

The Whitstone

Issue 21 - January 2010

Whistler

The community magazine of Whitstone

Free to each household



The Whitstone Whistler

The community magazine for Whitstone

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Welcome

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January Issue of the Whistler, which is a little late being published, and for which I apologise. I blame the busy Christmas/New Year period which has put us all out of our normal routine. However I hope everybody has had a good holiday and is looking forward optimistically to a new year.

Brian has come up with a New Year Quiz for you this month (p14) and I have had a bit of a rant about Junk mail (p21). Mrs Trewhitless has finally given us the recipe for that chocolate cake she has been teasing us with the last few months! (p23) and Ean has contributed a pearl of wisdom (oops! Do I mean ruby?..I'm confused now) (p30).

Mike Sutton, Editor

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This month's cover picture
is by

George Hargreaves

Community News

Local Girl Makes Olympic Windsurfing Bid

By Izzy Hamilton

My name is Izzy Hamilton, I moved to Whitstone in 2000 from Kent and I am studying for my A Levels at Budehaven. I started windsurfing when I moved to Cornwall at the Saturday Club at Tamar Lakes and really enjoyed meeting up with friends, it also got me out from under my parents feet when they were doing change over. Gradually I was encouraged to go to Regional Training Meetings around the South West and qualified for zone and then National Squads. In my first year of National Squad I competed in the 2006 world championships in Sicily where I finished 2nd girl on the Junior Raceboard the Bic Techno 293.



In 2007 I moved up an age category and a sail size, I finished 8th at the Worlds.

2008 was a better year. I competed in the Youth Trials in Pwhelli, on the Youth Under 19 Equipment, the RSX which was the new Olympic Class equipment, a hybrid board and a 8.5m rig. I finished 1st Girl in this event which qualified me to go to the prestigious ISAF Youth Worlds where each country sends one competitor for each class. I finished 6th in this event in Denmark. It was fantastic racing in the Youth Fleets. I then flew straight to Poland to compete in the Junior Worlds, it was windy and wavy, my favourite conditions and I finished 2nd Female in the Under 17 Class on the Bic Techno. I finished off the year having a go at sailing in the Olympic Senior women's Class on my RSX. I raced in a British Event called Sail for Gold where I finished 12th Female overall. This was my first experience of a World Tour type event and I really enjoyed it. It was so different from racing the Junior and Youth Fleets and an amazing experience.

Last year was a good year, I combined competing in Youth and Senior Events on the RSX. Initially I raced in the Mediterranean Cup finishing 1st Youth Female then flew to Palma, Spain and did several

days of a World Tour Event there before flying home to the Youth Trials in Largs, I finished 1st Girl



which qualified me again to go to the ISAF Youth Worlds this year in Brazil. Determined to do better than last year I finished second female in this event which I was shocked but



ecstatic about. I came home and flew to Turkey for the Youth Class Worlds, which I won! It was a fantastic feeling, after three times coming second in World Championships to finally finish first! The events kept on coming. I went home and spent a month and a half in Weymouth training and then competing in the Raceboard Worlds where I finished

1st Youth Raceboard Female and then the Senior women's worlds, the Olympic Classes penultimate event of the year. I qualified after the first three days for Gold Fleet, one of only two British Females to do so. I finished 21st Overall, second British ~~Woman to Olympic Bronze Medallist~~ Bryony Shaw, a good step onto the Senior Scene!

For 2010, I am going to continue studying for my A Levels at Budehaven. The Pre Pre Olympic Trials start in April so I will be training hard over the winter at Roadford Lake and Weymouth for them! Also I am competing in the Youth Trials hoping to go to the ISAF Youth Worlds and the Class Youth Worlds again. I also hope to do the Senior Europeans and Worlds! Thanks to Bott and the Lord Lieutenants Fund for Youth who have been crucial to this year's success.

Black Galleon Track Selected for Cornish CD

One of Black Galleons songs from their recently released debut album *Driftwood is Broken* has been chosen for a compilation CD of Cornish Music. *Bone in the Throat* is one of 20 tracks on the CD which is distributed with the Dec/Jan issue of *Cornish World* magazine. Iain Armstrong, of Black Galleon, said "the compilation is a celebration of Cornish music, and it's great to be part of that, as our music is deeply influenced by the people and landscape of Cornwall".


