



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

Asda Pharmacy will spell end to Mabe's prescription service

If Asda opens a pharmacy, it will mean an immediate end to the prescription collection service at Mabe shop. And while residents with cars may welcome being able to pop their prescriptions into their Asda trollies, many elderly or disabled residents who rely on the service at Mabe Stores will suffer inconvenience and a reduction in independence, locals are claiming.



Liz Charles says many people rely on the prescription collection service

The likely impact of Asda's plans on shops in Mabe and Penryn – and its apparent flouting of planning rules – has caused much anger. When Asda was built, the planning conditions said that it could not open a pharmacy on site. Asda recently applied to overturn this, but was refused by Cornwall Council. Undaunted, Asda opened a temporary pharmacy in the car park in December, to retain its NHS pharmacy

Cont'd p.2

Inside:



News, pp.1-5; Meet your Parish Council, pp.6-7



*Diary, pp.8-9
What's On, pp.10-11*



*Localism, p.12; Owls, p.13
Old Mabe Quiz, pp.12&14*



*My Hobby, p.15
Secret Places, p.16*

Cont'd from p.1 licence. Cornwall Council has decided not to take enforcement action until it knows the outcome of Asda's appeal against the planning refusal.

Mabe Store owner, Steve Nisbet, told Mabe Matters: *"From a personal view, the way Asda have gone about the process is as if they feel they are untouchable. It is totally wrong and I have been very disappointed with Cornwall Council's response."*

At the moment, Penryn surgery patients who live in Mabe can select to be "dispensing patients" with their prescriptions delivered to Mabe Stores. But if Asda opens its pharmacy, doctors would not be allowed (under Department of Health rules) to dispense drugs to Mabe

patients, as there would be a pharmacy within a mile of the village. Steve comments: *"This would cause a lot of problems for people in the village especially those without transport and the elderly. Sometimes we can have as many as 30 prescriptions delivered on a night."*

Mabe resident, Liz Charles, also voiced her anger: *"My main concern is not only myself but all the elderly people who use the service. Not everyone will be able to travel to Asda."*

Mabe Stores has a petition against Asda's proposals, with about 100 signatures so far. Asda's plans are also seen as being a direct threat to Hendra Chemist in Penryn, and indirectly to Penryn town centre. Nearly 1,000 signatures have been collected there.

No writer's block for speedy Josh!



My name is Josh Wilson, and I'm 13 years old. I am a former pupil of Mabe Primary school, and I live in the Mabe Parish. In November, I entered a competition called NaNoWriMo, which stands for national novel writing month. I was given a month to write a novel of at least 10,000 words, and if I pulled it off, I would get 5 published copies of the book.

I am happy to say that I surpassed my target and reached 14,431 words by the end of November. I took part in this competition with my creative writing group at Penryn College, and we all reached our personal targets. I entered the competition because I loved the idea of having something that I wrote being more than paper, or a computer file. The competition also gave me an element of determination to write the story. Another two ex-pupils of Mabe School – Amy Campbell and Niamh Lister – also met their target in the competition and have their books. We are currently trying to upload the books onto e-reader stores like kindle and kobo, and are entering other competitions with other literary works.

Father John to retire

Fr John Savage is planning to retire in April, having been with us since October 2000.

When Fr John retires the Parish of Mabe with Ponsanooth will enter what is commonly known as an "interregnum" or "period of vacancy". The running of the Parish will primarily fall upon the shoulders of our Churchwardens, with the support of the Church Council. We will discuss our needs with our Rural Dean, the Reverend Geoffrey Bennett, Vicar of Budock, and he will involve the Archdeacon of Cornwall.

We have no idea at this time what will happen to our two Churches and who will be responsible for their care in the



future. A period of vacancy can last at least a year, if not longer. We will be actively seeking a replacement for Fr John – a hard act to follow.

In the meantime, when Fr John leaves, we pray our services will continue as unaffected as possible, covered by whoever we can find to assist us. We will advertise services

through *Mabe Matters' Diary*, and our noticeboards (in the entrance to Mabe Stores as well as at both Churches). You may always contact me, as Parish Administrator, on 375766 or via email at stlaudusandstmichaels@gmail.com. Until April, Fr John can of course be contacted on 259739.

Martin Brown, Reader at Mabe Church & Parish Administrator

Two universities makes Mabe unique!

