

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Thank you for Issue 1, keep up the good work. The new web site is also a credit to you all. I know from experience it will be only as good as it is kept up to date and that is perhaps where we all can help.

A further thank you for featuring our house on the front cover. We are grateful for all of the information and photographs we have seen. We are trying to build a history of 'Saltram House' but one aspect remains to be explained: What happened to the two 'wings'.

Once again thank you.

David & Kate Mayo

G'day,

Your Website has occupied a half hour at 6 am this morning! I have had a good look through the Parish Plan pages and enjoyed all the prospective proposals for Web pages. I will be back for sure as I have to have a look at my recent email pile which somewhere includes some queries about folk from **Linkinhorne**. Some of my own ancestors came from not far away from South Hill at places such as **St Neot, East Looe, Talland and Polperro**.

If anyone turns up with queries for my Cornish Surname pages which I operate for the Cornish Association of New South Wales, I will tell them of the South Hill Connection pages.

With very best wishes for future plans,

**John Symonds (Webmaster:
[Cornish Association of New South Wales](#))**

SOUTH HILL CONNECTION (Issue 2 December 2007)

EDITORIAL

It's December, and Christmas is almost upon us.

Before we know it, it will be New Year, and this issue already carries news of some events in the parish to take place in 2008. Traditionally, this is also the time of year when we tend to look back at what happened during the last 12 months, and also to make plans for the coming year.

Someone said to me the other day, "Nothing ever happens in South Hill". I don't believe that is true. We may not be the focus of world news, and perhaps that is a good thing, but for many of us there are important family events, some happy, some sad, which are real milestones in our lives. South Hill is not just a beautiful place to live, it is also a living community, and what happens in your life is as much part of the history of this place as are the great events on the world stage.

I hope that in the coming months you will feel able to share some of your own family news with us, in the South Hill Connection. We would love to have stories, with a photograph if possible, about anything which will make 2008 a year to be remembered in your life.

Our photograph this time is a real echo of the past. South Hill School in 1924. I wonder if you can identify any of the children in this picture ?



Click to enlarge photo

Have a very happy Christmas from all the team at South Hill Connection.

Recycling & Litter News

Recycling: Following up on the item in the first newsletter, we hope everyone is now receiving the collection service as they should.

Litter: Autumn's here, clocks went back - can only mean two things. Fallen leaves cover uncleared litter and people throw even more from vehicle windows. We're still hoping to hear from people who might like to keep fit by combining walking with collecting some litter. Or do you have suggestions to discourage people from littering in the first place? Email recycling@south-hill.co.uk

Tetrapaks: We've been looking into the recycling of these (e.g. milk and juice cartons). Some councils collect these for recycling, ours doesn't.

Caradon District Council tell us that as collection vehicles are almost at full capacity, more vehicles would be needed. There is a possibility that containers will be provided at the civic amenity sites but there is a question over the soundness of the scheme which, although sponsored by the industry, means cartons are sent to Sweden for recycling.

Does the environmental cost of the worldwide journeying of materials for recycling outweigh any benefits?

More Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

I came across your site while reading the newsletter of the Cornish Association of Toronto.

As editor of the international Cornish magazine **Cornish World**, I would like to feature your site in Cornish World and write some kind words on your gallant efforts. I feel sites such as yours can only enhance and promote the community spirit.

However, I note one item that might upset a few people.

The site says 'A website for the people of South Hill in Cornwall, England' but I don't consider myself to live in England (or be English) and I suspect many other Cornish people might feel the same.

Could you not just put 'A website for the people of South Hill in Cornwall, Britain'? It would be far more sensible and accurate.

Regards

Nigel Pengelly, Editor, Cornish World Media
www.cornishworldmagazine.co.uk

Hi

Just checked your site and the **Cornish Association of Victoria** Membership database of names being researched in your area. At a quick glance, the names that are of interest to our members are:

ANGELLY, BUDGE, CAUNTER, DINGLEY/DINGLY, GEORGE, GILES, GOLDSWORTHY, MILLETT, PETER/PETERS, PHILLIPS, SAUNDERS, BENNETTS, SHEERS, SLEEMAN, SNELL

There is a link to your site on our Links page at:
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov>

I hope it all goes well for you and your group.

Kind regards

Viv,
Victoria, Australia

NOTICES

The first meeting of **SOUTH HILL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP** will be held on Thursday 31st January 2008 at 7.30 pm, Parish Hall Golberdon

(N.B. Venue to be confirmed depending on numbers. Watch website/village noticeboards for update)

I'd be grateful if anyone interested would contact me

by phone (382863)
or e mail history@south-hill.co.uk

so that I can get an idea of numbers, but do come along to the first meeting whether or not you have contacted me.

