

# Merry Christmas Mabe Matters

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 Penryn Campus.

## Community News

### Bus cuts hit Mabe again

Mabe has once again lost out heavily following First Group's latest cut of bus services across Cornwall. Passengers can no longer catch the 88 service to Falmouth and Penryn, and the number 2 service only stops in the village every two hours. There are no evening or Sunday services at all.



One of the few buses now serving Mabe

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According to regular bus user Joyce Price, it has made life very difficult for many people, particularly older residents. "I haven't been able to get to Falmouth or the doctor's and I can't get to Asda," she said, when I visited her at the Mabe Lunch Club. Other members agreed and complained that you could be waiting for up to two hours for a bus to come home from Penryn.

Alf and Dot Waddingham have to travel to Treliske hospital for regular appointments. Dot, who is 93, said that under the new service they will have to allow around three hours to get to Treliske. If the appointment is before 1pm, this means that they have to catch the bus before 9.30am and cannot use their bus pass at that time. "We have to catch three buses to get there. It can be very tiring."

First South West's director Alex Carter said, "We never take decisions like this lightly, but these services have underperformed for a number of years and despite our efforts to resolve this they remain commercially unsustainable." Mr Carter was pleased to announce the introduction of the new U1 service between the Cont p.2

Cont'd from p.1 two university campuses in Falmouth and Penryn, but this did not impress Mrs Price and her fellow lunch club members. As they pointed out, they would need to walk the length of Treliever Road, cross three lanes of traffic and walk across two car parks to the Penryn Campus bus stop, to access this service. TK/JF



**Stop press:** First Buses report that they plan to add a new service (69) including Mabe from November, but no timetables were available at the time of going to press.

### Christmas card competition

Feeling creative and Christmassy? Then why not enter Halvasso-based charity BF Adventure's Christmas drawing/photo competition?

Your drawing or photo must link Christmas and BF Adventure together,

with funny captions encouraged. The competition is open to all ages and skill levels, and you are allowed to use Photoshop. The best entry will win a BF Adventure Activity Voucher or a BFA Hoodie and the winning work of art will be used as the official BF Adventure 2013 Christmas E-card!

Entries should be emailed to: enquiries@bfadventure.org. But hurry! The closing date for submission of art work/photos is Friday 8 November 2013. (Please note that work will not be returned.)

### Longer Christmas opening hours

To help with the Christmas post rush, Mabe Post Office will be offering extended hours – until 4pm – at the Post Office counter on the three Saturdays before Christmas. Also, the shop now has a free to use ATM (cash machine) available during shop hours.

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## Mabe Sea Cadet chosen to assist the Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall

Halvasso resident, Charlie Frost (*pictured*), has been selected as one of three cadets from Cornwall to assist the Lord-Lieutenant over the coming year.

Charlie, 16, who recently finished at Penryn College and previously attended Mabe School, was recommended for his "determination, commitment and hard work" and for being "an excellent role model" to less experienced cadets.

The role involves assisting the Lord-Lieutenant, Colonel Edward Bolitho, when he hosts royal visits and when he acts as the Queen's representative in Cornwall. Charlie said of his selection: "I am very happy and proud to be the Lord Lieutenant's cadet and am most looking forward to meeting members of the royal family."



## Mabe sculptor becomes Royal Academician

Sculptor Tim Shaw has been elected to become a Member of the Royal Academy of Arts. He will be formally welcomed as a Royal Academician (RA) on 5 November, when he will join the elite of "eminent practising artists".

Tim grew up in Belfast, but came to Cornwall to study at Falmouth. He now lives and works in Mabe, with his workshop in a disused quarry. Tim's best known work locally is probably *The Drummer* (pictured) on Lemon Quay in Truro. *The Drummer*, which was created in Mabe, celebrates "Cornwall – a place where the drum beats differently", but also has echoes of the drumming Orangemen of Tim's Belfast childhood. Other works include *The Rites of Dionysus* at the Eden Project and *The Minotaur* at the Royal Opera House in London.



Royal Academicians are chosen from artists practising across painting, sculpting, architecture and printmaking. Current RAs include Richard Rogers, Norman Foster, Anthony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, David Hockney, Tracey Emin and Grayson Perry. The most famous past RAs are probably the painters Turner, Constable and Gainsborough.

## Fayre raises almost £1,000

The MYCP Fayre raised £997 which will go towards revamping the children's play area in Cunningham Park.

