



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

### Mabe's badminton bonanza!

Mabe has done amazingly well at Cornwall's recent Badminton Championships, with four Mabe players winning six champion and two runner up titles between them.



*Mabe's junior badminton champions, including Ollie Cavill (back row, far left), Naomi Cavill (front, centre) and Sarah Frost (back row, far right).*

The crop of junior champions is the direct result of taster sessions held at Mabe School five years ago. Since those visits by local Cornwall youth badminton coach, Jon Wotton, Mabe pupils have gone from strength to strength representing their schools and their county. This year was no exception. In the Under 13s, after a season with the county playing at number 1, Ollie Cavill became boys' singles, boys' doubles and mixed doubles county champion. Sarah Frost was girls' doubles, mixed doubles' county champion and girls' singles runner up. At Under 11 level, Ollie's sister Naomi was runner up in the girls' doubles county championship and won the singles' plate. Ruth Barnicoat has also had a great season, representing the county against some of the country's best players and

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*Cont'd from p.1* winning the schools county championship for Penryn College in a team containing other ex-Mabe pupils Emily Toy and Tegan Thompson.

Jon remembers all of these players at 8 years old and is very proud of them. "They all delivered when it really mattered and coaching goes only so far... ultimately THEY did it and THEY delivered." It is very unusual for one primary school to produce so many County champions and Jon hopes to return in September for more taster sessions looking for champions of the future! *JF*

### **Arthur Cowburn moving on**

In addition to saying farewell at Easter to Father John Savage of St. Laudus Church, the Methodist Minister, Rev. Arthur Cowburn, will be moving on in

August, after several years living in Mabe. He has been in charge of the Churches in Mabe, Penryn, Edgcumbe and Mawnan, with an overall responsibility for all the Churches in the Falmouth and Gwennap Circuit. During April, May and June, Arthur is on a sabbatical, which is a time of reflection and study. There will be no replacement for him when he leaves, and other ministers in the Circuit will share the work. *MB*

### **Solar panels decision deferred**

Halvasso residents are still waiting to find out whether a controversial solar panel scheme will be given the go-ahead by Cornwall Council. The Strategic Planning Committee was unable to agree on whether to grant London-based firm, Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd planning permission to cover 12 fields with solar panels. The committee will consider the application again in April.

### **Celebrating St Piran's Day**

Mabe celebrated St. Piran's Day with a Cornish evening organised by Beryl Moyle, Frances Walther and Keith Bryant of Mabe Short Mat Bowls Club. The Community Hall was well decorated in black and gold, and the traditional black and white flags. The food was all Cornish-pasties, saffron cake and splits, jam and cream, followed by tea, and there was a raffle with prizes of a Cornish connection. Members and friends provided the entertainment, including Cornish stories and poems, dialect stories and some interesting local historical facts. Michael White led the singing of favourite Cornish songs, including the Cornish National Anthem, Trelawney, with Lance Foy as the accompanist. It is hoped that this successful new venture can be repeated next year. *MB*



*Children from Class 3 of Mabe School dressed in black and white and joined pupils from other schools to dance through the streets of Falmouth on St Piran's Day. Photo: Tessa Kingsley*

## Mabe's Ruth is Head Girl

Congratulations to Mabe resident, Ruth Barnicoat, who has been appointed as Head Girl of Penryn College from Easter for a year. Duties will include acting as a role model and representative for the 1,000 pupils and as an ambassador for the College externally, as well as public speaking duties, such as addressing the whole school on the first day of term, speaking at achievement assemblies and hosting school concerts. According to the Assistant Headteacher, Ruth was chosen from a particularly strong field.



## Seeking Great War nephews

With my brother Richard, I have been researching the men named on the war memorials in Mabe. We have been given some useful information regarding some of the names.

One of the men commemorated was Alfred Evans. Before the war began in 1914, Alfred lived at Longdowns and worked as a stone mason at Constan-tine. He was probably killed by a shell while operating with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at the Battle of Bapaume, Flanders, France where he died on 31 August 1918. His brother had two sons, Leonard born around 1930 and Bernard born around 1931. Does anyone know of these brothers?