Miranda

Advance Notice

Grand Charity Concert in aid of Callington & District Diabetic Support Group

Featuring the famous **Liskerret Male Voice Choir** on Saturday 23rd February 2008 at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Haye Road, Callington.

Tickets £5 from **Dave Moren**

Telephone: 01579 363440
email: dave@moren.co.uk

St Sampson's Church Christmas Services

Dec 23rd - 11.15 am Family Service

Dec 25th - 11.15 am Christmas Communion

More Recycling & Litter News

Plastic: You may wonder why ALL plastic cannot be recycled.

What is accepted varies from county to county, and scheme to scheme. Our local scheme only takes plastic **marked PET** and which is **bottle shaped**. That leaves a lot of other plastic which they won't take. Either the recycling facilities need to be expanded or manufacturers need to standardise more.

Email: recycling@south-hill.co.uk with your recycling thoughts.

More information will keep appearing in future articles but if anyone has a question please contact us by email.

SOUTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL

ONE CORNWALL

Your Parish Council was not consulted when Cornwall County Council made its bid to become a unitary authority. However now that the bid has been accepted, we are doing our best to make sure that our Parish is represented. At our November meeting we were given the opportunity to respond to a questionnaire about the future role of local councils. It is proposed that 16 community networks areas will be created which will provide an opportunity for local councils and organisations to make decisions locally and to deliver some services. These proposals are very woolly at the moment. In principle, we would rather not be part of an area based on Saltash. Liskeard or Launceston would be more acceptable.

Tax Evasion in South Hill!

You may have heard of window tax, but did you know that in the 1660s a tax on hearths or chimneys was introduced? As part of an assignment for a local history diploma which I have just completed, I investigated the Hearth Tax Returns for South Hill of 1664.

This was the second assessment for South Hill, the first having been carried out in 1662, and this time round, the South Hill return notes that many taxpayers "ret[urned] one short". The only conclusion one can come to is that the residents of South Hill were busily blocking up their chimneys in order to avoid tax. Of the fifty-seven names on the list, thirty-four "returned short" including five people who allegedly had two less hearths than previously. Only twenty-three of those listed had not attempted to reduce the number of their hearths, of whom fourteen only had one hearth anyway. A total of 83 per cent of taxpayers thus tried to avoid tax, including 12 per cent who "ret[urned] two short".

Were the taxpayers of South Hill extraordinarily deceptive or had declining fortunes forced them to this situation? I found no evidence of declining fortunes in the other evidence I looked at, so I suspect that our predecessors in South Hill were just tax dodgers. I have not examined returns for other Cornish parishes, but none of the other students on my course, nor the tutors, who were from all over the country, had come across blocked up hearths in their local returns.

I enjoy imagining someone in South Hill coming up with this idea, and it being adopted with great enthusiasm by other parish residents. Has anyone with a house dating back to 1600 found evidence of blocked up hearths? I would love to hear from you.

Miranda Lawrance Owen

More Historical Interest

Callington Heritage Centre

You may ask why is Callington Heritage Centre being featured in South Hill parish magazine? I admit that a couple of years ago I would have asked the same question myself, as in over twenty years I had only once been in the Callington museum to ask if they had any information on Kerney Bridge. I can remember coming away with no information and no desire to visit again.

South Hill Parish Hall



More dates for your diary...

Are you enthusiastic, full of ideas, keen to see more going on in the **Parish Hall**? If any of these apply to you, come and join us on **14th January at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall and help to make the hall come to life.

A **Barn Dance** will be held on **16th February from 7.30pm** in the Hall. Music is by the **Ideal Village Band**. Tickets are £5 to include a burger/sausage and a soft drink.

Anyone wanting to go **Carol Singing** around the village on **Monday 24th December**, to meet at Nick Easton's house, The Square, Golberdon, at 6pm for mulled wine.

Does your club or organisation need somewhere to meet?

We have a pleasant, well equipped village hall available for hire.

Hall Hire rates:

- £12 per session for concessions
- £30 per session commercial rate
- £60 per session for weddings

There are three sessions a day, morning; afternoon; evening.

For more information contact:

Peta Emmerson on 382841
or email hallbooking@south-hill.co.uk

More from the PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Three new planning applications were considered. Your councillors make every effort to have a site meeting for each application. Mr and Mrs D Bolitho have asked for permission for a temporary dwelling at Tregonnett Farm. The council supported the proposal in principle but felt that the new building should be sited much nearer to the existing main farm buildings than was proposed. This would have less impact on the landscape.