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Group News

News from the village organisations

St Anne's Parish Hall

To book the hall please call Ruby Edcombe on 01288 341309

A Talk about the Bude Canal

A talk by Mr Fry of Bude has been arranged at the hall on Friday 5th February at 7.30 p.m. If you have any interesting photographs of the canal which can be displayed please bring them along on the night.

Look out for the notices nearer the time.

Helen Eccott (Secretary)

Whitstone Methodist Chapel

Services at 11:00am unless stated otherwise.

Jan 3rd	Covenant Service at Bodmin Street, Holsworthy
Jan 10th	Rev John Henry (Sacrament)
Jan 17th	Preacher to be arranged or Worship Leaders
Jan 24th	Mrs Sylvia Risdon
Jan 31st	Preacher to be arranged or Worship Leaders

Smile Club

The Smile Club are holding a New Year Party on January 23rd at 6.30pm. Please bring a plate of food to share. Followed by Fun and Games! Parents may come with their children if they would like to join us. See you there!

Cell Groups Christmas Party

The Cell Groups of the Holsworthy Circuit all got together for a Christmas party at Whitstone Methodist Sunday School. About 30 people of all ages enjoyed an evening of games, sketches, readings and carols accompanied by Hester Hallett on the keyboard. There was also a bring and share supper. Courtney Drew was the Master of Ceremonies and he tried his hardest to keep us all in order! Members of each cell group organized a game so there was a real variety! An action packed evening of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

Carol Service

The Carol Service on the 4th Sunday in Advent was led by Pam Colwill, Ben Medland played 2 carols on his electric guitar. Pam then introduced Mr and Mrs Mullens, who kindly brought along their Puppet Theatre and told the familiar Christmas story in word and song. Their Christian witness is shown by the immense effort they have both put into creating the puppets, the scenery, music and commentary which told the wonderful message the First Christmas had for us all. Mrs Mullens then presented books to James, Thomas and Mark Horn for their attendance at Sunday School, with books also being given to children on the cradle role who are not old enough to attend Sunday School, these were given to Alfie Smith and Shaun Cowling. Fellowship continued afterwards with Tea, coffee and mince pies being served in the Sunday School by ladies of the Chapel. People kindly gave presents for under the tree which are taken to Week St Mary crib service then taken to St Petroc's. Instead of sending cards to each other we again all signed a card made by the Sunday School children and gave the money collected to St Petroc's, a Cornish refuge for the homeless.

Carol Singing

A group of 10 people from the Methodist Chapel went carol singing on Dec 20th. We started at St Anne's Residential Home where the residents joined us in singing the carols. From there we went along Oak Lane and on to Hillhead unfortunately it started to rain so we made a hasty retreat to Langaton where Margaret and Alan Short kindly provided everyone with supper. The money raised (£86) has been sent to St Petroc's.

Christmas Day Service

The Christmas Day service held at the Methodist Chapel was well attended by Whitstone families. The service was led by Rev. Beth McDowell who chose the theme of SHARING as her message. To illustrate her message she included the congregation in a game of pass the parcel

in which the surprise gift at the end was a card with the passage from John Ch. 3 Verses 16 and 17 which reads of God's gift for us all, of eternal life, which he gave by sending his only son to earth, to save all those who believe in him. Everyone was encouraged to share God's Love and Gifts. The offering was split between The Autistic Society and 'Send a Cow' for Africa.

Linda Cole

From the Methodist Minister

I don't know whether or not you know it, but January is named from a character in Roman Mythology called Janus, he had two faces one that looked back and one that looked forward; and of course at this time of year we do look back to a year that has past with all that it held and we look forward, perhaps with a mixture of apprehension and also excitement. What will the year hold, what will it bring? Who really knows!

As a Methodist Minister I obviously do not believe in Roman mythological characters but rather in the God who makes himself known in Jesus Christ; and as an extension of this belief I do believe that if we let Him God will walk with us into this New Year. Whatever the New Year holds for us, good or bad, we can be confident that we can walk there with God's guiding hand going with us.

The writer of one of our most favourite hymns, Francis Ridley Havergal, also wrote the following words:

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Certainly I pray that I can make these words a reality in my life.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year.

