

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
TO YOU ALL**

A special thanks
to those who
have contributed
to 'IN TOUCH'
in anyway by
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and delivery.
Your help helps
the community.

Your ideas are
still needed

Sponsorship is
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going

MANY THANKS TO :-

PORTFIELD PRINT

For Again Helping To Sponsor This Issue Of The
BURTON & ROSEMARKET 'IN TOUCH'

Were you there in 1977 and 2000 ?

What can we see in the night sky - read Stargazer

Houghton holds a clue to Mr Biro

**The latest on Burton Coastcare and Environmental
Group**

Footplate Experience No2 arrives back in Neyland

China Bike ride Thank You

News from both Burton and Rosemarket

Neighbourhood Watch, Westfield Pill

Something for everyone

Neighbourhood Watch

In the Burton area we have three Homewatch schemes and need a Co-ordinator for the fourth in Houghton. Have you thought of joining Homewatch? It doesn't cost a penny, only a little of your time to pass on information over the telephone. Homewatch co-ordinators obviously require an awareness of what is going on about them and they must have an interest in assisting the police in their endeavours to lower crime or, indeed, what is perceived as crime by the population. In many instances the fear of crime is much greater than the actuality and this, too, requires attention.

Our whole community can suffer as a result of crime and an unfortunate minority find themselves victims; the remainder suffer through living in an environment where a crime has been committed because an unnecessary fear enters the equation. Here in the Dyfed Powys area, crime is low and one of the reasons is because the community and the police work closely together. To maintain and build on this success it would be helpful if more of you could help in some small way. We should all aim to create a community in which crime is socially unacceptable and difficult to commit and one of the best ways of achieving this is the operation of HOMEWATCH SCHEMES which are real partnerships between the police and the public. Ordinary people like us work together and take positive steps to prevent themselves and their neighbours becoming victims simply by reporting anything suspicious.

All you have to do is observe and report. Telephone 999 and give as much information as you can. The sort of information which is most helpful and for you to note is some or, if possible, all of the following:-

Is the suspicious person/s Male or Female?; colour of skin, complexion, height, build, age, hair colour, length of hair, whether the hair is straight, curly or receding; how are they dressed, description of clothes; colour of eyes, do they wear spectacles?; description of face, long, thin, round, shaven, moustache, beard?; any scars or tattoos?; suspicious vehicle, car, van, lorry, motor bike, body type, make, model, registration number, colour, direction in which the vehicle is travelling and any other details such as damage to the vehicle, company name etc.,

We must all focus our efforts to make our community the ideal place to live in; we need to improve and tackle threatening behaviour such as intimidation and vandalism. We need to keep our eyes and ears open and develop an awareness of activities that seem suspicious. Responsibility for crime prevention rests not only with the police; you have an important role to play, your neighbour (in most circumstances) can be your strongest ally against crime. Here in Pembrokeshire we are fortunate to have a Chief Constable who believes very much in this partnership and all our police officers are equally committed. If you are interested in starting up a HOMEWATCH SCHEME or want to register in an already established scheme, please contact the Community Safety Department at Haverfordwest Police Station. Tel No 01437 763355, Ext. 460/461. You will find them very interested and helpful.

Dennis Venables, Burton, Brian Steele, Burton Ferry and Mrs P Jones, Barnlake Point are your Homewatch Co-ordinators.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THELMA-I'm Not Well-MOORE

with supporting cast is returning from the Wiltshire / Somerset borders on Friday 20th July to entertain us again.

Venue: Queens Function Centre Haverfordwest

Children In Need

On the 31st October 2000 James and Melissa Pritchard, Alice, Jessica and Sam Brown together with Victoria and Richard Jones went along Ashdale Lane playing Trick or Treat. They managed to raise £5.00 which they donated to Children In Need. Well done and thanks to all on Ashdale Lane who gave a donation.

There's more. Alice Brown and Victoria Jones then planned to hold a Craft Stall at the Youth Club on 10th November. They made felt Christmas stockings, gift tags, fruit cakes, chutney, bags of sweets and a bran tub. They made £50.00 with help from youth club members.

The £55.00 was then added to the money made at the youth club disco, organised by Sophie Marshall and Sally Morris on Children in Need Day.

The children in the village did well in supporting this event

THEN and NOW



The completion of the Jubilee Playpark took place in 1977 and some of the members of the community who helped in it's construction are pictured on the left. Some of these same community members attended a tree planting ceremony in the same park in November 2000.

The Rector Michael

Williams conducted the ceremony for the planting of the two trees. The first tree was presented by Burton Community Council in honour of Mr Jeffrey McNamarra who gave 33 years of continuous service to the community. The second tree to be planted was presented by Mrs Julia White MBE in memory of Ted who was also a long serving member of the Community Council.



BURTON WI

A very busy year with a good attendance at all the meetings. Membership now stands at 38 but new members will be made most welcome. In fact we won the Pembrokeshire Federation Shield and a certificate for our recruitment efforts. The programme for our monthly speakers was most interesting and varied such as 'A Japanese Evening', 'Travels in Peru' and 'Science in a Paint Box'.

Many members took advantage of Federation classes and events such as: Bowling Evening, Scolton Manor, Tatton Park Craft Exhibition, Windsor Castle, Car Treasure Hunt and many more.

Burton Institute held many events as well, some were of a fund

raising nature or, for example, a project undertaken was the cleaning of the Baptismal Well at Burton Church. Other events were often more informal such as meals out and outings. A new project has recently been started to put together a scrapbook for the 21st. Century.

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club Annual Dinner is to take place on Saturday 20th January 2001. to book your tickets for this dinner which always proves popular please contact: Millie Scale - 01646 600343

The Night Sky in Winter

For those interested in the stars and planets, January and February are perhaps the best months of the year to start becoming acquainted with their positions and movements across the sky. Not only are the nights long but they start early and we do not have to carry out our observations at unsociable hours. Furthermore many of the most interesting objects and constellations are very prominent at this time. A telescope is not essential, although they can be great fun. The naked eye is all that is needed to get started but a good pair of binoculars will greatly increase your enjoyment. You will need to secure them, on a tripod if possible.

Where do we start? Well, an easy one first. In the south western sky, as soon as the Sun sets you will see the planet **Venus**. It is unmistakable in its brightness. Binoculars will show that it exhibits crescents, just like the Moon. This is because it is closer to the Sun than we are and we see one side by reflected sunlight. On Jan 27 & 28 the crescent Moon will be close to Venus. Those of us who were schoolboys in the 1950's will no doubt recall that the epic struggles between *Dan Dare* and the *Mekon* in the pages of the *Eagle* took place on Venus. In those days, we knew little of the conditions on the surface but interplanetary probes have revealed it to be a violently inhospitable planet. With temperatures of nearly 500 degrees Centigrade, a pressure 90 times that on Earth and clouds made of sulphuric acid, even a *Treen* would find it difficult to establish a civilisation.

Turn now towards the east and start to move your view upwards towards the zenith. Here you will find a veritable treasure trove of exciting objects. The brightest is **Jupiter**, the biggest planet in the Solar System. A beautiful, bright object to the naked eye, it appears as a disc with its family of four satellites through the simplest binoculars. The position of these satellites with respect to their planet can be seen to change quite rapidly and careful observation over several days will be very rewarding. It was Jupiter and its four moons that Galileo discovered in 1610 when he first aimed his newly invented telescope at the heavens. It was this amazing discovery that introduced serious doubts about the then-popular theory of an Earth-centered universe.