Chairman Barbara Hewett-Silk said "It was a very successful day with lots of families enjoying the sunshine and all the fun of the fayre. I think this is what MYCP is about and I would like to thank Wendy, Jackie and Margaret for their hard work in organising it, as well as all the helpers."

## Successful coffee morning

The Macmillan Coffee Morning held on 27 September in the Community Hall raised £477. Thanks are expressed to everyone who helped, donated or supported the event. *Ruth Smith*

### Winning limerick from the Fayre

*A car booter up on Mabe Hill  
Sold someone her husband called Bill.  
She got 20 quid  
and 5 for each kid  
And blew it all on a weekend in Rhyll!*

Jackie Frost

## School seeks Friends

Could you or your business be a “friend” to our community primary school? As well as helping the children, it could be rewarding and fun for you.

Mabe School already has a fantastic team of staff who work really hard on fund-raising. Friends of Mabe is being formed as a new group to work alongside the staff to raise additional funding for extra projects and activities to enrich the children’s experience. Fund-raising might be for a wildlife pond, renewable energy, a school stage etc.

Here’s how you could become involved:

- **Friends of Mabe:** Become part of a team meeting on a regular basis to help with various projects and activities, starting with the Solar Schools.
- **Mabe School Skills List:** If you can’t make a regular commitment, could you offer your skills on a one-off basis when required (eg as an electrician, builder or plumber)? Or do you have a hobby? For example, could you take photos of school events, make costumes for plays or help with after school clubs?
- **Sponsors or Donors:** If you would like to sponsor our fundraising efforts or perhaps donate items for raffles, auctions, any pledges would be welcome.

If you are interested, please contact Jo Clarkson on [jo.clarkson@icloud.com](mailto:jo.clarkson@icloud.com) or Ruth Atkins on [brownbear73@hotmail.com](mailto:brownbear73@hotmail.com) or drop a letter in to Mabe School, Cunningham Park, Mabe, TR10 9HB.



*Could you offer your skills to help with an after school club (above) or take photos of school events (below)?*

## Solar Schools

Mabe School has signed up for the Solar Schools Project to raise funds to put solar panels on the roof. The panels will save money, reduce the school’s carbon footprint and help teach children about renewable energy. From 18 November, Mabe School will have its own page on the Solar Schools website: people and businesses can donate from as little as £5. Businesses donating £100 or more can promote themselves on the site with a direct link to their own business website. Please visit [www.solarschools.org.uk](http://www.solarschools.org.uk) after 18 November, look for Mabe School and donate!



## Switch Off Fortnight

Mabe School will be joining thousands of other schools taking part in the Switch Off Fortnight Campaign. This is an excellent way to save money and teach pupils about the energy issues affecting our country and the importance of using energy efficiently. Why not join

them and focus on switching off and saving energy (and money!) for two weeks from 18 November? *Jo Clarkson*

## Cornwall victorious at the Lowender Peran Festival

Mid-October marked a historic moment for Cornish Shinty with the first league matches being held this end of the country in the best part of a century. Playing over in Perranporth in the Bulldog league and part of the Lowender Peran Festival, teams from Falmouth University, Camborne School of Mines (both based at Tremough) and Mabe were competing for the title. As well as heated league matches, Cornwall's team played the International Selects, comprising players who had travelled from across the country, being victorious in a 4 – 2 win.



Matt Mossop, Chairman of the Cornwall Shinty Club and captain for the Cornwall team described the weekend as “very exciting time for shinty, and it really proved that it is a viable sport that is growing and developing”.

Come and show your support or try out shinty for yourself, with the next league fixture on Sunday 3 November in Mabe (at the “car boot” field at the top of Antron Hill. See *Weekly Events*, p.9, for contact details.) *Report & photo: Alexander Walker*

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## Former Mabe Brownies wanted

Mabe Brownies will be celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2014, as well as the 100th birthday of Brownies across the world. All Mabe Brownies from the past 40 years are invited to join in the celebrations in May, and Brown Owl is keen to contact as many as possible. Look out for more details in the next newsletter, or contact Melissa Dale for more information on 01736 762560. *TK*



## Panto news

Thank you to all the people who got in touch regarding our forthcoming production of *Sleeping Beauty*. It seems there is a lot of talent out there in Mabe. The script is still progress and we hope to start rehearsals after Christmas ready for a spring panto. Anyone else interested in getting

involved on or behind the stage or who would like to be kept informed of panto related events, contact Jackie Frost on [j.frost384@btinternet.com](mailto:j.frost384@btinternet.com) or ring 01209 861697. *JF*

## School extension

The school is building a small extension – an apex roofed veranda – outside Class 1’s classroom.