Revd John Henry



Ruminations from the Rectory

The first of the Advent carol services — and these but the van of what is to come. No peace for the wicked. A few days earlier at the bellringers' dinner we had crowded into the Green Inn, worn paper hats, and devoured turkey. There were Mervyn and Brian and Lesley, captains of our towers who make their villages tumultuous when they have a mind to. Some of those feasting were ringers, churchwardens and choristers all in one. You get your money's worth in the Church of England.

Then tonight, the third Sunday of Advent, we squelch across rough pasture for Nine Lessons and Carols at ancient Treneglos, whose tower has sadly remained silent for decades. Other and more ambitious carollings will follow, but the choirless simplicity of this one touches the heart of all my Christmases.

I have been rereading Anthony Russell's 'The Country Parish', recalling what it must have been like for one parish - one priest at Christmas! According to Russell, the clergy used to be cantankerous where carols were concerned and when nineteenth century diarist Parson Woodforde's parishioners begged that they might sing one on Christmas Day, he replied, "Yes, but wait until I'm out of the church." Maybe he had a vision of what it would lead to; "O come, all ye faithful" in the supermarket during the last weeks of Trinity — not that, being addicted to feasting, Woodforde would have said a word against supermarkets.

"Carol" means to dance in a ring; consequently, the earlier centuries' tradition of carol singing had been repressed by Cromwell's puritans as 'pagan'. It was not until 1880 that Bishop Benson's Cathedral choir in the brand new Diocese of Truro resurrected the tradition. Until then it was folk in obscure country parishes like ours who kept the 'song and dance' going through the repressive centuries - but only just; when Charles Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' this tradition had all but vanished.

When I was a boy Dickens's house, Gad's Hill Place, in its country setting was viewable from my bedroom window and 'A Christmas Carol' was a must for seasonal reading. Then, Christmas came stealthily upon us. Presents were hidden in cupboards, decorations brought out at the last moment and stockings filled while we slept. The furtive steps of Dad on the stairs late at night and the not-so-furtive uproar of ourselves at five in the morning as, in the dark, Patrick and I tried to discover what lay at the foot of our beds merged in a great rustling secrecy.

Light took its time in late December and our cold rooms were obscure blocks of darkness for ages. There would be useless commands to "Go to sleep," from parents already exhausted with making the cake, roasting the bird, putting up the paper chains and bringing in the tree. It is a misfortune that, today, so many of our villages destroy for themselves that unique asset of the countryside's natural light. Instead, a harsh glare of street lamps prevails where once there were friendly porch lanterns; security lights, fairy lights, car lights, floodlit towers — every degree of wattage — now unite to foil dawn's alternative.

At Treneglos, however, this is not the case and, as I feel my way up the ancient path, I look up and watch the stars piercing the moody clouds sailing inland from the sea, and an enormous smuggler's moon riding high. A sheep bleats from a nearby field seeking the security of a neighbour's response and suddenly I am transported to that first Christmas night; no rustling paper, no cake, no tree, just a simple country family surrounded by an uncompromised nature; and I bless God for Treneglos, for our carols and for my rural ministry here because, however Russell says it *used* to be, I would not change one bit of it. So thank you, my friends, for your seasonal greetings, for your warm company and, most of all, for your generous gift of making my ministry what it is and may God bless every facet of our life together throughout the year to come.

Revd Rob

St Anne's Church

Sun 3 rd Jan 09:45am	The Epiphany	Holy Communion, Revd. James Rugg
Sun 10 th Jan 06:30pm	The Baptism of Christ	Evening Service Revd. James Rugg
Sun 17 th Jan 11:15am	The Epiphany 2 (& Christian Unity)	Holy Communion Revd. Rob Dickenson
Sun 24 th Jan 09:45am	The Epiphany 3	Morning Prayer Revd. Richard Ward Smith
Sun 7 th Feb 09:45am	2 nd before Lent	Holy Communion Revd. James Rugg

Whitstone Parish Council

Whitstone Parish Council meet monthly to discuss matters concerning the parish of Whitstone and our local community, such as correspondence regarding parish paths, the rural development framework and local planning applications with Cornwall Council, consultations regarding provision of emergency services and organisations including the forestry commission and researchers from the University of Plymouth, etc. Parish Councillors give their time for free, one evening a month, if you would like to get involved a vacancy has arisen which will be advertised by Cornwall Council in the new year. Further details will be available in the parish notice board in early January.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 8.15pm on Tuesday 12th January 2010 at St Anne's Parish Hall, Whitstone. The agenda will be displayed ahead of the meeting on the Parish notice board, opposite the shop.