Not content with having one university in our parish at Tremough, we now have two!

University College Falmouth proudly announced in December that it had been granted full university status by The Privy Council and is now called Falmouth University. It shares the Tremough Campus with the University of Exeter.



Tremough Campus: Falmouth University's new AIR building (to the right) and Tremough Innovation Centre (centre)

This almost certainly makes Mabe the only rural parish in the UK to be home to two universities. A third university (Plymouth) also has a foot in the parish as it runs Tremough Innovation Centre – surely making us unique.

News in brief

Campaigners against the proposed 24 acre **solar farm** on agricultural land at Halvasso are asking people to sign their two e-petitions. Their website www.help4halvasso.co.uk has links to two petitions - one to Cornwall Council asking it "to suspend the development of solar farms on greenfield sites with immediate effect until there is a coherent policy based on the wishes of the people of Cornwall" and one to the government asking it to: "Strictly limit the size of solar installations on farmland to 5 acres or less.,provide planning authorities with clear guidance and introduce a sequential test – brown field sites before farmland."

The developers have submitted revised plans for 90 houses on Treliever Road to Cornwall Council's planning department. The plans, which can be viewed on Cornwall Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=15927), show a re-design of the block

of 12 flats close to the entrance to the proposed development. The application reference is PA12/09580. *RS*

Cornwall Council has agreed to undertake a traffic feasibility study for Mabe. The parish council has provided the County Highways manager with a brief for the study, which is likely to be done in the next few months. *RS*

The quiz which was held at the pub on 28 December, raised £200 for the Gwithian Children's Unit at Trelliske Hospital. They were delighted to receive the money and very grateful to everyone who attended and raised such a good amount. They will let us know what the money has been used for.

Thank you to those that generously donated raffle prizes. *Vanessa Ward*

The collection at the Community Carol Service raised £100, which will go to the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association. The Grand Christmas Raffle, which was drawn at the service, *Cont'd opposite*

Bird boxes for rent!

Mabe School's shiny new roof keeps out the rain beautifully but has one drawback - no space for the sparrows. The school's Eco Council has decided to



remedy this by offering children the chance to sponsor bird boxes under the low eaves (*left*) for £5 and name the sparrow couples living in them. Who knows – we may have Posh and Becks or Wills and Kate living with us by the spring!

Pupils on the Eco Council also researched and wrote a letter to the Joint Playing Field Committee asking for permission to dig a wildlife pond on the field. They are now seeking funding.

Photo of sparrow: RSBP website



Fallen servicemen

Are you related to any of the servicemen from Mabe who died in the First World War? Or do you know anything about them?

The year 2014 will be the centenary of the start of the First World War. Mabe resident Richard Lanc (*right*), and his brother Philip, are researching the history of the men from Mabe who gave their lives for their country. They intend to give the records to Mabe and Cornwall archives for posterity.

The men who died in the First World War were **Alfred Evans, Arthur Kemp, Arnold Tresidder, Arthur Trevail, Norman Warren and Charles Winn.**

Richard and Philip are also researching those who fell in the Second World War: **TP Burley, CJ Campbell, M Lawrey, MR Medlyn and MJ Tremayne.**

If you know anything about them, or know someone else who might, please email Philip (philip@welsh-holly.co.uk) or contact Richard on 01326 371247 or in person at Sterling House, Treliever Road, Mabe.



raised £900 towards the upkeep of Mabe Community Hall, the playground, skate park and the playing field. The organiser, George Kingston, is grateful to everyone who donated prizes or who bought tickets. In turn, MYCP is very grateful to George Kingston for the hard work he puts into arranging the draw and selling the tickets. *Martin Brown*

.....
Former Mabe School pupil, Kian Pellow, led a sponsored silence to raise money for the charity Dreamflight, which helps critically ill children go on a "holiday of a lifetime". Kian's brother, Aiden, who is at Mabe School, travelled to Orlando, Florida in the autumn with the charity. Kian and three other Penryn College students raised an amazing £232 during their day of silence in mid-January.

Why not join the Twinners?

On 26 April, our friends from Primelin in France will be returning to Mabe, for their biannual visit. We would welcome new members to join the twinning group, to experience the "entente cordiale" and to make new friends in our village and in Primelin.

Those of us who have been members over many years have enjoyed our friendships with the French folk and being treated as part of their families. Many of us are not fluent in the French language, but this all adds to the fun!