Headteacher, Paul Hayes, said: “There has been lots of research that suggests that outdoor learning complements indoor learning and is equally important in a child’s development. The construction of a rain-proof outdoor area will provide a better transition between the indoor and outdoor space and offer an alternative learning environment to be used by the whole class or smaller groups of children. This is especially important in a mixed age class with differing curriculum requirements.”

The extension should be finished in early November. *JF*

# Mabe Diary

## November 2013

**Sat 2 – All Souls’ Mass and Holy Communion**, St Michael’s Ponsanooth, 6pm, to be taken by Fr Michael Oades. Contact Francis Miller, 374890 or Rodney Holmes, 375052.

**Sun 3 – Holy Communion**, Mabe Parish Church, 8.30am, taken by Rev Harry Jackson, and **Parish Eucharist**, 9.30am, taken by Fr Michael Oades. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Tues 5 – Women’s Institute: Passmore Edwards Legacy**, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

**Sat 9 – Autumn Coffee Morning** in aid of St Laudus Church funds, WI Hall, 10am-12pm. See *What’s On*.

**Sun 10 – Parish Eucharist**, Remembrance Sunday, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am, to be taken by Fr Michael Oades. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Mon 11 – Mabe Garden Club**, Community Hall, 7pm, talk on Burncoose by Andrew Mills, Burncoose’s Nursery Manager. All welcome (non-members, £2). Contact Val Bidgood, 373984.

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

**Thurs 14 – Parish Council Meeting**, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Agenda on Parish Notice Board. Open to the public. Contact Fiona Collins, 07964 735219.

**Fri 15 – Coffee Morning** in aid of Trenoweth Methodist Chapel funds, Community Hall, 10am-11.30am.

**Sat 16 – Panta Rei Theatre presents “I wish her well”**, The Performance Centre,

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

Penryn Campus, Falmouth University. Contact the box office on 255885 or see [www.theperformancecentre.org](http://www.theperformancecentre.org) for more details.

**Sun 17 – Parish Eucharist and Holy Baptism**, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am, to be taken by Fr Michael Oades. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Sun 17 – Santa Challenge “Quarry-athon”**, BF Adventure, Goodygrane, Halvasso, 11am. See *What’s On*.

**Mon 18 – 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](http://www.blood.co.uk).

**Sat 23 – Christmas Coffee Morning** in aid of Dementia UK Cornwall, Community Hall, 10am. See *What’s On*.

**Sun 24 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church. *Details as for Sun 10 Nov.*

**Wed 27 – Shobana Jeyasingh Dance** (right), The Performance Centre, 7.30pm. *Details as for Sat 16 Nov.*

**Thurs 28 – Cornwall Astronomy Society**, WI Hall, 8pm. Contact Robert Beeman, 341164.

**Fri 29 – Quiz Night**, Mabe School, 7pm. See *What’s On*.

**Sat 30 – Company Chameleon (dance)**, The Performance Centre, 7.30pm. *Details as for Sat 16 Nov.*

## December 2013

**Sun 1 – Holy Communion**, Mabe Parish Church, 8.30am, taken by Rev Harry Jackson, and **Parish Eucharist**, 9.30am,



## Community New Year's Eve Party

Georgina Fitzsimmons and Damian Hall are planning a New Year's Eve Party for the Mabe community. The party will be aimed at families and ideas so far include a talent show, games, prizes and a raffle.

If you have ideas or would like to be part of the organising team, contact Georgina on 07540 157820.

taken by Fr Michael Oades. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Tues 3 – Women's Institute: Norway in Summer and Winter**, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Contact Mary Hubber, 373390.

**Thurs 5 – Christmas Lights and Carols**, Mabe village, 6.30pm. See *What's On*.

**Sun 8 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church. *Details as for Sun 10 Nov.*

**Tues 10 – Cornwall Astronomy Society**, WI Hall, 8pm. Contact Robert Beeman, 341164.

**Thurs 12 – Parish Council Meeting**, WI Hall, 7.30pm. Agenda on Parish Notice Board. Open to the public. Contact Fiona Collins, 07964 735219.