If you would like to contact the Parish Council please use the drop-box in the village stores, this box is checked regularly before the agenda is prepared for Parish Council meetings.

Lucy Woods, Parish Clerk.



Councillor Report

By Phil Tucker

I would like to start by wishing a Happy New Year to all.

At the moment I am in the midst of reading the budget proposals for the Council. My first view is that the council officers have said that they can be more efficient with a Unitary Council. A decision to have just one council was made by the Lib Dem group against the wishes of the vast majority of people in the region. I therefore feel that the officers should be encouraged to work with no increase to the budget this year and to use those savings that they said would come through joining the Councils together.

The problem is that the Council has been so badly run. There has been overspending. The Audit Commission has rated the council as really poor and the staff morale is dreadful. The other view is should I support a small increase to get these services back on track faster?

If a small increase is supported then would that be rewarding poor standards? Where is the incentive to be more focussed? Would a small increase lessen the risk to vulnerable adults or children? If we have a small increase can we afford more local homes or help people move into their home?

On the flip side, how can a tax payer, earning the threshold minimum for payment, afford any increase when their wages are not going up? Please be assured that I will not be supporting any proposal that I feel is not the best for the community.

*If you have any issues which you feel are not being addressed properly or which you need help with then please don't hesitate to give me a call.
Phil Tucker 01288 341617 philip.tucker@homecall.co.uk*

Brian's New Year Quiz

1. By what name is the central criminal court in London better known.
2. What are Watling Street and Foss Way.
3. Which London street is associated with the medical profession.
4. Which is the longest of the lakes in the Lake District.
5. What is the name of the Prime Minister's country residence.
6. What is the most Southerly tip of England called.
7. In 122 AD a Roman Emperor began building a wall across the North West of England to mark the limits of the Empire. What was his name.
8. Name the young hero of Treasure Island.
9. Under what name is the author Samuel Longhorne Clemens known.
10. Which novelist wrote of a farm run by pigs and of the imaginary world of 1984.
11. Many labels still bear the name of the man who invented frozen food. Who was he.
12. What means of transport did Christopher Cockerell invent in the 1950's.
13. Which doctor invented Penicillin by accident.
14. Who was the German immigrant to the U.S.A. who began making trousers out of material called jean.

15. In which country were the first bars of chocolate made.
16. Which bird is the symbol of the U.S.A.
17. In ornithology what is a clutch.
18. The scientific name of which bird is Pica Pica.
19. Which birds are associated with the tower of London.
20. If a bird is Diurnal what are it's habits.
21. What is a swallows nest made from.

The answers will be published in the February Whistler.

Bude Folk Club

Sun 3rd Jan 2010 - Wassail evening, Falcon Hotel, Bude 8 pm
MUMMERS, MUSIC AND DANCING.