The second application considered was for an extension to Silver Cottage, Golberdon. Again, the council agreed in principle, but considered that the proposed extension was too near to the boundary of the property and would unnecessarily block daylight to their neighbours. The third application was for a small first floor extension at 4 Moorland View, Golberdon which was supported.

ROAD SAFETY

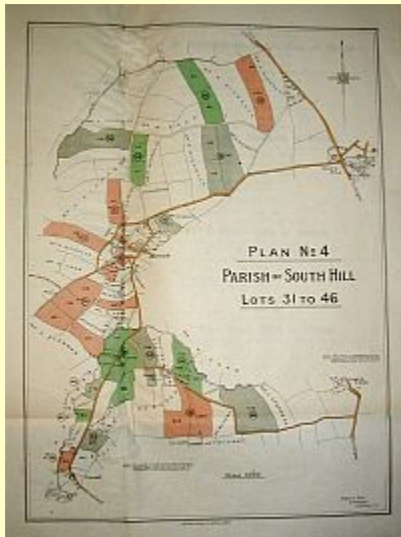
Your Parish Council has been trying to improve road safety, mainly by reducing speeding, for many years. Our number one accident hotspot is Maders. It is not possible to have a speed limit here because the hamlet is not big enough to satisfy the criteria set by Cornwall County Council for a limit. Other traffic calming measures are possible and your council have asked CCC to conduct a feasibility study and present us with some options for consideration. Our County Councillor, Mr Bob Emuss, has agreed to fund these measures from that part of the CCC budget which he controls personally.

However, at our November meeting, the only option on offer from CCC was for additional signs and dragons teeth road markings. We were expecting some choice so after some discussion, arranged a site meeting in Maders with Oliver Jones from CCC.

Callington Heritage Centre (continued)

Things have changed! Not least with the dramatic fire of 4th March this year. I became Chairman of the Centre only a few months before that happened and have rather busy in my spare time ever since. However by cleaning, stock checking and reorganising over 12,000 items I now have a much better idea of what is there.

Callington Heritage Centre does not exist just for the town, it collects documents and artefacts for all the parishes around including South Hill. Over the years I have spent many hours transcribing parish records which are on my web site www.lynherparishes.co.uk. Now a CD with all those records for South Hill, Linkinhorne and St Ive is lodged at the centre, along with paper copies. Do you have any records that could be deposited?



click on picture to enlarge

The Centre has a selection of interesting land sale catalogues that cover parts of South Hill. It was in 1919, within a few months of each other that two of the largest landowners in the area sold their estates. In July Major G S S Strobe sold all of his Cornish estates which comprised land in Callington, South Hill, St Ive, St Cleer and Menheniot. In October the Marquis of Northampton sold his estates at Callington, Manaton and Bicton. Maps clearly indicate the location of the land for sale and the map accompanying this article is from the Strobe sale and shows various fields, cottages and smallholdings for sale between South Hill to Mornick and down the valley as far as Wagmuggle. The area of land and often its use is described and there is a description of cottages and outbuilding. The current tenants are mentioned. One or two of the catalogues we have indicate in pencil who bought the land, in many cases this was the tenant.

Christmas Recipes (courtesy of Ivan Callanan)

PEGGY'S CHESTNUT STUFFING

3 lb. Peeled Chestnuts
1 lbs. Fresh Breadcrumbs (1/2 white, 1/2 brown)
1 Heaped Tablespoon (1/2 oz) Parsley (Chopped)
3 lbs. Sausagemeat (good quality)
2 Heaped Tablespoons Dried or 1 1/2 oz Fresh Sage (Chopped)
1 1/2 lbs. Peeled Onions
1 Pint Milk
1 1/2 oz Butter Melted
Few Shakes of Salt & Pepper to taste.

Method:

Place chestnut on chopping board and cut a cross through the skin and place in boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes. They should then peel easily.

Use dry bread. Make fine breadcrumbs in a food processor or liquidiser.

Boil sausage-meat to cook (simmer for about 20 minutes). This will also remove most of the sausage fat. Once cooked cut the sausagemeat into small cubes (approx. 1/2 inch).

Chop onions finely and pre-cook in microwave.

Mix all the ingredients (except the milk) together until reasonably even, but without breaking up the pieces of chestnut too much. Now add the milk to complete the mixture. Spoon into lightly buttered dishes packing down to form a pâté. Bake at about 150°C until golden brown (about 45 minutes).

