



A community newsletter funded by Mabe Youth and Community Project and Mabe Parish Council to provide news, share views and publicise events. Printed by Reprographics at Tremough Campus.

Community News

Parish Council opposes Treliever Road houses and Halvasso solar panels

After a lengthy meeting packed with members of the public, the Parish Council has decided to recommend refusal on two major planning applications affecting Mabe parish. The final decision will be taken by Cornwall Council.

The two applications are for 90 flats and houses in the fields between Treliever Road and the Penryn bypass, and for 26 acres of solar panels in fields at Boundis Farm, Halvasso. Both applications have aroused significant local opposition.

See p.2 for more details

Mabe hosts historic Shinty match

The first competitive Shinty match in Cornwall in nearly a century was played in Mabe in early November. Cornwall Shinty Club beat Camborne School of Mines 2-1 in a closely fought contest. Cornwall Shinty Club (in black) are based in Mabe, while the CSM team (in white) is based at Tremough. The return fixture will be a hockey match.



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*Proposed development
off Treliiever Road*

PC reflects residents' concerns in opposing housing and solar plans

The Parish Council reflected the views of most of the residents who attended its recent meeting when it opposed the housing and solar panel applications. An outline of the proposals and main reasons for the PC decisions are given here:

Houses off Treliiever Road

Outline of proposal:

The developer's proposal includes a mix of 36 "affordable homes" and 54 houses sold at full market value. Of the 36 "affordable homes", twelve 1-bed flats would be available at a social rent, while the other twenty-four 2-bed and 3-bed houses would be sold at discount levels. The developer says that people with a local connection to Mabe parish would be given the first chance to rent or buy one of the "affordable homes" and that money generated by the sale of the market value homes would be used to subsidise construction of the "affordable homes".

Main reasons for the PC's opposition:

1. Under old Kerrier District Council policy, the plot of land is deemed a "significant area" by reason of its serving as a buffer zone between Mabe and Penryn.
2. Cornwall Council's Homechoice register data indicates the "local need" for affordable housing is significantly below the proposed 36 dwellings.

3. The proposed "mix" of affordable dwellings is not consistent with Cornwall Council's draft housing policy.
4. The proposed development does not constitute sustainable development.

Halvasso solar farm

Outline of proposal:

The proposed 26-acre development consists of rows of photovoltaic solar panels, mounted on frames with a maximum height of 3m. The developer predicts an output capacity of 2.75 megawatts, which it says is enough electricity to meet the needs of 830 houses. The site would be surrounded by a 2m high fence and monitored by 50 security CCTV cameras mounted on 4m poles. The developer seeks planning permission to operate the solar farm for a period of 25 years.

Main reasons for the PC's opposition:

1. The development is of a type and size such that the applicant should have submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment, but has not.
2. As a consequence, the local planning authority (i.e. Cornwall Council) is not in a position to assess the risk and/or extent of any impact on biodiversity etc.
3. The proposal will have a material adverse impact on visual amenity.



Mabe School pupil, Aiden Pellow (left), was "in his element" when he swam with dolphins, during a special trip to Orlando, Florida. Aiden, who is 11 and lives in Halvasso, has twice had to undergo treatment for leukaemia. He was nominated by his hospital for the trip, which included nearly 200 other children who are ill or disabled.

More coffee?

Coffee mornings appear to have been the fund-raising events of choice this autumn in Mabe, with over £1,500 raised at three events.

Mabe Garden Club raised over £300 for club funds at a Coffee Morning on 27 October. The event was attended by leading daffodil-grower Ron Scamp, who was selling his wonderful bulbs at knock-down prices and offering informal advice on the best ways to ensure brilliant blooms.

Mabe Parish Church is now well on its

way to being able to buy new protective mesh for its stained-glass windows, after a Coffee Morning in the village on 10 November which raised over £550 towards the estimated cost of £1,000.

Finally, the Coffee Morning organised by Anne Salome to support Dementia UK (Cornwall) raised over £700. (See the box below for the full report.)

Only the Brownies broke with the Coffee Morning theme – their Beetle Drive raised £105, which will pay for a trip to BF Adventure in the spring (if it ever stops raining!)