If you can help provide information on any of the men commemorated, please let us know. The names from the first world war are Alfred Evans, Arthur Trevail, Arthur Kemp, Norman Warren (Arme), Arnold Tresidder and Charles Winn. Those from the second world war are Thomas P Burley, C J C Cambell, Martin Lawrey, M Robert Medlyn and Melville John Tremayne.

The National Heiritage Lottery has funding for some events commemorating the Centenary of the Great War, especially those involving young people and which are going to leave a legacy. If you have any good ideas, please phone Richard on 372147 or email me at *philip@welsh-holly.co.uk*. Philip Lanc

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A Soup and Sweet Lunch held by Trenoweth Methodist Church in February raised £200 for the Chiverton Carriage Driving for the Disabled. More than forty people enjoyed soup with a roll, followed by a choice of home-made sweets, tea or coffee. There were also stalls and a raffle. The next charity event organised by members will be a Cream Tea in August for a dementia charity. MB

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At the end of January, the Short Mat Bowls Club held a friendly triples knock-out organised by Ivor Symonds. Club members enjoyed the day along with a light lunch. The winning team were Sam Cann, David Marder and Ivor Symonds. Anyone with an interest in short mat bowls will find contact names and phone numbers on p.11. *Ivor Symonds*

The volunteers who distribute *Mabe Matters* got together recently to discuss any problems and ideas. The distributors pictured are, *L to R*: George Kingston, Liz Dunstan, Ruth Olver, Jo Clarkson, Martin Brown, Charlotte Jones, Jackie Frost, Jenny George and Mary Oxborough. Other distributors are Margaret Barnicoat, Charlie Frost, Tessa Kingsley, Lilian Miller, Richard Scrase and Amanda Wills. The Editor would like to thank them all. If you would be interested in delivering *Mabe Matters*, contact Liz Dunstan, Distribution Co-ordinator on 373232.



## Nankersey Male Choir

The choir, which is based in Flushing, attracts choristers from quite a wide area of West Cornwall. Present membership is about 60 with several members living in Mabe Parish. The choir is no stranger to Mabe and has on many occasions used the Youth & Community Hall for Coffee Mornings and the like. In 2010, a 60th Anniversary Party was held in Mabe for past and present members, spouses and supporters.

A CD was produced to mark the occasion simply entitled *60th Anniversary* and it contains favourite pieces sung since the choir started in 1950. Around the same time, the choir members decided to incorporate the words to fifty or so popular songs, usually associated

with male singing in pubs and clubs, in a songbook, as many people do not know or cannot remember "all the words". The *Nankersey Male Choir Songbook* has to date been sold successfully to choirs and individuals throughout Cornwall and Devon, and I have heard from recipients as far away as Australia. To buy the CD (£10) or *The Songbook* (£2.50, or £3.50 by post), phone me, Fred Bidgood, on 373984.

2013 promises to be a special year for Nankersey with two major events. Firstly, there is the biennial Cornwall Male Voice Choral Festival in May with some 60 plus male choirs (men and boys) from England, Wales, Scotland and 10 other counties performing at venues throughout the county. Nankersey will be hosting a Regional Gala Concert on Friday 3 May at Falmouth Methodist Church with guest choirs from Nottingham,

***Did you know?*** *There are more Male Voice Choirs in Cornwall than in the whole of Wales!*

*Cont opposite*



## Mabe Ladies Choir excels at the County Music Festival

Mabe Ladies Choir are still absorbing their success at the 2013 County Music Festival after being awarded The Bassett Shield for Ladies Voices (over 30 singers), The Edgar Kessell Gold Cup Award for the Championship Choir, The Everet Heath Cup for the Best Adult Choir Performance, and The Jose Cup for the Best Overall Choir Performance. The Adjudicator described their singing as "beautifully mellow and excellently balanced between the parts" and praised them for "a first-rate performance".

*Photograph by Radnour Acton-Page.*

Huddersfield and Sydney, Australia. Other choirs will be performing at over 40 locations between 2 to 6 May.

Secondly, in November, 32 members of Nankersey Male Choir will be performing with over 600 others at the Royal Albert Hall, London in "Kernowyon A Gan" (Men of Cornwall Sing) in aid of the RNLI, Cornwall Hospice Care and The BBC Radio Cornwall Appeal. The Cornwall Youth Orchestra and Cornwall Cambiata will also be appearing, with Jonathon Delbridge on the organ and Bishop Tim acting as Chairman.

