

This issue was edited by Kevin Owen. Please send articles for next month to our
E-mail address:- ourparishnews@googlemail.com
or give to Alan Cox at the Post Office no later than 17th of February

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

Parish News is now available online at www.stdompo.co.uk/parishnews.htm

St Dominic School News

Much to all the children's delight, the new term started with a "white-out!" rather than the usual "wash-out". The first day of term started well, with Breakfast Club children and some staff arriving at 8am then at 8.10am it started to snow heavily, and chaos ensued. School was on – off for the rest of the week – nowadays staff often live quite a distance from their schools, for example, some of our staff live in Plymouth and Saltash, and our new Head Teacher, Mrs Palin, lives in Fowey. However, at the time of writing, we are back to normal – for once, we are almost glad to have rain!

The end of the autumn term saw frantic activity on the Christmas theme! First of all, the children helped to celebrate the turning-on of the Christmas Tree lights at the Parish Hall (organised by the Parish's new Christmas Tree Committee!) by playing a selection of carols on hand bells and also singing beautifully, whilst the P.T.A. sold refreshments and the Governors ran a cake stall. Many thanks to all those who contributed cakes – we raised £85 for our School Private Fund.

During the last week, we had 2 performance of Topsy-Turvy Christmas, when every child contributed to a very entertaining but thought-provoking play, well supported by parents and villagers. On the last day of term, we held our Carol Service at St Dominick Church, presided over by Mr Bill Watson. During the service, new Chair of Governors, Mrs Lisa Chapman, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Debbie Tregellas, who had been our Acting Head Teacher for the autumn term, pending the arrival in January of Mrs Palin.

The Children made an important contribution to the new recreation field project when they welcomed representatives of the Sensory Trust and the Eden Project, who are helping with the grant funding for the play area. During the day, the School Council put forward their own ideas and plans, followed by members of staff, governors and Parish Councillors, and about a dozen secondary school children who came after school to make their own suggestions.

The third of the Cornish Times Cross County races has just taken place, at Dobwalls on the old Adventure Park site, with our Year 5 and Year 6 girls, and some of the younger boys doing particularly well. There are two more races coming up in the League programme.

St Dominic has got off to a flying start with its new collaboration with St Mellion School. Mrs Palin had been attending staff and governors' meetings during the autumn term so that she was thoroughly up-to-date with everything happening at St Dominic, and has consequently made a "seamless transition" to being our joint Head! Members of both Governing Bodies and staff representatives have formed a "steering group" which meets regularly to discuss any "teething problems" and decide how to maximise the benefits which come from our two schools working closely together. For example, we will be inviting St Mellion pupils to join us on Education Sunday at the service at St Dominick Church on 31st January 2010 at 10.00am. If you get this newsletter in time, please join us, we will forward to seeing you!

Both Schools had also arranged for a visit from the Cornish Charity, Shelter Box, even before the recent disaster in Haiti, and we are organising two "non-uniform" days over the next few weeks with the aim of raising £400 altogether (the cost of a Shelter Box). If you would like to help us to achieve this, please leave any donations with Helen in the School office. Shelter Box volunteers deliver the aid directly to where it is needed, so no money is lost on unnecessary administrative costs.

St Dominic Slimming Club

The Slimming Club ended on a high on 10 December. Twenty-four members and guests enjoyed a 3 course Christmas dinner complete with crackers and party hats. The school-room looked very festive with Christmas lights and tinsel. Everyone donated a wrapped Christmas gift and entered a lucky-dip raffle for £1, with money raised going towards funds for Ellie's Haven. Slimming Club Cup of the Year was won by Sylvia Rawlins who received a ceramic picture frame. Betty Behennah gave gifts to Club helpers and thanked members and friends for help and support during 2009. Betty, herself, received a basket of flowers and a hand-wash & hand-cream set and was thanked by Club members for her continued leadership and enthusiasm. The evening ended with carols and lots of laughter.

