

# Lewannick, Polyphant & Trevadlock Newsletter

## Looking back over Bodmin Moor

**The life and experiences of local community nurse and midwife Evelyn Murphy, who has cared for the sick and elderly and helped bring many babies into the world around Lewannick, Altarnun and the moorland area.**

I am writing this as a tribute to the many people I came to live and work amongst as a community nurse -midwife, as doctors, patients and friends on Bodmin Moor and the surrounding area. In 1994 when I retired. I looked back over the years I had spent on Bodmin Moor and was really sad that the time had come to give over the reins to someone new.

My husband was a prison officer and his last posting was to be at Princetown, Dartmoor. We never dreamt we would have to leave Burton Bradstock in Dorset, close to where my husband worked at Portland. We had bought a beautiful bungalow and were mortified when we had to give it up. I needed to get a job quickly as our mortgage was not yet paid. I was searching the Nursing Mirror, where I noticed a post advertised in Launceston. Six midwives were wanted in this town in Cornwall.

It sounded interesting so I decided to apply. I was one of six applicants. At my interview in Launceston Health Office I was told that I would be singled out for Bodmin Moor, as I was the only one who had enough experience to work alone. Would I accept, not really knowing what to expect? Yes, was the answer, I would! Seven nurses had recently retired, or just left, so they were in dire need of replacements. The council were prepared to provide houses and since we were all married this made it easier for us all to accept. I was told that my husband and I should find a property actually on my area. I very soon realised my area was large and very scattered. It was going to take some time for us to decide on the right place to settle.

I felt my new job with its extended area was going to be quite a challenge. I was told a Queens Nurse from Launceston area would drive me around for a week, then I would be on my own. Sister Symons was very supportive. She introduced me to my group of doctors who arrived each week day at their surgery in Lewannick. I had been told they were hard to please and that other nurses did not get on well with them. That gave me food for thought and some apprehension. I must say I was welcomed as a friend and colleague and never found them at all difficult.

This was to be my final nursing post and I found here a whole different way of life. In some places electricity was provided by generators. I had to get used to the power failing just as I was delivering a baby. Candles would be bought in or the curtains opened in the dead of night. Water



*Evelyn Murphy learning to ride on Toffee. (The sign reads 'Nurse on call!')*

was from the well down the bottom garden, heating from the peat collected on the moor.

In some places there were few cars and horses were still the main way of getting about. I was a greenhorn from up country. I had to learn to ride a horse. I had never been near one before let alone ridden one! A farmer taught me on his horse Toffee. Fortunately he was a gentle, placid old animal. I came to love him and he was always available for my needs, much better than walking. I always bought a few carrots from Richard's shop in Altarnun for one of these expeditions.

When I came to this area a much loved nursing home, called Old Tree, was about to close. Longland at this time was just a plan on a piece of paper. It was to be a post-natal unit only; little did they know about the Cornish and Devon people. I delivered the first baby in Longland. Although I worked for the Bodmin Doctors I still worked on call for the Launceston Area and the Launceston Nurses were on call for the Bodmin Area when necessary.

I got to know the people on the moors and felt responsible for them, travelling many miles in the course of duty. During my second year on Bodmin moor I was called to the Knight Family. Of course I had no idea where they lived, for they had never had any ante natal care from me. The need for my services was obvious on my arrival and I had to call an ambulance. The ambulance had the same trouble as myself to reach the isolated spot, but John and his family really needed us and were most grateful. Over the years I got to know them well. John was a lovely person and cared for and supported his two families well. Unfortunately he died suddenly. All the children of both families were well cared for and much loved. They attended Bolventor School and when they left, the school closed due to restriction in numbers. John was well known in Altarnun too, and was a familiar figure jogging across the moors. We miss the whole family as they were all a united, happy family ■ TO BE CONTINUED

## PARISH COUNCIL

Lewannick Parish Council met at Lewannick Village Hall on Thursday 17 June at 8pm. Planning applications, which were supported, included Cottage Gardens, Lewannick Outline Planning for residential development. Mr T Ellis, Medrow Bungalow, Polyphant – erection of plant protection structure. For information: – Listed Building Consent for the erection of single storey rear extension, 1 The Row, Polyphant – application withdrawn and finally Mr B E Baker, Rose Cottage, Lewannick erection of two bedroom bungalow with parking area application refused.