If you wish to join us or help with accommodation for the forthcoming visit, please contact Vanessa Ward on 01326 375677. *Lilian Miller*

Meet your Parish Council

We interview another Parish Councillor and the new Clerk, and hear from the Chair about the May elections



Ben Bull

I've been a Parish Councillor since 6 September 2012. I wanted to become a Parish Councillor because I want to contribute usefully towards the Parish and its community. I hope to be able to contribute towards helping Mabe protect its heritage and identity, whilst looking forward to solving problems such as traffic and over development. My interest is in serving the people of Mabe and I'm always interested to hear views and opinions – if you see me out and about, please stop me and let me know if there is anything I can do to represent you more effectively.

I would really like to see progress made over the next year towards solving Mabe's traffic issues. I know this is a big

one, and it's been tried before, but myself and my fellow councillors see this as a problem, and for me it's a priority.

My impression of the Parish Council is that there are some really committed and knowledgeable people in our Parish, who genuinely care about issues affecting us all. My only negative thought is that we don't get enough public participation, after all we're there to serve the Parish, and as much as we can try to cover everything, without the engagement from the whole Parish, we're bound to miss something.

I haven't always lived in Mabe. I was born in Plymouth but have lived my entire life in Cornwall. I was schooled in Truro and work within the Parish. My partner and I moved to Mabe Burnthouse in 2003 and love the village and its facilities.

My job is the Head of Technology Enhanced Learning for Falmouth University and I'm based at the Tremough campus. My work involves managing two teams of people who help to deliver learning and teaching across a range of subjects using suitable technological modes and methods.

The best thing about Mabe for me is the location. It's a short walk to the necessary amenities, a short walk to my work and very convenient for access to the water and surrounding countryside.

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

When are the next Parish Council elections? A new Parish Council will be elected in May. In late March or early April, Cornwall Council's Returning Officer will issue the formal notice inviting nominations for election as a Councillor. The notice (which will be put on the Parish Noticeboards) will indicate the closing date for nominations which will be about the middle of April. Should there be more than 10 nominees, then an election will be held on 2 May 2013.

Who can stand? To be eligible to stand a person must be on the Parish register of Electors, or work or own property in the parish or live within 3 miles of the parish.

What does the Council do and what time is involved? A Parish Council is the only statutory body that has no functions that it is required to perform. Instead it has services that it may provide (burial grounds, footpath maintenance, public toilets, sports grounds etc) and functions it can require to be consulted on (planning applications). Outside of its monthly meeting, a Parish Councillor could be involved in inspecting footpaths, planning application site visits, research on highway safety and traffic numbers, maintenance of parish property etc, depending on their choice. The amount of time involved is therefore a personal choice. *Roger Philips*

Fiona Collins, Parish Clerk

I started the job in November. First impressions - everyone has been very friendly and seem to care about what goes on in the Parish. I am looking forward to getting to grips with the job, to build on my knowledge of the local area, to modernise the systems that are in place and to continue to provide the good service that Elinor provided.

I also work as a Finance Office at Duchy College, and have worked there for 14 years, first full time then going part time after I had my children. When my youngest started school I wanted a position that would provide a new interest and challenge.



I live in Carnkie, Wendron. I was born and brought up on a farm near Mullion, so have a good knowledge of Cornwall and the various issues that it faces as a rural area. I am a keen cyclist, walker and enjoy reading.

Mabe Diary



February 2013

Sun 3 – Holy Communion, 8.30am, and **Parish Eucharist for Candlemass**, 9.30am, Mabe Parish Church. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Tues 5 – Women's Institute, Annual Birthday Party, New Inn, 7pm. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

Sat 9 – Mabe FC home fixture versus Troon Thirds, Playing Field, Cunningham Park, 2.30pm kick off. Contact Jack Roberts, 565409.

Sat 9 – Theo Clinkard (dance), Tremough. *See box opposite.*

Sun 10 – Parish Eucharist, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Tues 12 – Cornwall Astronomy Society, WI Hall, 8 pm. Contact Robert Beeman, 341164.

Wed 13 – Village Communion, WI Hall, 10.30am, followed by tea, coffee and chat. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Wed 13 – Ash Wednesday Service and Imposition of Ashes, Mabe Parish Church, 7pm. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.