Look now to the right and upwards from Jupiter and there you will see, less bright and of a yellower hue, the wonderful planet **Saturn**. Though further away than Jupiter, it is even more spectacular although powerful binoculars will be required to see its ring system and large family of satellites. If you know anyone with a telescope and they ask you what you would like to see, without any doubt start with Saturn. You will be well rewarded.

Now let us leave the planets and examine what is, to my mind at least, the most interesting of the constellations. **Orion**, the Hunter, sweeps across the southern sky throughout the winter months and will be seen due south in late evening towards the end of January. It is easily identified by three bright stars in a line forming the hunter's belt. To the left and upwards will be found a bright star with a distinctly reddish hue. This is the cool, red super giant, **Betelgeuse**, thought to be the largest star in our region of the Galaxy. If it were in the position of our Sun, the Earth would be completely swallowed up inside it. Now look back to the belt and continue, this time downwards and to the right. Here you will find the brilliant bluish white super giant, **Rigel**, the seventh brightest star in the sky. It is a beautiful star to the naked eye but needs a medium sized telescope to reveal that it has a dimmer companion.

Now, finally, let us look at a strange object in Orion. To the south of the belt, you will see a misty smudge of light, even with the naked eye. This is the **Great Nebula**. Nearly 2000 light years away, it is an area of great activity. Enormous areas of swirling gases are lit by the intense illumination of young, hot, blue-white stars and the use of a pair of binoculars on a clear, moonless night will reveal an area of outstanding stellar beauty. 2000 light years? Well, light travels at 186,000 miles a second, so in 2000 years, it will travel - come on you younger ones, that is your homework for tonight. Think about it though - the light you are seeing left the Nebula round about the time Jesus was born!

Anything else? Well there is a **Lunar Eclipse** on 9 January, visible across Wales but subject, of course, to the weather. Start watching at about 6.40pm. The eclipse is likely to be quite bright with sunlight being refracted through the atmosphere to illuminate that part of the Moon in the Earth's shadow.

Stargazer

Ho - Ho in Rosemarket

Some of Rosemarket's residents really did their bit for the festive season and made the village brighter over the long winter nights. I think they should be congratulated for the effort they made. Indeed the Wednesday Club at it's meeting in the Huntsman for Christmas Lunch told me in no uncertain terms that they expect a competition next year for the best decorated house. They said that if HTV can show houses that are decorated in other areas then why not ROSEMARKET.

It will be put to the Community Council LADIES - I promise.

Burton Church Sunday School

Children joined in the "Shoe Box to Romania" Appeal. The children carried gifts instead of collection to Sunday School during July, and thanks to their wonderful generosity, six boxes, full of presents, were sent to a Romanian orphanage in time for Christmas.

Below; members of Burton Church Sunday School



Youth Club News

On Friday 17 November, BURTON YOUTH CLUB, which opened in February 2000, ran a fancy dress disco in aid of CHILDREN IN NEED. Proceeds from the evening which included a raffle and sale of cakes amounted to £92.55 which is highly commendable for a group of 10 - 14 year olds. Much of the credit goes to members Sophie Marshall and Sally Morris for the original idea and organisation. Burton Youth Club meets in the Mission Hall, New Wells Rd., each Friday during term time between 7 and 9 pm.

The Burton Wednesday Afternoon Club

In 1980 a competition took place at the Burton W.I. for the best idea to improve community facilities in the area. The winner was Mrs. Delma King of Burton Ferry. The idea was to provide a club to give Burton and District parishioners and their friends an opportunity for formal association and companionship.

Mrs. Delma King, Mrs. Sandie Pellew and Mrs. Betty Blight discussed how a club could be formed and invited Mr Elved Bowen, Mrs. Tudor and Mrs. Campbell to a meeting.

From this 'little acorn' a tree has grown and the current membership is 53 of whom 18 are men.

The club holds fortnightly meetings throughout the year excluding August. The meetings are held at 2.30pm in The Jubilee Hall, Houghton. Members enjoy slide shows, videos and talks by visiting Speakers. A monthly coach trip is organised throughout the summer. This year the venues were Aberglasney, Brecon Canal, Aberystwyth and the

National Botanical Gardens of Wales.

Annual events include Springtime Coffee Morning, Harvest Festival and Christmas Dinner.

Committee members would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the Club or come along and enjoy a warm welcome.

Committee members can be contacted as follows:-

Mr. G. Duke, Chairman	01646 600838
Mr. L Grange, Treasurer	01437 890012
Mrs. A Eshelby, Secretary	01646 600108
Mrs. H Jones, Programme Sec.	01646 601193
Mr. R Jones	01646 601193
Mrs. C Jenkins	01646 600422
Mrs. J Lovel	01646 600301
Mrs. D Thomas	01646 601783

FRIENDS OF BURTON SCHOOL

(FOBS)

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2000

BEGGARS REACH HOTEL 18/12/00

The Friends of Burton School held a very successful Christmas Fayre in the grounds of the Beggars Reach Hotel, Burton on Monday 18th December. The evening was very well attended and all stalls were soon doing a brisk trade. The children enjoyed a disco with dancing competitions, as well as a visit from Father Christmas. There was face painting and games to keep the children entertained whilst adults browsed and shopped at the various side stalls. Stalls included: - Bottle stall, Crafts, Sweets, Cakes, 50/50 game and the Grand Christmas Raffle. There were also a variety of refreshments, including tasty hot pork rolls.

Whilst impossible to thank all the individuals who contributed to the success of the evening, the FOBS committee would like to express their gratitude to William and Gill Smallman for hosting the event and to Mervyn and Lucy Williams for allowing us the use of the marquee. Also thanks to Mrs. Nancy Evans for collecting so many superb raffle prizes from local retailers including Williamston Ceramics, HSBC, Boots, Tesco, Howells jewellers, Stable Inn and Beggars Reach to name but a few, and to Mrs Wildman for her huge gift of many, many delicious mince pies!.

The evening raised approximately £1350.00 for FOBS funds. FOBS will be holding a meeting early in the New Year to decide how the money should be spent to ensure the highest benefit for the school and the pupils, all parents are welcome – new members are always needed!

FOBS most recent purchase has been a portable organ, just in time for use at the Christmas concert!

Good King Wenceslas phoned Pizza Hut with his order

"Is that the usual?" the man asked.

"Yes" he replied ".....Deep pan,
Crisp and even"

Mr Biro's Great Idea

If you were asked to note down one of the most constantly used, most accessible and cheapest inventions of the twentieth century, I am sure that very near the top of the list would be the very thing you were using to write it down - the ballpoint pen or 'biro'. Just as in the case of the vacuum cleaner or Hoover, the biro is named after its inventor - Laslo Biro.

Banned initially by schools, regarded by many as heralding the ruin of handwriting and by others as an expensive toy, it has superseded both fountain pen and pencil and nowadays literally billions of notes, messages and letters are written daily with the biro worldwide.

Probably many of us know that the ballpoint was invented by a Mr Biro and some even that he happened to be Hungarian but, beyond that, would not know how, where or when the pen was first developed. Yet here I was in the sitting room of Phillip and Jennifer Hayden at their house in Houghton, holding in my hand the prototype of the world's first biro and listening to Phillip's story of that first pen and his own part in its development.

After leaving school Phillip served a general apprenticeship at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough in Hampshire. He then went on to join the Miles Aircraft Corporation in Reading as a laboratory assistant.