Recruitment of new members is a priority if this time-honoured tradition in Cornwall is not to die out. Gentlemen, young or "older", if you would like to



sample what belonging to a male choir is like - without obligation - please give me a ring. Ladies, if your spouse or partner would benefit from singing with a choir, I shall be delighted to hear from you. Remember – SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

*Fred Bidgood, 01326 373984; email: familybidgood@hotmail.co.uk*

# Will you be first to spot these summer visitors to our area?

Swallows – look for their long curved wings and their forked tail in flight.

Cuckoo – these haven't been seen or heard in this area for many years.

Chiffchaff – these are rather insignificant to look at but when they arrive they make the distinctive chiffchaff sound. Later in June and July they stop making this sound only to resume again a month before they leave in late September. They are woodland birds although they can be seen in gardens. They nest on the ground.

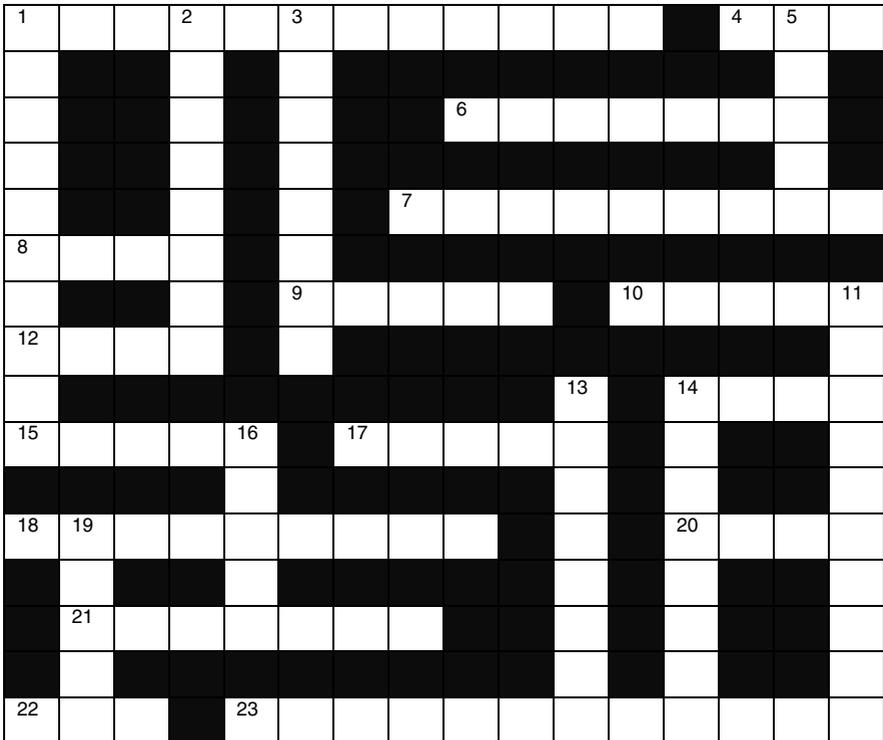


Skylark (*pictured left*) – as it starts to sing it rises in a spiral in the sky singing all of the time before suddenly stopping and diving dramatically to the ground.

House Martin (*pictured far right*) – it is smaller and more compact than a swallow. It can be seen picking up mud which it uses for building nests on the eaves of buildings.

## Crossword - compiled by Jackie Frost

Many of the answers refer to places within Mabe parish. Answers p.12



Swift – it is similar to a swallow except that its wings are more curved and it has a white patch on its rump. It is very fast flying and it can be seen flying high in the sky usually in family groups.

Whitethroat – it is quite a common bird in this area and can be seen in hedgerows particularly around the reservoir. It has a distinctive chatter and is the size of a sparrow with an obvious white throat.

Other firsts (though not visitors) might be butterflies such as The Brimstone, the Tortoiseshell and the Peacock, which



all come out of hibernation soon. The Orangetip hatches in May and lives for 7 to 8 weeks during which time the female mates and lays her eggs. It is not seen after the end of June.