Thurs 14 – Valentine's Supper, The New Inn. *See What's On.*

Thurs 14 – Parish Council Meeting, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Agenda on Parish Notice Board. Open to the public. Contact Fiona Collins, 01209 861527.

Sat 16 – Mabe FC home fixture versus

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

Storm Reserves. *Details as for Sat 9.*

Sat 16 – Valentine's Supper, Community Hall. *See What's On.*

Sat 16 – Cube Theatre presents Aubade (Oh Bad!), Tremough. *See box opposite.*

Sun 17 – Parish Eucharist. *Details as for Sun 10.*

Mon 18 – Mabe Garden Club, Community Hall, 7pm. Contact Val Bidgood, 373984.

Sun 24 – Parish Eucharist. *Details as for Sun 10.*

Thurs 28 – Cornwall Astronomy Society. *Details as for Tues 12.*



March 2013

Sat 2 – Mabe FC home fixture versus St Erme. *Details as for Sat 9 Feb.*

Sun 3 – Holy Communion, 8.30am and **Parish Eucharist**, 9.30am, Mabe Parish Church. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Tues 5 – Women's Institute, WI Hall, 7.30pm, Annual General Meeting, new members welcome. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

Tues 5 to Sat 9 – A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, Tremough. *See box.*

Sat 9 – Company Chameleon (dance). *See box opposite.*

Sun 10 – Family Communion for Mothering Sunday, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am. Contact Fr John Savage, 259739.

Tues 12 – Cornwall Astronomy Society.

Theatre and dance at Tremough

Little Angel Theatre in association with Kneehigh is bringing a "beautiful, brave and always entertaining puppetry production" to Tremough Performance Centre.

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

is based on a story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and is suitable for adults and families. Tues 5 March to Sat 9 March at 7.30pm, plus Sat 9 March at 2.30pm.

Other shows at Tremough by professional companies include Cube Theatre (Sat 16 Feb), Theo Clinkard dance (Sat 9 Feb) and Company Chameleon dance (Sat 9 March), all at 7.30pm, tickets £12/£9 concessions. There are also frequent student performances. Visit the web or phone for more info or to book. Box Office, 255885 or www.theperformancecentre.org.



Details as for Tues 12 Feb.

Wed 13 – Village Communion. *Details as for Wed 13 Feb.*

Thurs 14 – Parish Council Meeting. *Details as for Thurs 14 Feb.*

Sun 17 – Parish Eucharist. *Details as for Sun 10 Feb.*

Sun 17 – St Patrick's Day at The New Inn. Irish themed specials and live music, 9pm.

Mon 18 – Mabe Garden Club, Community Hall, 7pm. Contact Val Bidgood, 373984.

Wed 20 – Blood Donor Session, Community Hall, 1.15pm to 3.30pm and 4.45pm to 7.30pm. To book a slot, call 0300 123 2323 or visit www.blood.co.uk

Fri 22 – Mabe School Easter Fete, 1.30pm. Cake stall, teas, coffees, hot cross buns, raffle etc. All welcome.

Fri 22 – Spring Walk. *See What's On.*

Sat 23 – People and Place: Tremough History Project. *See What's On.*

Sat 23 – Mabe FC home fixture versus Gwinear Churchtown Reserves. *Details as for Sat 9 Feb.*

Sun 24 – Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday. *Details as for Sun 10 Feb.*

Thurs 28 – Maundy Thursday Agape Supper, Mabe Parish Church, 7pm. Contact Martin Brown, 375766.

Thurs 28 – Cornwall Astronomy Society. *Details as for Tues 12 Feb.*

Fri 29 – Good Friday Vigil, Mabe Parish Church, 2pm. Contact Martin Brown, 375766.

Sat 30 – Service of Compline, 4pm, Mabe Church. The church will also be open for private prayer, 10am to 4pm. Contact Martin Brown, 375766.

Sun 31 – Easter Sunday Mass, Mabe Parish Church, 11am. This will be Fr John's last official service at Mabe. Contact Martin Brown, 375766.

Sun 31 – Pub Quiz. *See What's On.*



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

What's On in Mabe



You have two opportunities to treat your loved one on **Valentine's Day** in Mabe this year. The New Inn is offering a three-course meal for £19.95 per person on Valentine's Day, Thursday 14 February from 6.30pm. Book early (on 373428) to avoid disappointment. On Saturday, 16 February, there will be a return of the popular Valentine's Supper at the Community Hall at 7pm, with a three-course meal plus coffee for £13.50 per head. You can bring your own wine, and any profits will go towards hall funds. Phone Jackie Williams (372863) or Wendy Mitchell (378177) to book your table.