The Coffee Morning for Dementia UK (Cornwall) held on Saturday 24 November was a resounding success. We raised an astonishing £720! Although the weather was particularly wet, the helpers all turned up with smiles and enthusiasm. Angus Webster, a gifted pianist, strode in at 10am and immediately set the tone for the morning playing a medley of Christmas numbers. At 13 years old, he held everyone in the palm of his hand with his beautiful playing. Totally relaxed, he then chose two of his favourite pieces to perform whilst the shopping stopped and we all listened. A huge thank you to everyone who helped and those who attended.

Anne Salome

Right: Dot Wickham is clearly delighted with her winnings from the bottle stall!



Elinor retires as Mabe Parish Council Clerk



Anyone who has attended a Parish Council Meeting at any time during the last 20 years or so cannot have failed but to notice the lady who has sat to the left hand side of the Chairman. She was the person who never gave her opinion on any matter under discussion but would always give advice to a Councillor or a member of the public when requested to do so and would be seen to be taking notes of the meeting. These are the attributes of all good Clerks. The role of a Clerk is to help in the administration of the Council and not to influence the democratic role of the elected Council. This task has been admirably carried out by Elinor O'Connor for more than 24 years.

After the retirement of a former Clerk, Joe Adams (who had been Clerk for so long that no one could remember any previous one), the Council had a period of 4 years or so with 3 different Clerks. Then followed the long period of stability with the appointment of Elinor as the Clerk.

Nothing was ever too much or "not my job". From projects like publishing the

Parish Plan (when she worked more hours in a week than she was paid for a month over a period of 18 months) to Millennium and Jubilee celebrations.

Never a person to be in an organisation for a short period because it is "flavour of the month", she has been a regular attendee at Mabe Church all of her life, a founder member of the Keep Fit Club, assisted with the running of the Domestic Tent during all the years of the Shindig and will attend all Coffee Mornings and other fund-raising events in the village.

At the same time, she does realise when modern technology with web sites and paperless communications is what is expected and so this is the appropriate time to hand over to a younger person.

From a purely selfish point of view, I am sorry that Elinor will no longer be available to remind me of decisions taken many years ago, to point out where I am on the Agenda and when annual items need organising (like the Poppy Wreath and Christmas lights).

So it is my honour, on behalf of the many Councillors who have been members over the last 24 years, and in particular all the former Chairmen, to say thank you for a job well done. We all wish Elinor well for the future. She will no doubt be happy to have 100 years of papers relocated from her bedroom/office!

Roger Phillips, Chairman, Mabe Parish Council



Children being shown how the apple press works. Photo: Sorab Bhote

Chyan's autumn apple celebration

Chyan Community Field volunteers have spent the autumn apple celebrating, pressing, and juicing; scything, foraging and dowsing. Recently we've been tidying up and putting to sleep our veggie beds for the cold months; if they haven't got a winter crop on them, they've been covered in seaweed, smothered in compost or anointed with green manure crops. And now we're busy experimenting with our brand new polytunnel sowing all sorts of things it's probably far too late - or maybe too early - to be bothering with... but oh... such larks!

With this new and very wonderful facility in mind, if there's a Mabe charity/ community group out there that needs a little warm space to grow some seedlings, please let us know and we'll see what we can do...

And after the winter rest, we intend a new year's training programme that includes dyeing with natural plants, apple tree grafting and pruning, cutting willow, making basketry, and an introduction to foraging and using medicinal herbs. *Betty Levene, Project Co-ordinator, Chyan (01326 377447; Tuesdays & Thursdays)*

Observations of a Layman

I've managed to watch a couple of Mabe FC's matches. I also monitor their progress via the website (simply Google "Trelawny League") and through regular chats with their manager, Jack Roberts. Jack is full of enthusiasm and must be commended for his efforts.

After a shaky start, Mabe had success in their cup matches and for me the most memorable was against Holmans when Mabe knocked in seven goals. Last week, again in a cup match, they won 3-2 against a team five divisions higher.

Please try to support this very enthusiastic bunch of lads; home games are on the playing field behind the school.



I should add that if there was an award for the player with the most injuries, then it should go to Tim, landlord of the New Inn. (Ask him about the clash of heads in the match against Troon!)

Mabe are at home in the league on 8 December against Marazion Blues Reserves; 22 December against Trevenson United Reserves; and on 12 January against Penwith Exiles. *Martin Brown*

Meet your Parish Councillors

This issue we interview two more of our Parish Councillors.