Friday 22nd Jan—Festival Fund Raiser Evening
Falcon Hotel, Bude 8 pm

Sun 31st Jan—Folk Club—Falcon Hotel, Bude 8pm



Friday is film night in Bude

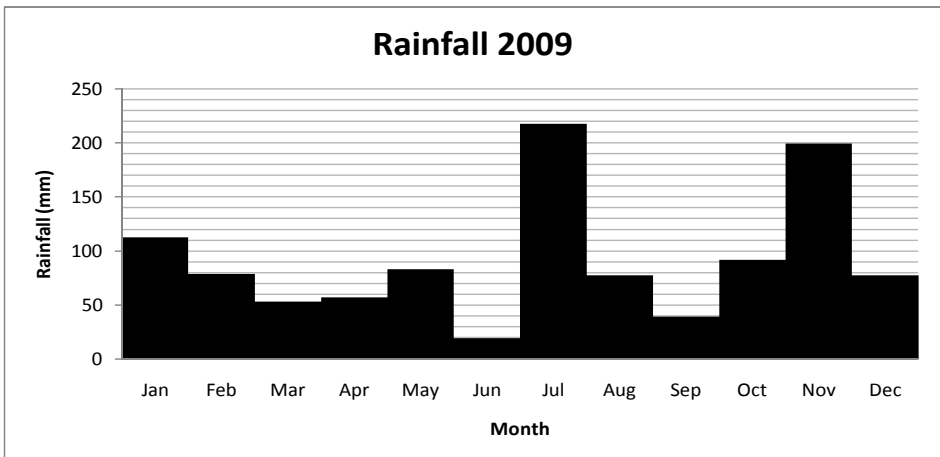
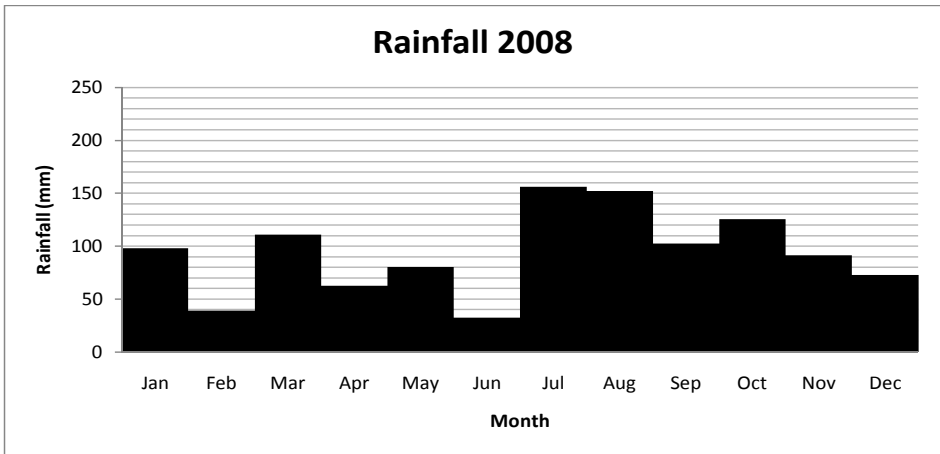
Films are shown at the Parkhouse Centre
Ergue-Gaberic Way, Bude EX23 8LD
Doors open 7.00 pm — Screening starts 7.30pm
(unless otherwise stated)

8th January - Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (12A)
29th January - Coraline (PG)

Admission: £4.00 - Tickets are available from Bude TIC, Ark Angel Bookshop Bude, on the door, Or buy on line via the Cornish Riviera Box Office at www.crbo.co.uk (NB. NO Booking Fee!)

Rainuauge

The start of a new year seems like an appropriate time to look back at our Whitstone weather, and most significantly, the rainfall. As you can see from the charts below for last year and 2008, July was our wettest month for both years, no surprise to many of us! In fact July last year was spectacularly wet with 217.5mm (over 8.5 inches in old money!). We had about the same rainfall in total last year, 1107.5mm compared to 1124mm in 2008 and reading through the recorded figures I note that there was only one day in Aug 2008 when it didn't rain at all!



Rainfall readings courtesy of Margaret Short, Langaton Farm, Whitstone.

All observations are recorded at 7:00am daily. The readings for December 28th - 31st 2009 are not included as the magazine had to go to print.

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17 Sun	Methodist Chapel Service, 11:00am** Holy Communion, St. Anne's Church, 11:15am
18 Mon	
19 Tue	Synod, St. Anne's Parish Hall* *Coffee Club, Methodist Chapel, 10:00am
20 Wed	Yogacise, CP School, 7:00pm
21 Thu	
22 Fri	Festival Fundraiser, Bude Folk Club, Falcon Hotel, 8:00pm
23 Sat	Smile Club Party, Methodist Chapel, 6:30pm
24 Sun	Methodist Chapel Service, 11:00am* *Morning Prayer, St. Anne's Church, 09:45am
25 Mon	Recycling
26 Tue	
27 Wed	Yogacise, CP School, 7:00pm
28 Thu	
29 Fri	Coraline (PG), Bude Community Ciema, 7:00m
30 Sat	
31 Sun	Methodist Chapel Service, 11:00am* *Holy Communion, St. Anne's Church, 09:45am Bude Folk Club, Falcon Hotel, 8:00pm
February 2010	
1 Mon	
2 Tue	
3 Wed	Yogacise, CP School, 7:00pm
4 Thu	