If you see any of these birds or butterflies, please contact *Mabe Matters* (details on p.16); earliest sightings in the next issue. *Paul and Liz Dunstan*

*Photo credits: far left: Southend RSPB; above; RSPB*

## ACROSS

1. A place to search for St. Piran's metal? (6,6)
4. Little Wessex king shows what our university was first known for (3)
6. Dishing out entertainment in Mabe for over 25 years (7)
7. Light containing expectant duchess provides outdoor entertainment for our young people (5,4)
8. The king's special mark in wax on a letter can be found in a Constantine sanctuary (4)
9. It means field, but is actually part of a road in Mabe (5)
10. Half of 1 across was briefly a club, renowned for this (5)
12. A Cornish project recreating the first garden (4)
14. Sounds like a man singing in church (4)
15. What some of our ladies (and gents) do on a Tuesday in the hall (5)
17. Was this Mabe house in a fire? (5)
18. A miniature Arab homeland in the parish (9)

20. Hidden in a cave in Mabe is a small blood vessel (4)
21. Tearing up rock! (7)
22. Betty Stogs is a good one (3)
23. Meeting of clergy for some adventure! (7, 5)

## DOWN

1. Mix up with Northern Ireland and a borehole in a roundabout way (10)
2. Very proper going up the river to our twin (8)
3. Hesitation in manger where sisters lived (8)
5. An agreement on the radio gives us our chair! (5)
11. The school park or sly meat? (10)
13. Church contains a good man - praise you and me (2,6)
14. Middle Eastern sweets, thus, an outpost of the parish and compiler's home (8)
16. German trousers or a sporting son of Mabe? (5)
19. Hidden in a cedar galleon revealing a lake (5)

# Mabe Diary



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

## March 2013

**Sat 30 – Flicka Easter**

**Open Day.** See *What's On*.

**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*.

## April 2013

**Tues 2 – Women's Institute, WI Hall, 7.30pm.** A lighthearted look at running a hotel with Amanda Barlow. All welcome. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

**Sun 7 – Holy Communion, 8.30am,** Mabe Parish Church. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052. *Please note there is no service at 9.30am.*

**Tues 9 – Cornwall Astronomy Society, WI Hall, 8pm.** Contact Robert Beeman, 341164.

**Wed 10 – Village Communion, WI Hall, 10.30am,** led by Martin Brown, followed by tea, coffee and chat. Contact Martin Brown, 375766.

**Thurs 11 – Parish Council Meeting, WI Hall, 7.30pm.** Agenda on Parish Notice Board. Open to the public. Contact Fiona Collins, 01209 861527.

**Sun 14 – Parish Eucharist, Mabe Parish**

Church, 9.30am, to be taken by Fr Mark Mesley. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052.

**Mon 15 – Mabe School Summer Term begins.**

**Mon 15 – Mabe Garden Club.** See *What's On*.

**Sat 20 – Introduction to Willow Basketry course.** See *What's On*.

**Sat 20 – Show of Hands.** See *opposite*.

**Sat 20 – Quiz Night.** See *What's On*.

**Sun 21 – Service of the Word, Mabe Parish Church, 10.30am,** followed by the church's Annual Meeting, led by Martin Brown. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052.

**Thurs 25 – Bournemouth Symphony Strings.** See *What's On*.

**Thurs 25 – Cornwall Astronomy Society.** *Details as for Tues 9 April.*

**Sat 27 – Mapdance.** See *What's On*.

**Sun 28 – Parish Eucharist, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am,** to be taken by a priest from Penwerris. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052.



## May 2013

**Thurs 2 – Cornwall Council and Mabe Parish Council Elections, Community Hall, 7am-10pm.** *Please note that the WI Hall is no longer a polling station.*

**Fri 3 – Blood donor session, Community Hall, 1.15pm-3.30pm and 4.45pm-**

Radio 2 Folk Award winners Show of Hands will be performing at The Performance Centre, Tremough Campus on Saturday 20 April at 7.30pm. Described by Peter Gabriel as 'one of the great English bands' they will be playing a variety of music from their new album, spanning folk roots into blues, rock and country, played out on an array of instruments. The band sold out at the Royal Albert Hall in London earlier in the year, so this is an evening not to be missed. Tickets are £15, available from the box office on 255885 or email [boxoffice@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@falmouth.ac.uk).



