

St. Dominick Parish News

No 82 - April 2010

The Parish News is also available on the St. Dominick Post Office website: www.stdompo.co.uk/parishnews.html

You can either send articles to our email address: ourparishnews@googlemail.com or give them to Alan Cox at the Post Office no later than 17th April 2010.

PLEASE NOTE - entries for the St. Dominick Diary should be sent to sent to Rosemary Shepherd (Tel: 350489) by 17th of each month.

St Dominick Garden Club

Our last event, held on St David's Day, was a practical workshop teaching us how to graft apple trees, run by Charley and Dave Rushby, who took away most of the mystique with their down-to-earth approach to this subject. It's amazing what a very sharp knife and a bit of insulation tape can do! We all had a great evening and several of us took away our own apple trees to allow us to begin to establish our very own orchards. A big thank you to Dave and Charley for making the evening so interesting and accessible to all.

The next event is on Saturday 27th March:

Jo Totterdell will be talking about *Life Amongst the Daffodils* - meet at the Parish Hall at 2.20pm to share cars - not a lot of room to park. If you are walking - meet at 2.30pm at David & Dorothy's - *Glesyn* - call 351313 for directions.

The following meeting will be a guided walk with the gardener around the National Camellia Collection at Mount Edgecumbe - leave the Parish Hall at 9.45am on Saturday 17th April.

St. Dominick Neighbourhood Watch:

I have no incidences to report this month, but please stay vigilant this is what keeps the crime rates down. Don't forget! The Neighbourhood Watch AGM is 12th April at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall; all are welcome, so if you are not already a member just come along and sign up to be part of this very worthwhile membership.

Tuesday Club

Eunice introduced our speaker, who has been a good friend to Gordon. He was Maurice Diaper, who gave us a very interesting talk on Aphasia. Maurice had a stroke and aphasia just ten years ago. He was a governor in a prison for twenty seven years, and was under a lot of pressure. He had gone on holiday to Corsica and it was then he had his stroke. While he was there they were able to give him a drug to help him with in four hours, to disperse the clot of blood. He was paralysed down one side, but with perseverance he is now able to drive and speak about how to communicate with others. There is life after a stroke! A very interesting afternoon.

Eunice was able to tell us that Audrey Fryer and Kathleen Humphreys are making good progress and that Bernard Squires was very unwell.

Mary Behennah won the raffle. We then closed with our usual tea and biscuits.

St. Dominick WI

Allis Shad, Cucumber Smelt and Flounders are not names you would normally associate with the WI but they all made themselves known to us on 10th March, read more about them later.

This month marks the 64th anniversary of St. Dominick WI we started the evening off with drinks and nibbles to be followed later by a large birthday cake, specially baked for the occasion, by our President Ann Murphy. As one of the original members, it was good that Irene (Topsy) Poad was with us to join in the celebrations.

Judy Foweraker was presented with The Competition Cup, having accumulated the most points over the last 12 months.

Our speaker for the evening, Doctor Paul Dando, was to give us a fascinating insight into his research on "What Lives in The Tamar" plus "Floundering and other Fishy Tales." All of those present live close to the river but not too many of us were aware of what goes on below the surface. We saw maps of the Tamar in the 1500's and 1786, they showed much larger inlets, mining and farming, amongst other things, have altered its shape. The first study of these waters took place in 1938 but as nets weren't used, not many species of fish were found. Dr. Dando's research took place between 1972 -83 and 77 different species of fish were revealed, amongst them, the Allis Shad, which has a very fragile life cycle and in the UK, is unique to the Tamar Estuary.

We learnt of the salinity of the river, the chosen spawning beds of the Smelt, the Flounders territorial ways, all adding to our knowledge of this beautiful environment. By today's standards, the river is not too polluted but just one farming accident, pouring slurry into the water or even very heavy rain at the wrong time of year and the whole balance can be quickly destroyed.

On the Saturday 10th April, we will be undertaking the "Big Tidy Up," clearing litter from our village highways and byways. Can you give us a hand? If so, we will be meeting outside the Parish Hall at 2pm, just bring along a pair of suitable gloves.

In April we look forward to hearing about, "Back to The Future Farming." our speaker will be Kate Maciver-Redwood. As always, visitors are very welcome.

Allotment Meeting

A meeting was held on the 26th February at the Parish Hall, attended by the allotment holders and the National Trust, who is the landlord. This was the second meeting held with the first one about a year ago.

Some issues raised by the holders were: 1. They would like a better water supply, 2. Some of the allotment holders would like to keep chickens, 3. The rabbits are in need of control, 4. The rules regarding shed size need to be further discussed and 5. The plots are too big.