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Whistler

The community magazine of Whitstone

Free to each household

January 2010

1 Fri	NEW YEAR'S DAY
2 Sat	
3 Sun	Methodist Service at Bodmin Street, Holsworthy 11:00am* *Holy Communion, St. Anne's Church, 09:45am Bude Folk Club, Falcon Hotel, 8:00pm
4 Mon	
5 Tue	Coffee Club, Methodist Chapel, 10:00am
6 Wed	Yogacise, CP School, 7:00pm
7 Thu	
8 Fri	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (12A), Bude Community Cinema, 7:00pm
9 Sat	
10 Sun	Methodist Chapel Service, 11:00am* *Evening Service, St. Anne's Church, 6:30pm
11 Mon	Recycling
12 Tue	Parish Council Meeting, St. Anne's Parish Hall, 08:15pm
13 Wed	WI meeting 7:30pm Methodist School Room* *Yogacise, CP School, 7:00pm
14 Thu	
15 Fri	
16 Sat	

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Reducing Unwanted Sales Calls and Junk Mail

By Mike Sutton

Do you receive too much Junk Mail or too many telephone sales calls? My guess is that most people would answer yes to this question. Some people of course actually want to receive it but I feel the majority don't and merely glance at it before consigning it to the bin to add to the mountain of waste that goes to landfill or simply hang-up if it's a phone call. Even if junk mail is recycled it still takes energy to deal with it. I would not go so far as to try to ban junk mail altogether, after all we cannot blame those companies who use this sales method to reach as many potential customers as possible, they have to make a buck as well. But, my problem is that I don't have any choice in the matter, it still comes through my letterbox, or the phone rings, like it or not. I believe that we should have the choice to receive it or not and I have taken a few simple steps to ensure that my choice is recognised. Here are a few pointers which, if followed, will make the receiving of junk-mail or telephone sales calls a rare event. All advice is provided by the Information Commissioner.

Reducing direct and junk mail

To reduce the volume of unwanted direct or junk mail, register your name and address with the Mailing Preference Service (MPS). The MPS is a free service set up by the direct-marketing industry to help people who don't want to receive junk mail. The MPS can remove your name and address from up to 95% of direct-mail lists.

Register your details online at www.mpsonline.org.uk;

Phone 0845 703 4599; or

Write to: Mailing Preference Service(MPS), DMA House,
70Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS

Reducing Unaddressed Mail

You can also stop the amount of 'unaddressed mail' you receive by registering your address with the Royal Mail's Door to Door opt-out service. However, this service will not stop mail addressed to 'the occupier'.

To register write to:

Freepost RRBT-2BXB-TTTS
Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Outs
Kingsmead House
Oxpens Road
Oxford
OX1 1RX
Or email: optout@royalmail.com

Reducing sales calls

To reduce the number of unwanted sales calls, register your home and mobile phone numbers with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). This service is free and takes 28 days to become active. Note that registering your mobile number with the TPS will only stop live marketing voice calls, not SMS text messages, or automated calls. To stop unwanted sales calls, register your details:

Online at tpsonline.org.uk;

By phoning 0845 070 0707; or

By writing to:

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Mrs Trewhitless

Notes from the Whitsend Kitchen

Midnight Cowboy

Even before the heat of the Christmas kitchen has subsided, the first spate of family birthdays gets into full swing, just to add to the chaos in the Whitsend kitchen. American friends gave me this chocolate cake recipe many years ago, since when it has been an absolute lifesaver at such busy times. Cowboy cake is a large flat, moist chocolate cake that can be easily cut into small squares, the shapes of numbers and letters, or simply left as it is. All the ingredients can be obtained at the village shop, and it really is one of those cakes you can create last minute – I have been known to fetch one out of the oven at midnight, and let it cool overnight. Best of all for me, it's foolproof!

You need:

- 12 oz. plain flour
- 16 oz. castor sugar
- 4 oz. margarine (I use Flora)
- 8 oz. water
- 4 oz. sunflower oil
- 3 tablespoons of cocoa (I use the Bournville cocoa from the village shop)
- 2 eggs
- 4 oz. milk
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Combine the flour and sugar in a bowl.
Melt the margarine in a pan and add the water, oil and cocoa.
In a large bowl, mix together the eggs, milk, vanilla essence and bicarbonate of soda.

Combine the three mixtures and pour into a large greased and lined pan such as a grill pan. I use my extra large meat pan. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees C and you will end up with a large, flattish cake.

Whilst the cake is in the oven, mix together:

4 oz. margarine
3 tablespoons of cocoa
6 tablespoons milk
1lb icing sugar.

