



Parish News

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

Parish Council Report November 2009

This is not the official version - for a full record of the meeting contact the Clerk

This report is only second hand as our Roving Reporter is confined indoors with the dogs during firework week.

Bob, the PCSO, and PC Rachel Short attended the meeting, reporting on more diesel thefts in the area, but possibly this was the same report as they gave in October. However, you must all look after your diesel, as this problem is ongoing!! They said that in the New Year, there will be a mobile unit at the Parish Hall giving general advice on crime prevention. No date was fixed.

The National Trust informed the Council that although some of the allotments opposite the school appear to be abandoned they are in fact let, and the rent is being paid. The Parish Council has not been approached by anyone wanting to rent one.

There was still no response from the Council regarding the clerk's request for information on planning decisions.

The purchase of the land on the corner by the shop/church is progressing as far as anyone can tell. Also, following the October meeting, tenders had been received to start the access to the top of the recreation field. Of the three tenders submitted the winning quote was by Abbott Landscaping for the sum of approximately £9,000 excluding VAT which can be reclaimed at a later date. The works will include a new pedestrian access (mono hinge type) next to the wooden field gate, blocking up the entrance from the field directly into the Parish hall car park. The hedge on the left of the football pitch will be tidied up to improve the width between the said hedge and the touch line of the pitch. Also, wooden seats, picnic tables and benches will be installed at the top of the field. This money has been set aside by the Parish Council. They are still waiting on the grant decisions.

Not a very long meeting, the next one is on December 2nd at 7.30 in the Parish Hall.

FARM FRESH CHRISTMAS POULTRY

Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks and Geese
All sizes

Order from Hunn's Poultry
01579 350309

There will be no January edition but please send all articles for the following month to our

E-mail address: -

ourparishnews@googlemail.com or give them to Alan at the Post Office no later than 17th January 2010.

Entries for the **St. Dominick Diary** should be sent to Rosemary Shepherd Tel: 350489 by 17th of each month.

This Newsletter was printed by Alan Cox and is also available on the St Dominick Post Office website:

www.stdompo.co.uk/parishnews.html

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Inside this Issue

Page 1

Parish Council Report

Advert

Page 2

Neighbourhood Watch

Tuesday Club

Grant Application

Needlework

Christmas Celebrations

Craft Morning

Page 3

Tree Planting

School news

Answer to puzzle

Page 4

National Recognition

Adverts

St. Dominick Neighbourhood Watch

There has only been one incident reported this month and that was a couple of boys doing damage to a garden in Park Road. The police were called and have dealt with the situation.

With Christmas approaching and presents being bought, please ensure that your security is not overlooked. This is the time of the year that gives thieves the opportunity they are looking for. So, if you are going out, make sure that your doors and windows are locked. Please remember that when you have wrapped your presents and are about to place them under your Christmas tree, just make sure that they are not on display from a window or door, as this is just what the thief would like to see.

Also, if you are intending to go away for the Christmas break it would be a good idea to let your neighbours and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator know that your property will be unoccupied.

That said - a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

St. Dominick Tuesday Club

Eunice asked every one going to the Pantomime 'Aladdin' on January 6th to be at the Parish Hall for 1.30pm. There was also a reminder that The Liskerret Choir would be at the Parish Hall on the 6th December at 7.30pm for their Christmas Concert. The raffle was won by Gloria Griffiths before Bernard introduced our afternoon entertainment. They were six lady singers from Callington called 'Galaxy' and to accompany them on the piano was Jill Rickard. Their theme songs were from 'Walt Disney' together with poems and a few jokes, which we all very much enjoyed. Bernard thanked them all for a very entertaining afternoon.

Grant Application

The sum of £50,000 has been granted in respect of The Playbuilder grant application to be used primarily for exercise equipment for children and adults. The Parish Council don't get the money, the contractors are paid directly as they do the work.

Hopefully this part will be completed in this financial year. This has been possible due to the hard work from Richard Warne and Keith Chapman, who are now applying to Sita and Viridor to further the project.

Christmas Celebrations

Preparations for this event on **FRIDAY 4th December at 6.30pm** are well in hand by the "Festive Committee". A kind parishioner has promised a tree, lights will be purchased and a donation has been made. Fundraising will take place later.

Come along to the Hall for mince pies, mulled wine and general celebrations. The tree will be in Paul and Kelly Doney's garden across the road and the lights will be switched on by a local personage. This will be followed by Christmas singing and hopefully school choir and hand bell ringing.

There will be stalls inside the hall and EVERYONE is welcome.

Please look out for posters nearer the time.



Please come and support
St Dominick Under Fives
Christmas Craft morning.
Activity tables with
Preschool Learning Alliance
and St Dominick School.
Wednesday 9th December
9.30-11.00am
St Dominick Parish Hall
Refreshments available
Raffle with fantastic prizes
Free Entry

Calling all Needle Persons!!

There are a number of church fabrics in need of a "Stitch in Time". If any of you are interested perhaps we could meet in the church school room on **Wednesday 13th January at 11.00am** to decide what needs to be done. Ring Di Axtell 350006 or just turn up. All help would be gratefully received.

