



**A-barth Onan Hag Oil! Representing One and All**

# Spotlight on Stithians



**DECEMBER 2011**



Hello and Happy Christmas! Grab a drink, put your feet up and enjoy reading about what's happened this year and what might happen in 2012.

## STITHIANS CEMETERY

A long and sometimes contentious struggle to develop a new cemetery is nearing its end. As you will know, the Parish Council has spent almost a decade looking for a suitable site. The present cemetery has few spaces left. Our preferred site next to the school football pitch isn't available and we can't extend into the cricket field so we've had to go for part of the field behind the cricket pavilion.

Not everyone was happy. Nearby residents feared that a car park on the site would be a lure for youngsters to get up to all sorts of mischief. We had hoped to be able to share the road being built by the Cricket Club through one of Paul Gluyas' fields but the Glebe Committee are against the idea so the new cemetery will be accessed from Hendra Road as originally planned.

A planning application is currently being prepared.

## YOUTH SHELTER

With the evenings so dark we are continuing to look at the idea of setting up a youth shelter in the playing field near the tennis court. It would be lit at night and provide



somewhere for teens to gather out of the weather and, hopefully, out of trouble. Some cash has been put aside by the Parish Council and grants are needed as whichever design is finally picked won't be cheap. The cost is estimated at more than ten thousand pounds.

These are some designs of shelters:



Contact Councillor Denis Nightingale if you would like to comment or come along to our monthly Parish Council meeting to air your views.

*'When the boy is growing he has a wolf in his belly'. German Proverb*

## STITHIANS PARISH PLAN

If you listen carefully at night all over the parish you can hear fingers hard at work on computer keyboards. It's the sound of the many perspiring volunteers who are typing the results of the parish survey into a computer programme which will analyse the results so that a Parish Plan for the future of Stithians can be drawn up.



There was a more than 60 per cent response to the survey which thudded through letterboxes this time last year. When you think some neighbouring parishes have had a response of around 22 per cent then you will see how much more we all care about our Parish.

Once all the results have been collated, the Parish Plan will be created. The Government keeps talking about 'localism' and if we can take them at their word, the plan will be a powerful tool when planners come a' knocking. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard for so many hours and all on a voluntary basis.

## ST STYTHIANS CHURCH

This is the time of year when the church and the chapel are central to parish life. Last year we wrote about the problems facing St Stythians

with the damp. It hasn't got any better. "The exploratory stage of work on the church tower is now at an end. Regular readings have been taken and the results are now in. Sadly the news is not good, confirming what we have expected all along. The pointing is letting water straight in to the tower at the first sign of rain. The mortar is entirely saturated leading English Heritage to declare the tower to be "at risk" as the deterioration of the mortar will lead to a weakening of the joints.

The way to deal with the problem will be to proceed with re-pointing the tower as soon as possible. This will significantly improve the situation, stopping further ingress of water so that the joints are better able to cope. The saturation is such that there is a possibility of some of the mortar not setting, so it may need to be taken out and done a second time. In any case it will take in the region of five years after the completion of the work for the tower to dry out internally and it has been explained that it will never be entirely dry due to the nature of the building.



English Heritage, as reported previously, has generously offered an "in principle"

grant of £115,000 on condition that we raise the remaining £40,000 by the end of the year. Applications are in with several grant aiding bodies such as Sita, Cory and the National Churches Trust. But the trustees do not meet until later in the year so no news will be available on them yet. The Prince's Trust and Viscount Amery Trust both granted us £500, but that has already been earmarked for the exploratory works. We have been promised £4000 by the Historic

Churches Trust dependent upon us getting the English Heritage grant (which is dependent on raising £40,000.....).

Fundraising in the village is imperative if we are going to save this landmark. Margaret and Jim Ramsey hosted a barbecue which raised £310 and Annelie Whittaker did a 22 mile sponsored walk raising £226.20. The proceeds from these last two events will be going to the church common fund.

Thank you all for your support. Please continue fundraising in any way you can. I look forward to reporting some good news soon!"

Wendy Whittaker

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DOES?



Chairman Cllr Peter Tisdale

**Playing Fields:** The biggest asset belonging to the Parish Council, the one that takes the most resources and is used by just about everyone in Stithians is the playing field. We hold the Old Playing Field in Trust, and lease the new one from the Diocese of Truro.

