

December

- Fri 4th Christmas Coffee Stop, 10.00 – 11.30am
 Wed 9th Lunch Club 12 noon
 Fri 18th Charity Christmas Concert by Syd Mitchell and Friends
 7.30pm followed by supper
 Sun 20th Carol Service 10.30am
 Nativity 6.00pm
 Thurs 24th Midnight Communion Service with the Revd M Barnes,
 BA, BTh, 11.30pm
 Fri 25th Christmas morning service at Feock Methodist
 Church, 10.00am

January

- Fri 1st NO Coffee Stop
 Wed 13th Lunch Club 12 noon
 Sun 24th Chapel Anniversary service led by the Revd Dr John
 Johnson 10.30am. Lunch for all.

February

- Fri 5th Coffee Stop 10.00 – 11.30am
 Wed 10th Lunch Club 12 noon

March

- Fri 5th Coffee Stop 10.00 – 11.30am
 Wed 10th Lunch Club 12 noon
 Sun 14th Mothering Sunday – Café Church style service 10.30 –
 11.30am



Red Green Icon

Should Bill Bryson ever wander past Point Green, en-route to the post box to dispatch another fuming missive to the editor of the Daily Telegraph on the plight of rural England, then he'd probably be aware of the Green's association with Battersea Power station and Liverpool's Anglican cathedral. In the bottom right hand corner of the Green stands a diminutive design icon, the K6 GPO telephone box, which like the aforementioned brick and sandstone monoliths, is a work of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The 'Kiosk No 6', introduced for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935 was deployed in virtually every town and city in the UK and can be seen on the streets of Malta, Gibraltar and Bermuda.

At a recent meeting of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the President, Bryson, highlighted the need to preserve the defining features of the English countryside including ancient trees, hedgerows, telephone boxes, and the village store and pub. While the latter may be long gone from Point, the future of its telephone box should soon be secured. The Parish Council is to



procure the box from British Telecom for the nominal sum of £1. The PQA has agreed to maintain the box in addition to the orchard and quay.

In the winter, the telephone box acts as the village lighthouse, providing a cosy focus during the months of daylight saving. Once the phone is removed, the question of what to do with the box arises. Perhaps we should take a lead from the villagers of Westbury-sub-Mendip where they now have a new mini-library for book exchanges, or do we need a Gallery On The Green as the inhabitants of Settle opted for?

If you have any alternative ideas for a use for the telephone box give a member of the PQA a bell, but you'll need to be quick if you want to use the phone box on the Green!



A Winter's Sky At Night

The planet Jupiter can easily be found as the brightest object in the current night sky, being about one hand-span (held at arm's length) above the horizon around 6pm if you look to the South West. The Moon will be close to Jupiter on the 21st and 22nd of December. Jupiter is currently at the top left of the faint constellation of Capricorn, whose main claim to fame is to be a constellation of the Zodiac. This means the Sun appears in front of it at some point during the year, the timing of this event slowly varying over a roughly 25,800 year cycle caused by a phenomenon called Precession.

In very ancient times the Sun appeared in front of Capricorn around our Shortest Day. Because that day always also marks the time when the Sun is overhead at noon on the Southern Tropic, this explains why that line came to be called "The Tropic of Capricorn". By the time the Magi were seeking the Christ Child, the Sun appeared adjacent to, rather than in front of, Capricorn on our Shortest Day. Twenty more centuries of Precession mean that the Sun is now well clear of Capricorn at this time of year, hence we can see this constellation well after sunset on December 21st. On this date the Sun is also overhead at noon on a line which is still called The Tropic of Capricorn, even though the alignment which gave it that name no longer applies. Neil Rundle.

RIGHT HAND WOMAN UK

LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT / PERSONAL ORGANISER

Right Hand Woman has vast experience of co-ordinating a wide range of lifestyle projects and events.

- Organise & supervise trades people at home or organise a spring clean
- Preparing 2nd / holiday home: e.g. heating on, pre-agreed food shop, supper in oven & clean up on departure!
- Personal shopper: Source & purchase special gifts / products
- De-cluttering rooms
- Organise family reunions / surprise outings, parties or YOUR special event
- Dropping in on an elderly relative – helping with chores/personal shopping
- PA – Any project you haven't TIME to organise and see through yourself

No challenge too big (or small!) - Making the impossible, possible!
Great references - Enhanced CRB checked - Confidentiality assured

Please contact Nicki: info@righthandwomanuk.co.uk
01872 864 750 or 07971 481 363



The sport of gig racing derived from the keen competition between gig crews to reach incoming ships first and to get their pilot aboard to claim the pilotage fee. Ralph was enraptured by the speed and elegance of the gigs from an early age, and arranged with Newquay Rowing Club to borrow three of their traditional gigs to stage the first Ralph Bird Three Rivers Race in Truro in 1981. The drive and determination with which he promoted the event triggered a revival, and within a few years several clubs had formed to compete and to popularise the sport.

