

PROPOSED HYDRO SCHEME

The prospects of a Belstone scheme have been severely jeopardised by the fact that the Environment Agency (EA) is now bound to implement a piece of EU legislation called the Habitats Directive.

The River Taw is one of six 'main stem' rivers whose headwaters lie in the area of Dartmoor designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Because salmon have been recorded in the headwaters of these rivers, the EA has to review all abstraction in terms of its negative impact on the life-cycle of the salmon.

Basically what this means is that the EA is now only prepared to license abstraction for six months of the year: at full rates for two months and at greatly reduced rates for the other four months. Such constraints as these definitely threaten the viability of the project.

There is certainly plenty of scope for disputing the calculations upon which all this has been based. However, in the meantime it would take considerable effort, research and funding to formally challenge them. Furthermore, even at the end of a successful challenge, and with a longer abstraction "season", hydro-generation on these rivers is still going to be very restricted.

A long-term project such as this was always going to demand a lot of commitment from whoever took on its management. A further problem has been that, as things stood, it was already proving difficult to assemble the necessary "development capacity" to staff a community project of this scale. When taken along with the implications of the Habitats Directive this effectively brings development of the scheme to a halt – at least for the immediately foreseeable future.

However there is no doubt at all that those in the village with a particular interest in renewable energy will be keeping an eye on the regulatory climate lest in due course it becomes more favourable.

Andrew Terry

CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBITION

Thurs 22 - Sun 25 November, 10.00am - 4.30pm

Organised by Dartmoor National Park Authority, the exhibition provides detailed information on the issues and potential impacts of climate change, globally, nationally, in the south west of England and on Dartmoor, and also enables children to learn about the issues through play. While adults take time to absorb the information, children can log onto Dartmoor National Park Authority's great new interactive game – *Change Your World* – and have fun while learning about climate change and how to do something positive to change the future. On the Saturday there will be representatives from the Devon Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) – an independent organisation set up to provide free, impartial and locally relevant advice to households. Refreshments available throughout.

BELSTONE PLAYERS

We are planning to put on a production of *Outside Edge* by Richard Harris, in May 2008. For anyone interested in taking part either onstage, front of stage or behind the scenes, there will be a meeting for reading/auditions on Thursday 29th November at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Simon & Jane Herbert have copies of the play for anyone who would like to read it in advance. Please ring them on 840693 to borrow a copy or to register your interest if you are unable to make the meeting.

WANTED

CAKES & ITEMS FOR THE VILLAGE STALL AT THE CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
PLEASE CONTACT RONA GUNDRY ON 840206

Belstone Village Voice

November 2007 Edition 1



Welcome to the first edition of the new-style village newsletter, as promised in the last edition of the Belstone Green. The feedback we have received is that there is a need to have updates on village activities – especially relating to the Village Hall building project – and also for activities that may not be mentioned in *The Beacon*, including events that continue from the Green Village Project. We have, therefore, amalgamated the BG with the Village Hall Voice and renamed it. We will still continue to email copies to those who have requested it, including the people from outside Belstone; distribution will be quarterly.

It is our intention to be a voice for all of the groups within the Village. If your group is not represented, please contact the editors and make sure that your voice is heard!

Many thanks to the Commoners for their entertaining 'Beating the Bounds' evening – especially Trudy and her team for the food and Chris and Anne for the photography. Don't forget that Chris has copies of the video for sale – 840498

Editors: Robin and Eddy Hill 840332
edwinarobin_hill@yahoo.co.uk We can also be contacted through the village website
www.belstonevillage.net

BELSTONE FRIENDS OF CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SW

Many thanks to all who were able to support our inaugural fund raising events; we raised approximately £520
For further information on CHSW or the Belstone Friends contact Angela Hammond 840234

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

At last – the news you have all been waiting for! In late September the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund came up trumps with £50,000 towards the building project. Thanks to this, the additional £15,000 given by West Devon Borough Council, and the generous response to our summer appeal, we are now in a position to go ahead with the build. We are still short of some £15,000 but this is not insurmountable – if necessary we can take out a loan for this balance. Again we want to extend grateful thanks to those of you who responded so handsomely to the appeal.