BF Adventure, in Halvasso, is running **BF Holiday Adventure Days** throughout February half term for children between 7 and 12 years. Activities include rock climbing challenges, canoe contests, bush craft, even beach safaris. A whole day, 9.30am to 3.30pm, is £30 per child.

On Friday March 22 why not join the **BF Adventure Spring Fest Walk**? Meet at the BF Adventure Activity Centre at 10am for transport to Argal Reservoir. The walk will initially follow the reservoir, continue along a beautiful valley and finish back at the Activity Centre. It is 1 or 2 miles and should take around an hour. The walk is free although donations to BFA are always welcome.

Email enquiries@bfadventure.org or call 340912 for further information on these activities.

The **People and Place: Tremough History Project** is an initiative to collect and share the history of Tremough. On Saturday 23 March, Tremough House will be open to the public from 10am to 3pm for people to share their memories and learn about the history through guided tours and talks. For more details, see the local media nearer the time or contact Jay Pengelly on 371817 or email j.m.pengelly@exeter.ac.uk.

Visitors to the Flicka Foundation (at Penty Noweth Farm, Trenoweth Lane), are welcome all year round, Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm. There is no entrance fee, but a donation to the charity would be much appreciated.

And as we go to press they are busy organizing an **Open Day at Easter**, and are hoping to persuade a national television star to make a guest appearance. Keep a look-out for posters or phone Flicka (373601 or info@flicka.org.uk) for more information nearer the time!

The next **pub quiz** will be held on Easter Sunday (31 March) and will be raising money for research into Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. This is a progressive condition which causes symptoms similar to Parkinson's Disease. Some of you may know that a Mabe resident, Stephen Mitchell, recently died from this condition and his family are keen to raise money and awareness.

Everyone is welcome, £2 per person and teams of approx 4 people. The usual silly prizes will be given and a raffle will be held.

Mabe has recently seen the formation of two new shinty clubs - Mabe and the Combined Universities of Cornwall - both based here in Mabe. Mabe Shinty Club would love to see some more players (so they can continue to beat the students!). Practice is on a Monday evening and Sunday afternoon, with fitness training at Tremough on a Thursday evening. First match of the season on Sunday 17 February. If you are interested, contact Matt Mossop (340013 or 07807 458312).



Weekly Events

Events held weekly in Mabe Community Hall, Mabe Community Primary School (both 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.

Cornish Language Group, WI Hall, 7pm. Contact Vanessa Beeman, 341164.

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.

Aikido, Japanese martial art, beginners welcome, 7pm – 9pm, Mabe School. Contact Jamie Matthews, 375336.

Shinty, fitness at Tremough, 8pm-9pm. *Contact 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.



Jack Paget's Mabe Quiz

What was Mabe like in the 1930s and 40s? Test your knowledge of Mabe's past with this quiz from octogenarian Jack Paget, who grew up here. Answers, p. 14.

1. *Where is the archery field?*
2. *Where is the site of the dynamite house?*
3. *Where is Gravel Hill?*
4. *Where did Arthur Berryman keep his pony and jingle?*
5. *Where did Sandpit Tom live?*
6. *Where was Shellabear's Quarry?*
7. *Where was Buckle and Twist Quarry?*
8. *Where was the pill box built in 1941?*
9. *Where did gypsies camp every summer?*
10. *Where did the villagers get their drinking water?*

Neighbourhood Plans by Roger Philips

This article is a follow up to the one in December's *Mabe Matters*. It is my own thoughts and should not be attributed to the Parish Council.

It is true that all of the present councillors were elected unopposed or were co-opted but in every case the person put their name forward expecting either an election or a ballot. It is to their credit that they were prepared to give of their time freely for the benefit of the Parish as Parish Councillors receive no payment.

Looking to the future, I agree that the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan should be considered by the new Council - indeed, I highlighted this in my profile in *Mabe Matters* some months ago. I cannot however see how this will put "power back in the hands of local residents" as ever since Planning Regulations were first introduced in 1947, the "power" has always been with Central Government and County and District Councils. Even with this change the overarching power will still be with

Cornwall Council and its County Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan can only indicate where development takes place and not that it cannot take place. If the draft County Plan is endorsed then within the Falmouth/Penryn general area some 6 or 7,000 new homes will be built. The Town and Parish Councils local plans (if produced) will have to show where they are to be built.