**Sat 14 – Candlelit Carol Concert**, Flicka Foundation, Penty Noweth Farm. See *What's On*.

**Sat 14 – Cornwall Youth Dance Company**: 25th anniversary gala performance, The Performance Centre. *Details as for Sat 16 Nov.*

**Sun 15 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church. *Details as for Sun 10 Nov.*

**Sun 15 – Village Carol Service**, Community Hall, 6pm. See *What's On*.

**Mon 16 – Mabe Garden Club**, Commu-

nity Hall, 7pm, Christmas "plated supper" and demonstration by Vera Vigus on "Flowers for Christmas". All welcome. *Details as for Mon 11 Nov.*

**Tues 17 – Christmas Fayre**, Mabe School, Cunningham Park, from 8.30am.

**Sun 22 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church. *Details as for Sun 10 Nov.*

**Sun 22 – Winter Solstice and Tree Dressing**, Chyan Community Field. See *What's On*.

**Tues 24 – Midnight Mass**, Mabe Parish Church, 11pm, taken by Fr Michael Oades. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Wed 25 – Christmas Day Service of the Word**, Mabe Parish Church, 9.30am, led by David Charles. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Wed 25 – Trenoweth Chapel Christmas Day Service**, 10.30am. Contact Margaret Bryant, 373102.

**Sun 29 – Parish Eucharist**, Mabe Parish Church, 10.30am. Joint service with St Michael's Ponsanooth, to be taken by Fr Michael Oades. *Contact details as for Sat 2 Nov.*

**Tues 31 – Community New Year's Eve Party**. See top of page for details.



# What's On in Mabe

There are three opportunities in November to have a coffee with friends, whilst raising funds. Friends of St Laudus Church will be holding their **Autumn Coffee Morning** on Saturday 9 November in the Community Hall from 10am to 12pm, with cakes, bric a brac, crafts, tombola and a raffle. Trenoweth Methodist Chapel invite you to join them for a **Coffee Morning** on Friday 15 November at 10am in the WI Hall, with a raffle and stalls. Finally, Dementia UK Cornwall will be holding a **Coffee Morning and Craft Fair** on Saturday 23 November at 10am in the Community Hall. This will be an opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit with mince pies, cakes, Christmas decorations, gifts and cards on sale. All welcome!

Mabe School invites you to a **Quiz Night** on Friday 29 November at 7.30pm. Cost is £2 per person in teams of no more than 6 and everyone is welcome. Pasties are also available for £2. Please contact the school secretary on 372662 (by 27 November) to book a table and order your pasty.

Christmas starts early at BF Adventure with the **Santa Challenge** on Sunday 17 November. Take on the challenge of delivering presents whatever obstacles lie in your path; flying through the air, navigating across land and crossing over water! Teamwork and problem solving will be tested before you descend down the chimney to deliver your presents. You will race in teams of 3 or 4, and fancy dress is encouraged but not essential. The cost is £40 per person, and entry includes a Christmas BBQ, mince pies and mulled wine. For more details,

visit [www.bfadventure.org](http://www.bfadventure.org), or call 340912.

Christmas celebrations begin in the village on Thursday 5 December, with the **switching on of the lights** outside Mabe Stores, at 6.30pm. Come and sing some carols and enjoy mince pies, kindly provided by Steve Nisbet, to kick off the festive season.



The Flicka Foundation are holding their very popular annual **Candlelit Carol Concert** at Penty Noweth Farm on Saturday 14 December at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s. The price includes a mince pie and mead (squash for youngsters) and pasties will be on sale. There will be a choir and the popular local group Bedlam Bess. Last year was sold out, so you are advised to buy tickets in advance, although some last minute tickets will be available on the gate. Details from [www.flickafoundation.org.uk](http://www.flickafoundation.org.uk) or phone 373601.

There will be another chance to sing carols at the **Village Carol Concert** in the Community Hall on Sunday 15 December at 6pm. There will be readings by members of the community, seasonal refreshments and the drawing of the MYCP Christmas raffle. George Kingston has worked tirelessly, as always, to secure a vast array of prizes so make sure you buy your tickets.

You are invited to the **Mabe School Christmas Fayre** on Tuesday 17 December, from 8.30am. There will be stalls, homemade cakes, raffle etc.

Chyan Community Field is celebrating the **Winter Solstice** on Sunday 22 December. The day begins at 11am with meditation and time for reflection (for adults only), followed by a shared lunch.