The Club has donated £1,975 during 2009 to various charities and good causes. We have decided to raise money for Ellie's Haven in 2010, together with other charities to be decided later. We do have a weigh-in each week and we honestly do watch our weights and try to be successful with our eating plans. We all enjoy our meetings and will continue to meet each Thursday at the Methodist School-Room at 7.30pm. Slimming Club re-convenes on 11 February, new members always welcome. All Slimming Club Members wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

St. Dominick Neighbourhood Watch

I hope you all had a good Christmas with lots of presents that you were happy with. Today I am going to talk about rubbish!

By now we are all aware that it is not a good idea to throw our old letters or anything with personal details into the rubbish bin, unless they are shredded first, or better still burnt if you have an open fire, but what about those cardboard boxes that all your lovely new presents came in?

In this environmentally conscious society most of us put them outside our property for the recycling service to take away, and I'm all for that, but ask yourselves how often have you passed by a neighbour's house and seen those boxes outside and thought 'Mr Jones has had a new TV, or Mary's children have had new bikes for Christmas'

Now ask yourself 'What would a potential burglar make of that? Well I'll tell you, it is as good as an inventory of all the new possessions you have in your property... I'm not saying don't recycle your old boxes, what I am saying is be careful how you fold them, that's all it takes. Just make sure the details of what the boxes once contained are not on view to would be burglars. Help keep crime rates down and protect your valuables. Having said that I would like to wish you all a Happy and crime free 2010.

St Dominick Garden Club

We have an exciting calendar of events for 2010 including the following:

Daffodils varieties – visiting a member's garden and a talk by Jo Totterdell in March

A guided walk and talk around the National Camelia collection of Mount Edgecumbe in April

2 gardens in St Breward in May

A newly re-created period garden in Saltash in June

As this publication goes to press we are trying to arrange a practical Apple Tree Grafting session for late February/early March – when everyone will take home their own little apple tree personally grafted by them.

We aim for our events to be as hands-on as possible. For details please look out for our posters. A diary of events will be issued early in February once everything has been finalised.

If you want to join us please contact Kevin for details on 350062.

Parish News has been printed since June 2002. We asked you, our readers, for suggestions of new things to include. Space allowing, we will be trying out these ideas in the coming months. Look out for these and tell us what you think by emailing ourparishnews@googlemail.com

Parish Council Meeting December 2009

This meeting was attended by our PCSO, Bob, who reported there had been no reported incidents during the previous month. When asked about the Mobile Unit that had threatened to come to the village and give us advice on Crime Prevention, as reported in your Parish News last month, he had no further information, and I don't think he remembered any mention of it at all. (Personal opinion!). Therefore we still don't know when/if it's coming.

Councillor Richard Warne reported on the Tree Planting by the School children – there were fifty eight trees planted, Toby Fox represented the National Trust and the Cornish Times was present. The National Trust have name tagged and recorded the position of each tree. Playbuilder (who gave a grant) attended and were very pleased.

The Sensory Trust have also visited and we seem to fulfil their requirements.

Two families have requested seats in remembrance of a family member, and there may be more, - Abbott Landscaping will put them into place.

Also there will be a willow play structure built for the children, by a specialist for the job, known as "The Willow Lady". The councillors were concerned about the maintenance of this, as it grows, and also the cost. All of these play structures are horrendously expensive. As an onlooker it appeared that the councillors with children knew exactly what the structure was and how popular it is with schools etc. Those without just looked blank and horrified by the money. Councillor Warne was able to persuade the jibbers to vote in favour by pointing out savings he had been able to make on the entire project, which seems to be running at about £30,000 under budget so far.

Taylor Made were awarded the contract for the play equipment.

It was proposed by Councillor Spiers and carried to donate £200.00 to St Dominic Neighbourhood Watch. Cornwall Council is proposing to have street signs in the Cornish Language. This was unpopular and thought to be unnecessary. They said it was bad enough when you go to Wales, never mind starting it in Cornwall!

Fly tipping was reported at Mount Pleasant.

Complaints were received again about Pepper's Hill – this is the track going down into the wood. The Parish Council have tried to prevent vehicles from using this road before, but it is a public highway and traffic cannot be prohibited. Councillor Behennah reported her land adjoins the lane and they need access for machinery to cut the hedges.