One day, towards the end of the Second World War, the Head of the laboratory, accompanied by F. G. Miles, came in to Phillip and showed him several sheets of paper covered in drawings with metric measurements and instructions in Spanish. The designs were for a new type of pen that wrote with a minute rotating metal ball instead of the conventional nib of the fountain pen, the flow of ink being supplied along a thin tube. The designs had been drawn up by a Hungarian, Lazlo Biro, who had come to the firm to see whether a prototype pen could be produced from his drawings.

Thus Phillip and his colleague, a chemist, Jacques Olivier, were given the task of manufacturing a working prototype. On the lathe Phillip machined the duralumin nib to hold the 1mm ball being produced by Hoffman's Engineering. The chemist developed the ink for the pen which had to be oil-based so as to act as a lubricant for the ball and castor oil was used initially. The first inks were blue and black, multi-coloured inks being introduced later.

The completed prototype functioned fairly well, although at the time neither Phillip nor his colleagues thought of the new pen as anything but a passing phase. However, F.G.Miles realised the pen's potential and took Phillip and Jacques up to the Dorchester Hotel in London to demonstrate the commercial possibilities with the aim of securing financial backing for large scale production. This was a success and resulted in the formation of the Miles Martin Pen Company.

Following the decline in military aircraft production after the War, the firm of F.G.Miles became bankrupt and manufacture of the ballpoint pen was transferred to the Swan Company. The factory moved to the old Maby Todd premises which Swan had just purchased and where the pen is still made.

So that is the story of the biro. I feel sure that, from time to time, our readers, when using a biro, will remember that one of its originators is a member of our own community.

Wayfarer

Curriculum Development :-

These answers to secondary school pupils examinations will kill you. They didn't happen in Pembrokeshire - I HOPE

"To keep milk from turning sour , keep it in the cow".

"The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five - a, e, i, o, and u".

"Cows produce large amounts of methane, so the problem could be solved by fitting them with catalytic converters".

"The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of indiana".

"the tides are a fight between the Earth and Moon. All water tends towards the moon because there is no water on the moon and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight".

Q. Name the four seasons ?

A. Salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar

Q. What is Britain's highest award for valour in war?

A. Nelson's Column

Q. Who was it that didn't like the return of the prodigal son?

A. The fatted calf

Gym Club News

At a recent Acro Competition in Sophia Gardens Rhian Hayden did very well in the improvers tumble where she gained a second place, and won the overall Acro with Sarah Hams.

A General Competition was held at West St. where Steffi Campbell and Chris Bassett competed.

The Pre-School display for parents took place and Gavin Campbell was able to show off his skills. He moves up the 'Boys' group on a Saturday from January, showing he has continued to improve.

The Inter-Club Competition took place on Sunday 3rd December with the following children competing:-

Rhian, Sian and Ceri Hayden, Victoria and Richard Jones, Sarah Morris, Steffi Campbell, Hannah Jones, Mathew Fulton, Lauren Thomas, Llewella and Finola Scale, Sophie Mitchell, Morgan Scale, Sam Bassett, and Melanie Rawsthorne.

Special congratulations go to:-Richard Jones overall 2nd place- 6yr olds Sam Bassett overall 1st place- 7yr olds Mathew Fulton overall 3rd place- 8yr olds. Morgan Scale overall 3rd place- 9yr olds. Ceri Hayden overall 2nd place 10yr olds.

Special Needs Gymnastics

Jean Jones and Gill Irving have passed the coaches course for Special needs. They hope to set up a pilot group in January, starting with about 6-8 young people with special needs. Gymnastics can help people with special needs as it is ability not disability that counts, and develops kinaesthetic awareness. It aid's communication, has Physical, Social, and Educational benefits. Gymnasts with special needs can learn to become skilful and perform movements with both quality and control. A bid is presently in to the Local Authority for a sport lot bid, as this group need special equipment. Fundraising will need to be done so more equipment can be purchased.

Gym Club Christmas Party was held on Saturday 23rd December at The Patch, Furzy Park, Haverfordwest. A great evening was enjoyed by all.

Early Notice

Bernice and Steve Hayden from the Stable Bar have agreed to put on another fund raising dinner. The last one was really successful, and Steve and Bernice will give all profit to the Gym Club. This time it will be a four course meal, cost £9-95 and it will include entertainment.

The date for your diary is Wednesday 21st February. See Gym Club or Steve or Bernice for tickets. Watch out and reserve your place as last year was so good we anticipate the tickets will go very quickly.

Any queries about joining the club or if you can offer any help or support please contact **Rachel Hughes** on **01437-890239**

Sorry Rector

A new monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old texts by hand. He notices, however, that they are copying from copies, not the original manuscripts. So, the new monk goes to the head monk to ask him about this. He points out that if there were an error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all the other copies.

The head monk says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son."

So the old head monk goes down to the cellar with one of the copies to check it out with the original.

Hours go by and nobody sees him. So, one of the monks goes downstairs to look for him. He hears sobbing coming from the back of the cellar, and finds the old monk leaning over one of the original books crying.

He asks the old monk what's wrong, and in a choked voice came the reply.....

"The word is celebrate."

News in Brief

Sardis Baptist Chapel held a very successful carol service and nativity on December 17th. The Sunday School children under the leadership of Mrs Rosemary James gave an excellent performance. Mr Nigel Thomas of Johnston made it back from abroad to act as organist again at this festive event.

In November a variety concert was held in the Mission Hall and proved to be another great success. Mr George Peters was compere and various local celebrities took part. A lady, Thelma I'm Not well Moore, the first time in Pembrokeshire, had the audience in stitches. She is returning in July (see advert). The proceeds were shared between Hill Mountain and Sardis Chapels and Rosemarket Church who each received £147.87. Well done and thanks to all for raffle prizes etc.

David and Margaret Wildman would like to thank all those that have contributed so generously and helped with the various functions they have held during 2000.

Due to the weather the proposed open air carol service in Rosemarket around the tree with the Ladies Neyland Choir was transferred to the village hall. A good evening was had by all in any event.

Sincere thanks to all of you that joined with us at Williamston Nursing Home for our second carol service. Peter has already asked me when we are coming back again. Lets hope we can have many more.

The Christmas party held by Rosemarket Community Council for the children of the village was a resounding success and very well supported by both the children and mums and dads. The Vice Chairman David Barrah organised and led the children in games. Well done David you did a splendid job. It was obvious that you have a knack for this type of event. You can do it again in 2001

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU SIR BENFRO, TYDDEWI 2002

Bwriedir sefydlu pwyllgor apêl lleol yn ardal Burton, Llangwm, Hook, Freystrop a Rosemarket a fydd yn trefnu gweithgareddau i godi arian ar gyfer Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Sir Benfro, Tyddewi 2002.

Os oes gennych ddi-ddordeb i helpu a fydech cystal â chysylltu â Martin Lewis ar 01646 601341 neu Facs 01646 600367.

Croeso cynnes i bawb

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES PEMBROKESHIRE, ST. DAVIDS 2002

It is intended to establish a local appeal committee for the area of Burton, Llangwm, Hook, Freystrop and Rosemarket which will organise fundraising events for the National Eisteddfod of Wales Pembrokeshire. St. Davids 2002.

If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Martin Lewis on 01646 601341 or Fax 01646 600367 .