Tree Planting

Trees are being provided by the National Trust (lots) and by the School – 30 courtesy of Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme. Planting will take place in two parts. The first event on Friday 27th November at 1.00pm is for all children, parents and grandparents. The second session will be on Saturday 5th

December at 10.00am (the day after the Christmas lights switch on). EVERYONE is asked to attend with a shovel and muscles and wearing wellies for communal tree planting. This will be a new experience for most people and **must not** be missed. Just imagine how exciting it will be for your descendants to be able to say that their ancestors planted the St Dominick Forest!

St Dominick School News

As usual, the pupils have been doing their bit for good causes and community spirit. We had a non-uniform day in October to raise money towards Truro Cathedral's "Inspire" restoration appeal, and during November we have been putting together "Christmas Shoe Boxes", with small items for needy children around the world. At the time of writing, we are planning a "dotty day" for Children in Need, when children will come to school wearing spotty clothes and have their faces painted with spots – so don't think St Dominic succumbed to some sort of plague!



Many pupils, staff and governors attended the Church's 750th "Birthday" service on 18th October, celebrating the consecration of our Church by Bishop Bronscombe in 1259. Mr Watson, who led the service, organised a "Birthday" cake, the children symbolically decorated the Church with candles, and the school choir sang. Afterwards, tea, coffee, hot dogs and birthday cake were served to all, rounding off a very memorable occasion. "Learning Together" has been very successful since it began on 2nd November, with up to 9 pre-school children attending with their mums (dads welcome also!). If you would like to attend, please turn up on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm and join in activities with our Reception and Year 1 children, organised by Class teacher Mrs Ogalo, and Mrs Shapland, our Early Years helper. Mrs Shapland is also

visiting the Playground fortnightly (held in the Parish hall every Wednesday morning).

Sport has been literally a wash-out so far but we won our only netball match 3-2 against Delaware. We also have a gymnastics club in the Parish Hall until Christmas, so at least that's under cover. The club took part in an inter-school competition at Callington on November 17th which was enjoyed by all. There is also a Christmas Cake-making Club being organised – obviously only temporary!

Building works have now been completed. The main work has included enlargement of the staff room, enabling it to become an Early Years area in future, and corresponding improvements to Class 1's outside play area, which will help to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. There have also been alterations to the Infants toilets, better storage facilities, Health & Safety updating, and a "make over" for class 1. In order to create more space, we have a redundant piano looking for a new home – if you are interested; please contact Helen in the School office (350581).

Everyone is looking forward to the Parish's Christmas Tree celebrations on December 4th. (See previous article) Other dates for your diaries are the children's Christmas Performances, at 2pm on Wednesday 16th December and at 6pm on Thursday 17th at the school (entry by tickets only - tickets will be available from the school office). Our Carol Service, which will include a Nativity, will be held at the Church at 9am on the last day of term (18th December). Everyone is invited to attend and share our celebrations.

The Spring term starts on **Tuesday 5th January**, and "Education Sunday", when the children help with the 10.00am Family Service, will be on Sunday 31st January 2010.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped out or contributed to school life over the past year, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Answer to the 'Fishy' puzzle in November issue is: - Jenny 36, Bill 24, Jamie 18, Colin 12, Brian 9, Angela 6, Carol 2

National Recognition for St Dominick and St Mellion Schools

As you may be aware, St Dominick and St Mellion Schools are joining together in a "Federation" as from January 2010. Our Headteacher will be Mrs Angela Palin, currently Head at St Mellion. You may have heard that, in June, she was voted South West Primary Headteacher of the Year – following this, she went on to compete for the National Award. Mrs Vivien Malson, Chair of Governors at St Mellion, kindly invited Governors from both St Dominick and Quethiock schools to contribute when the national judges visited St Mellion, as Mrs Palin has been temporary Head at both these schools at times in the last two years. Everyone was delighted when, at the televised award ceremony in October, Mrs Palin was judged Primary Headteacher of the Year, receiving her prize from Danny Boyle (producer of "Slumdog Millionaire"). We would all like to send her our warmest congratulations.

Another instance of our small schools being noticed nationally came as a result of our long running "Creative Partnership" Sea4Life project, organised by Anna Winfindale (late of St Dominick, now teaching in the Caribbean) and Brenda Jeffries Class 2 teacher at St Mellion. This involved several joint school visits to Bigbury, where children worked on colours and sounds in ways that involved all areas of the curriculum, especially science and art. They produced wonderful paintings, digital films and "sonic postcards" as well as developing investigative and creative skills, whilst working with film makers, an artist, a geography lecturer, a music teacher, a scientist and a D.T. specialist during their visits to the beach. Anna and Brenda gave a well-received presentation on their work to the County Science Conference meeting in 2008, and since then their work has been recognised nationally by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as an excellent example of the "Creative Partnership" programme.

It is a great pity that the Government is reducing funding to small rural schools such as ours, and that, overall, Cornwall receives less funding per pupil than elsewhere in the country. The two examples here prove that, despite what may be seen as disadvantages, Cornish Schools can compete with the best as far as the quality of their staff and their pupils' achievements are concerned.



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