There will be no meeting in January. Next meeting February 3rd at the Parish Hall, everyone welcome.

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Line advert (max 25 words) £1.00. One-off events in the Parish that are of interest to the community – usually free.
Cheques payable to St Dominick Parish Council

Calling children aged 8 and over
to come and join our friendly
Junior Handbell Ringing Team!



Every Thursday 7-7.45pm

Sunday School Room

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Christmas Celebrations

This is the unofficial report on the celebrations. There will be something more official, with proper “thanks” etc soon, but the meeting has been postponed due mostly to the weather and everyone playing “catch up”.

This is the first time there has been a Christmas tree outside in the village, so it was a bit of a learning curve!

You will remember that the Christmas Tree couldn't be in the Parish Hall car park. On Wednesday afternoon, 2nd December, Willis Gregg came up the road with the Christmas Tree on his trailer, and delivered it to Paul and Kelly Doney's garden. Richard Warne had already had a barrel placed there with a lot of something heavy (like cement) in the bottom. Willis and Ivan managed to get the tree erected, ready for decorating the next day.

Early next morning Paul rang to say the tree had blown over.

Immediate steps were taken to remedy this situation, ropes found, stakes cut, and in the afternoon a gang assembled to re erect the tree and decorate it. Dawn and Ian Hunn spent a lot of time at the top of the tree tyeing the lights on, Terry Mitchell and Ivan Cradick were seeing to the ropes, and Mark and Shirley Behennah were in charge of the electricians.

Friday came with an unsettled weather forecast, but the committee were undaunted. The school were providing light refreshments in the hall and there also some stalls. The Festive Committee were selling raffle tickets. The hand bell ringers were going to ring in Paul's garden prior to the switch on at 6.30 and the school ringers were performing in the hall afterwards. Hot punch (alcoholic and non alcoholic) and mince pies were ready.

The next bit, although good fun, might need a bit of refining next year. The committee had no idea if anyone at all would come. There were some people in the hall at 6.25. The Parish Council chairman had been designated to take control and he announced that everyone was to go outside for the switching on of the lights. The handbell ringers had gone into Paul and Kelly's garage to ring because of the weather forecast and they started their ringing, but as the people in the hall went outside they were confronted by a sea of people and cars. Everyone was supposed to cross the road and sing some carols around the tree, but some had started before the last ones came out. Consequently the two sides of the road were singing different lines. It didn't matter. Also it was dark and no one could read their song sheets, but that didn't matter either.

There was a countdown, Mr Buckle pressed Mark's plunger and the tree lit up first time. That was a big relief. Then everyone went into the hall for their mince pie and punch. I think everyone had a mince pie. The punch person panicked and tipped the two lots into one bowl for quickness and no one complained. He added a bit more brandy to warm it up a bit. The school handbell ringers played very well, although not everyone could see them, all could here that they sounded good. So, everyone went home feeling quite festive, and we hope the committee will do the same, or similar, next year. There will have to be some fundraising, probably there will be a proper report next month.

Rain, rain , rain!

The table below gives the rainfall for St Dominick for 2009 and for 2008. The highest rainfall this year fell in January (214mm) July (271mm) and November (270mm) – those 3 months accounted for half the annual rainfall!

Rainfall	2009	2008
Jan – Mar	364	357
Apr – Jun	198	223
Jul – Sep	408	579
Oct – Dec	545	308
Total (mm)	1515	1467

Thank you...

from Ron Parrett

who wishes to thank neighbours and friends for their cards, good wishes and help during his recent hip-replacement operation and convalescence. Although hobbling about a bit at present he is doing as the medics tell him and working hard on the exercises. He has promised his granddaughter, Aimee, that he will soon be playing football with her again.

and from the Handbell Ringers....

On behalf of the St Dominick Handbell Ringers, I would like to thank all those people in the Benefice who have generously supported the Handbell Team by purchasing cards and goods. About £170 has been raised during the year.

Mary Borlase