

2011 Parish Council AGM Reports

Garden Trail annual report for 2011

The 2010 Garden Trail continued the success of previous years; 12 perfect gardens, 2 impressive exhibitions, outstanding afternoon tea, and once again ideal weather.

The gardens were all within walking distance for a change, though the Little Red Bus was available for those who needed help getting up the hill. Signs made by the school children made the trail easy to follow and duck races were much enjoyed at the end of the walk.

Thanks go to everyone who organised the day, helped with refreshments, opened their gardens, prepared the exhibitions, and supported the event in any way.

At least 200 people came along, and over £1,300 was collected for the Precious Lives Appeal and the George Appeal- “a tremendous result to a tremendous afternoon!”

After 6 years, we are having a break, but for those suffering withdrawal symptoms, Mr & Mrs Baker have generously agreed to open Manderley again during the Summer. Watch out for posters.

Report from Community Shop steering group

Up to date news of our shop has been delivered with the Parish Magazine in the past few days, so I need say very little more.

We have applied to become an “Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community”

This is a truly democratic form of structure which invites everyone to join in and gives each member one vote.

It also allows us to raise capital by offering community shares. We have agreed a price of £10 per share with a maximum of 2,000 per person, and when the legal formalities are complete, we will be able to offer them to anyone over 16 years of age.

Our vision is a shop that continues to be the hub of the community, maintaining the provision of support, services, essential supplies and local and homemade food to the people of South Petherwin and surrounding area.

This will continue and extend the tremendous work that Darren and Sarah have done to build up the business and we are tremendously grateful to them for offering it to the community, and for their patience and continuing help and support with this venture. I'm quite sure no other community shop has had such a good start!

We know that we have the support of the parish, but that needs now to be translated into practical and sound proposals. And that is why you will all have found an index card on your chair. I'd be grateful if you would write your name and contact details on it, before you leave, together with a skill you can offer us and the frequency and amount of that help. While we will need "shop assistants" this is by no means the only help we'll need. We have already received an offer to keep an eye on the windows and clean them when necessary. Perhaps someone can do the same with the car park and steps? There will be something you can do, even if it's only to promise to buy something every week or help with our fundraising ideas.

Launceston Community Transport

Launceston Community Transport Partnership has now been in existence for two years.

It was created with the aim of providing a facility for those with little or no access to transport, especially from isolated rural areas.

Whilst our initial progress was slow I am pleased to say that it has improved during this second year.

We have built up a loyal following in some areas, though I must admit we have found a few people resistant to using our Little Red Bus, despite the recent reduction in commercial services.

We continue to visit lunch clubs, age concern and other groups to publicise our ?.

The ancillary aim of providing excursions to reduce isolation and improve social mobility has been more successful than we could have hoped for. Shopping trips to Truro and Par Market, trips to significant events such as the Plymouth Firework Festival, and a regular trip to Lewannick Film Club have been well supported and bookings at the weekly coffee mornings at Central Methodist Church are brisk with no evidence of a decline in interest

As running costs are likely to escalate with time there is a continuing desire to tap new areas of activity which will meet local demand as well as creating revenue. In this vein a recently commenced venture of organising a local "Lunch Club" held at different hostels and establishments proved to be an instant success, with two bus trips being required to transport all the participants to some of the venues.

Our economic position was strengthened in the past year when we received a substantial award of £20,000 over 3 years from the Big Lottery. One of the first things this permitted us to do was upgrade our ancient 'phone and IT systems to enable us to improve our service to our passengers.

We were not expecting to break even until year 3, so this year's treasurer's report makes me very proud; it shows a profit for the year - albeit a very small one.

However, the mere recording of a profit, makes no allowance for the eventual need to replace the existing bus, purchased with a considerable grant from Cornwall (County) Council. We are planning a series of fund raising activities in the coming 12 months to prepare for this.

I owe a huge debt of thanks to all our volunteers; those who drive the bus, and clean it, help in the office, take the bookings every Tuesday, and man our information desk at the Library. Without them the venture would fail. I would also like to thank Joan Philp for all the secretarial work she so competently and efficiently completes, and Marion Dray who sources and plans the wonderful outings which everyone so enjoys. Last but not least I would like to express my appreciation to our Transport Co-ordinator, Mr Les Smith who uses his London Transport skills to advantage and keeps the bus on the road. Without him we'd be lost.

I believe our activities are meeting a significant local need; one that we are certain will continue to grow in these harsh economic times. That gives us the encouragement to continue with the venture.

Launceston Community Transport Partnership - the Little Red Bus - Report for parish meeting 2011

The second annual general meeting was held at Eagle House Hotel on 27th April 2011

Significant events during the second year of operation

Passenger numbers up - now over 2,000 including 160 wheelchair users.

Volunteer numbers increased - now 20 drivers and 3 in the office

Regular runs now 4 to 5 days a week

Lunch club requires second bus journey to accommodate all members on some visits

Received ILCM accreditation at level 2 , proving proficiency and good practice

Awarded a media makeover by ECCVS & Volunteer Cornwall

Granted a substantial award from the Big Lottery

Made a small profit at the end of the year.

All these achievements are made possible by the volunteers who keep the bus on the road, and a brilliant management team.

Sadly, passenger numbers from South Petherwin are still low, though residents have been taken to the Lewannick Film Club on several occasions.

Targets for year 3

A second bus and bigger bus negotiations are already under way

Monthly bingo sessions will begin next month

On line booking

More accessible office accommodation.