Everybody welcome

Burton Coastcare and Environmental Group



Keeping you 'In Touch' with events of 2000



Chairman: Mervyn Williams Secretary: Stevie Lewis Treasurer: Brian Jones

Little could we have hoped to achieve so much when, nearly two years ago, there was a public meeting to discuss the results of the Menter Preseli Community Appraisal questionnaire. 'Action Groups' were set up and our group were charged with implementing a lengthy 'wish list' of environmental improvements. There were some short-term aims and other much longer-term ambitions but it's good to reflect just how much progress we've made. In addition to on-going support from Menter Preseli, we have been fortunate this year in gaining Keep Wales Tidy help from Tonia Forsyth of the Coastcare section, providing tools, a first aid kit and a very welcome grant.

This year has seen many of you join in our activities, perhaps you helped with our Beach Spring Clean, joined our guided walk or maybe your children or grandchildren helped to plant bulbs. Few can have failed to notice the recent arrival of the boat and information panel at the Trinity House picnic site (or that more work needs to be done in painting and planting there!) Come Spring we should see daffodils by seats and in all the picnic areas, all planted in the Pembrokeshire Paddy fields during November! But for PCC intervention, special oak planters would by now have been placed at each village sign, but that's another story!

Some of you may even have been bullied into helping during the week of crisis that followed our nomination for a national Tidy Wales Award! After the storms postponed our 'MADD' action day of painting and planting, it was announced that we were short-listed and that a judging visit would be made. At every opportunity people were press-ganged into picking litter, planting bulbs and painting woodwork, only to see the rain undo most of our valiant efforts within hours. Thanks go to all who helped and all those who were willing to help but were spared by the weather!! The judges seemed impressed but there's no result yet!

We've been fortunate in 'persuading' local companies to provide discounts and materials for our project work and we are really very grateful. It is however true that there are things we could do without the materials but there's nothing can be done without **you** the volunteers who have made it all happen!

Thanks to you all. I hope we can count on you for our next Spring Clean, which will include tidying up the bus shelters, repairing and renovating the seats etc and even getting good and muddy clearing out a well near Milton! We've been asked to help restore a World War 2 Pill Box and lots more. We hope to have training in hedging and walling skills so if you'd like to get involved, please volunteer before the bullying starts in 2001!

Please phone Mervyn 600928 : Stevie 602424 or Brian : 600197, thank you!

Readers will recall that we finished the serialization of Barrie's story in the last issue, with the disastrous reminder, some two years ahead, of the closure of Milford Station for a week during the winter of 1964/65. (Editors note ; 35 years on has anything changed?)

However, no such mishap occurred to Barrie on his train in 1962 and as Billy looked back along the train as we started to move, he saw the guard indicate that all was well at the rear, then turned to concentrate on the line ahead. Once we had climbed to Redstock bridge, the next mile was level and 6837 could be notched up a little. Entering Hayston cutting, the gradient was against us once more. But Forthampton Grange was coping admirably and true to the reputation of her Class. It was time to make good use of the whistle again as we slogged through the cutting, and under Hayston road bridge. Grandpa was standing outside the house waving as I repeatedly sounded the whistle. Once under Rosemarket road bridge, the home signal for Johnston came into view. It was a bracket signal with two semaphore arms, the shorter of which had been lowered, indicating that our train would enter Johnston via the branch loop. Surrendering the single line staff as we passed the signal box, we continued through the station, stopping some distance beyond so that we could propel the train into the cattle dock siding alongside the Up line.

It was at this juncture that I was supposed to leave the footplate and make my way back to Grandpa. However, thanks to a tiny bit of coaxing from Billy and my own boundless enthusiasm, it was another two hours before I finally climbed down from the cab. **But not at Johnston, at Neyland.**

It was about 3.35.p.m. by the time we had positioned our train in the siding. The engine was uncoupled in readiness to run light to Neyland for water and to use the turntable. Meanwhile, we would remain at Johnston for more than half an hour until a path was available to us. Roland took advantage of the time we were standing to shovel what coal remained in the tender forward. Billy had gone to the ground frame cabin to telephone the signalman to find out how long we would have to wait. There was plenty of activity on the main line, in both directions. I remember the 3.50.p.m. Milford to Gloucester fish train stopping briefly alongside us waiting for the Up starter signal to clear. Hauling this train was No. 6859 Yiewsley Grange and her fireman was Arthur Baker of Neyland. Arthur recognised me and asked what I was doing there. Jokingly, he threatened to tell my father what I'd been up to. I was to encounter Arthur often in later life after he'd left the railway to become an insurance agent. The fish train was soon on her way and meanwhile, the Down line had become busy. The first train was a lengthy goods, hauled by Mogul 2-6-0 No. 6347, bound for Milford. Next came a short parcels train for Neyland in the charge of newly outshopped 4-6-0 No. 1014 County of Glamorgan. Following this and also heading home to Neyland, was a passenger train from Paddington with a GWR Mogul No. 7340 at the head.

Now it was our turn to move. The points had been set for us to come out of the siding onto the Up line. Billy let me put the engine into back gear before opening the regulator. Now, out on the main line, we waited for the points to change and I was allowed to put the engine into forward gear. With the route set up for our departure, we steamed sedately back through the station, collected the single line staff for Neyland from the signalman and set off down the hill. Whistling up for each of the three level crossings as we approached them, we were soon running alongside Westfield Pill. Billy gave the engine a little bit of steam as we passed Shipping Gut but soon had to apply the brake because the outer home signal was against us. With the engine stopped Billy told me to blow the whistle, whereupon the signal cleared and we were off again. At the signal box we stopped to surrender the staff, then moved forward towards the water column and turntable. We were unable to use either facility at that moment because ahead of us and taking water, was 7340. She would then move onto the turntable, turn and reverse back out of our way. After filling our tender with water, 6837 was positioned on the turntable. I stayed on the footplate while Billy and Roland hand cranked the turntable round. With her smokebox now facing Johnston, 6837 was left to simmer on the turntable, while Billy and Roland went over to the engine shed. Billy told me not to touch anything while I was on the footplate alone.

After all the excitement of the past few hours, it was only then that I began to feel hungry. I began tucking into my sandwiches etc. while waiting for Billy and Roland to return. As I sat contentedly taking refreshment in the driver's seat, I observed the departure of the 4.45.p.m. passenger train hauled by the gleaming No. 1014 County of Glamorgan. Proud and impressive she looked as she passed by. A shining example of Great Western locomotive engineering.

Roland and Billy re-appeared. Roland climbed onto the engine and began checking the fire and water. Billy meanwhile, armed with an oil feeder, was going around the locomotive oiling up and checking for any hot bearings. With the oiling of the engine completed and everything found to be in order, Billy took the oil feeder back to the shed stores. When he returned, he asked Roland to climb down and got ready to couple us to 7340 stood just clear of the turn-table and to our rear. Both engines would now travel light to Johnston where they would each take up their next duties.

Billy sounded the whistle to let the driver of 7340 know that we were ready to move. The latter whistled back in reply and away we went. Trundling gently past the signal box, the staff was collected and we continued on our way. To either side of us were numerous sidings well filled with a variety of rolling stock. The tide was in as we ran alongside Westfield Pill and a pair of swans could be seen on the water. With both engines gaining momentum along this picturesque stretch of line, Billy told me to adjust the valve gear, or notch up, as was the expression used by drivers. With Billy looking over my shoulder, I made the required adjustment and we happily steamed toward Johnston.

The home signal at Johnston was against us as we approached. Coming to a halt near it, Billy got off and went to the telephone attached to the signalpost, to phone the signal box and find out the reason for the delay. As he climbed aboard the engine again, the signal cleared.