Everything is maintained by a caretaker.

**Public Toilets:** We own and manage the public toilets opposite the Seven Stars.

**Highways:** There are several roadside verges that are cut and maintained by a contractor employed by the PC. He also looks after the area around Goonlaze Car Park, which is owned by us. We also have a person who picks up litter in the centre of Stithians. We organise litter picks at various times throughout the year when volunteers help out. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the seating areas at Gribbas Corner and Foundry Hill.



**Footpaths & Bridleways:** There are many footpaths and bridleways, all of which are the responsibility of Cornwall Council but the Parish Council employs a contractor to keep them trimmed.

**Planning:** When an application is received, a site visit is arranged by the Planning Portfolio Holder and another Councillor who then prepare a report for consideration by the full Council, which decides whether or not to support the application. The final decision, having taken into account our comments (and they really do listen to us), rests with Cornwall Council as the Planning Authority.

**Burial Grounds:** see above

**Trees:** We have a Tree Warden who is available to offer advice to anyone in the parish. He also advises on any planning applications relating to trees.

**Bus Services:** Our representative keeps pressure on County Hall and the bus companies to improve the services.

**Mining Villages Regeneration Group:** As a member of this group, recent benefits felt by Stithians have been financial assistance towards the Parish Plan and the new Stithians Centre.

**Historic Churchyards Project:** Stithians Parish Council is a member of this group, which promotes interest in genealogy and operates a website and interpretive boards in the various churchyards.

## PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO KENNALL WOODS



Kennall Woods is a beautiful Nature Reserve run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust. It is also part of the World Heritage Mining site. Kennall was the site of production of gunpowder and safety fuses without which quarrying and mining would not



have expanded to the industrial basis upon which it runs today. There was also, until the 1960s, a thriving quarry and granite cutting works.

Kennall is a part of Stithians Parish which is open to the public. Yet officially to get there people from Stithians have either to drive cycle or walk round the perimeter and access this open and educative space from Ponsanooth.

The Parish Council would like to remedy this situation by addressing the issues related to extending Footpath 25 so it runs into Kennall up to its boundary in Ponsanooth. It is clear from the wear on the several stiles and the sunken nature of the footpath between its own hedges that this is a well established and long used route.

Cornwall Council have agreed to assist in establishing who the owners of the land over which this route runs are so that they can be duly notified, and have produced some evidence forms with maps attached. Copies of these appear on the last page. Making a Modification Order to formalise the existence of a Public Right of Way requires that evidence is produced that the route in question has been used for at least twenty years.



You are requested to assist by presenting evidence of the use of the route of Footpath

25 by completing the relevant forms. They are available from the Clerk

John Calvert - Tel: 01209 711156

Mobile: 07715 058453

E-mail: [stithianspc@aol.com](mailto:stithianspc@aol.com)

*'I am in love with the green earth'* Charles Lamb



**'THOSE WHO CAN, DO;  
THOSE WHO DO MORE,  
VOLUNTEER'**

An enormous amount happens all the time in Stithians. From chapel and church to multiple events in the Stithians Centre and things like the annual tea treat. You see smiling Cubs and Brownies,



older people enjoying the luncheon club, others darting in and out of the library and then there's the band and the choirs. All active and all relying on – volunteers.

It's all hugely rewarding to those involved. You might think there are plenty of volunteers to go around. But there aren't. Go to each event and you see many of the same faces running the stalls, making the food or simply greeting you at the door. People of all ages committed to making our community better. Now I know in our busy world there's little time to spare for others but give it a try. Next time you see something happening, ask if you can help. You will be received with a smile and will find your life a lot richer.

That's why we are running the third annual Stithians Stars. You can nominate those you think do a lot for the parish and to see a winner's face is a joy. Forms are in the shop thanks to Sarah and Bob and in the December issue of the Stithians Times.

Oh, and there's a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Look at what we do and see how much positive impact you can have on the community. It's fun and constructive.

*Councillor Denis Nightingale*

## STITHIANS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

There is a need to diversify the sources of energy which we use, to conserve the available energy and to minimise the adverse consequences from energy use. The need is both economic and environmental.

### HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US IN STITHIANS?

The most obvious effects are the wind turbines and solar panels in various places. The less obvious effects are economic. The prices which we pay for energy have risen relentlessly.



### WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DIFFERENT RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES?

Renewable energy sources are renewable! Renewable energy is environmentally friendly or 'green'. The first disadvantage is the cost. Secondly renewable energy competes for other resources. The land with wind turbines or solar panels on it is not as useful for producing agricultural products as it was without these machines. Thirdly it is difficult to store renewable energy, particularly electricity.

#### ARE THERE BETTER TECHNOLOGIES?

- Hydro electric power has the benefit of being available 24x7.
- Wind turbines turn at



between 15 and 30 revs per minute not that different to the speeds of waterwheels.

- Using solar panels to capture heat to make water hot for baths and showers is more efficient than photovoltaic use of sun.
- Waste can be processed in far more economical and profitable ways than by shipping it to St Dennis and burning it.
- A growing portion of waste is directly recycled. We had a good scheme for the disposal of food waste in Stithians run by a local farmer assisted by a lot of worms..



- Biodegradable waste can be used through what is called anaerobic digestion. The process happens in closed tanks preferably at sewage works so that sewage can be processed as well.

It is helpful to compare prices of energy from existing sources on the price per kilowatt hour basis;

- Electricity 12.92p/kWh
- Gas 3.71p/kWh
- Coal 5.78p/kWh
- Heating Oil 47.3p/kWh

How much better off would we be with mains gas at 3.71 pence a kilowatt hour or electric at 12.92 pence or oil at 47.3 pence? These figures are all in pence per kilowatt hour so that we compare oranges and oranges not oranges and potatoes.

#### CONCLUSION

Real benefits can accrue to the people of Stithians from promoting renewable energy production and consumption in the Parish, both in the short and longer terms.



It is important that informed and reasoned choices are made to ensure that Stithians and its people receive maximum benefits and bear minimum costs.

Would we be better off if all our waste was used locally to produce energy and fertiliser?

How many of the waterwheel sites in the Parish could be brought back to life by their owners to generate electricity all day and night every day and night?

Stithians Parish Council seeks to represent and inform the people of Stithians to get the best results that we possibly can!