Joe Lawrence and Jamie Lang represented the National Trust. In reply to the raised issues they agreed that water was very important and said that a mains pipe had been laid up the access track and could be tapped onto individually (metered) or two or three taps placed in appropriate locations throughout the field to be used by all with a single meter put in place (agreed share payment). There may be other possible solutions. One plot holder said that he paid £45.00 per year at the moment and an extra £19.00 for a hose and the cost guestimated at 2.5p per cubic metre. It is understood that not everyone uses water and one grower, not present, didn't believe in it whilst others used water butts.

With regards to keeping chickens on the plots it was felt that as long as there were no welfare issues and the idea acceptable by the larger proportion of the holders, then was no reason why chickens couldn't be kept on site.

It is realised that the rabbit numbers have again increased dramatically. A possible solution discussed was that the rabbits could be controlled 'in house' by one of the allotment holders who has the skills and knowledge to carry out the task in a safe manner. This is being investigated further.

Shed size was causing some issues as there seems to be no clear decision on a standard size and some 'oversized' sheds appearing. This will be discussed further in the next meeting. There was also discussion with regard to plot sizes and they thought that they could be possibly halved. However, not all the plots are the same size. Some holders would like their plots smaller, but there needs to be a decision made with regard to comparable rent as there is no consistency in the charge rate to plot size. Any changes in plot sizes and thereby plot rent will be done fairly and the Trust are not seeking any rent rises other than those generally expected.

The National Trust then put an idea to those who attended with regard to the possibility of starting up an allotment association ("The St Dominic Allotment Association"). It is seen by them as the best way to take forward the development of the site and to make the most of the land available. They also understand that there are a number of holders who have had their plots for a very long time and are well established. It is not the intention of the Trust to take these plots back or subdivide them until the holders are ready to make the change themselves. There are, however, some plots being returned and with people on a waiting list will not stay empty for too long.

Another meeting was held on 25th March at Cotehele with discussing further, and possibly implementation, the suggestion for an association so that the allotments can progress positively towards the future.

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St. Dominick Slimming Club

Slimming Club members held a Pasty Supper on the 12th March, a table of savoury and sweet treats were provided by club members. Unfortunately, some of our usual supporters were unable to attend but generously gave donations. Busy 'bric a brac', book and cake stalls did excellent trade, with everyone delighted with their bargains. A grand raffle also helped the funds.

The evening ended happily with money raised in excess of £400.

The was in aid of Ellie's Haven and will go towards our continuing collection for this very deserving charity.

To find out more about Ellie's Haven please visit: <http://ellies-haven.org.uk/>



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| <p>A couple of riddles:</p> <p>1. Pronounced as one letter, and written with three, two letters there are, and two only in me. I' double, I' single, I' black, blue, and gray, I' read from both ends, and the same either way. What am I?</p> | <p>2. I am the owner of a pet store. If I put in one canary per cage, I have one bird too many. If I put in two canaries per cage, I have one cage too many. How many cages and canaries do I have?</p> |
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Parish council Report March 2010

The clerk was unable to attend this meeting so Councillor Totterdell took the minutes. Because she was absent there were no up to date bank statements either, in spite of Councillor Potter speaking politely and pleadingly to the bank, so no one knows if we have Councillor Flashman's donation or not!

The purchase of the strip of land opposite the shop is progressing, not particularly satisfactorily as £167.00 has to be paid to the council for a change of use application. That caused muttering.

The play area is proving popular, the paths still have to be done amongst other things. This is such a big subject that I will put pressure on Richard or Keith to write an explanatory piece soon. The Lovell's Park sign has to be redone as it has missed the National Trust off its list of sponsors (Oops). Litter is already a problem, a woman was seen having a family picnic and leaving all the rubbish there, so its not always the children.

A willing volunteer is being sought to trim the willow structure regularly.

The Cornwall Council need to know about salt bins, and where we would like them. Two are being requested for Halton Quay. The trouble with salt bins is that residents take the salt from them for their own areas, therefore they are always empty!

Please clean up after your dog. There is a new dog fouling order, whereby you can be prosecuted for dog fouling anywhere where the public has right of access, except for Forestry Commission property. Also there have been complaints (not at the parish council meeting) that people pick up after their dog and throw the bags into the hedge or gardens. When the leaves die, there they are! I have seen this myself.

Two members of the Parish Council were invited to County Hall, Truro, to meet the Councillors. Councillor Potter rang to ask what the purpose of the meeting was, and as it appeared to be social, everyone refused to go. (Even though there was going to be food). Councillor Spiers said he wasn't going on "a jolly" and if they wanted to meet us they could come to St Dominic – they were paid.