Two trains were already in the station as we cautiously crept up the cutting. At the Down platform stood No.1014 County of Glamorgan, while in the branch loop with a short goods train from Milford, was 6347. We stopped with the cab of our locomotive immediately opposite that of 6347. It was now time to leave the footplate of 6837 Forthampton Grange and

step directly across to the cab of 6347, this being the engine we would be taking back home to Neyland. I have to confess that, for me at that time, stepping straight across the gap from one engine to another felt as if I was doing the splits. Nevertheless, I did accomplish it.

No. 6347 had been uncoupled from her wagons and Billy drove her out of the branch loop into the station. Meanwhile, 7340 was uncoupled from 6837, the latter moving into the branch loop to collect the wagons deposited by 6347. The passenger train standing at the Down platform had been the 4.45pm. from Neyland headed by 1014. This train was now bound for Milford and would be taken there behind 7340. No.1014 was required back at Neyland to work the 6.50pm. Royal Mail train and would return there coupled tender to tender, with our 6347. No. 6837 would move out of the branch loop with her wagons and attach them to those we had earlier left in the cattle dock siding before proceeding on her way, after we had departed.

Before leaving Johnston, Billy gave me the chance of travelling back to Neyland in the cab of No. 1014. I declined because I wanted to experience riding on as many types of locomotive as possible. Fifteen days previously I had experienced a ride on a County. I had just spent a fascinating afternoon aboard a Grange. Therefore, to travel the short distance to Neyland aboard Mogul No. 6347 was an added bonus. No. 6347 had entered service in 1923, and therefore lacked some of the refinements to be found on the other two locomotives upon which I'd had had the privilege of riding on. Even so, these engines were versatile, and held in high regard by the crews who handled them.

We arrived in Neyland about 5.30pm. leaving 6347 and 1014 in a siding alongside the engine shed. I walked into the shed with Billy and Roland where both would be signing off duty. Walking through the gloom of the shed, I saw 0-6-2 tank engine No. 5604 standing with her connecting rods removed and obviously receiving attention. Billy led me into the enginemen's cabin and while he filled in his paperwork I gazed out of the window. Outside, 1014 County of Glamorgan was being placed at the head of the Royal Mail train, the coaches of which already stood by the Up platform.

A few minutes later, Billy and I were walking across the tracks past the turntable and scrambling up the path through the brambles into Railway Terrace. I gave a fond look back over my shoulder at the depot before we continued up High Street. I was still ecstatic about my adventure and feeling every inch a 'Railwayman' as I walked beside Billy. In Kensington Road was my Uncle William's pub, the Forester's Arms. Here we parted company. Billy went into the bar for a beer before going home, while Aunt Violet directed me to the bathroom.

Knowing that my father would be coming in later, I was quite content to stay at the pub until he arrived. I was now washed and clean again and had had tea. Billy Harrison too had been home, washed, changed, eaten and had returned to the Forester's. He ordered himself a drink and came through to the living room to join me.

Time passed as Billy and I sat reflecting on the day's events. We even discussed the possibility of future similar occasions. Eventually my father arrived. He had dropped my mother at Grandpa's as he usually did on Friday evenings and was just a little annoyed that I had

not got off the engine when we returned from Herbrandston that afternoon. He certainly wasn't in favour of allowing me to have any more footplate rides for the foreseeable future.

Regrettably, that was to be my last outing with Billy and the last ride I would have on a steam locomotive. My father's discipline, coupled with the measures applied to the railway industry by Dr. Beeching, would curb my enthusiasm somewhat, for some years.

This has turned out to be a lengthier story than I envisaged. I find that as I write, memories just seem to flood back. The story featured in this article is particularly significant this year. It just so happens that August 21st, 2000 marked the fortieth anniversary of the commencement of rail traffic from Esso's Herbrandston refinery.

I hope that readers will receive this article with equal satisfaction, as they did my first. I am happy to continue writing knowing that I have your support.

June 2000. Upper Crossing Cottage, Rosemarket.

THANK YOU BARRIE FOR ANOTHER DELIGHTFUL STORY OF THE RAILWAY IN PEMBROKESHIRE

Test Your Memory

1. In what month of 1962 did Ffootplate Experience No.1 take place?
2. What was the Number and Name of the locomotive concerned?
3. What was the name of the farm where the Author's grandfather lived?
4. At which station did the Author climb onto the engine?
5. Who was the Engine Driver?
6. Which engine shed was 'home' to the locomotive featured in the story?
7. Which seaside resort had the excursion train visited earlier in the day?
8. The excursion train consisted of 11 coaches, providing how much seating?
9. On the Neyland line, which level crossing was kept in the care of the Driver's family?
10. Where in Neyland yard was the engine positioned when the Author and crew left her footplate?

Send your entry to the Publisher (address on last page) by 15th February 2001. First correct entry opened will receive a prize.

Harvest Thanksgiving Celebrations

Sitting down to this year's Harvest Supper and feeling a real sense of achievement started a whole train of thoughts which I would like to share with you. Firstly I reflected on previous years' harvest celebrations when my husband, Michael, and I both attended the Church Services and commented on how well the gifts of produce had been so expertly used to decorate the church and how beautiful the result was. It was a similar story as far as the harvest supper was concerned. We duly turned up, sat down in readiness for our meal and chatted generally to those on the same table about how appreciative we all were for the staging of the event.

This year, however, was quite different because I had been invited to assist in the arrangements and now my mind was mulling over how we had all gone about preparing for the harvest thanksgiving celebrations. What was the route taken which enabled us all to be sitting down in anticipation of our supper with lovely food to eat and drinks of our personal choice? Well, I'll give you a quick summary.

Firstly members of the church had got together to 'winter clean' the church; each of us had our jobs allocated and we worked merrily away accompanied by Diane playing the organ in the background. Time flew by as we all laughed, chatted and sang; polish, dusters, brooms, and vacuum cleaner all on the go with Frank and Janet doing their bit on the brass. Next came the decorating of the church and bit by bit it all came together and looked splendid upon completion. Then came the Harvest Thanksgiving Service where the children of the Sunday School, under the watchful eye of Wendy Phillips and her two helpers, entertained us and our former rector, Rev. John Hale, gave the sermon. Our new rector, Michael Williams conducted the rest of the service and thanked John for his generous gift to the church and for all the effort he had put in to produce a fine new booklet, 'The History of St Mary's'.

Michael also dedicated a number of hassocks which had been stitched by members of the community who attend church and another which had been stitched by the children of the Sunday School. Also dedicated were altar kneelers, collection bags and a bookmark which were also stitched by church members. I tried to estimate just how much stitching time had gone into producing these hassocks etc., and it was somewhere in the region of 1500 hours! I feel sure that all those who attend church in future years will appreciate the beauty of this work.

Next the produce had to be transferred from the church to the mission hall where Cyril Venables, assisted by the Rector would auction gifts that had decorated the church with the proceeds going to charity. On the night of the auction a number of us turned up, cash in hand and waited for the auction to begin. I think we all enjoyed the evening with just a little determined bidding (all in good fun) entering the proceedings giving the rest of us a great deal of enjoyment and if Cyril managed to hear the last bid one went home feeling fairly happy. (Or perhaps 'I' did not shout loud enough; well, that was what Cyril said!) This year it had been decided to send all monies raised to Christian Aid so a cheque for the sum of £210 will be sent to aid farmers in Bangladesh who, through catastrophic flooding, have lost all their crops, tools, livestock and seed corn which is so vital for the coming year. By us giving thanks for all our blessings, we are hopefully going to help people whom we do not know but who do need a lot of help to put them back on their feet.