Mark Smith

How long have you been on Mabe Parish Council? Since April 2012.

What made you decide to become a Parish Councillor and what do you hope to contribute? I'd noticed how much work George (Kingston) was single-handedly doing around the village and offered my assistance. This led him to talk me into applying to become a member of the Parish Council so I owe it to or can blame him! I know I'd much rather try to improve things than to moan and I'm keen to make a positive difference within my community. Mabe has lots to offer and lots of potential for the future, I'd like to enthuse the community to get excited about what we have on our doorstep and how great our village can be.

If you could only achieve one thing on the Parish Council in the next year, what would it be? Help our residents make the most of the University by improving how we can access the site and what's going on within it for our residents and businesses.

What work do you do? I own and run a renewable energy company called zlc energy. I am a Chartered Engineer and used to run the construction programme for the Environment Agency and Local Authorities in the South East which gave me lots of experience of difficult planning applications and managing large scale changes that affect local communities. I hope to use



these skills to best help Mabe.

Have you always lived in Mabe? No, I grew up near Bodmin. After moving up country and living in Brighton for 12 years, my family and I moved back here in 2010.

What do you like best about Mabe? It's a great location. We've got the University within walking distance, and I can get to sea or the Helford within ten minutes.

Finally, as a new member of the Parish Council, what are your first impressions? The members of the Council are all passionate about doing what's best for the Parish, which is great. It's clear that there have been some lingering issues, such as traffic in the Parish, which are causing frustration all round and need action. I think some action and some better connection with local residents would benefit us all. These sections in *Mabe Matters* are an excellent first step.

Richard Scrase

How long have you been a Parish Councillor? Approaching 3 years.

What do you see as your main priorities on the Parish Council? Achieving a reduction in the volume and speed of traffic passing through the village. It's evident that traffic-related issues are the single biggest issue affecting people living in Mabe as a whole. Those issues aren't unique to Mabe – they are experienced in villages throughout the county and the country as a whole. However, that doesn't mean that someone else is going to come along and sort them out for us. Instead, the initiative has to come from within Mabe, which in turn means that the Parish Council has a responsibility to take a lead.

Since you have been on the Parish Council, what are you most proud of achieving? Cornwall Council has now scheduled (for 2014-15) installing a safe pedestrian crossing at the Kernick roundabout. Most recently, that initiative started with me suggesting to other Parish Councillors that we instruct a traffic consultant to advise us on what could be done. That expert's involvement, coupled with support from Cornwall Councillor Chris Ridgers, succeeded in unlocking what previously appeared to be one of County Hall's closed doors.

If the Parish Council could only achieve one thing in the next year, what would you want it to be? Emerge from next May's Parish Council elections comprising a group of people who have energy, enthusiasm and a positive outlook that lends itself to getting things done.



Where were you born and where did you grow up? I grew up in Hertfordshire, about 15 miles outside London – commuter belt country. I studied and worked in Leicester, Birmingham and Derby before returning to London. I stayed there until 2002, when together with my wife, Ruth, I moved to Cornwall.

What line of work are you in? I'm a solicitor with Truro firm, Follett Stock, and moved there soon after qualifying (at the age of 41). I'm a litigator which means that I act for clients in civil disputes and court cases. I specialise in actions against public bodies, such as local authorities. Within that, I have developed a niche practice representing children and adults with a diagnosis of autism and/or a learning disability.

Do you have time for any other interests? Yes, I'm trying to raise two children, though at times I prefer listening to music!

What's the best thing about Mabe? The school. It's everything a village school should be. Small, welcoming, professional and high achieving.

Mabe Diary



(All six-digit phone numbers are prefixed by 01326 unless specified.)

December 2012

Sat 1 – MYCP Coffee Morning, Community Hall, 12pm – 2pm. See *What's On*.

Sun 2 – Holy Communion, 8.30am and **Carol Service and Christingle**, 6pm, Mabe Parish Church. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739. *No service at 9.30am.*

Tues 4 – Women's Institute, WI Hall, 7.30pm. A Christmas tea with Jane Mills. All are welcome. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

Thurs 6 – Christmas Tree Lights and Carols, Mabe, 6.30pm. See *What's On*.

Sat 8 – Stones and Bones, WI Hall, 7pm. See *What's On*.