The other thing of interest (?) was that someone has pinched the St Dominick sign from Radland. Not many could remember it, but Councillor Wenmoth thought it could have been vandalised because they spelt St Dominick with the "k". (Which would give "locals" an attack of the vapours!).

The parish council will be looking for expressions of interest for the annual maintenance of the recreation field, anyone interested can contact the Chairman. I think there will be a proper notice when the clerk returns.

After the next meeting there will be a different Chairman and Vice chairman anyway – it will be a very interesting meeting, all those volunteers jostling to get voted in. As usual it will be on the first Wednesday of the month 7th April, 7.30 at the Parish Hall.

All Welcome.

St Dominic School News

We have recently welcomed a new member of staff, Miss Trudy Clements, as cover for Mrs Childs-Garner who is on maternity leave. As part of the interview process, the children on the School Council were involved in questioning the four candidates. For example, one of their difficult questions was "If someone was running around the classroom, not paying attention, what would you do?" Let's hope they don't try to test the answer!

If you noticed children going to school in fancy dress, this was part of the World Book Day, when pupils dressed as their favourite literary character in return for a £1 book voucher. "The Bookshelf" shop brought a selection of books into school, where children and parents were able to spend their vouchers and pocket money, with a percentage of sales going to help school funds. (Being a life-long bibliophile, I'm hoping a few computers were switched off that evening in favour of "a good read"!)

The partnership with St Mellion School continues to work well. Staff are working jointly on a curriculum review, in line with recent recommendations, and also on the introduction of Assessing Pupil Progress (A.P.P.) – this newer system of teacher-led judgements will aid (and may eventually replace) the controversial SATS tests. Children have also been invited to join St Mellion in after-school clubs such as football and cricket, and governors from both schools get together termly, as well as on other occasions such as Head teacher's Review.

Several children took part in the last of the Cornish Times sponsored Cross Country race at Bush Farm, Pillaton. Once again, all put in good performances, especially Andrew Gregg of Year 3 who came 6th in the joint year 3 and 4 race. Elsewhere on the sporting front, P.E. Hockey sessions have proved so popular that Marjons are now running this as an after-school club. The whole school has also been swimming every week at Saltash Leisure Centre. Some of our "Gifted and Talented" children are participating in an Easter P.E. Course, (whilst other "G&T's" are joining science and drama workshops).

The Mothering Sunday service at St Dominick Church went particularly well, with good support from the School and parishioners. Children presented bunches of flowers to their mothers, and afterwards refreshments, including Simnel Cake, were served. An extra feature was the first public performance of the newly-formed recorder club, in addition to the hymns played by the Handbell Club. At the beginning of the service, the banns were read for the wedding of David Martin and Kasia Lewis, (both ex-pupils of St Dominic, although Kasia was there only briefly before moving to Wiltshire). I'm going to embarrass David, by saying that his photo can be seen at the back of the Church, dressed as St Indract paddling his coracle, together with Claire Brewer as St Dominica, during the school's re-enactment of the two saints landing at Halton Quay – more years ago than he cares to remember!

On a very tragic note, Claire recently lost her younger brother, Paul, in a motoring accident in Morocco – everyone's sympathy goes to Claire and her family.

School holidays are here again – term restarts on Monday 19th April 2010. Happy Easter to everyone!

Children With Leukaemia

On 25th April Carina Batten will be competing in the London Marathon for the third time. Her chosen charity this year will be "Children with Leukaemia", a charity which researches treatments, causes and prevention of, as its name says, leukaemia in children. To enter this year Carina has to raise £2000 in sponsorship for her charity, and to help her to achieve this she is holding a "Race Night" at the Rugby Club, Lux Park, Liskeard on Saturday April 10th. Apart from the horse racing, there will be a raffle and some music to complete the evening. Tickets for this event, which you must not miss, are £3.00, to include a pasty, and are available from Carina on 01579 350105 or Lorna Potter 350776.

If anyone would like to buy a horse or sponsor a race Carina would be delighted, or any donations would be really appreciated, no matter how small.

Big Tidy-Up!

Do come and join in the **Big-Tidy-Up**, with WI members, to clear litter from the highways and byways around the Parish. Meet outside the **Parish Hall at 2pm on Saturday 10th of April to Collect Bags and High-Visibility Tabards and to Choose A Route.** (possibility of loan of 'grabbers' for those who need them, thin rubber gloves available but volunteers are advised to bring their own suitable strong gardening-type gloves)

Youngsters welcome, with parental supervision, on off-main-thoroughfare routes – we have small size tabards, badges and stickers too! All Welcome – come and make a difference to your own environment!

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One-off events in the Parish that are of interest to the community – usually free.

Cheques payable to St Dominick Parish Council.