Spread this mixture on to the cake as soon as it comes out of the oven, and your cake will look like a huge flat cupcake. Just leave it to cool in the tin and the rest is up to you. Cut to your chosen birthday shape or simply into lots of squares. It always goes down well and quickly!

If you have a favourite recipe that you're happy to share, please e-mail it to Mrs Trewhitless via the Whistler. Please do remember that I'm hoping for some game ideas, now you are not so busy with Christmas preparations.

Happy New Year to all you Whitstone cooks from Mrs Trewhitless!

W T h e W h i t s t o n e **hippersnappers**

Beyond the School Gate

The children have had a number of opportunities to venture beyond the school gate and take part in activities with pupils from other schools in the cluster group. Some pupils have been to Kilkhampton School and Morwenstow School to take part in Mathematics and French workshops. Others travelled to Budehaven School for Key Stage 1 and 2 Multi-sports challenges, which were supervised by its current Sports Leaders.

Class 1 trooped off to Launceston to visit the Lawrence House Museum. During their visit, they looked at many artefacts from the Victorian period, which included various toys that would have entertained and distracted Victorian children. Also, they looked at domestic appliances from the decades that succeeded the Victorian times.

All the World's a Stage

Pupils in Class 3 had the chance to visit the Theatre Royal, Plymouth to see a production of the musical Scrooge. The children enjoyed the experience - and their interval ice creams. At the end of term, pupils in Class 3 were joined by their schoolmates in Class 2 and went to the Parkhouse Centre in Bude to see the witty and amusing production, performed by the Miracle Theatre Company, entitled The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin. This was a rendering of the well-known fairy tale but with a humorous twist to its ending, which imparted to it something of the flavour of a pantomime.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the performances of our Christmas concert, and we were pleased to hear that you enjoyed what we placed before you.

The retiring collections at the two performances raised the magnificent

amount of over £275. This money will be added to our ShelterBox Appeal Fund. Thanks to the generosity of our friends who attend the Tuesday Coffee Club we have achieved the goal we set ourselves at the start of the Autumn term of raising enough money to provide a Shelter Box: their donation of £40 took our appeal total over the £490 we needed. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us to reach our target so quickly. Our success has inspired us to go for a second box, and the money raised at the performances of our Christmas presentation means that, as we enter the New Year, we are already over half way to that second box.

PTFA

Whilst we have been raising funds for the ShelterBox Appeal, the PTFA has also been busy this term raising funds to support the work of the school. As a result of its efforts (Autumn Fayre, Halloween Disco, Christmas Bazaar, 100 Club), with the support of parents, children, staff and local residents, an amount of over £658 has been added to its coffers.

This term, the PTFA has contributed £600 towards the cost of weekly swimming lessons for every pupil in the school and £250 towards the restocking of the school library.



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The Price of Wisdom is Above Rubies

By Ean Lawrence

Robert Milner was standing on the balcony of his fifteenth-floor flat looking out over a city landscape that had become over familiar to him since his retirement fifteen years ago.

Robert's block was at one end of a row of five tower blocks that curved in a gentle arc along the line of ancient boundaries. The slight concavity thus created reminded passers-by of an aerial the purpose of which was to collect gossip from the city's distant, vibrant centre.

Occupying a corner flat at the eastern end of the row meant that number 1501 was one of the flats that received the intimation of sunrise first. Robert could anticipate the moment when, on certain days, the sun's rays would wash the south-facing elevations of the blocks in a golden light and give, if only for a short time, the appearance of life to the dead concrete with its pale pallor. On most of these occasions, Robert would make his step on to the balcony coincide with the sun's illumination of the façade. Meanwhile, Robert's wife, Edna, was in their apology for a kitchen preparing breakfast, a meal of eggs and bacon that had remained unaltered since the first days of their co-habitation back in the dim and distant past.

A shrill voice informed Robert that his breakfast was ready and waiting for him on the table. Robert took a deep breath and started to make his way to the table that had given loyal service from the beginning of their marriage. As he stepped off the balcony back into the room, he stopped and removed the cover of a brass cage that stood next to the portable black and white television set that the couple hardly ever watched. As soon as the plain linen cover was removed, the bird that occupied the cage began to sing. Pal Joey, a canary of sulphurous hue but of saintly temperament, filled the room with song that was as sweet as that of any angel. The distraction of the delightful sound caused Robert to delay his

arrival at the dining table. He was brought out of his trance by a loud clang coming from the kitchen, the result of a utensil being brought down upon a well-worn worktop with controlled violence. Robert swallowed hard, and waited for the censure that would inevitably follow.