*Councillor James Biscoe*

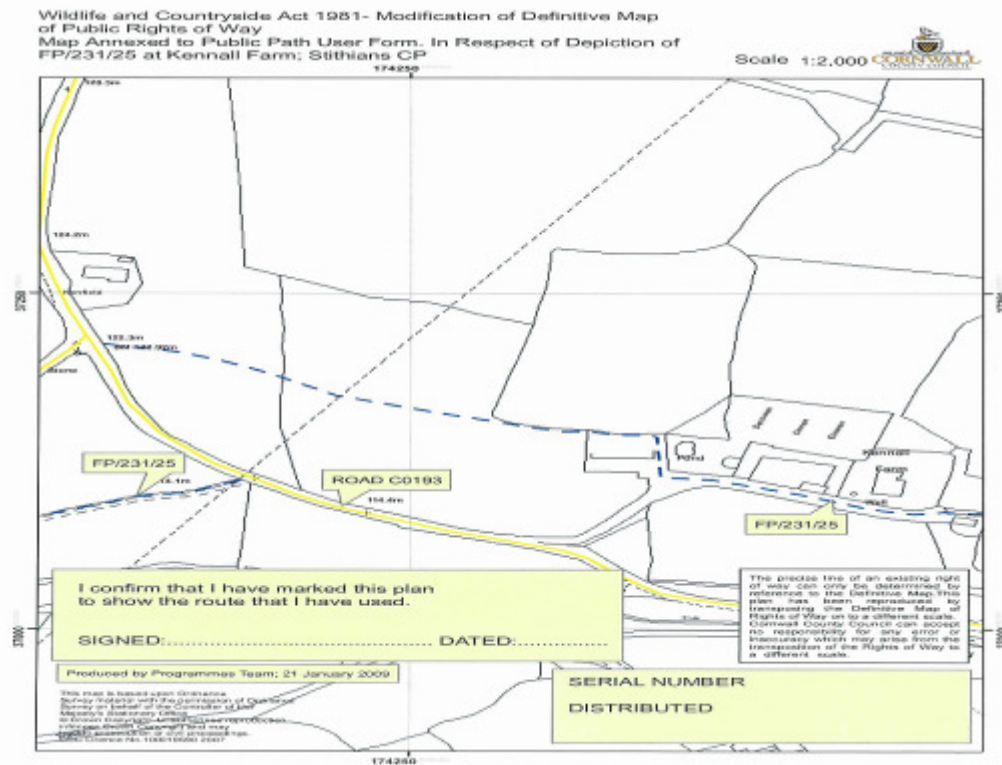
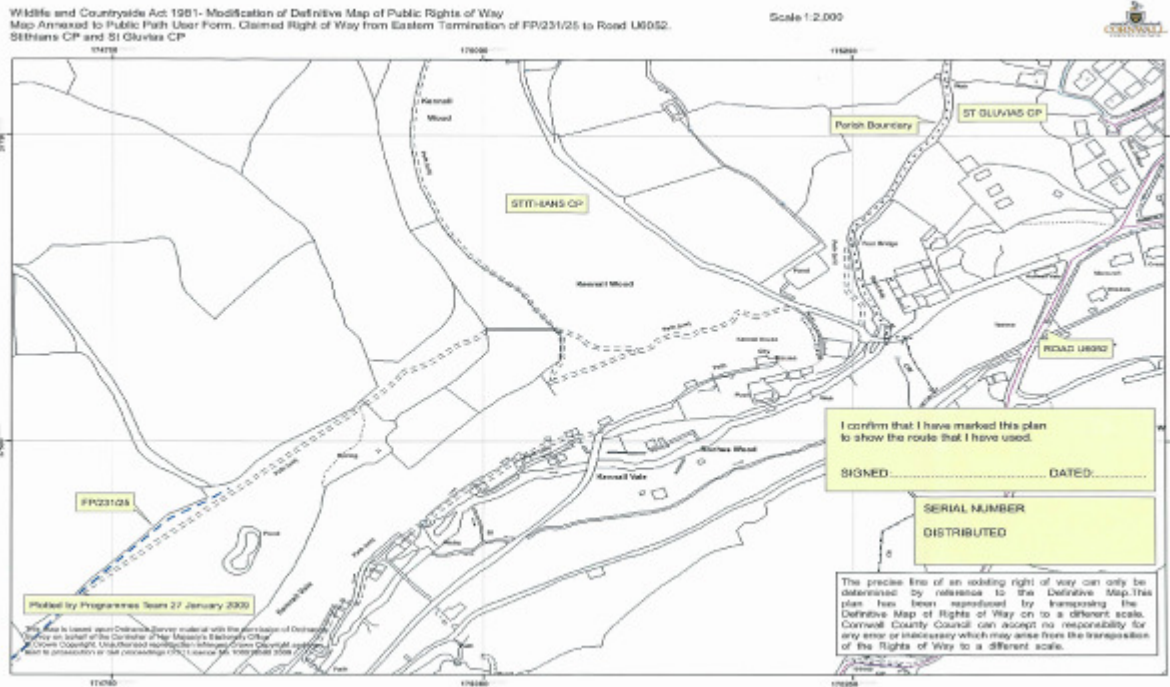
A fuller version of this article is at [www.stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stithiansparishcouncil.org.uk) or from the Clerk on 01209 711156 [Stithianspc@aol.com](mailto:Stithianspc@aol.com)

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting for current and additional participants in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme will be held in later January. Details will be circulated when finalised by posters and notices.

Neighbourhood Watch works in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour but is only as good as the levels of participation by those living in the Neighbourhood. NW seeks to cover Stithians, Longdowns, Herniss, Penhalvean and other outlying areas.

## Maps Showing Existing and Proposed Extension of Footpath 25



Copies of the evidence of use forms and maps are available from the Clerk, 18 Edward Street, Tuckingmill, Camborne, TR14 8PA, 01209 711156  
[stithianspc@aol.com](mailto:stithianspc@aol.com)



***NADELIK LOWEN!!***

### STOP PRESS!

**Sithians Parish Council have decided to run a competition for the best outdoor Christmas Decorations. Members will donate modest prizes. Judging and distribution of prizes will be done before Christmas. The whole parish will be included: Sithians, Longdowns, Herniss, Penhalvean, Trembroath, Goonlaze and all points in between. There will be two classes: Domestic and Commercial. Results and photos will appear on the website.**