At 2pm there is a family tree dressing event with hot mulled apple juice. £2 donation suggested. Details from [www.chyan.org.uk](http://www.chyan.org.uk) or email [info@chyan.org.uk](mailto:info@chyan.org.uk). TK

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## Weekly Events

Events held weekly at **Mabe Community Hall**, Cunningham Park (bookings, 375938 or [mabeycp@gmail.com](mailto:mabeycp@gmail.com)), **Mabe Community Primary School**, Cunningham Park (secretary, 372662), **Mabe WI Hall**, Antron Hill (bookings, 372477) and **Penryn Campus** (formerly Tremough), Treliever Road (reception, 370400).

**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.

**Slimming World**, Community Hall, 7pm. Contact Pam Mundy, 01209 204743 or 0750 3945 600. *(Please note, this class will be held on a Monday on 23 and 30 December.)*

**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 Huffer Puffer Club**, a support, exercise and social group for people with COPD and their carers, 10am-12pm, Community Hall. Contact Trish, 375238 or Frances, 315998.

**Carpet Bowls Club**, Community Hall, 2pm-4pm. Contact Arthur Searle, 377088.

**Brownies**, Community Hall, 6.15pm-8pm. Contact Jackie Williams, 372863.

**Mabe Football Club**, Penryn Campus 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 Penryn Campus, 8pm-9pm. *Contact details as for Monday.*

**Fri Short Mat Bowls Club**, Community Hall, 2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm. Contact Keith Bryant, 373102.

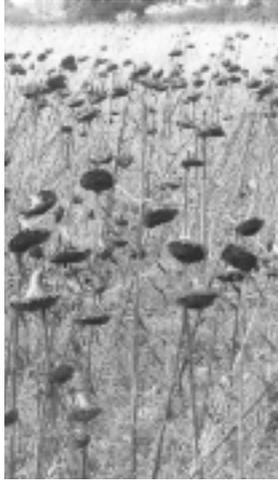
**Sun Trenoweth Methodist Church**, Community Hall, 10.45am-12pm. Contact Margaret Bryant, 373102.

**Mabe Parish Church (St Laudus)**, with St Michael's Church, Ponsanooth – please see the Diary (pp.6-7) for the times of services.

# Over the Farm Gate by the Dunstons of Carnsew Farm

All who either live in Mabe or who have passed through the village this summer can't have failed to notice the wonderful display of sunflowers growing in the field along Treliever Road.

These were not grown to enhance the visual attractiveness of the area or for economic gain but were grown out of our passion for promoting wildlife and the need to support vulnerable species.



Because of the sunflowers, we have noticed a vast increase in the number of bumble bees everywhere around the farm. Indeed, when walking through the sunflowers, we counted at least two or three bumble bees every square metre, which means that there must be at least 40,000 bumble bees buzzing around the two hectare field collecting pollen from the flowers.

All this bumble bee activity meant that there was virtually total pollination of the sunflower heads with each sunflower producing a vast amount of seeds. These seeds are now supplying thousands of small birds with a high energy food source for the winter. As of this date, large flocks of chaffinch, linnets, goldfinch and other seed eating birds are spending many happy hours denuding the sunflower heads. As you walk up the farm lane you can hear the constant chatter of hundreds of finches going about their daily feed.

We apologise that the blackened heads

(pictured) are not as attractive as the golden flowers but they are part of the ripening process and they provide the food supply for the birds and this will continue through the difficult winter months. ....

You may have noticed in the fields around the village our herd of large white Charolais cattle. I call them my sunshine cows because they hate cold wet weather.

Hence in the next few weeks they all will be coming into the sheds for winter where they will enjoy feasting on delicious silage (smelly, fermented grass) and lying on

golden straw that was harvested in the late days of summer.

All of the females are pedigree registered. This year, their names had to start with the initial I, so we have Isobel, Ivy, Imelda etc. As over twenty female calves are born each year, we sometimes have to be creative with certain letters – hence we also have Ipomia, Idesia, Ilex etc! Next year it's J which should be easier, but any suggestions for the names would be appreciated. The only males that are named are those kept for breeding as bulls.

Early in the year, four of the young heifers actually appeared in the local press for, as they were being turned out in the fields in Antron Hill, they decided to make a break for it. After running down to the Kernick roundabout, they dispersed in different directions. Whilst one went to Asda, the other three decided to venture to more sporty places. One ended up in the cricket field, one on the football field and one on the

rugby pitch. Although this was rather entertaining for many local people, it wasn't so amusing collecting them and transporting them back to the farm.