'Robert! How many times have I told you not to take the cover off that cage before we've eaten breakfast?'

'Sorry, my love,' said Robert. 'But it's show day today.'

'What difference does that make?' said Edna.

Robert made no audible reply, but the sound of Pal Joey in full voice was something for which Robert thought it was well worth incurring his wife's wrath. Nevertheless, to placate his wife, Robert replaced the cover over the cage, thus silencing the bird and, with considerably less regret, his wife as well.

After he had discharged his domestic duties, Robert began preparing for the journey to Braxton Hall. He retrieved the box in which he would convey Pal Joey from the flat to the municipal building from the wardrobe in the rarely-used spare bedroom. The box was made of cherry wood with brass hinges and fittings. Ventilation was provided by a fine-mesh screen in the door.

Robert removed the cover from Pal Joey's cage for the second time that morning. This time the bird seemed to realize that it was not politic to start singing and contented himself with letting escape the odd trill, which Robert took as a sign of rare prudence and intelligence. Robert took great care in placing Pal Joey in the travelling-box. Descending in the lift to the ground floor, Robert was at pains to prevent the canary from being upset by the jolts and rumblings of the car. Then, at last, the peculiar motion that meant the lift had reached the ground floor, and the doors separated with a hiss of either relief or disapproval. Robert could never decide which one it was; he regarded either one as a betrayal of hope.

Robert arrived at the bus stop next to the baker's shop and saw on the rolling display that the number 32 bus would be arriving in three minutes. Robert checked on his charge by peering through the mesh. Pal Joey was on his perch and seemed to be taking an interest in all that was going on around him.

To Robert's delight, today's journey to Braxton Hall lasted only as long as it was scheduled to. There had been times, before the introduction of the congestion charge zones, when the same journey had lasted three or four times longer than planned. It could sometimes appear that one was a traveller in a nightmare, and it would only be the sound of a bell that brought one back to the inconvenient reality.

A banner was stretched across the main entrance to the hall proclaiming that today was the 43rd Annual Braxton Song Bird Festival. Robert climbed the short flight of steps and entered the hall, remembering to thoroughly wipe his shoes on the large coir mat that protected the decorative Victorian floor tiles. He went directly to the area set aside for birds that weren't being entered into the singing competition. Robert did not mind his bird singing with the other birds that were brought to Braxton Park on a summer's evening but he never entered Pal Joey into any competitions. This astonished people as many considered Robert's canary to be possessed of one of the sweetest avian voices they had ever heard.

'Why don't you ever enter your bird in competition, Robert?' asked Jimmy, who had retired at the same time as Robert but who enjoyed a more benign regime on the home front. 'Your bird has one of the most melodious voices I've heard.'

'That may be so, Jimmy. But if I, I mean we, were to win it would mean our name and photograph appearing in the local paper. And Edna wouldn't like that. Wouldn't like the publicity. You know... the unfavourable comparisons.'

'Why, Robbie? I don't see what the problem would be.'

'Well, Jimmy... you see... Edna's a member of the local amateur operatic society.'

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And finally.....

I came across the following extract from a web site about walking in Cornwall and was intrigued by it.

"High above Strangles you may spot a fence covered in shoes. These were the victims of the infamous Boscastle flood disaster (the shoes I mean, not their owners. It is believed they were washed out of a flooded shop by the small tidal wave that came down the valley that wet day. Boscastle is just down the coast and, for some unknown reason, walkers have taken to finding the shoes and hanging them up on the fence. The National Trust warden tells me he's never actually seen a matching pair as yet."

I was wondering if anybody had seen this whilst out walking around The Strangles area? I have tried to look for them myself but without any luck. The article may be a few years old so are the shoes still there? Someone also told me that the same thing has been happening in the Clovelly area, I find it hard to believe that all these shoes came from the same shop in Boscastle, so what is going on? I would be delighted if anybody can shed any light on the mystery or indeed knows where the shoes are, or were.

Editor

Holsworthy Memorial Hall Cinema

Unfortunately we have had to suspend films for a while due to poor attendance. We have a management meeting in January when we will decide how to proceed with the cinema.

Richard Hutchings

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