It was then time to organise the Harvest Supper. There were numerous meetings to decide who did what, when and where. Posters had to be designed and distributed, tickets printed and sold. Food had to be purchased (with some cooked on the day) and other foods were kindly cooked and donated by members of the Church Council. The day before the supper saw the tables being put up in the hall and set, cutlery and crockery polished, flowers for the tables arranged, raffle prizes and tickets organised and the entertainment for the evening finalised. We were so lucky this year as the 'Touch and Go Theatre Company' offered their services to entertain us. The evening arrived and all we now had to do was wait for guests to arrive which they did quite early, clutching their choice of 'bottle'. It was all very jolly! After we had all eaten and enjoyed the entertainment, it was time for guests to go home and for us to start clearing and dismantling the tables, washing the dishes and tidying the hall. This was all completed surprisingly efficiently and quickly; the atmosphere was still joyful and right up to the moment we left we were all enjoying that good feeling one gets from a job well done. The food served had been a real feast and we have so many wonderful cooks within the church that I gained a few useful tips. It was hard work but very well worth it.

We saw a few new faces this year but, if you were unable to join us, please try and come next year. The tickets sell fairly quickly so reserve your tickets early. I hope that these few words will give you an idea of what we get up to in the church calendar and also expresses how much I admire all the work that has been carried out for so many years by those within the church and also those who contributed towards this year's festivities in so many different ways.

Be well and happy.

Peggie Warren

Latest for Inclusion In next edition - 15th March 2001

The Church of St. Petrox

The heavy wooden door shuts out the rough November weather and the church once more encloses the silence gathered over hundreds of years. This was not the comforting, holy silence of lofty cathedrals flooded with sunlight, this was the harsh, bleak silence of Celtic, monastic cells raised in a barren and pagan land.

The only light in the nave was the grey light of the stormy afternoon, so all the more startling was the white marble tablet commemorating the life and death of Jane Mansell, of the ancient family of Wyndams, married firstly to Sir Roger Lort of Stackpole and then, after his death, to Sir Edward Mansell of Muddlecombe. Thus it is usually only the titled, the rich and the powerful who can achieve this kind of immortality with their grand memorials.

Presiding over all is the three-dimensional, family coat of arms but the Latin text beneath, no doubt fulsomely praising my Lady's qualities and virtues, was well beyond the long hours spent in my youth learning, by rote and by threat, page after page of conjugations and declensions.

At the base of the memorial a fat little curly-haired cherub, sprouting delicate wings, smiles winsomely as if, at any moment, a chubby little hand might stretch out and help itself to the bunches of stone fruit on either side. But the eye travels further down and sees with a shudder the final end of all power, of all titles, of all riches: a skull accompanied by crossed bones and, underneath that again, a scallop shell, perhaps symbolising life's pilgrimage.

Emblems of mortality are further carried on in the 17th century brass memorial plate above the Reader's Desk, just to the south of the chancel arch. Crude crossbones are etched into the brass but the grinning death's head is more like the grinning faces that children cut into their pumpkin lanterns at Hallowe'en. The plate is in memory of Rector William Lloyd but again the eulogy was beyond the confines of my *First Latin Primer*.

The Ten Commandments are not so much broken now as ignored and conveniently forgotten. If remembered at all, it is by a jocular reference to 'not coveting our neighbours ox or ass' or something similar. But here in the chancel, bordering the altar, not in tablets of stone but painted in deep reds and black on wood, are those same Ten Commandments, no less awesome and filled with the same threat of eternal damnation as when Moses first brought them down to the Children of Israel from Mount Sinai.

Suspended from the chancel roof, the brass, crown-shaped chandelier, wrought in a delicate filigree pattern, held the candles that lit the church, highlighted those fearsome commandments and illumined the music of the little Victorian pedal-organ that fits snugly against the chancel wall.

But the most remarkable features of the church are the two roughly-hewn blocks of stone, each one resting on one of the window bays of the south wall. On the face of the first stone the narrative of Adam and Eve in Genesis is brought to life. In crude yet vigorous and robust carving, Eve is tempted by the serpent, Adam accepts the apple, both exhibit their joint shame on meeting God in the garden and, finally, the Archangel Michael thrusts them ignominiously from Eden into the outer wilderness. The figures of Adam digging the hard ground and Eve sitting at her weaving depict the sad end to their story.

On the second stone the mediaeval peasants are all engaged in the bustling activity of the harvest: a reaper with his sickle cuts the corn; a man reaches up to pick fruit from a tree; a pig is stuck. So the work of the nameless craftsman and those who peopled his daily life endure down the centuries.

I leave the church and once again the wooden door shuts into the silence and darkness the smiling cherub, the grinning death's head, our first father and mother and the peasants at their work. Outside in the darkening afternoon the red sandstone of the porch contrasts starkly with the limestone of the rest of the church. The wind blows more strongly. Then, suddenly, for a moment or two, against the black sky, the church tower is framed by a spectacular rainbow.

Wayfarer

Rosemarket

Rededication, - Having had a £100,00 face lift during the last six months the rededication of the parish church was held on November 6th in the presence of The Right Rev. Hugh Jones, Bishop of St. David's, who gave the address to a large congregation. The church had been beautifully decorated with floral arrangements by members and friends in memory of past members and relatives. The Archdeacon Rev. Graham Davies read the lesson and the organist was Mr Giles Williams. Members were delighted to welcome back Rev. John Hale (former vicar) and Rev. Michael Likeman (who helped during interregnum).. Also present were Mr and Mrs Wyn Jones (architect), Cllr. Bill and Mrs Hitchings (Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council), Mrs June Crook (Chairman Rosemarket Community Council). After the service everyone present enjoyed first class refreshments supplied by the lady members of the church. A photographic display of before and during the work was arranged by Mr Ashley Warlow. Commemorative mugs for the occasion were on sale at £5 each. A few are left and anyone requiring a mug can telephone 01646 601194

Burton VC School



It has been a very busy yet exciting time at Burton School recently.

Internet.

After waiting patiently for quite some time to become connected to the Internet, the school finally came online at the end of November.

Meningitis Vaccination.

All children (Yr. 2 to Yr. 6) received meningitis vaccinations at school in September.

Fire Service.

Class 1 visited Milford Haven Fire Station in September and joined in with many special activities.

The local Fire Service then visited school in October to talk to the children about fire safety. The children were also allowed access to the fire engine and given a hands-on introduction to the fire fighting equipment.

Curry Evening .

A very successful Curry Evening was held at The Jolly Sailor on 2/11/00. This raised much needed funds for the school minibus.

Science Day.

The school held a special science day on 5/12/00. Mr. Tom Hoyt from XL Wales Science 2000 visited school and worked with all classes covering many aspects of science and technology.

School Refurbishment.

During the summer holidays work began on damp-proofing the School House. The work is now complete but for a few minor details. The work included a new roof for the School House kitchen and complete refurbishment of three rooms downstairs with new carpets throughout. Further work is due to begin in January to create a community / school car park on land between the school and the main road. A permanent perimeter fence, running parallel to the Haverfordwest road, will also be erected to replace the existing temporary one.

Christmas Events.

Christmas Gifts to Eastern Europe.

Following an appeal first seen in the local press, children brought in over 40 shoe boxes full of small toys and gifts for less fortunate children of Eastern Europe. A number of children accompanied staff and delivered the boxes to the collection point in Haverfordwest.

Christmas Fayre.