7.30pm. To book call 0300 123 2323 or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk).

**Sun 5 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am, to be taken by the Archdeacon of Cornwall, Venerable Bill Stuart-White. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052. *Please note there will be no 8.30am Holy Communion.*

**Tues 7 – Women's Institute**, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Resolutions evening and a quiz. New members welcome. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

**Wed 8 – Village Communion**, WI Hall, 10.30am, led by Reverend Harry Jackson, followed by tea, coffee and chat.

**Thurs 9 – Trenoweth Methodist Church Coffee Morning**, Community Hall, 10-11.30am, bring & buy, raffle. Contact Margaret Bryant, 373102

**Thurs 9 – An evening with Kezia**. See *What's On*.

**Thurs 9 – Parish Council Meeting**. *Details as for Thurs 11 April.*

**Sun 12 – Parish Eucharist**. *Details as for Sun 28 April.*

**Tues 14 – Cornwall Astronomy Society**. *Details as for Tues 9 April.*

**Sat 18 – Beetle Drive**. See *What's On*.

**Sun 19 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am, to be taken by Fr Beverley Thompson. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052.

**Mon 20 – Mabe Garden Club**. See *What's On*.

**Thurs 23 – Cornwall Astronomy Society**. *Details as for Tues 9 April.*

**Sat 25 May to Sun 2 June – Open Studios**. Visit [www.creativeskills.org.uk](http://www.creativeskills.org.uk) for details of which artists' studios are open locally.

**Sun 26 – Parish Eucharist**. *Details as for Sun 14 April.*

## June 2013

**Sun 2 – Flicka Fun Run**. See *What's On*.



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

## What's On in Mabe

On Saturday 30 March (Easter Saturday), Flicka Foundation (Penty Noweth Farm, Trenoweth Lane), will be holding an **Easter Open Day** from 1.30pm. There will be "taster" pony rides, competitions, tombola, raffles - and the all important cream teas, cakes and other refreshments.



**Coffee mornings** at the Flicka Foundation will start again every other Wednesday in April. Looking ahead, you have plenty of time to get fit for the 5km or 10km **Fun Run** on Sunday 2 June at 11am. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from the website.

*For further details on all Flicka events visit [www.flicka.org.uk](http://www.flicka.org.uk) or call 373601.*

BF Adventure (Halvasso) will be running **Holiday Adventure Days** through the Easter holidays for children between the ages of 7 to 10 years old. Activities include rock climbing challenges, canoe and archery contests, team building and forest games (building shelters, climbing trees and riding on a zip wire). A whole day, 9.30 to 3.30, is £30 per child.

Or why not try a **Family Adventure Day**: devise your own action-packed programme and pick the activities which appeal to you. Half a day (1 session), £25pp; full day (2 sessions), £35pp.

Call 01326 340912 or email [enquiries@bfadventure.org](mailto:enquiries@bfadventure.org) and quote 'Mabe' for an online booking discount.

Chyan Community Field (Halvasso) is running **An Introduction to Willow Basketry course** with well-known local

basket maker Lyn Lovekin on Saturday 20 April. The workshop will introduce you to traditional stake and strand techniques and you should be able to make a fruit bowl or bread basket during the day (£35.00, including materials; final booking date: Saturday 6 April).

Further ahead, Chyan will open its gates for the **midsummer solstice** on Saturday 22 June. If you'd like to bring entertainment, food or other items for sale, just contact them.

*For all Chyan enquiries, call 377447 or email [info@chyan.org.uk](mailto:info@chyan.org.uk).*

If you would like to show off your general knowledge (or just have a great evening), the New Inn (Church Road, Mabe) is holding a **Charity Quiz** on Sunday 31 March, starting at 8pm, to raise money for research into Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. Entry £2 per person; teams of approx 4 people. Silly prizes and raffles as usual!

Mabe Youth and Community Project's **Quiz Night** is on Saturday 20 April, starting at 7.30pm. The Project is also holding a **Beetle Drive** aimed at families on Saturday 18 May, starting at 7pm. Both events are in the Community Hall. See posters for details, or phone Jackie (372863) or Wendy (378177).