We have been asked to forward our opinions regarding the proposed Right-Turn bans and junction closures on the A30 Treguddick to Two Bridges. We have replied stating that we are happy with a ban on heavy goods vehicles turning right. However, for residents in Polyphant to travel to Kennards House before turning right in order to approach Lewannick has been contested namely because of the primary school, social and shopping facilities which are located in Lewannick. We have been in discussion with CCC – Highways regarding the condition of the roads within our parish. Cllr Patrick Sandercock has kindly taken photographs to illustrate the conditions of the road surfaces. CCC have now responded and state that there are no plans to lay edge markings at Finches Bridge nor to construct any additional fencing or barrier. However, they will continue to be monitored and the potholes will be filled. The road from Two Bridges to Polyphant is due to be surface dressed during the summer of 2005 and patching works will be undertaken prior to this. The area of carriageway at the Green will be patched and the pool of water at the corner of Blackhill Quarry will be resolved. It is also planned to relay the surface water drains from the Green up towards the Chapel.

PC Trevor Lancaster also attended our meeting. He has been appointed the Neighbourhood Beat Manager for our parish. If you have any problems to report you can contact him on 01566 771419 or 07779038330. Speeding through the parish is a problem and he has recommended that if any one has a concern about specific vehicles that are being driven too fast that a note of the vehicle registration number be taken reported to him.

We have received quotations for the installation of a noticeboard at Polyphant. The costs are extremely high and to fit 8 x A4 sheets board would cost almost £1,000. Cllr Chris Beckly will approach a carpenter who has recently installed a noticeboard in a nearby parish for further quotations.

Finally we have written to Tilley's Coaches lobbying our concerns at their new timetable which came into effect on Tuesday 8 June. This now means that anyone who catches the coach in Polyphant will be collected at 12.30 but they would need to be back at Westgate Street by 13.35.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 July at Lewannick Village Hall commencing 8pm. As usual the meeting will be open to the public.

## Lewannick School Summer Fayre 2.30pm at School Playing Fields Balloon Race, BBQ and Teas, Bouncy Castle, Raffle

Prizes include 2 tickets to Lappa Valley Steam Railway, 6 ex Chart CDs from Asda, 2 course Sunday carvery for 2 at Trethorne Golf Club, ...  
- Plants, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac & Books stalls  
- Dutch Auction - items include 2 tickets to the Theatre Royal Plymouth, 17 pints of Sharps Beer, Family ticket to a league match at Exeter City Football Club ..... and much, much more!!!

**Everyone welcome - fun for all the family!!!**

## Village Hall News

### Village Hall extension

All tenders have been received and we are now making applications for grants to help meet the cost. We are hoping the work can be started soon, and that it will not have too much adverse affect on the normal day to day running of the hall.

### Overnight parking

Will members of the public please note that there is no overnight parking allowed in the Village Hall car park. Certain exceptions can be made occasionally but only by permission of the Hall Committee.

## Wine & Wisdom

### Saturday 24 July, 8pm

Teams of four, £10 per team. Teams to Jenny 86628, or Dot 782317. Proceeds in aid of Lewannick Village Hall.

## Forthcoming events:

### Jumble Sale

#### Saturday 7th August at 2:00pm

Dig out your Summer jumble – can be left at Bovetown.

### Flower Show

#### Saturday 21st August

Schedules will be available from Lewannick Post Office from early July.

## Lewannick Amateur Dramatic Society

### Hawaiian Beach Party (see below)

LADS members please note: Fund-raising events help fund club running costs and staging of the panto allowing more profits to go to charity. There are over 30 members and your support is vital to keep the club going. Door stewards and barbecue assistants needed for the Beach Party please!!!

LEWANNICK AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

### BIG SUMMER EVENT!!



## Hawaiian Beach Party

We bring the beach to you at

### Trenault Farm

Saturday 31st July, 8 til late

Sea, sand, foam, music and fun

### DISCO, BBQ

Entry £5

Beach wear essential – dig out your best Hawaiian shirt and don't forget your flip flops!  
(Look out for signs – just off Kennards House/  
Pipers Pool road)

### Spam, spam, spam!

If you've sent me an email and I seem to have ignored it, it's not intentional. I receive 40-50 junk emails per day and have to rely on an aggressive email spam filter to avoid this annoying nuisance. Give me a call on 01566 782 352 if I seem to be taking no notice!  
*David Eno*

## LEWANNICK CHURCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES FOR JULY

### Sunday Services at St Martin's Church

Sun	4	Holy Communion 10.00am
Sun	4	Bowden Derra 8.00pm
Sun	11	Family Service 10.00am
Sun	18	Morning Prayer 10.00am
Sun	25	Morning Prayer 10.00am
Mon	26	Licensing of Rev. C. Probert, St Torney Church, North Hill

### Diary Dates

Sat 10 Church Fête at Pen-Inney House, to be opened by Mr & Mrs W. Newby –  
**All welcome**

Sat 18 Sept. The Circle of Light, St Martin's Church, Lewannick – **All Welcome.**

### Note:

- **Please** save all jam jars for the "Circle of Light" event taking place in September. To purchase a candle for this event a form can be obtained at Lewannick Post Office, from David Eno or any member of the PCC
- The Pastoral Team is now in operation; please phone 782820 for further details.
- We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Rev. Christopher Probert, his wife Rosemary and son Benedict. We hope they will be very happy in our parish.