J E Stacey is the main contractor for the whole project and work started on Monday 22nd October.

For anyone who has not yet seen the plans, or would like to remind themselves of the proposed building work, they are still posted on the Village Hall notice board.

Thanks to grants from Awards for All, the Hall now has a data projector, an inkjet printer/scanner/copier, a laptop computer and a photocopier (to convert transparencies into printable digital photos). The equipment is available for presentations in the Village Hall and, after the building project is completed, the printer and photocopier will be available for private use (a small fee will be charged). In due course all this equipment will be stored in a secure place in the Hall; until then, it is being kept safely by Eddy and Robin at Andrews Corner.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

For any information or help please contact the Church Wardens:

Michael Ash 840082 Simon Herbert 840693

For Service times see church notice board

POST OFFICE

The Belstone Post Office is now under new management – Rosemary and Nigel Davies of the North Tawton branch. They provide all the regular Post Office service, including payment of utility, council tax and car tax bills, cash withdrawal and commission free euros and US Dollars but, in addition they also offer: -

Stationery supplies National Newspapers
General and specialised magazine ordering
Toys and games Christmas Club

If there are other services you would like from your Post Office, come along and talk to Rosemary and Nigel and they will see what they can do!

Timings are still 9.30 -11.30am, Tues & Thurs.

DIARY DATES

Sat 10 Nov 10.30-4.30 Craft Fair

Tue 20 Nov 2-4.30 Flu Clinic

Thur 22-Sun 25 Nov Climate Change Exhibition

Thur 22 Nov 7.30 Garden Club: "Camellias"

Thur 29 Nov 7.30 Belstone Players Reading

Sat 24 Nov 7.30 Travels in Tibet

Sat 1 Dec Ladies' Club Christmas Coffee Morning

Fri 7 Dec Murder Mystery Evening – Foul Players

Sat 15 Dec Village Hall Christmas Coffee Morning &
100 Club Draw 11am-12 noon

Thur 20 Dec Carol Singing around Village

Sat 22 Dec 6.30pm Moor Harmony Christmas
Concert St Mary's Church

Sat 19 Jan 7.30pm Pudding Club

Thur 24 Jan 7.30pm Garden Club: "Growing
Vegetables"

Fri 25 Jan 7.30 Victorian Magic Lantern Show

Charity Event – look out for posters

9 Feb International Supper

Regular Village Hall Groups & Contacts:

Badminton Club: Tuesdays from 7pm – 840214

Art Group: Tuesday mornings 9.30-12.30 – 840498

Café: Thursday mornings 9.30-12.30 – 840498

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Eddy Hill	President
Rona Gundry	Chair
Sarah Blacksell	Vice Chair
Hetta Pagella	Secretary
Chris Walpole	Treasurer & BC
Marion Walpole	Caretaker, Café, Art Gp
Ruth Stickland	
Colin Lawson	Parish Council
Stella Hudson	
Ann Taylor	
Malcolm Calder	Badminton Club (Chair Elect for 2008)
Alix Qusted	Parish Church Council
Bob M ^c Donald	Belstone Players
Theresa Weaver	Youth Group snr rep
Harry Lawson	Youth Group jnr rep

Bookings Clerk – Marion Walpole 840498

BELSTONE YOUTH GROUP

Contact: Theresa Weaver 840549 OR

Carl Wratten 840277

Look out for posters of forthcoming events!

COMPUTING FOR THE TERRIFIED

For those who find computing a minefield or would just like to develop your capability a little further – support in basic (or slightly more advanced) Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet and email. £5 per half hour – as many sessions as you wish, tailored to your needs, in groups of 1-6. Computers provided or use your own computer at home. Please contact Eddy Hill on 840332.

Because of other commitments, requests will be responded to after November 20th and tuition/support will begin in early January 2008.

All proceeds to Village Hall funds.