As well as Show of Hands (p.9), other shows coming up at The Performance Centre (Tremough Campus, Treliever Road) include:

**Bournemouth Symphony Strings**, classical ensemble music, including pieces by Mendelssohn, Grieg, Elgar and Tchaikovsky. Thursday 25 April 2013, 7.30pm, £12/£9 concs.

*Cont'd top of p.11*



**Mapdance:** an exciting company of young, dynamic dancers (*left*). Saturday 27 April 2013, 7.30pm; £12/£9 conc.

**An evening with Kezia:** Cornwall's

rising singer songwriter Kezia (*right*) will perform in concert on a grand piano, music "drifting between Folk

and Blues by the way of Country (with an English accent)". Just 21 years old and one of the few Cornish musicians who performed in Olympic Park for London 2012. Thursday 9 May 2013, 7.30pm, £5.



For more details and other shows, contact the Box Office, 255885, or visit [www.theperformancecentre.org](http://www.theperformancecentre.org).

## 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** **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, Pon-sanooth – please see the Diary (*pp.8-9*) for the times of services.



## What's On (cont. from p.11)

Bill Herring of Duchy College will be talking about **"Growing Vegetables in Containers"** to Mabe Garden Club on Monday 15 April, while on Monday 20 May, Ian Facey (well known locally for his collection of Cacti) will be discussing another of his plant interests - **"Carnivorous Plants"** (plus some to sell!). Meetings are at 7pm, in the Community Hall. Non members are always welcome – £2 per visit (or become a member for £12 a year). For details, visit "Mabe Garden Club" on Facebook or contact the Secretary, Val Bidgood on 373984 for further information.



*Mabe Garden Club members were delighted to win a First Prize at the Falmouth Spring Flower Show in March. Pictured with the winning display are: Val Bidgood, Vilma Herring and Dot Wickham. Also involved were Sonja Wood and Sylvia Symons.*

## Mabe Parish Church

After Fr John Savage retires in April, the running of the Parish will primarily fall upon the shoulders of our Churchwardens and the Church Council. The main contact points for Church matters will be Churchwarden, Francis Miller on 374890 and Church Council Vice-Chairman, Rodney Holmes on 375052. Our email address is: [stlaudusandstmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:stlaudusandstmichaels@gmail.com).

There may be some slight changes to our services from time to time; namely more joint services with our sister Church in Ponsanooth, which we will advertise through *Mabe Matters* and on our noticeboards (inside the shop porch and at Church).

Our services are to be mainly covered by Priests from Penwerris - St Michael's and All Angels, Falmouth and we are grateful to Fr Mark Mesley and

## Answers to Crossword, pp.6-7

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L			M		M									E		
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Fr Michael Oades who will provide most of the support.

We are also grateful to Fr Beverley Thompson who will care for our sister Church at Ponsanooth and to the Reverend Harry Jackson, a Mabe resident, who will take our first Sunday in the month Holy Communion at Church and our monthly mid-week Communion in the WI Hall.

*Martin Brown, Reader at Mabe Church & Parish Administrator*

## **COMPETITION: How well do you know your Cornish towns?** Win a year's free membership of the RNLI with this tricky historical quiz set by Bob Godzicz

**These descriptions are extracts taken from a 1907 travel publication. Which towns or places in Central and West Cornwall are being described?**

**A)** Has a telegraph station. The only feature of attraction here is the parish church and the ruins of a building called 'The Palace'. The former was built in the 14th century and has a fine spire and a curious font. The latter is said to have been the residence of the Dukes of Cornwall.

**B)** Has a population of 3,825 and a telegraph station. A large mining town in West Cornwall near the sea with several important mines in the granite around it. Among the buildings are several chapels, a Stannary hall and an ancient stone church with a good tower, on which and over the south porch of the church are several carvings.

**C)** About two miles from the railway station is the rotten borough of xxxxxxxx, one of the many existing in Cornwall (which being a crown duchy, the court influence was paramount), but disfranchised in 1841.

**D)** Has a population of 11,337 within its borough bounds, and a telegraph station. Main hotel is the Red Lion. This is the mining capital of Cornwall and a parliamentary borough with two members. It is now the principal coinage town in the Duchy, where metal is stamped prior to being exported.