Sun 9 – Parish Eucharist, 9.30am, Mabe Parish Church. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Sun 9 – Community Carol Service, Community Hall, 6pm. See *What's On*.

Tues 11 – Mabe School carols for the community, 2pm. See *What's On*.

Tues 11 – Cornwall Astronomy Society, WI Hall, 8pm. Contact Robert Beeman, 341164.

Wed 12 – Village Communion, WI Hall, 10.30am, followed by tea, coffee and chat. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Thurs 13 – Parish Council Meeting, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Agenda on Parish Notice Board. Open to the public. Contact Fiona Collins, mabeparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk.

Fri 14 – Flicka Foundation Carol Service, 7pm. See *What's On*.

Sat 15 – Bowls Club Christmas Dinner, 7pm. Contact Keith Bryant, 373102.

Sun 16 – Parish Eucharist. Details as for Sun 9 December.

Mon 17 – Mabe Garden Club Christmas Party, Community Hall, 7pm. Members only; bring a plate of savoury food. Contact Val Bidgood, 373984.

Tues 18 – Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner. Details as under *Weekly Events*.

Fri 21 – Mabe School breaks up.

Sun 23 – Parish Eucharist. Details as for Sun 9 December.

Sun 23 – Trenoweth Methodist Church Christmas service led by Gordon Dyer.

Mon 24 – Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass, Mabe Parish Church, 11pm. See *What's On*.

Tues 25 – Christmas Day Service, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am. See *What's On*.



Tues 25 – Christmas Day Service, Trenoweth Methodist Church, Community Hall, 10.30am. See *What's On*.

Wed 26 – Boxing Day – Live music, New Inn from 7pm. See pub for details.

Fri 28 – Pub Charity Quiz, New Inn, 8pm. See *What's On*.

Sun 30 – Carol Service, Trenoweth Methodist Church, Community Hall, 10.45am. See *What's On*.

Sun 30 – No service at Mabe Parish Church. Service of Reflection, St Michael's Church, Ponsanooth, 3pm. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Mon 31 – **New Year's Eve Disco**, The New Inn, 8pm – late.

January 2013

Sun 6 – **Holy Communion**, 8.30am and **Epiphany Carol Service**, 11am, Mabe Parish Church. No service at 9.30am. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Mon 7 – **Mabe School term begins.**

Tues 8 – **Women's Institute**, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Games and quiz night. All are welcome. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

Wed 9 – **Village Communion.** Details as for Wed 12 December.

Thurs 10 – **Parish Council Meeting.** Details as for Thurs 13 December.



Sun 13 – **Parish Eucharist.** Details as for Sun 9 December.

Tues 15 – **Cornwall Astronomy Society.** Details as for Tues 11 December.

Thurs 17 – **Blood donor session**, Community Hall, 1.15pm-3.30pm and 4.45pm-7.30pm. To book, call 0300 123 2323 or visit www.blood.co.uk.

Sun 20 – **Parish Eucharist.** Details as for Sun 9 December.

Mon 21 – **Mabe Garden Club AGM**, followed by a wine and cheese party, Community Hall, 7pm, members only.

Thurs 24 – **Yeth an Werin**, conversation in Cornish, New Inn, 8pm onwards. Contact Vanessa Beeman, 341164.

Thurs 24 – **Cornwall Astronomy Society.** Details as for Tues 11 December.

Sun 27 – **Parish Eucharist.** Details as for Sun 9 December.

Weekly Events, p.11

Were you a pupil or teacher at Tremough Convent School?

2013 marks the 70th anniversary of the nuns arriving in Cornwall at Tremough.

A team from the University of Exeter, headed by Dr Garry Tregidga, Mrs Jay Pengelly (ex-parent) and Dr Bryony Onciul, would like to celebrate with a **People and Place** event over the weekend of 23 – 24 March 2013. They will be collecting material and information in the run up to, and at, the event. The weekend will include tours and exhibitions about the history of Tremough.

Do you have mementoes and treasured possessions safely tucked away at home that could give some insight into life at the school? Or perhaps you have a story to share that could bring back memories for others?

The weekend events are aimed at ex-students and staff. If you think you have anything that might be useful for the project, please contact Jay Pengelly at J.M.Pengelly@exeter.ac.uk. See the next *Mabe Matters* for further information.