A Neighbourhood Plan should be a community plan facilitated by the Parish Council. I would not wish to see anyone involved in preparing a Plan who has already determined what the result should be before hearing the views of other people. The final step for the Plan is a referendum of the Parish electors. Therefore unless the persons involved take account of the wishes of the majority from the outset there will be a risk of a "no" vote at the end. This would put the whole system back years as well as wasting pounds.

To me this is the only part of the whole planning system that is democratic.

Owls

by Paul Dunstan

Three types of owls can be seen in this area. In this issue, I will write about the Tawny Owl and in the next, about the Barn Owl and the Little Owl.

Tawny Owls

The largest and the most common owl in this area is the Tawny Owl. It thrives in the UK and especially in the west country where there are smaller areas of woodland with clearings, hedges and mature trees and plenty of lookout posts for hunting the small mammals such as mice, voles etc that form the main part of its diet.

The Tawny Owl is one of the earliest birds in the UK to breed and lay eggs. This usually takes place in January into early February. Owls have a unique system of hatching and rearing their young in that they lay an egg every other day and start sitting on the first egg immediately. This means that the chicks (four to five) hatch every other day with the first hatched being the



largest. In a year where there is an abundance of food all of the chicks might live whilst in a year of food shortages only the first, being the biggest, may survive.

Young Tawny Owls pair off from the age of a year and stay together for life. They are extremely territorial and if the young fail to find a vacant territory they can starve to death.

It is a common sight when driving at night to see a Tawny Owl hunting for prey. Indeed it is well equipped for night hunting as it flies silently and its asymmetrically placed ears give it excellent directional hearing. It swoops on its prey and swallows it whole. The indigestible parts are regurgitated later as pellets which can be found under trees where the owls have been roosting or nesting. (If you dissect these pellets you can discover the food source by studying the bones and fur inside.)

For several years we have seen young Tawny Owls in May/June sitting on a branch in the farm lane, arranged in their various sizes, making chirruping noises, covered in white downy feathers and with their large eyes reflecting in the light of a torch.

However, Tawny Owls are more often heard than seen with the female making the "kewick" and the male replying with the shuddering "twoooo" sound!



Photo credits: (top) www.wikipedia.org; (left) Kim Taylor, www.bbc.co.uk

Answers to Jack's Quiz (p.12):

1. *Where is the archery field?* It is 100 yards past Mabe Church on the same side before the farm house. Years ago – up to and including Tudor times – archery had to be practiced in every area to provide a number of archers to fight for the king in times of war.

2. *Where is the site of the dynamite house?* The dynamite house was at Carnebo. Boys of 14 or 15 who worked in the quarry had to collect the dynamite needed for quarrying and were given the key to the dynamite house with the warning that if they wiped their foreheads whilst they were carrying the dynamite they would get a terrible headache – the result of gelignite and moisture.

3. *Where is Gravel Hill?* Gravel Hill is the road from Tinpit Corner down to Argal Dam. The original road was the same width as the road going up into the Dam. The main road was widened by the Americans for their tanks when they were travelling to Trebah for the D-Day embarkation.



Gravel Hill (to the left dropping towards Argal Dam). Before the war, this road was only as wide as the lane to the right.

4. *Where did Arthur Berryman keep his pony and jingle?* On the right hand side down Nanturrian Hill just before where the Kernick roundabout is now. He needed the pony and jingle (a small cart with two large wheels) to take his wife for a ride every Sunday afternoon. (Arthur Berryman's great niece remembers a donkey called Joey pulling the cart, rather than a pony.)



A donkey and large-wheeled cart in Mabe

5. *Where did Sandpit Tom live?* At the entrance to Sid Knowles' yard (on Antron Hill) in a tent.

Sandpit Tom was a sailor who had sailed in windjammers. When he retired, he lived in a tent with his wife. The tent had an outside covering of blankets and a tarpaulin and was about 6 inches (15 cm) thick. The boys of the village would go into the tent where they would be fascinated by Sandpit Tom's stories of the sea – and by his wife...

6. *Where was Shellabear's Quarry?* In the Sid Knowles' area. The granite was taken from this quarry to build Falmouth Docks.