This was held at Beggars Reach Hotel on 18/12/00. Our warm thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Smallman for their hospitality, and to Mr. and Mrs. M. Williams for allowing us the use of the wonderful marquee which made the event a truly memorable one. Thanks also to everyone who provided items and helped during the evening and to those who attended making this a

Marvellous success. (See separate report from FOBS)

Christmas Pantomime.

The whole school visited the Torch Theatre on 14/12/00 to watch the pantomime 'Pinocchio'. Our thanks to the Friends of Burton School (FOBS) for funding the transport for this event.

Christmas Party.

This was held on 19/12/00 when the children had a tremendous time. Warm thanks for all who helped make this a special occasion for the children.

Christmas Carol Service.

It was very fitting to hold the Carol Service at Burton Church in the year 2000. The children presented a wonderful evening re-telling the Christmas Story in music and song. Proceeds from the evening went to Children In Need. Our warm thanks to the Rector and all associated with the church for allowing us the use of the church for rehearsals and the actual evening.

Contact : Mr. R. Rowell. Headteacher .

Tel:01646-600364

E-mail:

head@burton.pembrokeshire.sch.uk

NICKED FROM THE PEW SLIP

Holiday Bingo:

The weather was exceptionally wet in Llanpumpsaint and there were a large number of holiday makers there. The Vicar decided that it could be very profitable if he held a cash bingo evening in the village hall. The admission charges were set - all English speaking visitors would pay 50p and all Welsh speakers £5.00. The hall filled rapidly amidst much murmurings with the native residents. The caller started the house games by calling the numbers TRI DEG, PYMTHEG, CHWED DEG UN.....!!!

Mowing the Grass

Cutting lawns in the heat of the day can be very exhausting. Our friendly postman came up with a solution " Sprinkle it with whisky" he said " and you will find it will come up half cut"

Rosemarket Community Council usually meets on the first Monday of the month at the Village Hall starting at 7.15 pm .The public are always welcome to these open meetings.

In addition to the normal administration and planning matters the following matters have been discussed during the last three meetings:

a) Dangerous parking

Some residents are parking too close to road junctions and others are leaving cars in dangerous positions. Access for emergency vehicles could be a problem on some roads. Following earlier discussions with the County Council over yellow lines the Council discussed the problem of illegal parking with the Police in October.

A traffic survey will take place in the new year. A reminder notice has been put on the new notice board.

Our policing priorities for 2001 are; 1) More police presence in the area. 2) Sort out dangerous parking and speeding. 3) Police to attend more Council meetings.

b) The siting and height of the large green fence at the Farriers as a safety risk has been discussed and this matter is now in the hands of the County Council.

c) Overhanging tree branches and obscured street lights are a problem. RCC have arranged branch lopping for dangerous branches and those obscuring street lights. Trees on private property that obscure lights are of course the owner's responsibility.

d) Dog fouling continues to be a constant problem. Signs are to be erected to remind dog owners that we would all like a cleaner village.

e) The state of the old School and the return of the playground to the village is being pursued.

f) The County Council no longer pays the cost of our "Public Lavatories".Rather than have them knocked down the Community Council has agreed to take them over and intends to give them to the village hall.

g) To commemorate the Millennium four projects were finally chosen.

(1)A community children's party, (2)Presentation Mugs for each child in the area, (3)Repair and renovation of the public wells, (4)Enclosing the area below the old chapel of rest for community use.

h) The Council arranged for the First World War Memorial in the Chapel to be removed and stored until a permanent site is found.

i) A new Parish Clerk Mrs Eileen Jones was recently appointed.

Queens Function Centre-----Haverfordwest
Friday 27th April 2001 8.00pm to Midnight

Tickets
£6.50

ANNUAL SPRING

Dancing
To
Glyn Rees
Band

Dress
Optional

SUPPER DANCE

PHONE
01646 601193

Proceeds in aid of Rosemarket Parish Church

Letters Page

Dear Editor

Following on from a statement you printed in the last issue of "In Touch" 'Some Events of 1950' where the N.F.U. disclosed information from their annual meeting that:- In 1949 Pembrokeshire sold, through the Milk Marketing Board 21,100,000 gallons of milk. Value £2,570,000.

This brought my mind back to the 1950's when my father was selling milk to the M.M.B. and often heard him say, "that the price he was having for the milk sold to the M.M.B. was 2s.6p or (12 1/2p) per gal." By my reckoning the above price works out to a little less than 2s.6p per gal.

Another interesting fact which I have kept over the years, and could be of interest to some readers. I did a count in Burton Parish in 1950. Then, the number of farms and small holdings selling milk to the M.M.B. was 28. But by 1995 this was reduced to 4 farms, which is the same today. I would think that these 4 farms are producing more milk today, than the whole 28 in 1950.

Another interesting fact is that in 1950, there were in Burton Parish 28 farms and 21 small holdings, a lot of these were family farms and small holdings, all making a living. It may not have been a life of luxury, but they ate well and lived happily, and always ready to help their neighbour, when the need arose. But by 1995 these farms and small holdings were reduced to 14 farms and 6 small holdings. The bigger farms needed to expand to make them a more workable business, they were able to do this by buying up neighbouring farms and small holdings and in some cases renting more land and run them as one unit. The acreage of land in use remains nearly the same, except where land has been taken for building.

Some readers may remember Cllr. Charlie James of Ashdale Lane who for a time farmed land at Williamston. He made a remark to me back in the 50's when the small holdings started being taken over, which proves a point, "The trouble is boy, the big'uns are eating the small'uns up".

Mel Griffiths Houghton

China Bike Ride

Paul Lovel China Bike Ride

Flat 2, 18 Mosslea Road

London SE20 7BW

(020) 8402 4578

pdlovel@hotmail.c

Thank you

for contributing to the China Bike Ride*. You have helped me help Mencap help thousands of people in Northern Ireland, Wales and England who have a learning disability. I returned from Beijing after making 100 new British friends -the other cyclists (including one from New York) and even more Chinese acquaintances (as we passed them en route). It was an adventure of a lifetime for me and an unique opportunity to raise over £3,200, so far*, towards a good cause. Together (including the other 3 China Bike Rides this year), we raised over £1 million for Mencap.

While cycling around Beijing province from the Great Wall of China to Tiananmen Square (18-22 September) 200 babies were born in the UK with a learning disability. As a result of your efforts, we can make a meaningful difference to their lives.

We cycled between 69 and 114 kilometres per day (43-71 miles), a total of 452 km (281 miles) over 5 days. We stopped for lunch on the way each day, either in a restaurant or had 100 packed lunches. There were stops for water too when we also ate thousands of bananas and handfuls of nuts. We saw the Great Wall of China at 3 different points, climbing it at Badaling and my legs were stiff for 3 days after and that wasn't from the cycling !

I realised more of my true potential during this life changing adventure: I am capable of a lot more than I ever imagined, for example, if I don't ask, I don't get. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

My next adventure will be the London to Amsterdam Bike Ride, also in aid of Mencap,

4 - 7 May. If you want to join me, ring Mencap on 08459 777 779 and register.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

* Sorry if you didn't. It's not too late to donate to this good cause in aid of Mencap.

Please post a cheque made payable to **P D Lovel China Bike Ride** to the above address.

Working with people with a learning disability, their families and carers

Registered Charity Number: 222377

(Paul regularly visits his mother in Burton Ferry and this letter to 'In Touch' is to thank the many residents from Burton who helped him raise the necessary sponsorship to be able to cycle the Great Wall of China earlier this year)

Westfield Pill in December

Tired after their long journey from Paddington, homecoming passengers at Christmas, travelling this branch line to Neyland with rising anticipation of warm fires and welcoming family, would peer into the darkness through the carriage windows to greet the familiar features of their childhood landscape.