This mixture can also be packed into useful containers and frozen for use throughout the year. This is excellent in a turkey sandwich with cranberry sauce. My mother has been making this since before I was born and is the only way we have stuffing at Berrio Mill.



More from the PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting was attended by more than a dozen concerned local residents. Mr Jones explained that because there was not street lighting, it was not possible to put structures on the road such as speed bumps, chicanes or build-outs. The locals emphasised that the biggest danger was from drivers who regularly used the road, mainly going to and from work and felt that additional signs would not make a long lasting difference. Oliver Jones told us that it would be possible to install a monitor to record the speeds of vehicles through Maders. It was agreed that this information would be very useful and wanted this done as soon as possible. It was also agreed to request a similar monitor for traffic in Golberdon.

PLAY AREA

There is a possibility that the Parish Council could obtain grant funding to improve the play equipment in the recreation field. What would you, or your children like done? Speak to any of your Parish Councillors.

Parish Nature News

Most people who came to "Our Plan, Our Day" showed interest in the natural environment of the Parish.



Spindleberry
(*Euonymus europaeus*)
click to enlarge

Have you had some sightings of plants, birds, animals, or fish you wish to share with everyone? We have been interested as the orchids have increased in size and number this year.

Recently we have seen a barn owl and I saw a stoat chasing rabbits.

Callington Heritage Centre (continued)

Some of these catalogues are in a fragile condition and they are all kept in the mezzanine store. Access is available by arrangement, please contact me.

Ninety five percentage of our archive survived the fire and amongst them were the collection of over 600 unique posters printed in Callington between 1890 and 1930. The Methodist Chapel and the various events they organised feature in these posters.

At the Centre we also have the virtually all of the census from 1841 to 1901 for Cornwall and Devon. If you need an A3 copy of the actual census page we can in most instances, supply it for just 50p. Just give us the reference and your money goes to support our local heritage.

There are many other items I could mention but I will leave this for another time. I would just like to ask you to consider the Heritage Centre as your archive. We welcome any documents relating to the area as well as small artefacts and ladies or children's non-bulky clothing. Following the fire we now have an excellent building with optimum conditions for the storage and preservation of your donations, hopefully for centuries to come. The Heritage Centre publishes a quarterly magazine and the January copy will be available before Christmas at the Town Hall or on the internet at www.callington.uk.net - use the 'Heritage' link on the left. Finally a short appeal - if anyone is interested in conservation and cataloguing we could do with an assistant archivist, training given, this is computer based work, but be warned it can become addictive! Also we need some mannequins, or part mannequins [not too heavy] for our display of historic clothing as well as a couple of life size dolls.

Lynda Small
Kerney Cottage. (362139)
lynda@research2004.fslife.co.uk

Poetry

This was the prize winning limerick submitted at the parish hall event, last summer.

Although the first runs into four verses, you will be aware that a limerick is traditionally a one verse effort of five lines, lines one, two and five, and then lines three and four rhyming respectively.

It was only possible to use the first verse therefore at the time of the above event

PEGGY'S CHRISTMAS PUDDING

4 oz Apple
1 glass Brandy
1 tbs. Black Treacle
1/2 pint Stout
8 oz Demerara Sugar
4 Eggs (beaten)
1 level tsp. Mixed Spice
8 oz Self Raising Flour
1 lb. Suet
1 lb. Breadcrumbs (fine from stale white bread)
1 tsp. Salt
1 lb. Currants
1 lb. Raisins
8 oz Sultanas
3 oz chopped Almonds
Juice & grated rind of 1 Orange and 1 Lemon
Makes 3 x 2 pint and 1 x 1 pint puddings.

Method:

Prepare all the ingredients above. Cream the suet and sugar thoroughly and gradually beat in the eggs and continue creaming until the mixture is very light. Mix the flour and breadcrumbs and stir into the mixture. Now add the remaining ingredients and mix very thoroughly. Put the mixture into well-greased basins, cover with greaseproof paper or pudding cloths.

Steam/boil for 4-6 hours dependent on size.

Once cooked, store in a cool dark place for a couple of weeks before use and freeze any (tied up in a plastic bag) that you have left over for Easter or the following Christmas.

Down on the farm



More Parish Nature News



Flocks of fieldfare and redwing are back as are the long tail tits. What has been visiting you?