**E)** No telegraph station with a population of 4,953. This was formerly an important packet station. The richest mines are in the granite moorlands to the north. Some notable ones are Polperro, Wheal Kitty, Wheal Alfred and Buduick.

**F)** Has a telegraph station with a population of 9,414. Main hotels are:- Union and Star. Main bankers:- Bolithos, Batten, and Carne. This is a municipal but not a parliamentary borough and is a cheap and healthy place for a resident. The light and rich soil, from the granite dust produces an uncommonly heavy crop of potatoes.

**G)** No telegraph station with a population of 3,843. This takes its name from the marshy tract between it and the sea. It is a parliamentary borough but not otherwise remarkable. It has good pasture and a breed of small moorland horses. The metal Titanium was discovered in a village nearby.

### **To enter:**

**Send your answers, together with your name and a phone number or address to: [mabematters@aol.com](mailto:mabematters@aol.com), by text to 078 1691 8765, or put them in an envelope marked "Mabe Matters, Cornish Towns Quiz" and drop them into the village shop. Rules available from the email address above.**

**Closing date: Tuesday 30 April 2013.**

**Even if you don't know all of the answers – go on, have a go!**

# Letters to the Editor

## NIMBYism in Mabe?

Following weeks of arguments about the proposed housing development in Mabe, it's time to voice some thoughts. Although I have only lived in Mabe for 9 years I have lived locally for many more. It's obvious to see that NIMBYism is alive and well! The arguments in turn:

*"The old Kerrier Council ruled that the land was a buffer between Mabe and Penryn."*

Well, someone once ruled that motor cars must have a person walking in front with a red flag and that rule has never been repealed. The buffer, if you really want one, is now a large industrial estate and a major road. Isn't that enough?

*"The number of affordable houses is far greater than local requirement."* If "local" means Mabe, which numbers being quoted suggest it is, then what a selfish and short sighted approach! I'm sure locals from surrounding towns would be happy living in Mabe while continuing their job elsewhere. After all, how many residents of Mabe actually work in Mabe?

*"Sustainable."* Another use of the "word of the year". Can those using the word linked to housing in Mabe please explain what they actually mean?

I would suggest that most of the objectors live along Treliever Road or in houses that back onto the site. A view from a property is not and never should be a reason for planning refusal.

*Anthony Lilly, Antron Lane, Mabe*

**Richard Scrase replies:** Successive planning authorities, first Kerrier and now Cornwall, have adopted policies aimed at protecting village identity. Whether or not, in the face of Kernick industrial estate and the A39, a strip of pasture can protect Mabe's identity

is a moot point - some will say its significance falls away, while others will say its significance is enhanced.

Similarly, previously Kerrier applied, and for a while Cornwall adopted, planning policy that provided for the development of green field rural sites only in circumstances where there was a demonstrable local (by which was meant parish) need for affordable housing. The rationale for that policy was to promote modest, organic village growth. It is one of Cornwall Council's shortcomings that in the 4 years since it came into being, it has failed to develop a set of comprehensive planning policies thereby creating a policy vacuum.

Finally, probably Mr Lilly is right - some of the opponents of the Treliever Road development are likely to be NIMBYs. There's probably a bit of the NIMBY in all of us. The test for the residents of Antron Lane might be if 90 houses were proposed for a field adjacent to their lane.

*Richard Scrase, Antron Farm, Mabe*

## Grotto memories

I just had to write to let you know that when I saw the back page of *Mabe Matters* (issue 15) and the piece about the grotto at Tremough it brought back happy memories for me and I expect a lot of others who lived and grew up in the nearby roads. As children we often used to sneak down to the grotto - I remember the statues and the star shaped pond. We used to think that it was our secret. I remember also that there was a family with a little girl living in the lodge house near to the grotto. We knew we were not supposed to be there but we never did any harm and would scarpers fast if we thought someone was coming. So I was sad to read that the statues had been vandalised - why would anyone do that? It seems that some people have no respect for anything these days.

*Mrs Joyce Wilkes, Read Close, Penryn*

# Owls

by Paul Dunstan

Three types of owls can be seen in this area. In the last issue, I wrote about the Tawny Owl. In this issue, I will tell you about the Barn Owl and the Little Owl.