My Hobby

My name is Chloe Watson. I am 14 years old. I help out at the Flicka Foundation in all of my spare time. Since I have helped out at the Flicka Foundation I have made loads of new friends.

I enjoy going to the Flicka as I love to care for the horses and donkeys. A lot of the horses and donkeys that have come into the care of the Flicka have either been abandoned or mistreated.

When these animals come to the Flicka they are given a loving home where they can get the care and love they need. At the weekends I also take part in riding lessons. The Flicka has the best safety record around for horse riding.

Judy and Laurie are very supportive of me as they have helped me to grow in confidence around the horses and donkeys.

My most favourite moments at the Flicka was when the three baby foals were born earlier this year; the foals are growing rapidly so I like to spend as much time as I possibly can with them while they are still young and small.



7. *Where was Buckle and Twist Quarry?*

In front of Trenoweth Chapel (Tim Marsh's quarry). It was called Buckle and Twist because of the fold line in the granite which made it unpredictable and difficult to work. It was known as a dangerous quarry.

8. *Where was the pill box built in 1941?*

On the junction (almost at Longdowns) where the top of Antron Hill meets the Helston road. The pill box had a galvanised roof and looked more like a shed. It was destroyed when they widened the road.

9. *Where did gypsies camp every summer?* They camped between the hedge and the road by the gate going to the

Car Boot (Shindig) Field towards the top of Antron Hill. Here four gypsies came for two months every year. They sold clothes pegs and told fortunes. They took their water from a well at Pugh's corner.

10. *Where did the villagers get their drinking water?* A spring rose up at the entrance to Sid Knowles' Quarry and fell down like a waterfall. It ran in an open stream until the Women's Institute and then it was piped underground to the water shute in the village. Opposite the shop by two cottages there was a little stone building which housed the water shute. Here everyone would come with their buckets for water. There was always a plentiful supply.

Secret Places by Jackie Frost

In a county famed for its Methodism, there is a little piece of Catholic history hidden in the grounds of Tremough campus. In 1944 the American 97th Battalion of Seabees was stationed at the convent preparing for D-Day. To keep the boys out of mischief their commanding officer encouraged them to build a replica of the Lourdes grotto right here in Cornwall. The Mother Superior also asked for a lily pond in the shape of a star as a reminder of the stars on their flags and uniforms. The soldiers built a grotto containing the statues of The Virgin Mary and with Saint Bernadette kneeling at her feet. We believe there was also a statue of an angel. The pond and the grotto were created in a quiet hollow near the entrance to the convent just above the stream in a grove of bamboo. A dedication ceremony was held in 1945 with the Bishop of Plymouth and soldiers and sailors from many of the allied Nations.



Above: the star shaped lily pond, now partially boarded over. Below: the remains of a statue.



The grotto remained, out of sight, known only to the local children for many years. No miracles have yet been reported, but it is known as a special, almost haunted spot.

Since then the convent has become a university campus and the grotto has been forgotten and fallen into disrepair. Vandals have badly damaged the statues and thrown litter into the star pond and the whole area has become overgrown and hidden from view.

It is still an exciting place to explore. If you walk along the lower campus footpath by the stream you will find a thick grove of bamboo. Almost at the gates you may discover some mossy uneven stone steps. Step carefully down to find what is left of the grotto. The vandalised statues and the mossy overgrown memorial stone give the shrine a moody, romantic atmosphere. The pond, surrounded by brambles and nettles and filled with 21st century litter is still in the shape of a star and is a poignant reminder of the labour of those young men who were so soon to risk their lives in Normandy.

The university intends to restore the statues and recreate the garden nearer to the main house. While this will keep it safer from the vandals, it would be difficult to recreate the sense of that concrete grotto, overgrown by Cornish moss, hidden in a damp grove, built by friendship in a time of war.

Mabe Matters is published by Mabe Youth and Community Project, Cunningham Park, Mabe Burnthouse, Cornwall, TR10 9HB. Editorial Team: Margaret Bryant, Liz Dunstan, Jackie Frost, Charlotte Jones (also illustrations), Tessa Kingsley and Ruth Olver (Editor). Distribution co-ordination: Liz Dunstan.

Deadline for the next issue: **18 March 2013**. Please send your news, events, letters, etc to the address above or email mabematters@aol.co.uk.