Wyn and Jenny Poole

THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER



click to enlarge

Photo © Nurseries
PlantenTuin
Esveld, Boskoop, Netherlands
(with permission)

A garden means different things to different people. To me it brings peace, joy, and a sense of being at one with nature.

Each season brings its own special excitement. In December one would expect most things to have died down, yet the scent of *Lonicera purpusii*, *sarcococca hookeriana* (both with small flowers), and *Hamamelis mollis*, to name but a few will put joy in your heart on a mild day!

There is also the beautiful sculpture of the bare branches of trees and shrubs against the pale blue sky, the colour and texture of the bark and the damp smell of the earth. If by chance you find a few flowers, it will uplift your spirit and banish the winter blues. So get out there and plant something for winter scent, or better still go and visit one of Cornwall's beautiful gardens.

Barbara Clemerson

Poetry (continued)

This is the full version:

There was an old man of South Hill,
Who vowed for a woman, he'd kill,
For he'd not had a wife,
In the whole of his life,
Yet the urge it plagued him still.

I don't want, he thought, to pass away,
Still unfulfilled, until that day,
Not knowing what I might have missed,
A woman's warmth, and being kissed,
I must act without delay.

But at your age, he was told, t'would
be a mistake,
A risk you simply cannot take,
For however inspired,
The effort required,
Is for you too much to make.

But if this advice he accepted with
grace,
Wasn't known when his coffin dropped
into place,
But a clue may be found,
As it entered the ground,
T'was the broad smile upon his face..

Dave Moren

COMPETITION

Win a Holiday in Italy !

We want you to send us your stories about South Hill - past or present - and are offering a prize for the most interesting story submitted. The winning entry, and runners up, will be featured in future editions of the Newsletter. Entries should consist of no more than 600 words, and we hope they will also include a photograph, or two. So get out your pens, dig out that old photograph album, and get writing !

We want to announce the winner in our next edition, but if there are no suitable entries we will hold this over to a later edition. We reserve the right to edit any story for publication, and the editor's decision will be final concerning the content and the judging.

The prize is a certificate for a 7 day holiday for 2 people in Italy, which includes coach travel from Dover, and 6 nights hotel accommodation. Meals are not included, but can be booked as a chargeable supplement, and you will be required to arrange your own travel insurance. All persons must be over 18. The holiday is arranged by European Vacations who specialise in budget coach holidays to Europe.

NB South Hill Connection are not responsible for any part of the actual holiday.

Most of my sheep have just returned from their annual holiday at Woodcock's Well to Trewoodloe. It may not look as if they are doing much but under that wool quite a bit is going on. This month their unborn lambs will double in size. The ewes have to eat more to nourish these growing lambs but at the same time their stomach capacity is reduced because of the lambs inside them. The solution is to feed them with concentrates such as cereals. Any changes to their diet are made gradually because any upsets now could affect the nutrition available to the lambs and kill them. The ewes all have to be vaccinated so that immunity to most of the common diseases that the lambs would be susceptible to, is passed to the lambs through the colostrum that the lambs suck from their mother in the first few hours.

At this time of year everything that needs doing to the sheep is fixed by the date that lambing starts: January 1st 2008. The rams went in on the third of August. I was lucky; the next day the whole country was under movement restrictions following the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Kent. The restrictions have messed up the plans of a lot of sheep farmers because they couldn't buy or move rams when they wanted to. The most damaging effect of FMD and of Blue Tongue disease has been the loss of our export market. The oversupply of the British market has caused lamb prices to fall from £2.50/kg to under £2.00/kg. Sadly, the supermarkets have exploited this situation and farmers have had to take the consequences. The only exception is Waitrose. They have honoured their commitment to the farmers who supply them and have continued to pay a fair price.

Most of my lambs are destined for Waitrose, who have a scheme to promote the Dorset breed because uniquely, they will lamb naturally at any time of year, so the supermarket can sell new season lamb all year round. I have had to work out from my ultrasound scanning results how many lambs will be born this season and forecast when they will go to the abattoir. All this and the lambs are not even born!

I may be too busy to write a piece for the next newsletter, so I hope that one of my farming neighbours will write a bit about their farm.

David Skelton

Funny Story

JESUS IS WATCHIN'

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables; and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, 'Jesus is watching you.'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, 'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot. 'Yep,' the parrot confessed, and then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'

'Mohammed,' replied the bird. 'Mohammed?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Mohammed?'

'The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'

Anonymous



Footnote

Well, who was it who said we would never get enough material together for a Parish Newsletter?

We hope everyone has found something here to interest them, and we wish you one and all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sue Skelton