Nowadays no sparks from the GWR locomotives sprinkle the darkness. The rails and sleepers have been taken up and the ballast tarmacked over to provide a cycle path. A long stretch of the valley where trains once ran is a nature reserve where rare species of bird, butterfly and plant life flourish.

Perverse I may be, but I like these dank, cold December afternoons when there has not been a sign of the sun all day. Walking on such afternoons alongside the Pill, dammed to create several small lakes where migrant ducks overwinter, you are in a silent, enclosed world.

The sandstone cliffs, stripped of their summer mask of leaves, reveal their steep faces and the deep red colours of their rock. At the base of the cliffs, here and there, low trees and bushes are covered by the fluffy seeds of wild clematis, old man's beard, and, sheltered from harsh weather, two hazel trees are alive with catkins, many of which are in full flower. In the garden of the bungalow at Westfield crossing, a willow is bright with silvery buds. On branches overhanging the far side of one of the lakes, three herons are perched, still as statues of grey saints in silent meditation.

A flock of black-headed gulls gabble away on the middle of the water. These gulls colonise inland areas far away from the coast and, when I was living in the heart of the English Midlands, many a time I heard these gulls on lakes and reservoirs and they always spoke to me of the sea.

Against the late afternoon's dark, the swan's plumage shows a brilliant white but the little grebes, which lose their rich orange and brown plumage in winter, are little grey ghosts of birds that vanish under water in the blink of an eye and resurface some distance away, more phantom-like than ever.

Further up the lake there are little groups of the golden eye ducks - winter migrants to the Pill. The black and white drake with its white breast and white patches on either side of its bill is unmistakable but the female is grey with a brown head and is more difficult to pick out. You would have to be very close indeed to appreciate the deep glow of their eyes.

Way past the lakes, I follow the track of Brunel's branch line to Johnston. High up in an oak a flock of long-tailed tits flicker from branch to branch. A squirrel crosses in front of me with the rippling movement of a wavelet running to the shore.

The dark closes in and the cold tightens its grip and, like those passengers travelling along this line in past years, I turn homewards and, with each step nearer home, my anticipation grows of a warm fire and a welcome home.

Wayfarer

Jubilee Playpark....then and now!!

Houghton marked the Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977 with the construction of both the Jubilee Village Hall and Playpark. Each has continued to be enjoyed by those living well beyond the boundaries of Houghton itself. The Hall is used for a variety of activities, from meetings to line dancing, proving a very central venue. Similarly there can be few Burton VC school children, over the years, who haven't enjoyed the swings and slide after the home bell sounds!

The children readily responded to a request from the Coastcare and Environmental Group to help plant daffodil bulbs in the Playpark in November. A full day of painting and planting throughout the villages had been planned, but was thwarted by the torrential Autumn rains. Whilst painting could go on hold, the bulbs had to be planted, THREE 25kg SACKS of them!!

Over 20 children turned up, bringing parents, trowels and wellies. In less than an hour every bulb had been planted, in the park, around the village green planter and below the road sign. We are all now waiting for those daffodils to bloom, the first sign that Spring is on its way.

With the passing of over 25 years, there are various plans afoot to bring the Jubilee facilities up to date. Many of these ideas were raised in the Menter Preseli Community Appraisal and have been developed by the various Action Groups in conjunction with the School, Community Council and Hall committee. Planning permission has already been given to create a car park at Burton VC school, for use by the Jubilee Hall out of school hours. The Hall itself has had plans drawn up for refurbishment, following lengthy exploration for an alternative location that could provide some sports facilities.

The school children undertook a project to design the Playpark of their dreams, which is now a step closer to reality. Three companies have submitted plans and meetings with Pembrokeshire County Council have devised some methods of funding, subject to a community maintenance agreement.

It looks as if the legacy of the Queens Silver Jubilee will be taken into the 21st century and enjoyed by present and future generations. **'Sorry Mums and Dads problem with photo of this important event'.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 20th January Cricket Club Annual Dinner
- 21st February Gym Club Dinner,
Stable Bar
- 1st March Cawl Evening Mission Hall
- 15th March Last date for entries in
'In Touch'
- 27th April Rosemarket Church Annual
Spring Supper Dance
- 20th July Variety Concert with
Thelma I'm not well Moore

**Last Thursday of Every Month
2.00pm Sardis Chapel :
Singsong Friendship Etc.
ALL WELCOME**

**This is a fairly new venture but so
far the meetings have been well
attended.**

**Chairlady: Rev. Linda Woollacott
Dep. Chair. Mrs Jill Gill
Organist: Mrs Margaret Reynolds**

Give it a try - come and join us

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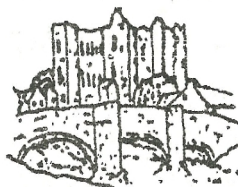
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**HOUGHTON SCULPTOR IS A
WINNER**

Milford Haven Rotary Club's Millennium Project has been unveiled at Milford Haven Comprehensive School.

An impressive sculpture, designed by Houghton pupil James Fitzgerald now takes pride of place on the wall in the School Hall.

The school had been chosen for the Millennium project as it was the one building in the town which most people had a connection with.

It was decided to involve the school in the sculptures design with a competition. Two hundred design entries were received which made it a difficult task for the judges. A local craftsman who operates from the Havens Head Industrial Estate was chosen to make the sculpture.

**WELL DONE
JAMES FITZGERALD**

Burton Wednesday Afternoon Club

Invite YOU and your friends to a

CAWL EVENING and Entertainment

Venue - Mission Hall New Wells Rd.

**Tickets
£3.00**

MARCH 1st.

RAFFLE

7.0pm

Time

Dates for your Calendar

**St. Mary's Church
Burton**

**9am Holy Eucharist
(1st Sunday in Month
8am)**

2pm Sunday School

Mission Hall

**1st Sunday in Month
11am
Holy Eucharist**

BINGO

Rosemarket Village Hall

Every Thursday

**Eyes down
7.30pm**

ALL WELCOME

All book money given in prizes
Entrance fees Village Hall Fund

**To Place an Entry
Call :-**

**Barbara Summons:
01646 601194**

**Hilda Jones:
01646 601193**

**David Wildman:
01437 891705**

**St. Ismael's Church
Rosemarket**

**10.30am Holy Eucharist
(1st Sunday in Month
9.30am)**

**4.30pm
Tuesday School**

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

BURTON :- 3rd Wednesday at 7.00pm in Jubilee Hall

ROSEMARKET :- 1st Monday at 7.15pm in Village Hall

All members of the community are welcome to attend

Jubilee Hall Houghton

Every Monday 1.00pm Line
Dancing
Every Monday 7.30pm Scottish
Dancing
Every Tuesday 7.30pm Whist
Burton Wednesday Club
Fortnightly 2.30pm Sept – July
Womens Institute
2nd Wednesday 7.30pm

**Mission Hall –
New Wells Rd**

Every Thursday
7.30pm
Line Dancing

*Used regularly for
Drama practices and
other Social functions*

For Bookings Call
Mrs Campbell
01646 600643

Every Friday - Youth
Club - subject to
bookings

**Sardis Baptist
Chapel**

**1st & 3rd Sunday
Every month 3pm**

**Hill Mountain
Methodist Church**

**2nd & 4th Sunday
Every Month 3pm**

Rosemarket

Wednesday Club are looking for
new members. Phone Barbara on
01646 601194

More Dates Inside Back Page