At this point, can we remind you that if you walk in any of the fields, please ensure that you close the gates behind you.

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Looking forward to the next couple of months, we will be busy drilling winter wheat, barley and oats, weather permitting. We plant these crops in winter because the winter varieties yield much heavier than the spring varieties as they

have a longer growing time in cooler temperatures.

This year the oats went to Cheshire to be made into muesli. The wheat, although of good quality for bread making, was kept as feed for the cows because of the prohibitive transport costs. The barley was also kept as cattle feed, although it often goes for the production of beer. The summer season provided a good harvest with ideal harvesting conditions and although the rain has now settled in, we hope for drier times ahead!

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## Letters

### Travelling to Truro? A39 update

A few months ago I reported that I had succeeded in getting the Transport Dept to conduct a full traffic survey on the A39 at Perranarworthal with the intention of applying a reduced speed limit. The outcome of the survey is that the road WILL have a reduced speed limit of 30mph through the village. The indications are that the limit will be operative within the first few months of 2014. I believe this development will have a very positive impact on the safety of all road users through the village.

*Michael Keogh, Cornwall Councillor*

### Mabe's Neighbourhood Plan

Now that housing has started on the by-pass side of Mabe (Kingston Way) – "well done!"

I feel much needed housing should now continue on from Summerheath Estate. More homes like these would be brilliant!! An entrance or exit in Nanturrian Hill will relieve some of the traffic, and could also provide the flyover over the by-pass, keeping children safe on their way to school.

Solar panels could be sited in the fields behind the pub, which is overgrown and unused for the last 20 years.

*DA King (former resident hoping to return), Innsworth, Gloucester.*

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### Cont'd from p.12 If a reader wanted to take up lace making or beading, where should they start?

There is the lace and needlecraft group at Carnon Downs. We meet on a Monday morning at the Carnon Downs Village Hall from 9.30am to 12.30pm. It's a craft group now – lace making, jewellery, knitting and so on.



We've had some young people joining the group recently for the lace making, so I don't think that it is for old women. Also people use coloured threads now so it's not all white. But lace making is very slow: you can make a piece of jewellery in an evening, but a piece of lace can take months or even years.

# My Hobby by Hilary Phillips



**How did you start making lace and jewellery?** I started about 30 years ago. My children were at school and my friend asked if I would like to go with

her to a Honiton lace making class at Carnon Downs. I didn't know what Honiton lace was. Rita Green was teaching and we had a lovely small class – about six people. When we got home, my friend and I would get so absorbed in the lace making, that we would almost forget the children. Over the years we went on to try many other types of lace – torchon lace, Bucks Point and Bruges.

I became interested in beading when we had a demonstration on it at the lace group. All my lace had been white, but I immediately loved the colour in beading. I don't just use the beading for jewellery – I also cover pens with beads and make bead bookmarks. Jill Thomas, our demonstrator, now runs GJ Beads – she has shops in Truro and St Ives and a warehouse in St Erth.

**How is the lace made?** Honiton lace is made on a pillow with fine bobbins. We don't use heavy bobbins as the thread is very fine – much finer than a thread for

a sewing machine. Basically there are two stitches – a whole stitch and a half stitch – and these along with twisting of the threads create a variety of patterns. Lace making is like weaving a very fine type of cloth. We use a pattern to make a pricking onto a piece of cardboard resting on the pillow, and then use the bobbins to weave the thread between the pins.

When I was first learning, our first lesson was to make the pillow and I had to go to the farm to get the straw to fill it. Paul (the farmer) said that lace making was for old women – I might be old now, but I wasn't 30 years ago!

**What do you enjoy about it?** I enjoy the challenge most. Sometimes a pattern looks complicated and I think: "Can I make that?" But then I do. I also enjoy selling my beading as a fund-raiser for Cancer Research. We hold a sale every July at the house – with cream teas and so on – and a big board of work for sale.



**What are the pieces that you are particularly proud of?** I'm most pleased with my Honiton lace bird – a tern which took about three years to complete (*pictured*). I'm also pleased with my bead and lace crosses (*a bead cross is pictured on p.11*). *Cont p.11*

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**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 (illustrations), Tessa Kingsley and Ruth Olver (Editor).  
Distribution co-ordination: Liz Dunstan.

Deadline for the next issue: **13 December 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).