Assisted by George Northey, Ralph arranged a meeting of club representatives in the front room of his cottage at Carnon Mine, Devoran, in December 1986 whereby they agreed that a Cornish Pilot Gig Association should be established to ensure the build measurements of future boats. A year later, Ralph's detailed specifications based on a 19th century Newquay gig, 'Treffry', were accepted for the future standard, and his first gig built for Cadwith Club, 'Buller', was an exact copy.

There are now 53 affiliated gig clubs from as far afield as France, the US, Australia and the Faeroe Islands. For 21 years Ralph, a painstaking and

unhurried perfectionist, produced from his small but functional workshop in Devoran classic gigs for many of the leading clubs of enthusiasts that his initiative had inspired. He was a quiet, mild-mannered man, a peerless craftsman, as well as a prodigious researcher and amateur marine historian. His public talks about gigs, pilot cutters, wooden boats and local history conveyed his enthusiasm and delight in the subjects, and usually sold out. He wrote two books, lectured on boat building at Falmouth Marine School and made weekly visits to the National Maritime Museum, where he was closely involved in a succession of restoration projects.

Of the 141 registered gigs now in use, Ralph personally hand-built 29 of them. In October 2007, the year he retired from boat building, all 29 gigs that Ralph had built were brought together on the beach in Newquay for the christening and launch of his last, built for the Porthgain club in Wales. Rather fittingly, the owners named it 'Ralph Bird' in honour of its creator.

Ralph Bird is survived by his second wife, Marie, former postmistress of Devoran Post Office, and by three children from his first marriage, John, Vanessa and Patrick.



Womens Institute

Having recovered from another very successful community evening with the underwater photographer, Mark Webster, we are now planning next year's programme. This should feature the Penlee House Gallery paintings, the Mercy Ships Charity, Bonhams auctioneers, 'Quirky Cornwall' - parts of the county we might not have noticed as told to us by a Cornish Bard, how to look after our feet by a chiropodist, the life of a vet in Swaziland and during the BSE and Foot and Mouth in Wiltshire, also Prof. Jan Pentreath talking about Cornish Wildlife and the Wildlife Trust.

We shall start the year with our usual 'do-it-ourselves' entertainment, which one member has said she prefers to all the talks we have! Last year's formula of piano duets, Cornish monologues and generally laughing at ourselves was so enjoyable that something similar is being planned for January. Elaine Beckton has said she will come and demonstrate Indian head massage to us at our annual meeting in February; and in March, Charlie and Nelson, the fire accelerant detection dogs working with Cornwall Fire Brigade, will come and give a demonstration.

After a wonderful talk about the cultivation of willow and its uses, Carol Horsington is returning in December to run a workshop, teaching us to make garlands for the front door and Christmas decorations. Instead of a Decem-

ber meeting we always go out to lunch, and this year the venue will be the St. Michael Hotel in Falmouth.

Our final planned event will be only a few days before Christmas with carol singing around the village on Monday 21st December to raise money for The Fishermen's Mission in Newlyn. We shall start at Point Quay at 6.00pm and end about two hours later at Penlee for the usual mince pies and mulled wine. We are planning to come along the Tram road to the bridge, up Penpol hill, down Point road, around Chycoose Park and then down the Ropewalk. Please listen out for us and come and join in even if it is only for a short while. Sally Brocklehurst (01872 864717).

Point Quay Association

The AGM of the PQA was held on 3rd December 2009 at Penpoll Chapel. After reviewing the accounts and activities on the Quay over the last 12 months, thanks were made to those who have helped in maintaining the Orchard and Quay. Billy Trebilcock and Ewen Abram-Moore were replaced as Secretary and Chairman by Howard Spiers and Tez Smith respectively. John Fox retains the post of Treasurer. Please contact any of the members with any concerns or if you wish to help out.

Following an approach by the Parish Council, the PQA has agreed to take on the maintenance of the telephone box on the Green (see article opposite).

B*Olders Fund Raising

On the 17th October a big fund raiser in aid for the youth group at Penpoll Chapel was held on the quay. I'm glad to say it was a great turn out and we rose an impressive £225, which brings our total amount to £330 with some very kind donations!



The fund raiser consisted of stalls, paper planes, crabbing completion and a great tug-o-war! Luckily we had amazing weather and even better, a



Point family beat a Devoran family in the tug-o-war.



At B*Olders (the youth group) we are revamping the upstairs for a cool new chill out space for all to enjoy. We are having the kitchen redone and new floors and furniture! We really appreciate all the hard work all the adults are putting into this project. The space should be ready in time for Christmas so do feel free to pop upstairs and take a peek after the Nativity performance.

On behalf of every one in youth club I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who turned up and had fun! Hester Claridge.

PS: In the run up to Christmas we've been busy at ROCK's and B*Olders preparing pudding (see below) —can't wait to try it!



heart, Dorothy, and had a son John and twin girls Mary and Ann. Dorothy predeceased him in 2001 and Ann died of the rare Wilson's disease in 1990.