## The Barn Owl

The Barn Owl is only slightly smaller than

the Tawny but it has a conspicuous pale heart-shaped face which helps it detect the faintest of rustles as it flies in search of prey. It appears white if it is seen in the lights of a car. They can be seen at dawn or dusk going up and down the fields searching for food.

Barn Owl numbers were in decline as there were fewer places to provide nesting sites eg elm trees and barns. The population of Barn Owls is also closely associated with the number of field voles and shrews available as a food source. Modern agriculture does not provide the thick mat of grasses found in older pastures that the voles and shrews live in. Barn owls have a high metabolic rate and indeed consume more rodents than possibly any other creature. This makes the Barn Owl one of the most economically valuable wildlife animals to farmers and is probably better than poison in keeping down the number of rodent pests.

For many years, I have kept large stacks

of straw in Essex (before bringing it to Cornwall) where Barn Owls nested and raised chicks much to the dismay of one local farmer who had purposely set up nesting barrels for the owls to use. However these remained empty whilst the owls preferred the stacks.

Barn Owls are regularly seen on the outskirts of our parish – eg Halvasso and Eathorne. They make eerie screeching sounds or hoots whilst the chicks make unusual snoring or grunting noises.

## The Little Owl

The Little Owl is considerably smaller than the other



two owls found in this area. It is widely distributed in the UK after being imported from Europe in 1842. It eats insects as well as voles and mice.

The Little Owl is quite common in the area around Mabe and as it is often active during the day, it can be seen sitting bolt upright on a post or a tree. As it is a noisy bird it is frequently heard, it uses a variety of notes from a shriek to a kiu sound. When alarmed they bob comically up and down and it has a flight like a woodpecker.

Photo credits: (top) RSPB; (left and bottom) BBC. For some great videos of owls, visit [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life) and search for Barn Owl or Little Owl.

## Interviewing Melissa Dale (Brown Owl)

**1. How long have you been a Brownie leader for?** I started when I was 19, so it would be 21 years.

**2. Were you a Brownie when you were younger?** I was a Brownie in Mabe. I was in the Scottish Kelpie six. Brownies wasn't held in the Community Hall back then. It was in the WI Hall. I started when I was 8. I was a Guide in Mabe and I was in the Robin Patrol. While I was in Guides, I helped out at Brownies to gain my service flash. After that I joined Constantine Rangers and worked for my Duke of Edinburgh Award.

**3. Why do you go to Mabe Brownies and not Helston?** When I was a little girl, I went to Halwin School and they didn't have Brownies there. Everyone went to Mabe Brownies so I went there and stayed. I lived in Mabe in my early 20s and when I got married I moved to Helston, but stayed at Mabe Brownies.

**4. What has been the best thing about your Brownie experience?** Definitely, the fun and games that we have at Brownies. I love watching the children grow up, and become Guides. Also, all the friends I have made through the years and I still keep in touch with.

**5. Do you have any children?** Yes. I've got a son called Kieren, and he is 13. He used to come along to Brownies with me when he was a baby!

**6. How many Brownie camps have you been to?** I have run 7 Brownie holidays

and I have attended 12 Guide camps. One of my favourite Guide camps was at Jam-boree camp in Cornwall in 1997. It was an international camp with about 1,000 Guides and Scouts from all over England and people from the USA, South Africa, Kenya and Japan. It rained for 4 days! It was the camp of mud!



**7. What have you gained from Guiding?** When I was 27 I became a district commissioner for Stithians district and learnt how to chair meetings and share information. This sparked my interest in training and I gained a NVQ to be a qualified trainer. This experience helped me in my professional life to become a manager of a large nursery at Cornwall College.

**8. What are you looking forward to?** Next year in 2014, it's 100 years of Brownies and it is also Mabe Brownies' 40th birthday! We are going to have cream teas and invite all the old Brownies and leaders.

**9. Do you like baking Brownies?** I like baking Brownies, but I prefer eating them! *Interviewed by Brownie member, Florence Harrison, age 10*

*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: **17 May 2013**. Please send your news, events, letters, etc to Mabe Matters at the address above or email [mabematters@aol.co.uk](mailto:mabematters@aol.co.uk).