(All six-digit phone numbers are prefixed by 01326 unless specified.)

What's On in Mabe

Mabe Youth and Community Project is holding a **Christmas Coffee Morning**, on Saturday 1 December from 12pm to 2pm in the Community Hall. There will be Christmas craft stalls and a raffle, and the money raised will go towards the upkeep of the hall, play area and playing field.

Christmas celebrations will begin in Mabe with the **Carol Service and Christingle** at Mabe Parish Church on Sunday 2 December beginning at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, including children. Money raised from the collection will be donated to the Children's Hospice South West.

The village **Christmas tree lights** will be switched on at 6.30pm on Thursday 6 December, outside the village shop. As long as there isn't a tempest blowing, this is a festive occasion, with carol singing, and refreshments (mulled wine and mince pies) kindly provided, once again, by The Hair Shop and Mabe Post Office and Shop.

The **Community Carol Service** takes place in the Community Hall on Sunday 9 December at 6pm, involving an ecumenical service of carols and readings, followed by the drawing of the **Grand Christmas Raffle**. If you haven't been visited by George Kingston selling raffle tickets yet, and would like to buy some, please contact him on 374193.

Flicka Foundation (at Penty Noweth Farm, Trenoweth Lane) is holding a

Carol Service (with donkeys) on Friday 14 December at 7pm. Tickets from Flicka (373601; or info@flicka.org.uk) are adults £5, children £3, to include a mince pie and mulled wine/soft drink. You are advised to dress up warmly! Flicka's donkeys will also be at Trelassick Gardens on Sunday 9 December, and from 16 to 23 December.

Christmas services at Mabe Parish Church include **Midnight Mass** on Christmas Eve (11pm start) and the **Service for Christmas Morning** on Christmas Day (9.30am). Trenoweth Methodist Church services include a service on Sunday 23 December led by Gordon Dyer, the **Christmas Day service** led by Rev. Arthur Cowburn (starting at 10.30am) and a **service of carols** on Sunday 30 December.



The New Inn is holding a **Christmas prize draw** on Saturday 22 December, and will be open on Christmas Day from 11.30am - 3.30pm for drinks. (Christmas lunch is already fully booked.) There will also be **live music on Boxing Day**, from 7pm and a **New Year's Eve disco** from 8pm.

The next **pub charity quiz**, organised by Vanessa and David Ward, will be held on Friday 28 December at the New Inn starting at 8pm. The cost is £2 per person, with teams of approximately 4 people. There will be lots of prizes and a raffle. All funds raised will go to a local children's charity, yet to be decided.

Following the success of "Universarama", Squashbox Theatre is making a welcome return to Mabe, with a new show at the WI Hall on Saturday 8 December, from 7pm to 9pm.

"Stones and Bones" is a mix of history and mystery, with tales of giants and wizards, erupting volcanoes and even a dinosaur or two. There will also be quizzes, competitions and seasonal refreshments to make it a fun night for the whole family. Suitable for anyone aged 5+.

Tickets available from Mabe Primary School and Mabe Shop, £4 per adult, £3 per child, £15 family ticket (2 adults and 3 children).



Weekly Events

Events held weekly in Mabe Community Hall (Cunningham Park) and in Mabe WI Hall (Antron Hill).



- Mon** **Short Mat Bowls Club**, Community Hall, 2pm-4pm. Contact Keith Bryant, 373102.
Shinty, practice session, new players welcome, contact Matt Mossop for times and venues, 340013 or 07807 458312.
Mabe Keep Fit Club, WI Hall, 7pm. (The waiting list for this class is full.)
- Tues** **Age Concern Luncheon Club**, Community Hall, 12.30pm-2pm. Contact Joyce Price, 373187.
- Wed** **Short Mat Bowls Club**, *details as for Monday*.
Fitness for All, Community Hall, 6pm-7pm. Contact Oriel Bennett, 01726 883523.
Zumba Class, Community Hall, 7.30pm. Contact Gill, 07817 174 114.
- Thurs** **Carpet Bowls Club**, Community Hall, 2pm-4pm. Contact Arthur Searle, 377088.
Brownies, Community Hall, 6.15pm-8pm. Contact Jackie Williams, 372863.
Mabe Football Club, Tremough MUGA, usually 7pm-8pm. Men, 16+, new players welcome. Contact Jack Roberts, 565409.
Shinty, practice session, *details as for Monday*.
- Fri** **Short Mat Bowls Club**, Community Hall, 2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm. Contact Keith Bryant, 373102.
- Sun** **Trenoweth Methodist Church**, Community Hall, 10.45am-12noon. Contact Margaret Bryant, 373102.
Mabe Parish Church (St Laudus), with St Michael's Church, Ponsanooth – please see the Diary (pp.8-9) for the times of services.