Long holidays allowed him to indulge in hobbies of woodworking, dinghy sailing, mountaineering and skiing. He finished up at the University of Aston teaching undergraduates in automobile engineering and researching vibrations until retirement to Point. Arriving at 'Port Tack' allowed him to further indulge in his passion for sailing in his Westerly Centaur and to discover windsurfing on the creek, along with walking in the Cornish countryside.

After 25 brilliant years a series of minor strokes meant moving to Kinver to live with the support of his daughter Mary. Here he was able to potter along the canal at the bottom of their garden and watch the narrowboats. After an unsteady year he had a few weeks in hospital followed by a short period in a nursing home last summer before a further series of strokes sapped his strength and he died peacefully in September.



Ralph Bird In Memoriam



Ralph Ian Bird (1942 – 2009), boat-builder and president of the Cornish Pilot Gig Association, was born of a Cornish family in 1942 in Fish Hoek, Cape Town, South Africa. His father's ill health caused the family to move back to Cornwall and Ralph spent his first birthday on a ship en-route. His father died when Ralph was just three years old and his mother and grandfather, who worked on the ships in Falmouth harbour, brought him up.

As a youngster, Ralph was regularly taken aboard the gunboats and battleships laid up in the Fal estuary after the war. After attending technical college in Cornwall, he learnt his craft as a shipwright through an apprenticeship with Falmouth Boat Construction. Once he had perfected his skills, his teenage interest with traditional Cornish pilot gigs became an adult obsession, and he is credited with taking the sport of pilot gig racing from the history books to what is now a thriving competitive pastime and international sport.

Arthur Cope In Memoriam



Arthur "Pop" Cope (1919-2009) the son of a master mason, was brought up in the Birmingham area with four siblings. After matriculation he did a machine tool apprenticeship in Bolton as his parents could only afford to send the eldest son to university. He travelled there on his beloved motorbike and lived in digs.

He joined the British Expeditionary force in 1939 and was attempting to reach the evacuation at Dunkirk when his progress was slowed supporting a colleague badly wounded in the leg. Overrun by the Germans – the pair were hidden by locals in a canal barge and given civilian clothes. The bargers harbouring them became frightened and asked them to move on. The pair tried to reach Britain through Belgium but were captured and sent for interrogation

by the Gestapo as they were not in uniform. For a week they were to be shot as spies. Eventually they managed to convince their captors that they were regular servicemen and so became POWs in Stalag 8b, East Germany. Five years were spent in harsh conditions, working in open cast mines and sustained by potato peelings!

After the Normandy landings they were forced to march eastwards in appalling winter conditions to Poland. One morning they awoke to find their guards had disappeared. The advancing Russians took over but had no interest in them. The men started to walk back westwards through Germany taking food from abandoned farmhouses. Weeks later he reached a river where the allies had met the Russians. There was chaos and confusion – was he a fleeing German? Arthur created an incident with a jeep full of Russians and with a handful of Russian words persuaded them to allow him to cross the only bridge left standing. On his solitary walk across he still felt they might change their minds and shoot him in the back!

A period of rehabilitation followed on a Northamptonshire farm. Arthur then attended a technical training college for ex-servicemen and so began an academic career. He had a brilliant mathematical brain combined with practical skills. Through evening study he attained an external London University degree with first class honours in engineering; the only one awarded to 256 exam candidates that year.

He married a childhood sweet-

Penpoll Church History

The present Penpoll Methodist chapel was built during 1861 on the same site as an earlier one and officially opened in January 1862. A huge amount of historical information about the chapel has survived, most of it held in our County Record Office. To commemorate its 150 year history, Penpoll's membership has readily agreed that I should write its history with the aim of having the book available in the middle of 2011.



Methodists established a presence in Penpoll just before Cornwall's mining industry began its terminal decline. The economic and social events of the past 150 years have had a decisive influence on the chapel community. Many of its earliest members were employed in the lead and tin smelting works, and the majority of local children attended the Sunday school, meeting first in the smelting works.

Although elements of the story are typical of those in other Cornish towns and villages, there are distinctive features. The individual family tragedies

associated with the First World War were keenly felt, the financial situation was sometimes difficult, relationships with other parts of Methodism were not always harmonious and younger members often had to leave the district to find work elsewhere. Nonetheless, very strong local connections, sometimes going back many generations, have been maintained and will feature strongly in the book. Four present members have family links that go back well over 100 years, in three cases almost the entire 150 years. Their ability to recall past experiences will be invaluable.

As well as describing and interpreting the 19th and 20th century historical information, I will want to talk with the present members of the congregation to gain their insights into the life of the chapel in the relatively recent past. If there are local people who have material that they think will be of interest I would be most grateful if they will contact me by letter, telephone or email. (862297 or

lander@chycoose1.fsnet.co.uk)

John Lander