## BOOKS WANTED!!

Second-hand books, CDs, LPs, and cassettes for the Church Fete. Please bring to the Old School House, Lewannick or to Pen Inney House on the morning of the Fete (10 July).

Alternatively phone us on 782709 and we will arrange to collect them.

*THANK YOU!*

## New Gardening Club

Would anyone like to join a Gardening Club? It would be for anyone in the area, Polyphant, Lewannick and surrounding villages, and would be open for all ages. The aim would be to promote interest and further knowledge in all aspects of gardening and would cater for complete beginners up to expert level.

We would have monthly meetings, with talks, demonstrations, discussions and picture/slide shows. We hope that meetings would be lively, informative and sociable. We could also arrange visits to gardens and nurseries.

We may be able to obtain garden supplies at discounted prices. We could also swap seeds and plants.

Affiliation with the RHS is possible, if enough people join. (This would give us insurance cover and group admittance fees to gardens.)

We propose a small joining fee or monthly subs – amount depends on how much interest (£1 – £2). Trips would be at cost.

I will run the club and arrange meetings, trips etc., if anyone wants to help that would be fine.

Anyone interested please contact Tim Ellis on 01566 86641 mobile 07973771338 or email: [timellis@ellisnurseries.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:timellis@ellisnurseries.wanadoo.co.uk)

## Recycling collections:

**JULY:** Lewannick, Polyphant and Trevadlock Hall Park, Tuesday 15th & 27th. Trevadlock Village, Tuesday 6th & 20th.

## METHODIST CHURCH PREACHERS AND EVENTS FOR JULY

### Superintendent Minister

**Rev. Roger Green – Tel: 01566 782240**

### Polyphant Morning Service 10.30 am

Sun	4	John Ware
Sun	11	Rev. F. Brice
Sun	18	Own Arrangement
Sun	25	Brian Tunbridge

### Lewannick Morning Service 11.00 am in the Village Hall

Sun	4	Rev. Roger Green
Sun	11	At Polyphant
Sun	20	Own Arrangement
Sun	27	George Bickle

### July Events:

Wed	14	Coffee Morning at Polyphant 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
Sat	17	The Rev. Tom Quenet, Connexional World Secretary, for the Americas and the Caribbean, will be speaking about his work at Tregadillett church commencing at 7.30 p.m.
Sun	18	Coads Green Open Air Service, 6.30 p.m. with Launceston Town Band and Youthful Spirit. Speaker Rev. Steve Wild

## Embroiderers Guild, Inny Vale Branch

Next meeting 15th July at Polyphant Chapel Hall from 2.00-4.30pm. Further information tel. Bettie on 86381.

## Polyphant WI

Our July meeting will be a talk by Kevin Yates from the Pensions Office on Pension Credits and Entitlements. Visitors are always welcome especially this month to hear about our entitlements and have a chance to raise any questions. Meeting starts at 7.15 pm in Polyphant Methodist Church Hall. Any queries, please telephone Ann on 880019

## Monthly Coach Trip

No coach trip in July. Information about next trip from June Smith on 782901.

## Whitmans Weather

Some readers might remember that rainfall for the last Newsletter 'weather month' (ie April/May) was at least three times less than for the same period in 2003. Well I'm sure that it will come as no surprise to hear that the trend continues – with this 'month' being significantly drier than May/June last year. In fact last year we were positively 'flooded' (at 47mm) relative to the last four weeks' drought – at only 19 mm. Our water butts are still empty!

Interestingly, however, the number of dry days for the last two months was identical according to my records at 22. Obviously therefore we had some very wet days in May but most of us won't remember them I'll bet! Are we heading for one of the driest years since our Trevadlock weather report started? Well don't bet on it because although 96 dry days so far looks promising against 91 dry days at the same point in 2003, the year to date shows some 24.5 inches of rainfall against only 19 inches last year. Mind you, 2002 was somewhat wetter at mid-year with some 37 inches of water having already fallen from the skies.

Funny old weather isn't it? Well I know one person at least who would agree – and that's our trusty 'postie' Graham. The very same words are often heard as Graham comes down our drive with his eyes to the sky!! *Steve Whitman*

### CLOSING DATE FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER: SUNDAY 25th JULY

Please send your contributions to David Eno, Pen-Inney Cottage, Lewannick, Launceston, PL15 7QD. • E-mail: [david@lewannick.info](mailto:david@lewannick.info) • Phone: 01566 782 352

Newsletter published by Lewannick Parish Council. The Editor reserves the right to cut or omit articles submitted.

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