The Future of Planning in Mabe

The Localism Act 2011 takes power from central government and hands it back to local authorities and communities.

The Act includes five key measures that underpin the Government's approach to decentralisation:

- Neighbourhood Planning
- Community Rights
- Housing
- General power of competence
- Empowering cities and other local areas

The first two will have a real impact on how local people, with their Parish Councils, can be involved in planning for their community.

Neighbourhood Planning

New rights will allow local communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare neighbourhood plans.

Local people will be able to decide:

- Where new homes and businesses should go.
- What they should look like.

Parish Councils will lead the creation of neighbourhood plans, supported by the local authority. Once written, the plan will be independently examined and put to a referendum of local people for approval.



Communities can be given a chance to buy land or buildings which are important to them, such as the pub or post office.

Community Rights

New community rights will ensure that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over land and buildings that are important to them.

Local communities, voluntary bodies and Parish Councils will be able to identify land and buildings that are important to them, such as the post office or local pub, and nominate them for inclusion on a list of assets maintained by the local authority.

If an asset on the list comes up for sale, communities will be able to trigger a pause for six months, in order to raise capital and bid to purchase the asset, before it goes on the open market.

Empowering cities and other local areas

This part of the act is aimed at empowering cities and other local areas by transferring public functions to

Why are Neighbourhood Plans important to you?

Neighbourhood planning is a new right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011.

For the first time local people will have a statutory say in helping to shape development in the areas in which they live.

The introduction of neighbourhood planning puts power back in the hands of local residents and businesses and will be led by the Parish Council.

So for next year's elections for Mabe Parish Council it will be particularly important that enough people with energy put themselves forward for election to the Council.

For many years, there have not been enough candidates to have an election, so all of the current Councillors have either been elected unopposed or co-opted. It is really important with the new powers for Parish Councils, that the candidates should tell residents what their ideas for the future of Mabe are, so that an informed vote can take place next May. *Barbara Hewett-Silk*



local authorities in order to improve local accountability and promote economic growth.

Housing

The Localism Act will mean more decisions about housing are taken locally, and the system is fairer and more effective.



General powers of competence

This gives Councils the green light to work in innovative ways.

The local authority will have the legal capacity to do anything an individual can do that isn't specifically prohibited.

Councils will be able to work creatively to meet local needs, without having to wait for agreement from the centre to get things done.

Source - Communities and Local Government website:

www.communities.gov.uk

Researched and compiled by Barbara Hewett-Silk

Buzzards by Paul Dunstan

Buzzards are an extremely common sight in the countryside around Mabe, indeed Cornwall has always been one of their great strongholds. They have failed to spread into eastern counties of England in any number mainly because of the large estates with their enthusiastic gamekeepers who have ensured that game-rearing comes first as buzzards are ferocious predators of pheasant and partridge chicks.

The buzzard is the largest bird of prey that we see in this area, it stands between 43-55cms in height and it has a short neck, a large rounded head and bright yellow legs. The plumage varies enormously from cream and brown through to a very dark brown.

It is wonderful to see buzzards soaring through the air with the "fingers" of their broad wings extended. They love circling around on the thermals with

their incredible eyesight searching for any movement on the ground. They mainly eat voles, mice, rats, rabbits and occasionally pigeons. Their diet also includes worms, larvae and beetles. They are not against eating chicks. It is a common sight to see crows and ravens mocking buzzards with prolonged swooping attacks fearful for the safety of their own chicks. If they are extremely hungry, they will eat carrion.

Buzzards have a very distinctive call, an almost cat-like mewing sound. This can be heard especially in spring when they are breeding and again when the young are calling later in the year. Buzzards are



Cont'd from p.16 the mine, he was called back to make an urgent repair to the overhead gear, which took him until the early hours of the next morning. He then went down to the boiler house, lay up against the boiler for warmth, and started work next day. Word had been sent home to his wife and food had been provided.

He also had a second job, at a little house still there in Tinpit Hill (now over-grown though the walls are still evident) where he sharpened tools for stone cutters who were not big enough to employ a full-time smith. His wife met him there with his supper which he ate whilst the fire was getting up to heat. If he needed a "strike" for repairing chains etc, his friend came along. (The striker struck the chain with a 14lb hammer whilst the other person held it – it was too heavy for one person. Both men needed to be incredibly strong.) This friend also had a second job, cutting the crop by moonlight with a scythe.

It was common for men to cycle everywhere. Once, on a Bank Holiday, my father cycled to Perranporth to have a look around. On another occasion, one dark stormy night, whilst he was cycling to Lanner at 7.30am with only a dull carbide lamp, he

territorial when breeding and will often make their mewing calls if you step too closely to their breeding ground.

The nest is normally found high in a tree. It is a bulky affair constructed of branches and twigs with a softer centre of fine material ie hair and green foliage. Although they can lay between 2 to 5 eggs it is rare to find more than 2 chicks in a nest. The chicks require a great deal of food and parents need to hunt for long hours to feed their chicks during May and June. By July and August young buzzards can often be seen on the ground calling and begging their parents for food.

In the middle of the last century, buzzard numbers declined rapidly. One of the reasons for this was the use of the insecticide DDT which caused severe infertility. However their population is now on the increase and this is partly due to the fact that they have adapted to modern agriculture by following the



plough and finding an abundance of food ie worms. Back in the 1970s, a single buzzard could occasionally be spied following the plough and searching for worms. In more recent times, it is not unusual to see up to 10 buzzards performing this task. Indeed on one occasion, I spotted 16 buzzards in the local area harvesting worms behind the plough.

Buzzards can see a rabbit from a mile away. How many buzzards will you be able to spot when you are next walking or driving in the countryside?

Photos: Steve Round, RSPB website

was dragged off his bike by a telegraph wire that had broken loose in the wind. The wire had twisted and then wrapped around him as he was cycling, pulling him to the ground.

My father also worked as a blacksmith on one of the bridges that span the Thames, and on a dam near Princetown on Dartmoor.

Finally he worked at Trevone quarry, Mabe, sharpening tools for twenty-six cutters and also labourers who got the rock out of the quarry.

He only ever lost two days' work – he had stood talking to friends in the street and caught cold in the gum – it was far worse than tooth ache!



Jack's grandparents at Pugh's Corner, Mabe

The life of a foreman blacksmith from Mabe – by Jack Paget

Jack Paget (pictured right), an octogenarian living in Mawnan Smith, writes here of his father, Alfred Charles Paget (1881 to 1952), who lived in Mabe and worked as a blacksmith in mines and quarries in the first half of the 20th century. As Jack says: "This is actually the story of Cornwall at the time; every family had a bike and travelled miles to work."



My father, Alfred Charles Paget, worked at Tresavean Mine near Lanner for fourteen years and was foreman blacksmith for many of those years. He has spoken of being there during the First World War and was not called up to give service to his country because his occupation was considered essential to the war effort.

He cycled each day from Mabe, Rocky Town (the area just past the old Mabe School at Trenoweth) to Lanner, a distance of seven miles, to start work at 7am. He had two push bikes so that if one became punctured his wife would repair it ready for the next emergency.

Around the area of the Tresavean mine, cattle were dying with arsenic poisoning (arsenic was produced as a result of the tin-mining), and the mine owners had to pay compensation to the farmers. To prevent this, they cleaned out the flues and chimneys. This is my father's account of the arsenic flues:

"The flue and chimney were built to prevent pollution of the surrounding farms and to prevent claims. Periodically these required cleaning and this operation was started by masons breaking into the side of the flue next to the baffle plates. Labourers then entered to bring out the arsenic dust on a gurry (a hand barrow). The smiths then entered, one at a time, and undid the nuts holding the plate. They had to come out for air at frequent intervals because of the fumes. This plate was apparently eaten away by arsenic fumes and was then replaced by a new one made from the master pattern. Upon completion of the job, the men were allowed the rest of the day off, any injuries took a long time to heal."

My father refused to move nearer the mine with his children because of the rough nature of youngsters who came to work there. On one occasion, as he was leaving

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